



The objective is to ensure that more targeted technical assistance is provided within WTO in coordination with other international organizations and donors. Canada contributed \$1 million to the WTO Global Trust Fund and \$300,000 to the WTO Training Institute.

Recommendation 6

“That Canada continue to promote its position at the WTO that calls for any modification of the existing compulsory licensing arrangement to not restrict developing countries without access to appropriate manufacturing capacity from importing generic medications in the event of public health emergencies. Canada should also promote the establishment of a dedicated international fund to help developing countries without access to such generic drugs to purchase them.”

Canada was instrumental in producing the November 14th, 2001 Declaration on the TRIPS (Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights) Agreement and Public Health. The Declaration confirmed that the TRIPS Agreement included flexibility that allows developing and least developed countries to take measures to address public health problems and promote access to medicines for all. It also recognized that some of these countries may face particular difficulties using compulsory licenses. This issue is the subject of on-going discussions in the WTO TRIPS Council to find a solution while ensuring that research and development continues for the development of new and better medicines. Canada is an active participant in these discussions and is also facilitating access to medicines through its bilateral aid program and through multilateral initiatives such as the Global Fund to fight AIDS, TB and Malaria to which Canada recently committed \$150 million dollars. The Government supports the need for improved coordination and coherence in the provision of development assistance.

Recommendation 7

“That the Government of Canada unilaterally eliminate all remaining tariff and quota restrictions on imports from least-developed countries, save those on supply-managed agricultural products. In implementing this initiative, the federal government should do its utmost to discourage the transshipment of goods from countries remaining under quota restraint. The market access undertaking should be completed as soon as possible and certainly not later than December 31, 2002.”

The Government agrees with the recommendation. The Government announced a unilateral market access initiative for Least Developed Countries (LDCs) on June 27, 2002. Effective January 1, 2003, all products from 48 LDCs (except supply managed products: dairy, poultry, eggs) will be eligible to enter Canada duty-free and quota-free. Canada's initiative will be the most far-reaching LDC preference scheme of any developed country in terms of the countries eligible, the products eligible, and admin-

