

Trade and Coherence: A Roundtable Discussion

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This note reports on a roundtable discussion of the complex set of issues under the rubric of "trade and coherence" held at the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade on January 21, 2000. Participants included invited experts on the global trading system, as well as the trade policy community within the Government of Canada. Following Chatham House rules, the views expressed at the conference are presented without attribution to individual participants. The usual disclaimer also applies: the remarks below are not to be attributed to the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade or to the Government of Canada.

The Context

In the wake of Seattle...

The causes and consequences of the failure of the World Trade Organization (WTO) Ministerial at Seattle in December 1999 to launch a new round of multilateral trade negotiations were not central themes for the roundtable but did not pass without comment. The outcome of Seattle obviously shaped the context for the discussions. As well, it necessarily serves as the point of departure for all considerations of next steps in process terms; ipso facto it determines the pace and modalities of progress on international trade and investment issues in the near term.