

commitment effective, we must bring the full range of trade restrictive measures within GATT disciplines. That will be the measure of our determination to resist protectionism. We need a safeguards agreement which, while emphasizing the most favoured nation principle, allows, in exceptional circumstances, for selective measures on a consensual basis, subject to effective disciplines. Without meaningful progress on safeguards, the commitments set out in paragraphs 7 (i) and (ii) of the draft political declaration we have before us will not be sustainable and are not realistic.

What else is required to maintain our relevance?

Canada sees an effective and equitable dispute settlement system, together with political will to respect the agreed rules, as vital to the maintenance of the proper balance between rights and obligations of Contracting Parties.

A substantive work programme on trade in agriculture is essential. We must bring direct and indirect subsidies under greater international discipline. We need to provide a greater degree of predictability of terms of access to markets. A firm commitment is essential to lay the basis for decisions in the near future. We perceive the problems of agriculture to be shared among the major players but I have to believe that all are concerned with aspects of the status quo.

Firm resolution of these key issues is essential to each Contracting Party, not least the developing countries.

In addition, we must have a GATT work programme which addresses tariff and non-tariff barriers to trade. In this regard, Canada wants an examination of trade barriers in the fisheries sector to provide a basis for future negotiations to improve access to markets for fisheries products. We also attach high priority to work aimed at improving terms of access to markets for petrochemicals, and processed forest, metal and mineral products.

If the GATT is to remain relevant, we should also be prepared to address new areas. We see a need for a sensible work programme on trade in services. This is a complex area but we consider it useful and important to examine it in the GATT without commitment as to what might follow. A large and growing percentage of trade is in services. Is it logical to ignore its existence or better to determine what is involved by an appropriate study?

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