

In order to further the foregoing objectives, the Parties' mutual obligations are set out in the *Labour Cooperation Agreement between Canada and the Republic of Colombia* (LCA) that addresses, *inter alia*:

- (a) general commitments concerning the internationally recognized labour principles and rights that are to be embodied in each Party's labour laws;
- (b) a commitment not to derogate from domestic labour laws in order to encourage trade or investment;
- (c) effective enforcement of labour laws through appropriate government action, private rights of action, procedural guarantees, public information and awareness;
- (d) institutional mechanisms to oversee the implementation of the LCA, such as a Ministerial Council and national Points of Contact to receive and review public communications on specified labour law matters and to enable cooperative activities to further the objectives of the LCA;
- (e) general and ministerial consultations regarding the implementation of the LCA and its obligations; and
- (f) independent review panels to hold hearings and make determinations regarding alleged non-compliance with the terms of the LCA and, if requested, monetary assessments.

Article 1605: Cooperative Activities

The Parties recognize that labour cooperation is an essential element in raising the level of compliance with labour standards and as such the LCA provides for the development of a plan of action for cooperative labour activities for the promotion of the objectives of the LCA. An indicative list of areas of possible cooperation between the Parties is set out in that Agreement.

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Chapter Seventeen – Environment

Article 1701: Affirmations

1. The Parties recognize that each Party has sovereign rights and responsibilities to conserve and protect its environment and affirm their environmental obligations

under their domestic law, as well as their international obligations under multilateral environmental agreements to which they are party.

2. The Parties recognize the mutual supportiveness between trade and environment policies and the need of implementing this Agreement in a manner consistent with environmental protection and conservation and sustainable use of their resources.

Article 1702: Non-derogation

Neither Party shall encourage trade or investment by weakening or reducing the levels of protection afforded in their respective environmental laws.

Article 1703: Agreement on Environment

In furtherance of these principles, the Parties have set out their mutual obligations in the *Agreement on the Environment between Canada and the Republic of Colombia* ("Agreement on the Environment") that addresses, *inter alia*:

- (a) conservation, protection and improvement of the environment in the territory of each Party for the well being of present and future generations;
- (b) a commitment not to derogate from domestic environmental laws in order to encourage trade or investment;
- (c) conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and protection and preservation of traditional knowledge;
- (d) development of, compliance with and enforcement of environmental laws;
- (e) transparency and public participation on environmental matters; and
- (f) cooperation between the Parties on the advancement of environmental issues of common interest.

Article 1704: Relationship between this Agreement and the Agreement on the Environment

1. The Parties recognize the importance of balancing trade obligations and environmental obligations, and affirm that the Agreement on the Environment complements this Agreement, and that the two are mutually supportive.
2. The Commission shall consider, as appropriate, reports and recommendations from the Committee on Environment established under the Agreement on Environment, in respect of any trade and environment-related issues.

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