

- c. Full participation of the inhabitants of the Subregion in the integration process; and
- d. To meet the needs of the depressed areas, that are predominantly rural.

For the attainment of such objectives, programs and projects shall be developed in the areas of health, social security, social interest housing, education, and culture.

The fulfillment of the actions to be developed within the framework of this Article shall be coordinated with the different organizations of the Andean system.

Article 149

Member Countries shall undertake policies in the area of social communication and policies oriented to promote a better understanding of the cultural, historical, and geographic heritage of the Subregion, its economic and social reality, and that of the Andean integration process.

Article 150

The projects, policies, and programs to which this Chapter refers to shall be developed, in parallel and in coordination, with the improvement of the other mechanisms of the subregional integration process.

CHAPTER XV: ACCESSION, EFFECTIVE DATE AND DENOUNCEMENT

Article 151

This Agreement may not be signed with reservations and shall remain open to the accession of the rest of the Latin American countries. Least developed countries which accede to the Agreement shall be entitled to a treatment similar to that agreed upon in Chapter XIII for Bolivia and Ecuador.

The terms of the accession shall be defined by the Commission, which shall bear in mind that the incorporation of new members shall comply with the objectives of the Agreement.

Article 152

This Agreement shall be submitted to the Permanent Executive Committee of the LAFTA for its considerations and once the Committee has declared its compatibility with the principals and objectives of the Treaty of Montevideo and with Resolution 203 (CM-II/VIE), each of the Member Countries shall approve it in keeping with its respective national legal procedures and shall inform the Executive Secretariat of LAFTA of the corresponding act of approval. The Agreement shall become effective when three countries have communicated their approval to the Executive Secretariat of LAFTA.

For the rest of the countries the date of the Agreement's entry into force shall be that in which they communicate the respective instrument of approval in accordance with the procedure set forth in the first subsection of this Article. This Agreement shall remain in effect indefinitely.

Article 153

Any Member Country wishing to denounce this Treaty shall so inform the Commission. From that moment on it shall cease to enjoy the rights and have the obligations deriving from its status as Member, with the exception of the benefits received and granted in accordance with the Subregional Tariff Reduction Program, which will remain effective for a period of five years after the date of the denouncement.

The time period stipulated in the paragraph above may be shortened in duly grounded cases by decision of the Commission and at the request of the interested Member Country.

As regards the Programs of Industrial Integration, the stipulation of paragraph i) of Article 59 shall be applied.

CHAPTER XVI: FINAL DISPOSITIONS

Article 154

The Commission, at the proposal of the General Secretariat, and based upon the latter's periodic reports and evaluations, shall adopt the necessary mechanisms to ensure the attainment of the objectives of the Agreement once the process of liberalization of trade and the establishment of the Common External Tariff have concluded. Such mechanisms must include special treatment in favor of Bolivia and Ecuador so long as existing differences in the degree of development continue to exist.

Article 155

Any advantage, favor, exemption, immunity, or privilege applied by a Member Country regarding a product originating in or destined for any other country, shall be immediately and unconditionally extended to the similar product originating in or destined for the territory of the other Member Countries.

Advantages, favors, exemptions, immunities, and privileges already granted or to be granted by virtue of agreements among Member Countries or between Member Countries and third countries, with the purpose of facilitating border traffic shall be excepted from the treatment referred to in the previous subsection.

Likewise, the advantages, favors, exemptions, immunities, and privileges granted by Bolivia or Ecuador to third countries are excepted from the referred treatment until the Commission adopts the corresponding Decision based on the evaluation of the Tariff Reduction Program foreseen in paragraph d) of Article 130.

CHAPTER XVII: TRANSITORY PROVISIONS

I. The Commission, at the proposal of the General Secretariat, shall review the Sectorial Programs of Industrial Development that are approved and related to the products of the metallurgical, petrochemicals, and iron and steel industries, the products included in the lists of Decision 28 and the others related to it and those included in Annexes III and IV of Decision 137, in light of the provisions of Articles 59 and 60, and may redefine sectorial or inter-sectorially the