

Chapter 13  
Improvement of the Business Environment

Article 136  
Consultations for the Improvement  
of the Business Environment

The Parties, confirming their interest in creating a more favorable business environment with a view to promoting trade and investment activities by their private enterprises, shall from time to time have consultations in order to address issues concerning the improvement of the business environment in the Parties.

Article 137  
Committee for the Improvement of the Business Environment

1. For the purposes of addressing issues concerning the improvement of the business environment, a Committee for the Improvement of the Business Environment (hereinafter referred to in this Article as "the Committee") shall be established.

2. The Committee:

- (a) shall discuss ways and means to improve the business environment in the Parties;
- (b) may, as needed, make recommendations on appropriate measures to be taken by the Parties. Such recommendations should be taken into consideration by the Parties;
- (c) shall be provided with information on the implementation of such recommendations;
- (d) may make public such recommendations in an appropriate manner; and
- (e) may give the Joint Committee advisory opinions, where appropriate.

3. The Committee:

- (a) shall be composed of representatives of the Governments of the Parties;
- (b) may invite representatives of relevant entities other than the Governments of the Parties with the necessary expertise relevant to the issues to be discussed; and
- (c) shall establish its rules and procedures.

Article 138  
Non-Application of Chapter 15

The dispute settlement procedure provided for in Chapter 15 shall not apply to this Chapter.

Chapter 14  
Bilateral Cooperation

Article 139  
Cooperation in the Field of  
Trade and Investment Promotion

1. The Parties shall cooperate in promoting trade and investment activities by private enterprises of the Parties, recognizing that the joint efforts of the Parties to facilitate exchange and collaboration between private enterprises will act as a catalyst to further promote trade and investment between the Parties. Such cooperation between the Parties includes:

- (a) encouraging the exchange of trade, investment and marketing experts and trainees to foster business opportunities;
- (b) exchanging information concerning laws, regulations and practices in relation to bilateral trade and investment;
- (c) encouraging the joint organization of trade and investment missions, seminars, fairs and exhibitions;
- (d) encouraging the sharing, through electronic linkages, of online databases of private enterprises of the Parties keen to establish business ties; and
- (e) encouraging the exchange of information, for the identification of investment opportunities and the promotion of business alliances, for the establishment of joint ventures between private enterprises of both Parties.

2. For the purposes of the effective implementation and operation of this Article, a Sub-Committee on Cooperation in the Field of Trade and Investment Promotion (hereinafter referred to in this Article as "the Sub-Committee") shall be established pursuant to Article 165.