

1998, Canada and the OECD will hold a ministerial conference on shaping an international framework for electronic commerce. The conference will bring together government ministers from the 29 OECD countries as well as observer nations, industry leaders, and the heads of several international organizations. The group will work on establishing the first protocols for electronic commerce in such areas as taxation, privacy protection, consumer issues, and digital signatures. The Ottawa conference will lead to a plan that sets out timelines for resolving remaining technical and legal issues, and the roles that governments, the private sector and international organizations can play in bringing down the barriers for global electronic commerce.

Counter-Terrorism

Canada is fighting terrorism with policies and laws which underline the principle that terrorism must be prevented, that all terrorists must be brought to justice swiftly and that terrorists must receive no sanctuary or support.

For almost two decades, Canada has been co-operating with other countries to counter terrorism. It has ratified 10 international conventions targeting hijacking, theft of nuclear material, terrorist bombing and hostage taking.

In December 1995, Canada hosted a meeting of Summit ministers that resulted in the Ottawa Declaration and Guidelines for Action. The guidelines called on all states to adopt international counter-terrorism conventions; promoted mutual legal assistance and extradition; strengthened the sharing of intelligence on terrorism; urged all states to refuse to make concessions to hostage takers; took steps to deny terrorists sanctuary and support; and strengthened protection for aviation, maritime and other transportation systems.

The guidelines and the subsequent 25 specific recommendations on terrorism endorsed at the 1996 Lyon Summit have been adopted or supported by the UN, the Organization of American States and other regional organizations.

In line with recent recommendations in various international agreements, Canada is employing new immigration procedures to bar entry to terrorists, examining ways of improving travel and immigration documents, making sure that terrorists do not have access to government funding and finding new ways to share information.