

CHAPTER 7

SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS

ARTICLE 7.1

Objectives

1. The Parties, recognising the importance of strengthening policies and defining programmes that contribute to the development of sustainable, inclusive, healthy, and resilient food systems, agree to establish close cooperation to jointly engage in the transition towards sustainable food systems (hereinafter referred to as “SFS”).
2. This Chapter applies in addition to, and without prejudice to, the other Chapters of this Agreement related to food systems or to sustainability, in particular Chapter 6 (Sanitary and phytosanitary measures), Chapter 9 (Technical barriers to trade) and Chapter 19 (Trade and sustainable development).

ARTICLE 7.2

Scope

1. This Chapter applies to the cooperation between the Parties to improve the sustainability of their respective food systems.
2. This Chapter sets out provisions for cooperation in areas which can achieve more sustainable food systems. Indicative areas for cooperation are listed in Article 7.4 (Cooperation to improve the sustainability of food systems).
3. The Parties recognise that priorities for cooperation may change over time as their respective understandings and the international understanding and treatment of food systems develop.

ARTICLE 7.3

Definition of a sustainable food system

1. The Parties recognise that food systems are diverse and context-specific, encompassing a range of actors and their interlinked activities across all areas of the food system, including the production, harvesting, processing, manufacturing, transport, storage, distribution, sale, consumption and disposal of food products.

2. For the purposes of this Chapter, and acknowledging that the definition of SFS can evolve over time, the Parties consider SFS to be a food system which ensures access to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round in such a way that the economic, social, cultural and environmental bases to generate food security and nutrition for future generations are not compromised.

ARTICLE 7.4

Cooperation to improve the sustainability of food systems

1. The Parties recognise the importance of cooperation as a mechanism to implement this Chapter as they strengthen their trade and investment relations.
2. Taking account of their respective priorities and circumstances, the Parties shall cooperate to address matters of common interest related to the implementation of this Chapter. Such cooperation may take place bilaterally as well as in international fora.
3. Cooperation may include exchange of information, expertise and experiences, as well as cooperation in research and innovation.
4. The Parties shall cooperate on topics such as:
 - (a) food production methods and practices which aim to improve sustainability, including organic farming and regenerative agriculture, amongst others;

- (b) the efficient use of natural resources and agricultural inputs, including reducing the use and risk of chemical pesticides and fertilisers, where appropriate;
- (c) the environmental and climate impacts of food production, including on agricultural greenhouse gas emissions, carbon sinks and biodiversity loss;
- (d) contingency plans to ensure the security and resilience of food supply chains and trade in times of international crisis;
- (e) sustainable food processing, transport, wholesale, retail and food services;
- (f) healthy, sustainable and nutritious diets;
- (g) the carbon footprint of consumption;
- (h) food loss and waste, in line with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals Target 12.3;
- (i) reduction of the adverse environmental effects of policies and measures linked to the food system; and
- (j) indigenous knowledge, participation and leadership in food systems, in line with the Parties' respective circumstances.

ARTICLE 7.5

Additional provisions

1. The cooperation activities under this Chapter shall not affect the independence of each Party's agencies, including a Party's regional agencies.
2. Fully respecting each Party's right to regulate, nothing in this Chapter shall be construed to oblige a Party to:
 - (a) modify its import requirements;
 - (b) deviate from its procedures for preparing or adopting regulatory measures;
 - (c) take action that would undermine or impede the timely adoption of regulatory measures to achieve its public policy objectives; or
 - (d) adopt any particular regulatory measure.

ARTICLE 7.6

Committee on Sustainable Food Systems

1. This Article complements and further specifies Article 24.4 (Specialised committees).

2. The Committee on Sustainable Food Systems shall, with respect to this Chapter, have the following functions:
 - (a) establishing priorities for cooperation and work plans to implement those priorities;
 - (b) promoting cooperation in multilateral fora; and
 - (c) performing any other functions relating to the implementation or operation of this Chapter.
3. In pursuing the objectives of this Chapter, and to monitor the results obtained from its implementation, the Committee on Sustainable Food Systems shall establish each year an annual work plan, including actions with objectives and milestones for those actions.
4. When appropriate, the Committee on Sustainable Food Systems may establish working groups consisting of expert-level representatives of each Party.
5. The Committee on Sustainable Food Systems shall meet within one year after the date of entry into force of this Agreement and thereafter as mutually agreed.
6. The Committee on Sustainable Food Systems may establish rules mitigating potential conflicts of interest for the experts that may participate in its meetings and those of any working group reporting to it.

ARTICLE 7.7

Contact points

Within 90 days after the date of entry into force of this Agreement, each Party shall designate a contact point to facilitate the communication between the Parties on matters covered by this Chapter and shall notify the other Party of the contact details for the contact point. Each Party shall promptly notify the other Party of any change of those contact details.

CHAPTER 8

ANIMAL WELFARE

ARTICLE 8.1

Objective

The objective of this Chapter is to enhance cooperation between the Parties on animal welfare of farmed animals with a view to facilitating trade between the Parties.