

## MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

On December 11, 1994, Prime Minister Chrétien of Canada, President Frei of Chile, President Zedillo of Mexico and President Clinton of the United States of America issued a joint Statement announcing their decision to begin the process by which Chile will accede to the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). They also directed trade officials to undertake the preparations necessary to begin the formal negotiation, including focusing on relevant technical procedures and institutional issues. Furthermore, we the Ministers responsible for trade were directed to meet and review the work of the officials and commence the full accession negotiation expeditiously thereafter.

Consistent with the December 11, 1994 Statement, we have met and reviewed the preparatory work of the officials and are now providing the attached guidance to negotiators to commence the negotiation. Its progress should take into account each country's domestic procedures.

As the December 11 Statement indicated, in launching this effort, we reaffirm that increased trade, integration and investment on the basis of agreed rules are vital to achieving sustainable growth and the creation of high paying employment opportunities in each country. We believe this action is a clear indication of our joint determination to build the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) and to achieve a prosperous Americas.

Minister for International Trade  
(Canada)

Minister of Finance  
(Chile)

Secretary of Trade and Industry  
(Mexico)

United States Trade  
Representative

Toronto, June 7, 1995