

sector and to relaunch talks in Singapore on financial services so as to reach significant, balanced and non-discriminatory liberalization commitments by December 1997.

We strongly support the conclusion of a mutually beneficial Information Technology Agreement.

23. Global liberalization of trade and a high level of environmental protection should be mutually supportive. It will be important, for example, to ensure that WTO rules and multilateral environmental agreements and ecolabelling programs are complementary. The Singapore Ministerial Conference of the WTO will be an important opportunity to demonstrate the ability and willingness to integrate environmental protection and thus sustainable development concerns into the multilateral trading system. We welcome the ongoing work launched at Marrakech and look to the Singapore Ministerial Conference to make substantive recommendations for action.

24. In addition to pursuing full implementation of the Uruguay Round agreement, we invite the WTO Ministerial Conference to broaden its agenda to include topics of special importance for trade and investment liberalization, by:

- beginning an examination of trade and investment in the WTO and work towards a consensus which might include the possibility of negotiations;
- discussing the interaction between trade and competition policy with a view to determining how to proceed;
- exploring possible new industrial tariff initiatives in sectors to be agreed by consensus.

We also recognize that there is a will to address the question of the relationship between trade and internationally recognized core labour standards.

We also believe that there is more to be done in areas where other obstacles still seriously impede freer access to markets, in particular:

- by encouraging more convergence between national standards and international norms, by further regulatory reform and by mutual recognition of procedures for testing and for certification;
- by enhancing the disciplines of and expanding the number of countries subscribing to the Agreement on Government Procurement and, in furtherance of this goal, by developing an interim arrangement on transparency, openness and due process in government procurement practices;