

13. The President and Prime Minister reaffirmed the decision of their governments to strengthen the economic relations between Mexico and Canada, convinced that such an effort would help the development and expansion of their respective national economies.

14. The President and the Prime Minister examined the recent evolution of bilateral trade noting that it had declined in the past two years as a result of economic circumstances which, in the case of Mexico, had significantly reduced the availability of foreign exchange. However, in light of increasing indications of recovery in their economies, they agreed to redouble their joint efforts to correct this decline and to regenerate the growth and expansion of bilateral trade. They declared their interest in increasing direct trade and took note of the measures which have been taken to avoid triangulation.

15. The President and the Prime Minister noted that the guidelines recently adopted by Mexico for the promotion of selected and diversified direct foreign investment open new possibilities that can be taken advantage of by Canadian investors.

16. The President and the Prime Minister reviewed bilateral cooperation and trade between Canada and Mexico in the agri-food sector. They noted that since the 1980 signature of the Memorandum on Agricultural Cooperation a long list of agricultural projects has been implemented and that many more continue to be identified for the future.

17. Both leaders expressed satisfaction at the progress in the negotiation of a Customs Cooperation Agreement and over the signature of Memoranda of Understanding on the Financing of Exports and on the Conduct of Trade.