

- b. Technological development programs that contribute to the attainment of solutions to the common problems of the productive sectors; and
- c. Programs for taking advantage of the enlarged market and of joint physical, human, and financial abilities, in order to induce technological development in sectors of common interest.

Article 144. Member Countries shall undertake policies that promote the integral development of border regions and their effective incorporation to the domestic and Andean subregional economies.

Article 145. In the area of tourism, the Member Countries shall develop joint programs seeking a better understanding of the Subregion and to stimulate economic activities related to this sector.

Article 146. Member Countries shall undertake joint policies that enable a better use of their renewable and nonrenewable natural resources and the preservation and improvement of the environment.

Article 147. Member countries shall undertake cooperation actions in the services sector. For that purpose the Commission shall adopt programs and projects in selected areas of the services sector, defining for each case the mechanisms and instruments to be applied.

Article 148. Member Countries shall undertake joint cooperation actions destined to contribute to the attainment of the following objectives of social development of the Andean population:

- a. The elimination of poverty among the excluded classes, in order to achieve social justice;
- b. To strengthen the cultural identity of the Andean area;
- c. Full participation of the inhabitants of the Subregion in the integration process; and
- d. To meet the needs of the depressed areas, that are predominantly rural.

For the attainment of such objectives, programs and projects shall be developed in the areas of health, social security, social interest housing, education, and culture.

The fulfillment of the actions to be developed within the framework of this Article shall be coordinated with the different organizations of the Andean system.

Article 149. Member Countries shall undertake policies in the area of social communication and policies oriented to promote a better understanding of the cultural, historical, and geographic heritage of the Subregion, its economic and social reality, and that of the Andean integration process.

Article 150. The projects, policies, and programs to which this Chapter refers to shall be developed, in parallel and in coordination, with the improvement of the other mechanisms of the subregional integration process.

Chapter XV: Accession, Effective Date and Denouncement

Article 151. This Agreement may not be signed with reservations and shall remain open to the accession of the rest of the Latin American countries. Least developed countries which accede to the Agreement shall be entitled to a treatment similar to that agreed upon in Chapter XIII for Bolivia and Ecuador.

The terms of the accession shall be defined by the Commission, which shall bear in mind that the incorporation of new members shall comply with the objectives of the Agreement.

Article 152. This Agreement shall be submitted to the Permanent Executive Committee of the LAFTA for its considerations and once the Committee has declared its compatibility with the principals and objectives of the Treaty of Montevideo and with Resolution 203 (CM-II/VI-E), each of the Member Countries shall approve it in keeping with its respective national legal procedures and shall inform the Executive Secretariat of LAFTA of the corresponding act of approval. The Agreement shall become effective when three countries have communicated their approval to the Executive Secretariat of LAFTA.

For the rest of the countries the date of the Agreement ~~will~~ entry into force shall be that in which they communicate the respective instrument of approval in accordance with the procedure set forth in the first subsection of this Article.

This Agreement shall remain in effect indefinitely.

Article 153. Any Member Country wishing to denounce this Treaty shall so inform the Commission. From that moment on it shall cease to enjoy the rights and have the obligations deriving from its status as Member, with the exception of the benefits received and granted in accordance with the Subregional Tariff Reduction Program, which will remain effective for a period of five years after the date of the denouncement.

The time period stipulated in the paragraph above may be shortened in duly grounded cases by decision of the Commission and at the request of the interested Member Country.

As regards the Programs of Industrial Integration, the stipulation of paragraph i) of Article 59 shall be applied.

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