

For example, the Joint Experts Group should examine how best to ensure that countries accept and comply with new international obligations in the environment area. In this area, as is the case of our work on competition and investment, the OECD can provide the sound analytical basis and co-operative approach that we as ministers need.

It is the OECD's analytical capacity and co-operative approach that has proved fundamental to the development of our shared understanding of issues and has provided the basis of co-ordinated multilateral solutions. This co-operative rather than unilateral approach has served us well in the past and should guide us in the future.

The more immediate test of our mettle is the conclusion of the Uruguay Round. However, we must clear the decks of the Uruguay Round -- a complex undertaking in itself -- without further complicating our task as these other emerging issues come onto the negotiating table. We must tell our other partners in the Round that we are ready to return to Geneva this summer to achieve a successful outcome that will be a truly global and multilateral undertaking.

In closing, Mr. Chairman, when we achieve a successful conclusion to the Uruguay Round, we will all reflect with great respect on the tremendous contribution of Arthur Dunkel to the historic result.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.