

The Doha Round and Canada's Objectives

The Doha Development Agenda (Doha Round) negotiations were launched in Doha, Qatar, in November 2001. This development-focused round includes negotiations on agriculture; non-agricultural market access services; WTO rules on antidumping and subsidies disciplines, including fisheries sector subsidies; WTO rules on regional trade agreements; and trade facilitation. Development-related considerations are to inform all negotiating areas.

Although deadlines in these negotiations have been repeatedly missed, progress has been made in some areas (e.g. an agreement to eliminate all agricultural export subsidies by the end of 2013), and members continue to work toward a successful conclusion of the round.

Canada's overall objective in these negotiations is to secure an ambitious outcome that creates a level playing field for the agri-food sector; increases real market access for goods and services; provides improved and clarified rules on trade remedies and strong, binding rules on trade facilitation; and secures a development outcome that provides real benefits to developing countries. With respect to the development dimension of the round, Canada is seeking a balance between development objectives, developing countries' concerns and Canadian commercial interests. For this reason, Canada supports effective special and differential treatment for developing countries, the provision of trade-related technical assistance and capacity-building

activities, and greater institutional and policy coherence between the WTO and other international institutions. These measures will help developing countries manage their transition to full participation in the global economy. For more information on Canada and the WTO, please visit www.international.gc.ca/tna%2Dnac/wto-en.asp.

Canada's approach to the Doha Round negotiations includes close collaboration with provinces and territories and consultations with stakeholders and the public to obtain their views and build awareness of the benefits of trade liberalization through the WTO process. As part of this effort, the government's trade policy website (<http://geo.international.gc.ca/cip-pic/menu-en.aspx>) will continue to provide up-to-date information on the status of the negotiations and to invite public comments on negotiating priorities and objectives.

Accessions of New Members to the World Trade Organization

Canada participates in the accession negotiations for all countries seeking to join the WTO. Negotiations take place on two tracks: multilateral and bilateral. Canada's overall objectives are to ensure that acceding countries are fully compliant with WTO obligations and to seek more open, secure and predictable access for Canadian goods and services. Further information on the WTO accession process can be obtained at www.wto.org/english/thewto_e/acc_e/acc_e.htm.