



reciprocal (bilateral agreements, WTO commitments). Since 1974, Canada has provided preferential tariff rates (under the General Preferential Tariff) for imports of most products from developing countries to facilitate their economic growth and development. As well, as announced in June, the Government will significantly improve Canada's tariff treatment of products from least developed countries. Effective January 1, 2003, Canada will extend duty-free and quota-free access to all imports from such countries except dairy products, poultry and eggs (see response to Recommendation 7). Canada is exercising leadership in the Doha Development Agenda negotiations with a view to integrating developing countries more fully into the WTO's work, and will continue to promote further market access improvements for developing countries in the negotiations.

Recommendation 4

"That the federal government energetically support special and differential treatment provisions for developing countries that provide those countries with a more flexible timeframe for implementing WTO agreements. In negotiating this position at the WTO, Canada should also seek clear and equitable rules for how such an entitlement is determined in order that countries not qualify for special treatment in cases where it is not warranted."

The Government agrees in principle with the recommendation for support of Special and Differential treatment for developing countries, and will consider a variety of provisions rather than focus on only one. The Government remains committed to the principle of Special and Differential treatment (S&D) at the WTO and has been actively advancing substantive exploration of this issue. The objective is to ensure that Special and Differential treatment provisions are relevant, to investigate which provisions are most useful to developing countries, and to seek ways to make the provisions more effective. This will entail examining which provisions have a demonstrated positive development effect and examining criteria for eligibility for special treatment.

Recommendation 5

"That the federal government take a leading-edge role in providing trade-related technical assistance to developing countries. With a view to finding the most effective way to do so, the federal government should also commit to increasing its contribution to capacity-building programs."

Both the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT) and the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) are coordinating efforts with other government departments to deliver more effective trade-related technical assistance and capacity-building. Efforts are underway to capture the full range of assistance offered by the federal government in a database available to all WTO members.

