

measures that distort agricultural markets. As a result, agriculture became one of the main agenda issues at the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations, launched in September 1986. In London in 1991, Canada also played a crucial role in obtaining a very strong declaration urging nations to protect living marine resources and to comply with regimes established by regional fisheries organizations.

Canada's non-colonialist past, its clear commitment to multilateralism and its status as a major donor country have allowed it to assume an intermediary role between the major industrial powers and the less-developed countries. Its recognized commitment to a rules-based international trading system and its history of active international involvement also add credibility to its participation in the summit process. In addition, Canada brings a unique perspective to the summit table given its membership in the world's leading organizations including the UN, the WTO, APEC, the Commonwealth, the Francophonie and the Organization of American States.

Hosting the 1995 Halifax Summit gave Canada an opportunity to frame G-7 discussions on important issues and enhanced Canada's credibility as one of the world's leading industrialized nations and an effective multilateral partner. It also provided a unique occasion to showcase Canada and its Atlantic heritage to the world.

Today, Canada takes its place at the summit table by virtue of the wealth created by its 30 million people and its history of active international involvement. G-7 membership gives Canada an opportunity to influence the course of international developments in ways that serve Canadian goals and interests. All Canadians benefit from the strengthened ties among G-7 countries, which help map out common approaches to key global issues of concern to us all.