

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,

within the framework of special historical, constitutional or economic bilateral relationships.

Article XIII

Amendment of the Agreement

1. Without prejudice to the amendment of the Schedules of this Agreement which may be effected only in accordance with Articles IV and VII of this Agreement, this Agreement may be amended at any time by the unanimous agreement of all the Parties. The text of any amendment proposed by a Party shall be submitted to the Director who shall transmit it to the Parties.
2. If three or more Parties request a meeting to discuss the proposed amendment the Director shall call such a meeting.

Article XIV

Acceptance, accession and entry into force

Acceptance and accession

1. This Agreement shall be open for acceptance by signature subject to ratification or by accession by the Governments of Australia, the Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, New Zealand, Niue, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Western Samoa.[1]
2. Any Government which from time to time becomes a member of the Forum may apply to become a Party by submitting a request for accession to this Agreement to the Director who shall notify all the Parties. A Government may accede to this Agreement after receipt of an invitation to do so issued by the Director with the approval of all the Parties.
3. Acceptance of or accession to this Agreement shall not be taken as extending the rights and obligations set forth in this Agreement to fully self-governing countries freely associated with the accepting or acceding Government, or to territories named by the accepting or acceding Government for whose international relations that Government is responsible.
4. Instruments signifying acceptance or accession shall be deposited with the Director.
5. This Agreement shall enter into force when either the Government of Australia or the Government of New Zealand and the Government of a Forum Island country have accepted it.[2] For each other Government it shall enter into force on the thirtieth day following the date of acceptance of, or accession to, this Agreement by that Government.[3]