

CHAPTER 14

INSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS

ARTICLE 14.1: FUNCTIONS OF THE FTA JOINT COMMISSION

1. The FTA Joint Commission shall:
 - (a) consider matters relating to the implementation of this Agreement;
 - (b) consider issues referred to it by the committees and working groups established under this Agreement or by either Party;
 - (c) in accordance with the objectives of this Agreement, explore measures for the further expansion of trade and investment between the Parties;
 - (d) consider any proposal to amend this Agreement and make recommendations to the Parties; and
 - (e) consider any other matter that may affect the operation of this Agreement.
2. The FTA Joint Commission may:
 - (a) establish additional committees and *ad hoc* working groups as necessary and refer matters to any committee or working group for advice;
 - (b) further the implementation of this Agreement through implementing arrangements;
 - (c) seek to resolve differences or disputes that may arise regarding the interpretation or application of this Agreement;
 - (d) seek the advice of non-governmental persons or groups on any matter falling within its responsibilities where this would assist it in discharging its responsibilities; and
 - (e) take such other action in the exercise of its functions as the Parties may agree.

ARTICLE 14.2: RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE FTA JOINT COMMISSION

1. The FTA Joint Commission shall take decisions on any matter within its functions, as set out in Article 14.1, by mutual agreement.

2. The FTA Joint Commission shall convene in regular session once per year and at other times at the request of either Party. Regular sessions of the FTA Joint Commission shall be chaired successively by each Party. Other sessions of the FTA Joint Commission shall be chaired by the Party hosting the meeting.
3. The FTA Joint Commission shall ordinarily meet at the level of senior officials, unless there is a request by either Party to convene the meeting at Ministerial level.
4. Subject to paragraph 3, each Party shall be responsible for the composition of its delegation to the FTA Joint Commission.
5. The Party chairing a session of the FTA Joint Commission shall provide any necessary administrative support for such session, and shall record any decisions taken by the FTA Joint Commission, copies of which will be provided to the other Party.

ARTICLE 14.3: CONTACT POINT

For the purpose of facilitating communication between the Parties on any matter covered by this Agreement, the following contact points are designated:

- (a) for Australia: the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT); and
- (b) for China: the Ministry of Commerce (MOFCOM).