

- (v) liberalising developing industries (Article 14);
 - (vi) liberalising government procurement (Article 15);
 - (vii) implementing measures to facilitate trade and harmonise business laws and other measures (Article 18); and
 - (viii) broadening and deepening the relationship established by this Agreement (Article 19);
- (b) assess whether the Agreement is operating effectively;
 - (c) evaluate the need for additional measures or modifications to increase its effectiveness;
 - (d) endeavour, in the spirit of this Agreement, to identify ways to accelerate the time frames for liberalisation, including the removal of items from their lists of exempted imports; and
 - (e) consider any other matter relating to the implementation of this Agreement or trade within the Area or in the Pacific region.

PART V: FINAL PROVISIONS

Article 24

Effect on other Agreements

- 1 This Agreement shall not exempt any Party from its obligations, or abrogate the rights of any Party, under any existing international agreements to which it is Party.
- 2 Nothing in this Agreement shall prevent Parties from entering into any other agreements relating to the maintenance or establishment of customs unions, free trade areas or arrangements for frontier trade to the extent that those agreements are consistent with the terms and objectives of this Agreement.

Article 25

Amendments

- 1 With the exception of the lists of excepted imports in Annex III which may be amended only in accordance with Articles 8 and 11 and the rules governing trade in alcohol and tobacco products which may be agreed in accordance with Paragraph 13 of Article 8, this Agreement may be amended at any time by the unanimous agreement of the Parties.

- 2 Unless a contrary intention appears, amendments shall enter into force 30 days after acceptance by all the Parties has been notified to the Secretary General.

Article 26

Signature, Ratification and Accession

- 1 This Agreement shall be open for signature, subject to ratification, or accession by the Governments of the Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji Islands, Kiribati, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Republic of Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.
- 2 This Agreement shall remain open for signature for one year from 18 August 2001 to 17 August 2002.
- 3 Notwithstanding Paragraph 2, provided the Governments of Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of the Marshall Islands and Republic of Palau make reasonable efforts to secure a waiver of their obligation to provide most-favoured nation treatment to the United States of America, this Agreement shall remain open for signature at the Forum Secretariat in Suva by these Governments for a period of up to 3 years following entry into force of this Agreement.
- 4 If a Forum Island Country ratifies this Agreement after it enters into force, that Party shall reduce and eliminate tariffs to the same extent as if that Party had been a Party at the time this Agreement entered into force.
- 5 Instruments of ratification or accession shall be deposited with the Secretary General.
- 6 The Parties shall accept this Agreement in its entirety and no reservations shall be permitted.

Article 27

Accession by Other States, Territories or Self-Governing Entities

- 1 By unanimous agreement the Parties may permit any State, Territory or Self-Governing Entity not listed in Paragraph 1 of Article 26 to accede to this Agreement.
- 2 The terms of such accession shall be negotiated between the Parties and the State, Territory or Self-Governing Entity desiring to accede to this Agreement pursuant to Paragraph 1 of this Article.

Article 28

Duration, Withdrawal and Termination

- 1 This Agreement is of a perpetual nature.

- 2 Any Party wishing to withdraw from this Agreement shall give notice of its intention to do so to the Secretary General, who shall notify the other Parties accordingly. The Party giving notice shall cease to be a Party to this Agreement 180 days from the date on which notice is given to the Secretary General, unless the Party has withdrawn its notice in the meantime, in which case it shall continue to be a Party to this Agreement.
- 3 This Agreement shall terminate 180 days after all the Parties have given notice to the Secretary General of their intention to withdraw from this Agreement.

Article 29

Entry into Force

- 1 This Agreement shall enter into force 30 days after the date of deposit of the sixth instrument of ratification or accession, and thereafter for each Party 30 days after the date of deposit of its instrument of ratification or accession.
- 2 Subject to the terms of accession, a State, Territory or Self-Governing Entity acceding pursuant to Article 27 shall become a Party to this Agreement 30 days after the date of the deposit of an instrument of accession.

Article 30

Functions of the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat

- 1 The Parties agree that Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat shall provide secretariat services for this Agreement.
- 2 Subject to the direction of the Parties, the functions of the Forum Secretariat in respect of this Agreement shall include:
 - (a) the preparation and transmission of documentation, including annual reports, required under this Agreement, including the transmission of communications between the Parties to this Agreement;
 - (b) the provision of administrative support for meetings convened to review this Agreement or conduct negotiations or consultations under this Agreement;
 - (c) the provision of administrative support for the operation of financial and technical assistance;
 - (d) liaising, as appropriate, between the Parties or with any other organisation;
 - (e) the provision of technical support to the Parties in the gathering and dissemination of information relevant to this Agreement;
 - (f) the provision of technical support to the Parties in the implementation of their obligations under this Agreement; and

- (g) the provision of other administrative or technical support as determined by the Parties in respect of matters that relate to trade facilitation.

Article 31

Depositary Functions

- 1 The Secretary General shall be the Depositary of this Agreement and any protocols thereto.
- 2 The Secretary General shall:
 - (a) register this Agreement and its protocols pursuant to Article 102 of the Charter of the United Nations;
 - (b) transmit certified copies of this Agreement and its protocols to all of the Parties to this Agreement and its protocols; and
 - (c) notify all the Parties to this Agreement and its protocols of signatures, acceptances, ratifications and accessions to the Agreement and its protocols.