

DISCIPLINE IN RESPECT OF SUBSIDIZED OFFICIALLY-SUPPORTED EXPORT FINANCING, BOTH THE VOLUME AND THE TRADE AND AID DISTORTING IMPACT OF THESE SUBSIDIES ARE RISING AMONG OECD COUNTRIES. OECD STATISTICS INDICATE A CONTINUING INCREASE IN THE NOTIFICATIONS OF SUCH TRANSACTIONS. THIS IS A MATTER OF CONSIDERABLE CONCERN FOR CANADA. IN OUR VIEW, MORE EFFECTIVE DISCIPLINE UNDER THE EXPORT CREDIT CONSENSUS ARRANGEMENT AND IN THE DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE COMMITTEE IS NECESSARY TO PREVENT THE PROBLEM FROM BECOMING UNMANAGEABLE. THIS MINISTERIAL MEETING SHOULD ENSURE THAT WE KEEP MOVING AHEAD ON THIS IMPORTANT ISSUE.

I KNOW THAT MY COLLEAGUE, THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, WILL BE ADDRESSING THE ISSUE OF THE ENVIRONMENT MORE SPECIFICALLY. HOWEVER, I WISH ALSO TO RAISE SOME CONCERNS ABOUT THE ENVIRONMENT AND CONSERVATION.

THE UNITED NATIONS HAS ENDORSED THE CONCEPT OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AS ADVOCATED BY THE WORLD COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT. THE BRUNDTLAND COMMISSION RIGHTLY STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF STRENGTHENING INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS TO PREVENT OVER-EXPLOITATION OF RESOURCES AND OTHER DANGEROUS PRACTICES. THE OECD COULD PLAY A USEFUL ROLE IN