

trade liberalization is not an end in itself; it can be an important means for achieving both economic efficiency and sustainable development.

2. Trade and environmental policies should, with a view to enhancing their mutual sensitivity, give close attention to the effects of each policy area on the other; to the need to safeguard the integrity of key trade and environmental principles; to the exploration of policy alternatives; and to ways to avoid conflicts through increased co-operation and integration of decision-making. Care should be taken to ensure that environment-related trade measures do not operate as disguised barriers to trade, that they are part of a balanced and effective package of policy instruments, and that they are consistent with multilateral trade principles.
3. Environmental policies should deal with the root cause of environmental degradation, thereby limiting the likelihood that environmental measures would result in unnecessary restrictions to trade. Trade policy measures for environmental purposes should not constitute a means of arbitrary or unjustifiable discrimination or a disguised restriction on international trade. Unilateral actions to deal with environmental challenges outside the jurisdiction of the importing country should be avoided. Environmental measures addressing transborder or global environmental problems should, as far as possible, be based on an international consensus. Domestic measures targeted to achieve certain environmental objectives may need trade measures to render them effective. Should trade policy measures be found necessary for the enforcement of environmental policies, certain principles and rules should apply. These could include, inter alia, the principle of non-discrimination; the principle that the trade measure chosen should be the least trade restrictive necessary to achieve the objectives; an obligation to ensure transparency in the use of trade measures related to the environment and to provide adequate notification of national regulations; and the need to give consideration to the special conditions and developmental requirements of developing countries as they move toward internationally agreed environmental objectives.
4. The relationships between environmental protection and the operation and further development of the multilateral trading system are complex and raise concerns among many sectors of the public. It is important that the development and implementation of trade and environmental policies are pursued in an open fashion, allowing for both debate by and consultation with interested groups. OECD countries will take steps to ensure the transparency of their analytical and policy work on trade and environment and to bring about an early exchange of views with non-governmental organizations.
5. The particular needs and concerns of countries at different levels of economic development must be properly taken into account when analysing the links between trade and environmental policy and evaluating the practical policy implications thereof. It is important to engage developing countries and the economies in transition in the move toward better policy integration in the trade and environment field.

In order to advance the development of guidelines, OECD ministers called on officials to carry out the following work program over the upcoming year: