

Moreover, past and present rule making and the increasing internationalization of markets are continually expanding the scope of domestic practices that require the attention of policy makers internationally to ensure that market access gains are not undermined by the use of new instruments to achieve old protectionist ends. The new agenda of rule making will encompass such areas as product standards; antitrust policies and the relationship with anti-dumping reform; the link between environmental and labour standards and trade; and the use of massive subsidies that distort decisions about where companies locate their investments to the detriment of countries such as Canada.

Second, we propose to widen our network of free trade partners to improve market access for Canadian exporters. Over the past year, we have encouraged the expansion of the NAFTA in order to ensure that this Agreement is an outward-looking, dynamic instrument.

Last December, the first stage of our efforts was crowned with success when the Prime Minister was joined by the Presidents of Chile, Mexico and the United States in announcing the beginning of the process that should see Chile become a full member of the NAFTA by late this year or early next year. Accession to the NAFTA, Mr. Speaker, requires a consensus among the three current members. Canada worked hard to achieve that consensus on Chile.

We also intend to build on this success to meet the challenge identified in the Miami Summit of the Americas of constructing a Western Hemisphere free trade area by the year 2005. During last month's visit to South America, the Prime Minister launched the process of consultations that will take us farther in that direction, by proposing the initiation of discussions with the Mercosur countries with a view to integrating Mercosur and the NAFTA. We intend to build realistically and vigorously from this starting point.

Mr. Speaker, we shall also pursue the widening of freer trade through encouraging and participating in negotiations leading to accession to the World Trade Organization by several major economies that currently operate on the margins of the international trading system. These economies are important players in the global marketplace. They include China, Taiwan, Russia and Saudi Arabia.

Moreover, we shall seek further commitments across the Pacific with our partners in the Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation (APEC) forum. These economies provide excellent markets for Canadian exporters. They are the source of much of the dynamism driving world growth. Yet, their commitment to the international trading system as measured by their level of acceptance of the obligations of that system is not yet commensurate with the