

FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT: The funds committed to a foreign enterprise. The investor may gain partial or total control of the enterprise. An investor who buys 10% or more of the controlling shares of a foreign enterprise makes a direct investment. (IED : Investissement étranger direct)

FTA: Often refers to the Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement that entered into force on January 1, 1989. (ALE : Accord de libre-échange)

FTAA: Free Trade Area of the Americas. Proposed free trade agreement between the 34 democratic countries of the Western hemisphere. The FTAA process was conceived in Miami in 1994 and negotiations were launched in Santiago, Chile, in 1998. (ZLEA : Zone de libre-échange des Amériques)

GATT: General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. From 1947 to 1994, the multilateral agreement overseeing the global trading system, as well as the international agreement governing trade in goods (GATT 1947). The GATT was subsequently superseded in January 1995 by the new institution known as the World Trade Organization. GATT 1994 (the agreement), which reflects amendments to the original agreement and incorporates new WTO agreements, continues to govern trade in goods. Other WTO agreements apply to, for example, trade in services. All of these agreements that apply to all WTO members, including the GATT, are components of the WTO Agreement (1994). (GATT : Accord général sur les tarifs douaniers et le commerce)

GDP: Gross domestic product. The total value of goods and services produced in a country. (PIB : Produit intérieur brut)

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY: A collective term used to refer to new ideas, inventions, designs, writings, films, etc., protected by copyright, patents, trademarks, etc. (Propriété intellectuelle)

ITA: Information Technology Agreement. A WTO-based agreement with over 50 members that provides for duty-free trade information technology and telecommunications products. (ATI : Accord sur la technologie de l'information)

LIBERALIZATION: Unilateral, bilateral or multilateral actions to reduce tariffs and/or remove other measures that restrict international trade. (Libéralisation)

MFN: Most-favoured-nation treatment (Article I of the GATT 1994). Requires countries not to discriminate between their trading partners; any special treatment for one member must be granted to all. This includes trade in goods, services and intellectual property (although in each area the principle is handled slightly differently) (NPF : Traitement de la nation la plus favorisée)

NAFTA: North American Free Trade Agreement, involving Canada, the United States and Mexico. Implemented January 1, 1994. (ALENA : Accord de libre-échange nord-américain)

NON-TARIFF BARRIERS (MEASURES): Government measures or policies other than tariffs that restrict or distort international trade. Examples include import quotas and discriminatory government procurement practices. Such measures have become relatively more conspicuous impediments to trade as tariffs have been reduced during the period since World War II. (Obstacles non tarifaires)

OECD: Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. Paris-based organization of industrialized countries responsible for the study of and cooperation on a broad range of economic, trade, scientific and educational issues. (OCDE : Organisation de coopération et de développement économique)