

29. Ministers also agreed on the following programme of work to develop specific proposals for individual and collective action:

- i) identification by sector of the scope for action on trade-restricting and trade-distorting measures, taking account of the general economic context of each sector and of the adjustment that has occurred; a report on the possibilities for concerted action, including specific actions to expand imports from developing countries, should be prepared by the next meeting of the Council at Ministerial level;
- ii) strengthening transparency and discipline in the field of trade and aid financing practices as set out in paragraph 22;
- iii) encouraging each Member country to assess the full economic consequences of any new restrictive measures it envisages and to identify any offsetting liberalisation measures;
- iv) renewed efforts to achieve an international agreement on safeguards.

In addition, Ministers requested the relevant Committees of the Organisation:

- i) to consider ways and means and, as appropriate, to take action to improve the OECD arrangements for dealing with domestic measures which have trade-distorting effects, including an improved information system on industry-related policies and an evaluation of countries' adjustment policies in an overall economic perspective;
- ii) to examine the possibilities of country reviews of trade policies in a pragmatic and flexible manner.

#### Strengthening the Multilateral Trading System

30. On the suggestions put forward for a new round of multilateral trade negotiations, Ministers recognised that such an initiative would be of the utmost importance to a strengthening of the liberal trade system and the growth of trade opportunities. To open the way for a firm commitment to new negotiations, extensive consultations should take place with all GATT partners so as to ensure a broad consensus on objectives, participation and timing. Ministers stressed that early and thorough preparations would be essential for the success of such an initiative, and that the GATT work programme constitutes an important step in that preparation. They underlined their determination to carry out, as a high priority, the work programme set up at the 1982 GATT Ministerial meeting. The work of the OECD can make a useful contribution to this preparatory process. Ministers agreed, however, that preparation of such a round should not delay efforts to roll back restrictive actions as agreed above, and that priority should be given to resistance against protectionist pressures.