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need to maintain its effectiveness were mentioned, but there is another question: what should be the role of countries that want to join the organisation?

Some non-member states know what it is like to be a poor, underdeveloped country. With that knowledge, the help of OECD and the Centre for Co-operation with Economies in Transition, we can contribute to finding the solution to some of the problems that were mentioned. Mr Sohlman said that some partners in transition have already applied for membership. That is contrary to what Mr Rodrigues said about misinformation in the information that we are discussing, but I must say that the information in those publications is accurate.

As Lord Mackie said, there are certain problems concerning agriculture. I agree that there is also a big problem concerning agriculture in, for instance, the Czech Republic. It is not acceptable for the Czech Republic to wait for accession to OECD until it is able to protect itself against dumping prices and other problems which we could face as a poor member of OECD.

In conclusion, I fully agree that the accession of new states must be fruitful for OECD and its members, and for those who are entering this organisation. I should like to say publicly and openly that, based on the facts which everyone can read, we are ready to contribute to this organisation from outside.

Mr PRICE (Australia).- Mr President, it gives me great pleasure to be able to address this enlarged Assembly. Given OECD's range of activities, our attendance provides an excellent opportunity for us to comment on key issues confronting our societies. My colleagues in the delegation - Ms Fatin, Messrs Lieberman and Fitzgibbon and Senator Minchin - share my enthusiasm at being able to express Australia's approach to these issues.

Foremost of these issues, regrettably, is that of unemployment, which remains a crucial problem facing all OECD countries. Correctly, OECD has put in a major effort to analyse the problem and to provide policy strategies for governments to deal with it. The OECD jobs study was a major contribution and a welcome one. We support the broad policy strategy that has been developed.

We endorse the rejection of protectionism and the conclusion that globalisation, technological change and increased trade with non-OECD countries have not been major causes of unemployment.

Neither OECD countries nor any other country can slow or reverse the process of change. Indeed, we must take advantage of the opportunities that are offered by the development of the newly dynamic economies such as those in Asia and Latin America. We may take advantage of the opportunities offered by greater international competition. Equally, enormous opportunities are offered by new technologies.

There are now clear signs that the recovery under way in a number of our countries, including my own, will be joined by stronger activity in Europe. OECD countries need to continue pursuing macroeconomic policies that will deliver strong, non-inflationary growth. Strong, non-inflationary growth is one of the essential elements if we are to defeat the scourge of unemployment.

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However, at the same time - and as the jobs study makes clear - cyclical recovery and macroeconomic policies alone are not enough. There are important structural problems which require us to press ahead with structural reform. We must inject greater competition into markets. We must develop more active labour market policies. We must enhance education and skill formation. In particular, we must strive mightily to help the long-term unemployed back into work - something easier said than done.

The Australian delegation welcomes the decision of OECD to continue and deepen its work on unemployment; and that the analysis and recommendations are to be made more specific and relevant to individual member countries. We look forward to working with OECD in bringing its aims to fruition.

We welcome the conclusion of the Uruguay Round, and we are convinced of the boost to economic growth and employment that it can bring. We now face a much more difficult task.

We have the responsibility and obligation to implement the hard-fought Uruguay Round agreements and to realise their benefits. In particular, we must ensure that these benefits deliver extra jobs.

We join others in stressing our commitment to seeing the agreements implemented in full. We are committed to the World Trade Organisation coming into force on 1 January 1995. OECD member countries have a particular responsibility to provide leadership in this regard.

But our task is ever-demanding. Even beyond the Uruguay Round and its effective and timely implementation, there remains the task to combat protectionism and to achieve further trade liberalisation.

Australia was very pleased to see the achievement, through the Round, of the incorporation of agricultural trade into multi-lateral trade disciplines. However, there is still a long road ahead of us in winding back the use of costly trade distorting policies in the agriculture sector.

2 OECD agriculture ministers agreed in 1987, and reaffirmed in 1992, a comprehensive and challenging set of principles for agricultural reform. We know that agricultural reform will involve tough decisions, and will mean restructuring some government policies towards our rural communities. But it will also lead to legitimate rural development which can be pursued without distorting trade.

OECD work on agricultural reform principles and rural development has helped to provide a framework for achieving a fairer and more market oriented approach. We urge continued work on these matters in OECD. We urge OECD countries to apply to their own policies the market-based approaches recommended by OECD. At the same time, it is important that OECD builds a strong work programme in the areas of agriculture and the environment, and rural development. This programme will complement the OECD's ongoing core work in agricultural reform.

We are confident that OECD will have an important role to play in developing approaches to the so-called new trade issues. A careful and balanced approach will be needed because some of these issues are of great sensitivity. The nexus between trade and other subjects is not always clear or direct. We will look to OECD to provide a rigorous and dispassionate analysis to help to guide us through while avoiding