



DFAIT and CIDA are working with Canadian parliamentarians who have taken the initiative to establish the Global Organization of Parliamentarians against Corruption (GOPAC). The inaugural GOPAC conference will take place in Ottawa in October 2002 and is expected to attract over 50 parliamentarians from the Americas, as part of a gathering of approximately 200 parliamentarians. A regional chapter of GOPAC is in the process of being established in the Americas at a regional meeting in the autumn of 2002. The chapter will receive financial support from existing CIDA programs to organize training seminars and create a virtual network.

Recommendation 13

"That, in order to create a more integrated and efficient presence abroad, the Government of Canada ensure that greater coordination and communication be introduced between Canadian Embassies and Consular Offices abroad. Within each country, a single foreign-service strategy and explicit organizational structure should be developed." and

Recommendation 14

"That, in order to assist with the communication and dissemination of information with regard to Canada's trade-related initiatives, designated media contacts be established in Canadian embassies, particularly in those countries displaying considerable Canadian trade interests."

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The Government recognizes the importance of creating a more integrated and efficient presence abroad and is actively engaged in doing so. The Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT) continually seeks to improve inter-post and regional cooperation in dealing in a more coordinated way with both foreign contacts and Canadian small and medium-sized enterprises as well as other public and private sector partners. It is the standard operating procedure within the Trade Commissioner Service for managers and officers to gather together to plan, collaborate on, review and assess the performance and interaction of their respective posts and programs. This is often undertaken at regional meetings.

For example, in January 2002 all trade program managers in South and Central America and the Caribbean met for three days in Bogotá. A representative of the Miami Consulate was also present to encourage greater interaction with this major U.S. city, which acts as a gateway in the Americas. Further, in March 2002 the Trade Commissioner Service held two-day regional training workshops in São Paulo and in Santiago for all of our trade and investment development employees in Brazil, Chile and Peru. Communications and cooperation among posts in countries across the region are frequent and close, and continue to develop.

