

## **Culture (recommendations 28 and 29)**

The Government announced in the Speech from the Throne its intention to develop a new approach internationally to support the diversity of cultural expression in countries around the world.

The Government agrees that Canada should pursue a new international instrument on cultural diversity. As described by the SAGIT, the purpose of the agreement would be to set out clear ground rules to enable Canada and other countries to maintain policies that promote their culture while respecting the rules of the international trading system and ensuring markets for cultural exports. The agreement would recognize the special role of cultural goods and services and the right of governments to preserve and promote cultural diversity. The Government will pursue a multifaceted approach to build support for this strategy in such fora as the International Network on Cultural Policy, UNESCO, the WTO, the OECD, La Francophonie, and others. The Government will also continue to work with domestic stakeholders to define Canada's interests with respect to trade in cultural goods and services in the forthcoming trade negotiations.

The development of an international instrument on cultural diversity will likely take several years. In order to build support for this instrument, Canada will continue to engage in discussions on how best to ensure that countries can maintain the flexibility to pursue their cultural policy objectives, while respecting the rules governing the international trading system. We will keep all options open on the most appropriate forum for the negotiation of a new international instrument and its content. Issues likely to be discussed regarding the content will include those outlined by the Committee.

Pending developments with respect to the negotiation of a new International Instrument on Cultural Diversity, the Government of Canada will continue to seek the maximum flexibility in international agreements to pursue its cultural policy objectives.