

CHAPTER V INSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS

ARTICLE 27 Establishment of the Joint Committee

1. A Joint Committee is hereby established in which each Party shall be represented by its senior officials.
2. The Joint Committee shall be responsible for the administration of this Agreement and shall ensure efficient implementation of its provisions.
3. The Joint Committee shall meet whenever necessary upon request, but normally at least once a year. Either Party may request a meeting to be held. The Joint Committee shall be chaired alternately by the Parties.
4. The Joint Committee shall adopt its rules of procedure.

ARTICLE 28 Functions of the Joint Committee

1. For the efficient implementation of this Agreement, the Joint Committee shall have the following functions; including but not limited to:
 - a) review the general functioning of this Agreement;
 - b) set up sub-committees as it considers necessary to assist it in accomplishing its tasks, and supervise the work of sub-committees;
 - c) review, consider and, as appropriate, decide on specific matters related to the operation and implementation of this Agreement, including matters reported by sub-committees;
 - d) facilitate, as appropriate, the avoidance and settlement of disputes arising under this Agreement;
 - e) as appropriate, issue interpretations of this Agreement;
 - f) review the possibility of further removal of the obstacles to trade between the Parties and the further development of the trade relationship;
 - g) explore ways to enhance trade between the Parties and to further the objectives of this Agreement; and,
 - h) take such other actions as the Parties may agree.

2. The Joint Committee may take decisions in the matters related to this Agreement, including decisions to adopt any amendment to this Agreement. The Joint Committee may also make recommendations to matters related to this Agreement. The Joint Committee shall take decisions and make recommendations by consensus of the Parties.
3. The decisions taken by the Joint Committee on any amendment to this Agreement shall be subject to the completion of the respective internal ratification procedures of the Parties in accordance with Article 34 (Amendments).