

for re-starting negotiations in the Doha Round. Subsequently, WTO Director-General Pascal Lamy recommended that discussions at the technical level resume.

As informal bilateral and group meetings intensified, a renewed sense of commitment emerged from the first ministerial meeting held since the suspension of the round. Held on the margins of the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, on January 26, 2007, ministers attending the meeting stated their support for a full-scale relaunch of the Doha Round negotiations. On January 31, Pascal Lamy received the support of all WTO members for a full resumption of the negotiations. Members have continued to engage through technical groups and at the ministerial level, working to span the differences in the diverse negotiating positions. It will take the efforts of all members to reach a broad and ambitious deal.

The Doha Development Agenda negotiations are the most comprehensive round ever undertaken by the WTO or its predecessor, the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT). The diverse range of issues, combined with the consensus-based approach of the WTO, has meant that these negotiations have not been easy; however, WTO negotiations have never been simple or quick—the last round (the Uruguay Round) took seven and a half years to complete—and the potential benefits of such a broad agreement are wide ranging.

Canada is seeking a broad and ambitious outcome to the Doha Development Agenda. We welcome the resumption of the negotiations and will continue to engage other members to advance progress in the round and to secure a good deal for our producers, manufacturers and services providers. An ambitious outcome to the negotiations would provide a more level playing field for Canadian exporters competing in global markets, while increasing Canadian and global economic growth, prosperity and development.¹

In the WTO agriculture negotiations, Canada continues to seek the elimination of all forms of export subsidies; substantial reductions in trade-distorting domestic support; and real and significant market access improvements. In non-agricultural market access negotiations, Canada is seeking improved access to markets of interest to our exporters, including through reduced customs tariffs for all non-agricultural goods and tariff elimination in some sectors. Key sectors of interest to Canada include fish products, forest products, environmental goods, chemicals and raw materials.

In services negotiations, Canada is seeking increased access to foreign services markets in various sectors. These include architecture, engineering and integrated engineering, computer and related services, construction and related engineering, energy, environment, finance, law, maritime transport and telecommunications. We are also looking for an easing of restrictions on the temporary movement of “natural persons” supplying services, as well as more transparent and predictable regulatory environments abroad. In the rules negotiations, Canada supports improving anti-dumping and/or countervail disciplines to reduce the scope for abuse; strengthening subsidy disciplines, particularly to ensure fair competition for Canadian exporters in foreign markets; and clarifying rules on regional trade agreements.

In trade facilitation negotiations, Canada's priority is to secure strong, binding rules governing trade facilitation in a manner that is both practical and meaningful to traders – the goal is to build on existing WTO obligations in a way that maximizes transparency and streamlines customs procedures.

With respect to the overarching development dimension of the Doha Round, Canada is seeking an outcome to the round that strikes a balance between development objectives, developing countries' concerns and Canadian commercial interests. Canada supports an outcome that will

¹ A 2005 World Bank Study estimates the global welfare gains from liberalization in merchandise trade and reduction in agricultural subsidies at nearly \$363.5 billion a year by 2015.