

conformity assessment and metrology in accordance with the criteria set by relevant international organisations or the WTO TBT Agreement.

Chapter X

Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

Article 22

This Chapter applies to all sanitary and phytosanitary measures of a Party or Signatory Party that may, directly or indirectly, affect trade between the Parties. For the purposes of this Chapter, sanitary or phytosanitary measure means any measure referred to in Annex A, paragraph 1, of the WTO SPS Agreement.

Article 23

The Parties or Signatory Parties reaffirm their rights and obligations set out in the WTO Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures.

Article 24

Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures shall be subject to the conditions established in Annex VI of this Agreement.

Chapter XI

Administration of the Agreement

Article 25

The Parties agree to create a Joint Administration Committee (hereinafter referred to as "the Committee") comprised of the Common Market Group, or its representatives, on the side of MERCOSUR, and representatives of SACU or the Common Negotiating Mechanism on the side of SACU.

Article 26

The Committee shall hold its first meeting within sixty (60) days of the entry into force of this Agreement to establish its working procedures.

Article 27

The Committee shall meet ordinarily at least once every year, at such venues as shall be agreed by the Parties, and extraordinarily at any time, at the request of a Party.

Article 28

The Committee shall adopt its decisions by consensus and shall have the following functions, *inter alia*:

- a) to ensure the proper functioning and implementation of this Agreement, its Annexes and Additional Protocols and the dialogue between the Parties;
- b) to consider and submit to the Parties any modifications and amendments to this Agreement;
- c) to evaluate the process of trade liberalisation established under this Agreement, study the development of trade between the Parties and recommend further steps to create a free trade area in accordance with Article 2;
- d) to perform other functions that may arise from the provisions of this Agreement, its Annexes and any Additional Protocols;
- e) to establish mechanisms to encourage the active participation of the private sectors in trade between the Parties;
- f) to exchange opinions and make suggestions on any issue of mutual interest relating to trade, including future action;
- g) to address non-tariff measures that unnecessarily restrict trade between the Parties.

Chapter XII Further Market Access

Article 29

The Parties undertake to continue to explore the possibilities for enhancing market access among themselves.

Article 30

1. The Parties recognize the particular importance of enhancing market access for smaller economies in MERCOSUR and SACU.
2. In this regard, the Parties instruct the Committee to accord priority to this objective.

Chapter XIII Settlement of Disputes

Article 31

Any disputes arising in connection with the application of, interpretation of, or non-compliance with this Agreement shall be settled in accordance with the rules established in the Annex V of this Agreement.