

Canada's Priorities for APEC in 2002

Canada takes every opportunity to promote its international trade and foreign policy objectives within APEC. These include promoting prosperity and employment, protecting the security of Canadian citizens within a stable global framework, narrowing the gap between rich and poor, and consulting civil society on how to best accomplish these goals. Canada will bring these issues to the 10th APEC Economic Leaders' meeting in Los Cabos, Mexico, along with its support for Mexico's bid to have the meeting deal with the challenges of globalization.

Promoting prosperity and employment

For Canada, a major exporting nation, the economy and employment rate depend heavily on international trade. An open, fair and predictable set of rules governing global trade and investment, access for its goods and services abroad, and enhanced regional and global trade liberalization are fundamental Canadian objectives.

Three related Canadian priorities at the economic leaders' meeting in Los Cabos will be to have leaders endorse a trade facilitation action plan that will help reduce regional business costs by removing impediments in such areas as customs, standards, and business mobility; to have leaders support an early conclusion to the latest round of World Trade Organization (WTO) multilateral trade negotiations; and to have leaders agree to administrative transparency designed to provide better market access for businesses throughout the Asia-Pacific region.

Initiatives that Canada has undertaken in 2002 to further these priorities within the framework of APEC include overseeing a World Bank study on the economic benefits of trade facilitation — which will be released in Los Cabos; and organizing, with Thailand and Hong Kong, a workshop, on implementing APEC's trade facilitation principles, which took place in Bangkok in August.

Protecting the security of Canadian citizens within a stable global framework

The events of Sept. 11, 2001, demonstrated that no country can isolate itself from world events. Canada is committed to working with allies and the United Nations to ensure the safety and security of Canadians and other global citizens and to ensure that the international rule of law is respected and enforced. One of Canada's priorities at the Los Cabos leaders' meeting is to secure the adoption of a strong statement by APEC leaders on counter-terrorism.