

Only a large market-access result will create the kind of new trade and investment opportunities that will act as a spur to sustained economic growth and enhanced competitiveness of our economies. This is what will allow us to garner the necessary private-sector support for a reformed GATT system. Such a package will also be key to ensuring that the pursuit of multilateral and regional trade arrangements are compatible, in support of more outward-looking trade policies.

While actively engaged in the Uruguay Round, Canada also concluded a Free Trade Agreement with the United States and negotiated the North American Free Trade Agreement [NAFTA], convinced that open regionalism and open multilateralism are two sides of the same coin. In both agreements, we have agreed to reduce barriers among the free trade partners; we have not increased barriers vis-à-vis others. Far from being a trading bloc, the NAFTA is a building block for a more dynamic North American economy and for expanding trade worldwide.

We must all be prepared to put our shoulders to the wheel. The draft final act issues need to be resolved in the fall, with as few changes as possible, as part of a truly global and balanced overall Uruguay Round outcome. The proposed Multilateral Trade Organization, which Canada has sponsored, will help to ensure effective and coherent enforcement of the new trade agreements.

Mr. Chairman, we need to complete the Round if we are to maintain our credibility. Completion of the Round will enable us to move on to tackle new issues. There is clearly no status quo on the trade-policy front. Our failure to find multilateral solutions to emerging issues can only fuel pressures to find solutions outside the system.

The OECD is well equipped to enhance our understanding of cross-sectoral issues. Competition and investment policies are good examples. Canada has been at the forefront in pressing the OECD to do a comprehensive analysis of the broad issues relating to investment instruments. The analysis and the solutions must capture the complexities involved. For Canada, we want to ensure that our particular interest as a federal state are understood and met.

I am pleased that the OECD has moved quickly to develop guidelines to assist our policy makers concerned with trade and environment to take into account the legitimate concerns of both areas. These guidelines will strengthen the capacity of governments to ensure that trade and environment policies will be pursued in a mutually compatible and reinforcing manner.

Canada endorses these guidelines. Moving forward will require more rigorous analysis of the difficult and outstanding issues, some of which have been highlighted in the joint experts' report.