

development, and access to channels of distribution. Knowledge-based goods and services are becoming an increasingly important component of international trade and competition. Competition for foreign investment has increased significantly in post-Cold War Europe and in the dynamic Asia-Pacific.

Our capacity to function effectively in this more competitive and complex world economy will be influenced significantly by domestic economic development, regulatory and taxation policies, and by trade policies that seek to maintain our position in established markets and to secure reasonable access to significant new markets. Participants in the Forum emphasized that the Government will have to ensure that Canada derives full benefit from the market access gained through NAFTA and that market access is not eroded through unfair and unilateral trade practices by our partners. Members of the Forum also cautioned that the Government must be sensitive to the social costs of liberalized international trade and assist the adjustment and retraining of those who are disadvantaged.

3. *Human Rights.* The linkage between the two fundamental priorities of trade and human rights was the subject of intensive discussion. Participants in the Forum recognized that trade facilitates contact, empowers important segments of communities against oppressive governments, and provides opportunities for Canada to express its strong commitment to the observance of basic human rights. Pursuit of commercial interests and human rights is not incompatible, but Canada must assert its fundamental commitment to human rights as part of the broader web of relations.

4. *Assistance.* Members of the Forum agreed that assistance to the poorest is a fundamental priority of Canadian policy. The most important form of assistance to the poor is the opening of Canadian markets to their exports and the development of enhanced, reciprocal trading relationships. Participants in the Forum emphasized that trade promotion should be separated from Canada's assistance programs. Canada's aid policy should then focus on environmental sustainability, humanitarian assistance, and the development of social capital and human resources, particularly women. Here, too, Forum members urged intensive co-operation with non-governmental organizations and the business community.

5. *Peacekeeping.* Even as peacekeeping is being redefined internationally, it remains a fundamental priority and an area of comparative advantage for Canada. Canada's approach to peacekeeping must include more than a military component, and be broadly based in Canadian society through close co-ordination with the non-governmental organizations that are a fundamental part of peace-building. Members of the Forum urged that Canada lead in the effort to build better