

Chapter 5

Getting the International Rules Right

Dispute Settlement

Dispute settlement is the central pillar of the multilateral trading system. The dispute settlement mechanism underscores the rule of law and makes the trading system more secure and predictable. The system is based on clearly defined rules, with timetables for completing each case. Canada—one of the most active participants in the dispute settlement system—is currently engaged in five dispute settlement cases as complainant, two as defendant and eight as third party. Canada's complaints include those related to tariff and market access issues, agricultural subsidies and technical barriers to trade in intellectual property. This activity illustrates Canada's firm commitment to the WTO rules-based system. For more information on dispute settlement, please see www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/dispu_e/dispu_e.htm#intro.

Trade Policy Review Mechanism

The WTO Trade Policy Review Mechanism (TPRM) is a peer review exercise designed to enhance the transparency of WTO members' trade policy regimes and improve adherence by all members to WTO rules and disciplines. All WTO members are reviewed, with the frequency of each country's review varying according to its share of world trade. Canada participates in the reviews of all WTO members, and is itself reviewed every four years (most recently in March 2007). For information on Canada's review, please see www.international.gc.ca/trade-agreements-accords-commerciaux/agr-acc/wto-omc/tpr07.aspx?lang=en. Further information on the TPRM can be found at www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/tpr_e/tpr_e.htm.