



commitments under the GATS on the effective provision by Canadian governments of health, education and social services and on the Canadian regulatory structure affecting them. The results and public release of the study will contribute to strengthening the understanding of the interplay between international trade agreements and domestic regulatory frameworks. Canada's longstanding position of preserving its policy flexibility in health, public education and social services in the context of trade agreements continues to guide the Government in the current trade negotiations, notably WTO General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) and the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA). Canada's health, public education and social services are not on the table.

CULTURE

Recommendation 21

“That the Government of Canada ensure its ability to preserve and promote cultural diversity by accelerating its efforts to achieve the desired New International Instrument on Cultural Diversity.”

The Government has continuously promoted the development of a New International Instrument on Cultural Diversity since adopting its policy in support of an Instrument in October of 1999. Since then, the Government has sought to engage the international community on the challenges globalization poses for cultural diversity in a wide variety of international fora. This has been the case, for instance, in the G-8, where the communique of the 2000 Okinawa Summit set out the shared perspectives of the leaders of the G-8 countries on a number of cultural diversity issues.

The April 2001 declaration of the Summit of Americas, held in Quebec City, also included a statement outlining the hemispheric leaders' perspectives on the importance of cultural diversity. As a result of the Summit's Action Plan, Canada hosted an experts seminar on cultural diversity under the aegis of the Organization of American States (OAS) which met in Vancouver in March 2002. There was also a meeting of OAS Culture Ministers or Highest Appropriate Authorities in July 2002, in Cartagena, Colombia - the first ever such meeting at the hemispheric level.

At the WTO, Canada is following its established approach of not making any new commitments that would impede its cultural policy objectives. In the GATS negotiations, Canada has stated in its initial negotiating position that it will: “not make any commitment that restricts our ability to achieve our cultural policy objectives until a new international instrument, designed specifically to safeguard the right of countries

