

Chapter 13 Cooperation

Article 128 Basic Principle and Objectives

1. The Parties shall promote cooperation for their mutual benefits in order to liberalise and facilitate trade and investment between the Parties, to strengthen wide-ranging relations between the Parties and to promote the well-being of the peoples of the Parties. For this purpose, the Parties shall, where necessary and appropriate, encourage and facilitate cooperation between their relevant entities.

2. The main objectives of this Chapter include:

- (a) liberalisation and facilitation of investment and trade between the Parties through cooperation in the mutually identified fields;
- (b) strengthening economic competitiveness of the Parties;
- (c) ensuring long-term sustainable development of the Parties;
- (d) promoting the Parties' human resource development and capacity building; and
- (e) improving overall well-being of the peoples of the Parties.

Article 129 Fields of Cooperation

The fields of cooperation under this Chapter shall include:

- (a) environment;
- (b) trade and investment promotion;
- (c) infrastructure;
- (d) information and communications technology;

- (e) science and technology;
- (f) energy;
- (g) tourism;
- (h) textiles;
- (i) small and medium enterprises;
- (j) health;
- (k) entertainment and information;
- (l) metallurgy; and
- (m) other fields to be mutually agreed upon by the Parties.

Article 130 Scope and Forms of Cooperation

The scope and forms of cooperation under each identified field mutually agreed to by the Parties as referred to in Article 129 may be set forth in the Implementing Agreement.

Article 131 Implementation and Costs

1. The Parties shall, as soon as possible after the entry into force of this Agreement, initiate and promote discussions between their relevant implementing entities with a view to exploring potential cooperation activities in the respective fields referred to in Article 129. The Parties shall respect the established consultation mechanisms between them to ensure effective and efficient implementation of cooperation under this Chapter.

2. Cooperation under this Chapter may be implemented by the relevant entities through separate work plans, arrangements or any other means as deemed appropriate, to be drawn up on mutual consultation in due course. The Parties shall provide each other with the list of their relevant entities to be involved in the implementation of cooperation in the respective fields referred to in Article 129.

3. For the purposes of coordinating cooperation activities under this Chapter and promoting discussions referred to in paragraph 1, a Sub-Committee on Cooperation may be established pursuant to Article 14. The Sub-Committee may hold meetings at such frequency as mutually agreed upon by the Parties.

4. Cooperation in various fields need not be limited in scope and forms to those mentioned in Article 130.

5. The implementation of cooperation under this Chapter shall be subject to the availability of funds and the applicable laws and regulations of each Party.

6. Expenses incurred in the implementation of cooperation activities under this Chapter shall be borne in an equitable manner to be mutually agreed upon by the Parties.

Article 132 Non-Application of Chapter 14

The dispute settlement procedures provided for in Chapter 14 shall not apply to this Chapter.