

disciplines and multilateral environmental rules affecting trade. Indeed, the environmental negotiations and work program, together, are already greatly improving communication between the WTO and Multilateral Environmental Agreement Secretariats, and between national trade and environmental authorities.

A point of great significance to Canada is that the DDA talks must take into account developing and least-developed countries' ability to implement any new rules, which may be improved through the provision of technical assistance. They must also address a range of issues such as special and differential treatment and improving market access for developing-country exports, in order to make the world trading system better serve the interests of development. As with the new environmental negotiations and related work, this will help advance Canada's objective of better integrating broader concerns with trade. The international system has many elements, and the WTO is only one of them, so we are pursuing some of the more contentious issues (such as improving respect for human and labour rights) in other relevant bodies (e.g. the International Labour Organization), while striving to build understanding, comfort and consensus among our trading partners. We are all, collectively, still learning how good governance, sustainability, the rule of law, environmental protection and economic development can fit into a well-articulated whole rather than operating in separate policy worlds or, worse still, operating incoherently and at cross-purposes.

### **THE REGIONAL AND BILATERAL TRACKS**

The management of bilateral trade and investment relationships is an exercise in the judicious choice of instruments. Consider the Canada-U.S. relationship: beyond all doubt it has been highly advantageous to Canada over the years, but it is also our most challenging relationship, where any disruption can prove very costly. Additionally, the weight of the United States in the world economy and the world trading system (like that of the European Union and certain other major players) makes it essential to maintain a continuing dialogue with the United States on a range of shared interests going well beyond the bilateral agenda.