

Enhancing bilateral relations is a priority for both countries. This stems not only from the potential complementarity between the Mexican and Canadian economies, and factors such as the two oceans which unite us - particularly the Pacific - and our geographic proximity as states located in North America; but also from the common perspectives reflected in the views of both countries on important global and hemispheric issues.

Canada has placed priority on the expansion of its relations with Latin America, through its accession to the Organization of American States (OAS) and closer cooperation with leading Latin American countries beginning with Mexico, its largest trading partner in the region.

The participation in the Ministerial meetings of seven Mexican and ten Canadian Ministers was unprecedented. This reflects the importance attached by both countries to strengthening further their bilateral relations based on similar views of world and regional affairs, and common interests through geographic and cultural linkages as states located in North America.

During their meetings, Mr. Clark and Mr. Solana discussed a number of issues affecting Canada-Mexico bilateral relations as well as international questions, with special attention to the Central American peace process, recent developments in Eastern Europe and mutual initiatives to expand relations with countries of the Pacific Basin.

Canada and Mexico, cognizant of the important role they can play as countries of the Pacific Basin, have agreed to strengthen efforts for cooperation in fora such as the Pacific Economic Cooperation Conference (PECC).

Both Governments recognize the importance of the OAS in ensuring peace and equitable economic growth in the region. The revitalization of the OAS, the entry into force of the Cartagena Protocol, the search for dialogue amongst all states in the region, and the recent accession by Canada, all constitute an important point of departure for cooperation between both governments in this important regional organization.

The Ministers agreed to consult frequently, and to meet on a regular basis to review global and hemispheric matters of common interest.

Mr. Crosbie and Mr. Serra reviewed Canadian and Mexican positions concerning the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations, in which both countries play key roles.