

As a result of the launch at Doha, ongoing WTO negotiations on agriculture and services are joined by negotiations on market access for non-agricultural goods (including fish and fish products and industrial goods), anti-dumping and subsidy/countervailing duty disciplines, WTO dispute settlement, and certain aspects of trade and the environment. On the latter issue, negotiations include clarification of the relationship between WTO rules and trade obligations in multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs). The agriculture negotiations have been given ambitious goals: substantial market access improvements; substantial reductions in trade-distorting domestic support; and reductions, with a view to phasing out, of all forms of export subsidies. The services negotiations now have clear and realistic timelines for the request and offer phases. Focused work programs will be undertaken for "Singapore issues," with a decision to negotiate to be taken at the fifth Ministerial Conference in 2003. The new round is to be concluded by January 1, 2005. Ministers also agreed on the importance of improving transparency in the WTO's operations; coherence in international economic policy making; and the International Labour Organization's work on the social dimensions of globalization.

At Doha, a separate declaration was issued on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) and public health. The declaration addresses the concerns of developing countries about access to medicines, while also preserving the integrity of the international pharmaceutical patent regime and acknowledging the role of research and development in the discovery of new and better medicines. Ministers also issued a separate decision on implementation issues, which resolved many developing countries' concerns about their ability to implement the Uruguay Round results. Outstanding implementation concerns will be dealt with in the relevant negotiations and mandated work programs.

The new round, known as the Doha Development Agenda, will have a significant development theme aimed at addressing the concerns of developing countries. There is a widespread consensus that developing countries should be supported in their attempts to

integrate further into the world trading system. The Ministerial Declaration includes commitments to provide assistance to help the developing world build capacities to negotiate and implement WTO obligations and take advantage of enhanced opportunities to trade. Canada supports a comprehensive approach to trade and development that includes strengthening the capacity of countries, especially the least-developed countries (LDCs), to trade, in parallel with improving their access to markets. Canada advocates mainstreaming trade and trade-related projects in national development plans. Such an approach would make the most effective use of available funding.

In February 2002, Members agreed on the negotiating structure, on the WTO Director-General *ex officio* as Chair of the Negotiating Committee, on the chairs of the negotiating groups, and on principles to guide the negotiating process. Canada's Ambassador Sergio Marchi was chosen as the new Chair of the General Council to oversee the work of all bodies of the WTO, including the negotiations.

In pursuing Canada's trade policy, the Government will continue to maintain an extensive program of outreach and consultations with the provinces and territories, the business sector, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), other interest groups and the public. The Government's trade policy Web site ([www.dfaif-maeci.gc.ca/tna-nac](http://www.dfaif-maeci.gc.ca/tna-nac)) will continue to provide information on trade policy issues and invite public comments on negotiating priorities and objectives.

Canada remains committed to a strategy of targeted regional and bilateral free trade agreements that complement its multilateral trade initiatives. Such strategic agreements can contribute to the development of common rules and standards to govern international trade, as well as build momentum and capacity for trade liberalization at a global level. As more and more countries pursue such regional and bilateral arrangements, it is incumbent upon all parties to ensure that these agreements are fully supportive of and consistent with WTO principles.