



istrative simplicity. The initiative gives Least Developed Countries preferential treatment in areas of key interest to them: apparel, textiles and agriculture. The Government also examined and confirmed the adequacy of existing programs should it be necessary to assist workers affected by the LDC Initiative. The Government is strengthening the capacity of the Canada Customs and Revenue Agency to monitor, verify, and enforce the rules of origin for apparel and textiles, to prevent the illegal transshipment of goods which are not entitled to preferential treatment.

Recommendation 8

“That, given the reality that the bulk of the economic costs associated with the Government of Canada’s proposal to provide full market access to least-developed countries will be borne disproportionately by a limited number of industries, the federal government establish a transitional assistance program for those industries affected and/or for their workers.”

The Government agrees in principle with the recommendation. The Government has confidence in the abilities of Canadian textile and apparel companies to adjust and compete given Canadian workers’ skills and excellent infrastructure. Over the past decade, employment, domestic production and exports have grown, even while textile and apparel imports have increased. This record was due in large part to an impressive growth in exports which represent the future for Canadian industry. Industry Minister Rock has announced a \$33 million Strategic Framework aimed at increasing the international competitiveness of the Canadian apparel and textile industries. Focused primarily on best practices, marketing initiatives and e-commerce, this initiative will help Canadian firms take advantage of global apparel and textile opportunities. The Government will be consulting closely with the industries in developing this programme.

DISPUTE SETTLEMENT

Recommendation 9

“That the Government of Canada actively seek the support of other WTO Members for revising the Dispute Settlement Understanding to make compensation mandatory if compensation is requested by the aggrieved Member in lieu of authorization to suspend equivalent concessions, in instances of non-compliance with panel decisions. Non-conforming anti-dumping and countervailing duties should have to be completely refunded.”

