



to promote and preserve their cultural diversity, can be established.” Canada has also promoted the development of an Instrument during informal bilateral meetings with important trading partners such as France, Sweden, Switzerland and Italy.

In other fora, consideration of cultural diversity in the context of globalization had led to specific references to work on the Instrument. For example, in November 2001 the UNESCO General Conference passed the Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity. Its Action Plan urged members to deepen “the international debate on questions relating to cultural diversity, taking forward notably consideration of the opportunity of an international legal instrument on cultural diversity.” At their June 2001 meeting, Francophonie Culture Ministers supported “the principle of a universal international regulatory instrument that supported the promotion of cultural diversity.” The International Network on Cultural Policy (INCP), the informal grouping of over 45 national culture ministers, is another forum where work has progressed on the design of a possible instrument. An INCP Working Group, chaired by Canada, has produced a draft text of the Instrument, including the notion of its enforceability, which will be presented at the next annual meeting in Cape Town, South Africa, in the Autumn of 2002. The International Network for Cultural Diversity, an NGO grouping that meets concurrently with the INCP, is expected to release the text of its own draft Instrument in the Autumn.

Solid progress is being made toward the development of a New International Instrument on Cultural Diversity. The Government has been, and will continue to be, at the forefront in promoting such development internationally.

INVESTMENT AND COMPETITION POLICY

Recommendation 22

“That the Government of Canada diligently strive to attain WTO consensus on the importance of creating a comprehensive international agreement to protect investment. Investor-state provisions should be excluded from the agreement.”

The Government agrees with this recommendation regarding the need to work toward building consensus among WTO members on the importance of establishing a comprehensive multilateral framework for investment. International investment is important for Canada, with \$389.4 billion of outward stock and \$320.9 billion of inward stock in 2001. A multilateral investment agreement providing transparent and predictable conditions for Canadian direct investment abroad would complement existing WTO agreements (such as the GATS and the TRIMS) that contain investment-related obligations. It would also extend a degree of protection and non-discrim-

