

the benefits of the Uruguay Round, those who require approval by parliaments, or other such procedures, must act quickly to ensure that the World Trade Organization agreement can be implemented fully and effectively by January of next year. The Government of Canada is committed to fulfilling our domestic requirements by the end of this year. It would be extremely unfair to keep the world waiting for the benefits of this hard-won achievement. None of us can let the press of other domestic issues delay or interfere with early implementation.

Further, in the interim period, we must resist the temptation of protectionist measures that could undo what has already been agreed. We must all honour the commitments we make in this regard as part of the Ministerial Declaration.

We must also quickly turn our attention to the challenges that lie ahead to ensure a smooth transition from the GATT to the World Trade Organization. The Preparatory Committee will have to set up the administrative and financial framework for the World Trade Organization, oversee the continued functioning of working parties, arrange for negotiations in areas where problems remain and organize the work program to implement the Round.

Beyond these immediate tasks, we face even greater challenges. So far, I have concentrated on how much we have accomplished in the Uruguay Round and how difficult the effort proved to be. In a very real way, our work has only just begun. With the all-important creation of the World Trade Organization, we have taken a first step. Now we must begin the effort of investing this institution with the commitment necessary to take us into the 21st century.

The establishment of the World Trade Organization is an expression of new realities in the economic and political relationships among nations. The trading system no longer operates as the exclusive domain of a powerful few. As the Uruguay Round negotiations unfolded over a seven-year period, we witnessed an evolution in the roles of key players. Most importantly, developing countries and "economies in transition" demanded, and won, an equal place at the table. Negotiating with impressive skill, they insisted that their needs be addressed and showed a willingness to assume a greater share of the responsibilities.

No one can predict all the implications of the changes we have seen. But of one thing I am sure. The multilateral system is taking on new meaning. Increasingly, what is the same among us is becoming more important, and more compelling, than what is different. Developed and developing alike, we are nations that share many of the same goals. We all aspire to improved standards of living through market growth and stability. And we demand the same opportunities to pursue those aspirations,