

on international trade access and marketing issues, both bilateral and multilateral.

The system has two components. The International Trade Advisory Committee has broad terms of reference on all international trade matters, including issues relating to trade policy, market access and trade development. The other component consists of 13 Sectoral Advisory Groups on International Trade (SAGIT), which interact with the government to ensure sectoral views are fully taken into account on international trade matters.

The current focus of the committees is on multilateral trade negotiations and the Free Trade Agreement. In the past year the committees examined Canada's trade strategy in detail and provided useful advice to negotiators in areas such as trade in intellectual property, agriculture, tariff acceleration, dispute panels and the Going Global program.

During the year under review, the Secretariat organized four ITAC meetings, 51 SAGIT meetings as well as 42 meetings of ITAC/SAGIT Task Forces and Subgroups.