

what we will undertake in return.

No country is committed to any text at this stage, since nothing can be agreed upon until the entire Agreement is agreed upon. Canada, like other countries, retains the full right to add or amend reservations as the negotiations progress.

### 3. Engaging Civil Society

- **Recognizing the legitimate concerns that have been raised throughout the community of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development [OECD] regarding the pace of globalization, it would be valuable to pause and reflect on the lessons learned from the last three years of MAI negotiations. The OECD member governments must continue to communicate and consult with all our citizens and put in place — directly and through the OECD Secretariat — a heightened and ongoing process of dialogue to respond to these concerns.**

The challenge of negotiating trade and investment agreements for the global economy is matched by the need for transparency and engagement with civil society. In all our countries, there exists apprehension over the pace of economic change, the proliferation of the "bigger is best" competitors forged by international mergers and acquisitions, and the often baffling, diverse forces affecting our economies.

We, the OECD community — employing the full resources of the OECD Secretariat — must respond to these valid concerns with a full, sustained and open dialogue. By addressing them straight on and taking the time to do it right, we should be able to obtain the best rules possible. Setting arbitrary deadlines will accomplish nothing.

Again, the OECD community must better communicate the importance of investment for our economies. That is why the OECD's report on the benefits of trade and investment liberalization is such a positive initiative, and must be widely disseminated for public discussion. In addition, consultations with business and labour groups, and with diverse non-governmental organizations, must be a consistent part of the process. Transparency of our process and engagement of our citizens are essential to our success in developing a good set of investment rules for our countries.

In both the purpose and the process of negotiations we cannot lose sight of practical, day-to-day public concerns. Nor can we overlook the intrinsic partnerships of the marketplace. The OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises helped define the responsibilities of corporations in the countries where they invest. We must go further. Both labour and environmental matters must be adequately addressed to prevent a race to the bottom. Protection of the sovereign right of governments to regulate in the best interests of their societies, whether or not such regulation affects the value of investment, must be secured.

Our efforts to ensure full national engagement in the development of new trade and investment rules, and to advance transparency of process, must be directed as well to emerging and developing economies. This is especially important for Canada as our export-oriented Canadian companies will increasingly need to be able to invest and expand with confidence if they are to continue to grow and create jobs back home. Canada has always supported the dialogue established with non-OECD countries within the context of the MAI negotiations. We have been strong advocates for the acceptance of developing countries as observers and full participants in the negotiations. For Canada, an MAI restricted to the 29 OECD countries is of limited value. We want truly multilateral rules on investment that would help expand the benefits of responsible foreign investment to all countries, including developing nations.