

The Environment and the Social Dimensions of Trade (recommendations 35 to 40)

Globalization is not only transforming the face of the global economy, it is also requiring governments, business, and citizen groups to consider other, related issues.

The Minister for International Trade has stated that our social and economic agendas are connected. Stronger rules governing international trade mean more opportunities for Canadians to create jobs and for our economy to grow. This economic activity, in turn, provides the resources we need to reinvest in our social programs.

While the primary function of the WTO is to ensure that trade flows freely and predictably between nations, the new negotiations provide an opportunity to explore links between the world trading system and other areas of public concern.

“Exploring new markets involves costs, but the reward far exceeds the expenses. In fact, if it weren't for exports, our company wouldn't exist today.”

Bruce Friendship,
President,
Bayly Communications Inc.,
Ajax, Ontario

Environment

Canada supports the view expressed in recommendation 35 — that trade policy and environmental policy should be mutually supportive and that the WTO should contribute to sustainable development. The Government's position is that each negotiating group in the new negotiations should consider relevant trade and environmental issues. Canada also believes that the WTO Committee on Trade and Environment (CTE) should continue its discussion of trade and environment issues as the negotiations proceed, and should act as a focal point for the integration of environmental considerations in the negotiations.