

compliance with regulations on patents, trademarks, copyright or similar procedures.

5. The measures whose application is allowed under this Article shall not include such measures as introduction or maintenance of duties, licensing and quoting, unless due to critical state of the balance of payments other measures can not stop sharp worsening of the situation with foreign accounts.

6. In the introduction of measures restricting current payments and transfers, any Party applying such measures shall immediately inform the International Monetary Fund about the restriction of freedom of current operations in accordance with the provisions of Article VIII of the Agreement on the International Monetary Fund and shall conduct consultations with the International Monetary Fund for improving the situation with the balance of payments or the external financial situation, revealing economic problems which could lead to worsening of state of balance of payments of such Party, and for determining the optimality of the measures being taken.

7. Any restrictions introduced or maintained by a Party in accordance with this Article, or any changes in such restrictions, shall be subject to urgent notification of the other Parties.

8. If circumstances make it possible, no Party shall introduce any restrictions in accordance with this Article prior to consultations with the other Parties whose interests may be affected. If any restrictions have been introduced before consultations, then consultations shall be conducted in the shortest possible time.

Consultations shall be conducted for the purposes of:

assessing the character and scale of difficulties with the balance of payments and with the external financial situation of a Party introducing restrictive measures on trade in goods in accordance with this Article;

assessing foreign-economic and trade situation in which such Party has found itself;

identifying possible alternative improving measures which may be used.

Article 15

General Exceptions

Nothing in this Treaty shall be interpreted as impeding the application by any Party of measures referred to General Exceptions in accordance with Article XX of GATT 1994 with compliance of conditions set forth in the mentioned Article of GATT 1994.

Article 16

Security Exceptions

With respect to measures aimed at ensuring national security, the Parties shall apply the provisions of Article XXI of GATT 1994.

Article 17

Administration Issues

The collection of fees, performance of the formalities connected with import and export and the application of the rules of trade are carried out in accordance with Articles VIII and X of GATT 1994.

Article 18

Agreements on Customs Unions, Free Trade and Cross-Border Trade

1. This Treaty shall not impede the Parties to participate in agreements on customs union,