



CANADA, TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

The results of the Ministerial meeting in Cancun, Mexico, are a clear signal that Canada must redouble its efforts to encourage consensus on strengthening the multilateral trading system.

The past 50 years have seen exceptional growth in world trade. Technological innovation and the international movement of people, goods and services are faster, easier and less expensive. The modern trading system needs modern rules to keep pace with these changes and to ensure the inclusion of all trading nations. Member countries of the World Trade Organization (WTO) are negotiating to ensure the continued existence of such a fair and transparent trading system.

With 146 member countries—soon to be 148 with the entry of the first two least-developed countries, Cambodia and Nepal—the WTO works to ensure that trade flows smoothly, predictably and more freely, ensuring that all members have the opportunity to benefit from the increased opportunities and welfare gains generated by the global trading system.

Canada has a strong interest in a healthy global economy. Trade is central to our economic future. It opens up new markets for Canadian exporters and producers, creates employment opportunities at home, and ensures the health and future of our economy. Mutually beneficial trade rules also increase the chances for global peace and stability.

At the meeting in Cancun held September 10 to 14, Canada and

the other WTO members worked to continue progress on the ambitious global trade agenda negotiated in November 2001 at Doha, Qatar, an agenda that holds the promise of significant benefits for Canadians and for citizens throughout the developed and developing world.

Despite enormous effort on the part of WTO members, the Cancun meeting closed without a full mid-term review because of different levels of ambition for the current round of trade talks, called the Doha Development Agenda. But Canada's objectives for this round have not changed. Our particular interests remain fundamental agricultural reform, improved market access for goods and services, improved trade rules, and helping developing countries integrate into the global economy.

Canada's Minister for International Trade, Pierre Pettigrew, says the Canadian approach is the right one. "Canada is disappointed with the result of the Ministerial meeting, but we will continue to work on getting the agenda back on track and keeping our eyes on the prize we all seek: a balanced and equitable global trading system that benefits Canada's economy and aids the developing world."

The results of the Ministerial meeting are a clear signal that we must redouble our efforts to engage all WTO members in moving forward



Canada hosted an informal meeting of trade ministers from 24 countries—more than half from developing nations—in Montreal last summer to prepare the ground for the WTO Ministerial Conference in Cancun, Mexico. At table (left to right): Amir Khosru Chowdhury, Minister of Commerce of Bangladesh; Mark Vaile, Minister for Trade of Australia; Roberto Lavagna, Minister of Economy and Production of Argentina; Pierre Pettigrew, Minister for International Trade of Canada; Supachai Panitchpakdi, Director General of the WTO; Carlos Pérez del Castillo, Chair of the WTO General Council.

and finding consensus in the months ahead. Canada remains fully engaged in the Doha Round of negotiations and the strengthening of the multilateral trading system.

The Doha Development Agenda round is far from over. WTO members agree that the evolution of the multilateral trading system is one of the best hopes that all countries have to build their economies and societies. Canada will continue to work with partners toward the ambitious outcome we seek to these negotiations. 🍁

For more information on Canada and the World Trade Organization please see www.wto.gc.ca.