

First, strengthening the GATT System.

Exceptions and deviations to GATT rules have proliferated over the years. We need to strengthen the rule of law. We need to transform the GATT from an organization that administers an international trade agreement to a more active policy-oriented institution. The GATT must strengthen its linkages with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD). Ministers have a special role to play in moving the GATT in these directions.

Second, developing new rules and better access for agricultural trade. The Uruguay Round must achieve basic reform of trade distorting agricultural policies. Agricultural subsidies and trade barriers damage agriculture producers in all countries. None of us can afford their spiralling cost.

Canada is deeply committed to progress in this area. As an active member of the Cairns Group and host of the Ministerial meeting last May, we fully support the Group's proposal recently submitted. And we have contributed a proposal of our own elaborating our ideas in a number of important respects.

Third, improving and securing market access.

These issues have been the key element of GATT negotiations over the past 40 years and represent a major objective in this Round. Canada wholeheartedly supports, and is committed to contribute to, maximum trade liberalization through improved market access for all types of goods, from natural resource based products to high technology. To ensure that concessions today are not lost tomorrow, we must also provide that security of access is strengthened.

Fourth, the new issues. Canada believes that for the multilateral trading system to remain vital and relevant, it must have the ability to resolve the trade issues of tomorrow. Problems related to trade in services, and the trade related aspects of intellectual property and investment measures are creating tensions in the world trading system. The Uruguay Round needs to find ways to resolve these issues multilaterally and increase the flow of such trade to our mutual benefit.