



Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade's Trade Negotiations and Agreements Web site (www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/tna-nac/menu-e.asp).

The Government believes that it will be ever more crucial to take on an increased role in the final phase of the negotiations, which will see the United States and Brazil as co-chairs of the process. This final phase will no doubt present significant challenges and provide Canada with many opportunities to display its leadership in the negotiations.

OVERVIEW OF THE EXISTING LINKS

Recommendation 4

"That the federal government work in conjunction with other countries to harmonize statistical methodologies in the collection of international trade data."

The Government, recognizing like the Sub-Committee the problem of discrepancies and inconsistencies with respect to international trade data, continues to work through Statistics Canada to address this issue. A multi-year process of merchandise trade reconciliation has been under way over the past three years, based on country priorities set out by the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, notably involving Mexico but also involving several of Canada's major Asia-Pacific trading partners, to improve the consistency of international trade data. As part of this exercise, delegations from both China and Korea will be in Ottawa during the autumn of 2002. With respect to other countries, including many of those mentioned in the Sub-Committee's report, reconciliation work over the next few years will be constrained due to the need to balance the allocation of limited human and financial resources across many competing priorities.

INCREASING FORMAL ECONOMIC LINKAGE WITH THE AMERICAS

Recommendation 5

"That, given the relative importance of the United States and Mexican markets to Canadian business, the Government of Canada actively seek to remove existing impediments to trade and investment between Canada and its NAFTA partners. The government should ensure that its regulations and policies governing trade are appropriate to the level of economic integration that already exists between the three countries."

The Government agrees with the recommendation to remove existing impediments to trade and investment between Canada and its NAFTA partners.

