

CHAPTER 13

ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION

ARTICLE 13.1

Scope and Objectives

1. The Parties agree to promote economic and technical cooperation with the aim to enhance the mutual benefits of this Agreement, in accordance with their national strategies and their policy objectives and taking into account the different levels of social and economic development of the Parties.
2. The cooperation under this Chapter shall pursue the following objectives:
 - (a) facilitate the implementation of this Agreement with a view to further the well-being of the peoples of the Parties; and
 - (b) create and enhance sustainable trade and investment opportunities by facilitating trade and investment between the Parties and by strengthening competitiveness and innovation capacities, with a view to promote sustainable economic growth and development.

ARTICLE 13.2

Methods and Means

1. The Parties shall cooperate with the objective of identifying and employing effective methods and means for the implementation of this Chapter. To this end they shall coordinate efforts with relevant international organisations and develop, where applicable, synergies with other forms of bilateral cooperation already existing between the Parties.
2. The Parties will use, among others, the following instruments for the implementation of this Chapter:
 - (a) exchange of information and expertise, capacity building and training;
 - (b) joint identification, development and implementation of projects of cooperation, including seminars, workshops, internships and scholarships; and
 - (c) technical and administrative cooperation.
3. The Parties may initiate and implement projects and activities with the participation of national and international experts, institutions and organisations, as appropriate.

ARTICLE 13.3

Areas of Cooperation

Cooperation, as specified in the Work Programme referred to in Article 13.7, may cover any field jointly identified by the Parties that may serve the Parties to benefit from increased trade and investment. Cooperation may include but is not limited to the following areas:

- (a) sustainable development;
- (b) industrial cooperation;
- (c) cooperation in the area of services sectors;
- (d) cooperation on agriculture;
- (e) quality supervision, inspection and quarantine; and
- (f) innovation, protection, enforcement, management and use of intellectual property rights.

ARTICLE 13.4

Government Procurement

1. The Parties agree on the importance of cooperation to enhance the mutual understanding of their respective government procurement laws, regulations and agreements. The Parties will accordingly cooperate, consult and exchange information on such matters.

2. The Parties shall publish, or otherwise make publicly available, their laws, regulations and administrative rulings of general application as well as their respective international agreements that may affect their procurement markets.

3. Each Party hereby designates the following governmental authority as its enquiry point to facilitate communication between the Parties on any matter regarding government procurement:

- (a) for China: the Ministry of Finance; and
- (b) for Switzerland: the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs.

4. The Parties agree to commence negotiations on government procurement as soon as possible following the completion of negotiations on the accession of China to the WTO Agreement on Government Procurement (GPA) with a view to concluding, on a reciprocal basis, an agreement on government procurement between the Parties.

ARTICLE 13.5

Cooperation on Labour and Employment

The Parties shall enhance their cooperation on labour and employment according to the Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Human Resources and Social

Security of the People's Republic of China and the Federal Department of Economic Affairs of the Swiss Confederation regarding Cooperation on Labour and Employment Issues signed in Bern on 15 June 2011 and the Agreement on Labour and Employment Cooperation between the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security of The People's Republic of China and the Federal Department of Economic Affairs, Education and Research of the Swiss Confederation signed in Beijing on 6 July 2013.

ARTICLE 13.6

Resources and Financial Arrangements

Recalling the need for significant mobilisation of resources from a variety of sources and the effective use of financing, the necessary resources for the implementation of cooperation shall be made available by the competent institutions and organisations as well as by the private sector of both Parties, subject to mutual agreement of the Parties, according to terms and conditions agreed on a project-by-project basis and taking into account the different levels of social and economic development of the Parties.

ARTICLE 13.7

Work Programme

In order to further specify the methods and contents of economic and technical cooperation under this Chapter, the Parties shall sign at ministerial level a Work Programme in parallel to the conclusion of this Agreement.

ARTICLE 13.8

Implementation and Monitoring

1. The contact points designated in Article 14.2 are responsible for managing and developing the cooperation under this Chapter and the Work Programme. To this effect, they cooperate and coordinate with other relevant national and international entities as appropriate.
2. The contact points shall report to the Joint Committee on the implementation of this Chapter and the Work Programme. They may make recommendations as appropriate.
3. The Joint Committee shall periodically review the implementation of this Chapter and the Work Programme. It may discuss any issue related to this Chapter and the Work Programme, make recommendations or take decisions by mutual agreement.
4. Chapter 15 shall not apply to this Chapter. Any difference or dispute between the Parties concerning the interpretation and/or implementation of any of the provisions of this Chapter and of the Work Programme shall be settled through consultations between the Parties. Consultations shall take place in the Joint Committee.