



tors acknowledge that consensus-based decision-making is the best formula to ensure that the process is inclusive and that the outcome reflects the interests of all 144 WTO Members.

Extensive work on improving internal transparency and strengthening the WTO decision-making process was undertaken by Members in 2000 and 2001, culminating in the successful launch of the Doha Development Agenda at the Fourth Ministerial Conference. The draft Declaration that emerged from the Geneva preparatory process and formed the basis on which Ministers launched negotiations at Doha was a concise and unbracketed nine-page document, the result of several months of intensive and wide-ranging bilateral, plurilateral, and multilateral consultations undertaken by the General Council Chair with active Canadian participation. The effective preparations for this Conference, together with a negotiating process that was far more transparent and inclusive than was the case at previous trade ministerial conferences, undoubtedly contributed to its successful outcome.

On the establishment of a small, informal steering committee that would be representative of the broader WTO membership to help develop consensus on trade issues during critical moments, this was discussed at some length in the General Council in 2000. However, there was no broad support for it among WTO Members.

With respect to internal decision making, WTO Members recently agreed to a new set of streamlined procedures for the circulation and derestriction of WTO documents. In addition, discussions are currently ongoing in the WTO to develop new procedures for the selection of Directors-General, with a view to avoiding split and protracted decisions.

Recommendation 28

“That the federal government propose to WTO Members that the International Labour Organization and the United Nations Environment Programme be allowed to contribute their specialized expertise to the negotiating process.”

The Government agrees with this recommendation. The Government recognizes the valuable contribution of the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) in building understanding of, and appreciation for, the relationship between trade and labour, and trade and the environment. Therefore, the expertise and perspectives that these organizations can offer from their respective mandates are welcome. They may come in a variety of forms, such as analytical papers or presentations at annual WTO symposia organized in Geneva, or at conferences and/or meetings jointly organized by these organizations with the WTO.

