

CHAPTER 11 FRAMEWORK ON MUTUAL RECOGNITION ARRANGEMENTS

Article 11.1 Objectives

The objectives of this Chapter are to:

- (a) provide the framework for the development of Mutual Recognition Arrangements on qualifications, registration, licensing and certification requirements and experience for the fulfilment in whole or in part, of standards and criteria for the authorisation, licensing or certification of professional services suppliers; and
- (b) promote the exchange of information and adoption of best practices on standards and criteria between the Parties,

in order to facilitate the mobility of professional service suppliers between the Parties.

Article 11.2 Scope

1. The Parties shall encourage the development of Mutual Recognition Arrangements among competent bodies on professional services, by facilitating discussion and exchange of information between these bodies.
2. Wherever appropriate, recognition by the relevant competent bodies should be based on multilaterally agreed criteria.

Article 11.3 Definitions

For the purposes of this Chapter:

competent authority refers to a body with authority in relation to certain professional services, or to an authorized agency of such a body. A competent authority may take the form of, for example, a professional institution, regulatory body or governmental agency and may have been established under the laws and regulations of a Party.

Article 11.4 Responsibilities and Administration

1. The Parties, through the FTA Joint Commission or subsidiary body established by it shall:
 - (a) develop and monitor procedures for fostering the development and implementation of Mutual Recognition Arrangements between the competent authorities or bodies of the Parties;

- (b) exchange information by whatever means considered most appropriate particularly on assessment/evaluation processes and the adopted competencies, criteria, standards, or benchmarks pertaining to mutual recognition;
- (c) promote acceptable international standards, criteria and best practices to facilitate the effective and efficient delivery of professional services;
- (d) to the extent possible, maintain a current listing of all Mutual Recognition Arrangements and be updated on the progress of any Mutual Recognition Arrangement being entered into between the competent authorities or bodies of the Parties; and
- (e) examine other issues of mutual interest relating to the supply of professional services.

2. To facilitate the work of the FTA Joint Commission or subsidiary body established by it, each Party shall consult with the relevant bodies in its territory to identify professional services for negotiations on Mutual Recognition Arrangements.

3. The FTA Joint Commission or subsidiary body established by it shall report on its progress, including with respect to any recommendations or initiatives to promote the mutual recognition of qualifications, licensing and qualification requirements, as well as its work programme, within one year of the date of entry into force of the Agreement and thereafter as necessary.

Article 11.5

Review

The FTA Joint Commission or subsidiary body established by it may review this Chapter as mutually agreed.