

2. Any such request shall be submitted in writing to the Director and shall be accompanied by a statement of the reasons for which the consultations are sought.

3. On receipt of a request for consultations the Director shall inform the Parties accordingly and arrange for consultations between interested Parties.

Article XI

Institutional arrangements

1. For the purposes of this Agreement a Regional Committee on Trade is hereby established, which shall be composed of a representative from each Party.

2. The Committee shall have the following functions:

(a) to review the operation of this Agreement and to make necessary recommendations to the Forum;

(b) to consider any matter relating to the implementation of this Agreement;

(c) to review the Schedules; and

(d) to report annually to the Forum through the Director.

3. Annual meetings shall be convened by the Director. Special meetings may be convened by the Director or by the Director at the request of the majority of the Parties. The Committee shall hold its first meeting not later than one year after the entry into force of this Agreement.

4. The Committee shall appoint a Chairman at its first meeting. The chairmanship shall rotate every year as decided by the Committee.

5. Decisions of the Committee shall be by consensus.

6. The Committee shall establish its own rules of procedure and may appoint sub-committees to assist in performing its functions.

7. The Director shall be responsible for the secretariat services for the Committee and other duties as specified in this Agreement.

Article XII

Bilateral arrangements

The provisions of this Agreement shall be without prejudice to the bilateral commitments or arrangements which the Government of Australia and the Government of New Zealand have entered into with the Governments of the Forum Island countries,