

Members agreed overwhelmingly that the World Trade Organization (WTO), newly created, must be given structure and substance to ensure a rules-based international regime for the expanding trade agenda.

Regional or plurilateral economic arrangements should contribute to the further development of the multilateral system of the WTO. Canada should focus its efforts on rule-making where these kinds of arrangements might be more difficult in larger forums. Where matters are deemed to be best handled in larger forums, there should be the flexibility to allow for transfer of responsibility from one organization to the other.

ii. Canada should work actively to implement fully all the provisions of the WTO, including the dispute settlement system, to encourage all members, including the largest, to remain committed to a multilateral rules-based system.

iii. In view of the increasingly tight interlinkage among technology, trade, and investment, the new multilateral agreement on investment should be moved out of the OECD to the WTO.

Participants also underlined again and again the importance of small and medium-sized enterprises as engines of growth in Canada and the global economy. International organizations should encourage the participation of SMEs for reasons of trade development.

iv. Canada should develop programs to facilitate easier market access and to push international organizations to become more user-friendly to small and medium-sized enterprises.