

Intellectual Property (recommendation 31)

The Government agrees that Canadian positions in intellectual property (IP) trade policy negotiations should represent all Canadian interests. An international framework for IP rights provides certainty and transparency that encourages trade. It also encourages innovation and investment in research and development, both at home and in export markets. It facilitates licensing arrangements (such as the transfer of technology) to establish or expand business opportunities. Finally, such a framework for IP rights allows for the balancing of national objectives, such as the protection of public health, and the promotion of the public interest in certain key sectors.

Canada will participate in continuing international negotiations covering intellectual property rights and will develop negotiating positions that are consistent with our domestic intellectual property policies and that advance Canadian IP interests as they evolve through ongoing consultations with Canadians. Canada will also build alliances with trading partners to help in obtaining successful results for Canada.

Investment and Competition Policy (recommendations 32 to 34)

The Government agrees with recommendation 32 that in any future WTO negotiations on investment there should be a clear delineation of the concept of expropriation. There is a need to ensure that the Government retains the right to regulate in the public interest while at the same time seeking to protect the interests of Canadian investors abroad.

A number of rules related to foreign investors and their investments are incorporated in current WTO agreements, but there is no comprehensive multilateral investment instrument. Over the past three years, a WTO working group has been examining the relationship between trade and investment and the scope for establishing further disciplines. At the Seattle Conference, Ministers will decide on the future direction of investment discussions within the WTO.