

CHAPTER 17 ADMINISTRATION OF THE AGREEMENT

ARTICLE 17.1 Joint Committee

1. The Parties hereby establish a Joint Committee.
2. The Joint Committee:
 - (a) shall be composed of representatives of the Parties;
 - (b) in addition to the standing committees or subcommittees expressly provided for under this Agreement; may establish or restructure standing or ad hoc subcommittees or working groups as it considers necessary to assist it in accomplishing its tasks and assign any of its powers thereto.
3. The Joint Committee shall meet within one (1) year from the entry into force of this Agreement. Thereafter, it shall meet every two (2) years unless the Parties agree otherwise, to consider any matter relating to this Agreement. The regular sessions of the Joint Committee shall be held alternately in the territories of the Parties.
4. The Joint Committee shall also hold special sessions without undue delay from the date of a request thereof from either Party.
5. The functions of the Joint Committee shall be as follows:
 - (a) to review, consider, assess, and monitor the results and overall operation of this Agreement, including improving market access in the light of the experiences gained during application of this Agreement and its objectives, including matters reported by the subcommittees or working groups or contact points;
 - (b) to consider and recommend any amendments to this Agreement that may be proposed by either Party, including the modification of concessions made under this Agreement;
 - (c) to endeavour to amicably resolve disputes between the Parties in connection with the operation or implementation of the Agreement, without prejudice to the rights of the Parties under Chapter 15 (Dispute Settlement);
 - (d) to supervise and coordinate the work of all committees, subcommittees and working groups established under this Agreement;
 - (e) if requested by either Party, to propose interpretation to be given to the provisions of this Agreement;

- (f) to review the possibility of further removal of obstacles to trade between the Parties and the further development of the trade relationship;
- (g) to explore ways to further enhance trade between the Parties and to further the objectives of this Agreement;
- (h) to consider any other matter that may affect the operation of this Agreement;
- (i) to adopt decisions or make recommendations as envisaged by this Agreement; and
- (j) to carry out any other functions as may be agreed by the Parties.

6. The Joint Committee shall establish its own working procedures.

7. Meetings of the Joint Committee and of any standing or ad hoc subcommittees or working groups may be conducted in person or by any other means as determined by the Parties.

ARTICLE 17.2 Communications

1. Each Party shall designate a contact point to receive and facilitate official communications between the Parties on any matter relating to this Agreement, unless otherwise provided in this Agreement.

2. All official communications in relation to this Agreement shall be in the English language.