

In Auckland, APEC ministers will review Y2K preparations and contingency planning.

Broadening Support for APEC

APEC's ability to respond to the challenges and opportunities presented by globalization and to advance the goal of free and open trade and investment depends on broad public support. Canada maintains that the best means to enhance public support for continued trade liberalization is to engage a wide variety of organizations and experts in APEC's work. To this end, Canada has undertaken broad-based consultations on APEC and wider trade policy issues with a variety of organizations and industry stakeholders.

The Integration of Women in APEC

In Vancouver in 1997, APEC leaders highlighted the important role of women in economic development and directed that steps be taken to integrate women more effectively into the mainstream of APEC activities. A framework for the integration of women into APEC is expected to be endorsed by APEC ministers and leaders in Auckland. This initiative, in which Canada has played a leading role, has benefited from the support and involvement of the APEC women leaders' network, which has met annually since 1996.

APEC Business Advisory Council

The APEC Business Advisory Council brings together three business leaders from each APEC economy to develop annual recommendations. In Auckland, council members will meet with APEC leaders as part of their annual dialogue. This year the council will focus on several areas, including the APEC individual action plans; APEC's response to the financial crisis; electronic commerce; and the APEC food system, a comprehensive proposal aimed at building rural infrastructure, exchanging food-related technology, enhancing food security, and proceeding with agricultural trade and investment liberalization.