

PREAMBLE

The Government of Canada, the Government of the United Mexican States and the Government of the United States of America:

RECALLING their resolve in the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) to:

- *create* an expanded and secure market for the goods and services produced in their territories,
- *enhance* the competitiveness of their firms in global markets,
- *create* new employment opportunities and improve working conditions and living standards in their respective territories, and
- *protect*, enhance and enforce basic workers' rights;

AFFIRMING their continuing respect for each Party's constitution and law;

DESIRING to build on their respective international commitments and to strengthen their cooperation on labor matters;

RECOGNIZING that their mutual prosperity depends on the promotion of competition based on innovation and rising levels of productivity and quality;

SEEKING to complement the economic opportunities created by the NAFTA with the human resource development, labor-management cooperation and continuous learning that characterize high-productivity economies;

ACKNOWLEDGING that protecting basic workers' rights will encourage firms to adopt high-productivity competitive strategies;

RESOLVED to promote, in accordance with their respective laws, high-skill, high-productivity economic development in North America by:

- *investing* in continuous human resource development, including for entry into the workforce and during periods of unemployment;
- *promoting* employment security and career opportunities for all workers through referral and other employment services;
- *strengthening* labor-management cooperation to promote greater dialogue