

- by effectively enforcing and further developing intellectual property disciplines.

25. In order to facilitate the free flow of trade, we will initiate an effort to further standardize and simplify customs procedures among our countries. Uniform documentation and electronic transmission standards would reduce costs for business and government, complement efforts in the WTO by eliminating barriers to trade and development, and so promote growth.

26. Lastly, we are resolved to combat corruption in international business transactions, which is detrimental to transparency and fairness and imposes heavy economic and political costs. In keeping with the commitment of OECD Ministers to criminalize such bribery in an effective and coordinated manner, we urge that the OECD further examine the modalities and appropriate international instruments to facilitate criminalization and consider proposals for action in 1997.

27. Looking ahead beyond the Singapore Ministerial Conference and recognizing that our next meeting will take place on the eve of the 50th anniversary of the founding of the multilateral trading system, we are committed to working together with our partners to give sustained impetus to trade liberalization.

III. Enhancing our Approach to Employment Problems

28. The development of a more global economy and advances in information technology are engines of economic growth and prosperity. But they also may be seen by some as a source of dislocation and insecurity. Our challenge is to ensure that our economies can adapt so that all our citizens can benefit from the opportunities created by the new global economy. We must achieve both economic growth and a widely shared prosperity. The reduction of unemployment and the creation of quality jobs are urgent priorities. We recognize the crucial role of the private sector for achieving these goals.

29. We seek to enhance the effectiveness of policies aimed at stimulating growth and jobs. This requires action in a wide range of structural policies, within a framework of sound macro-economic policies. We welcome the conclusions reached by the Ministerial Conference on Employment in Lille, and we have agreed to pursue the following policies:

- we reaffirm our belief that investment in people is as vital as investment in capital. We will therefore pay special attention to a sound basic education, skill formation and training, which is a lifelong undertaking, and to improving the transition from school to work;