

CHAPTER 9

GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT

Article 9.1

General Provisions

1. The Parties recognise the importance of government procurement in the trade relations between the Parties and to maximise, *inter alia*, the competitive opportunities for the suppliers of the Parties.
2. The Parties recognise the importance of government procurement as a tool in furthering the expansion of domestic production and trade so as to promote growth and employment, with due consideration of the balance between optimum utilisation of resources and requirements.
3. The Parties recognise the importance of promoting the transparency of laws, regulations and procedures, and developing cooperation among the Parties, regarding government procurement.
4. The Parties recognise the importance of carrying out procurements in a transparent and impartial manner.

Article 9.2

Cooperation

1. The Parties intend to cooperate on matters relating to government procurement with a view to achieving a better understanding of each Party's respective government procurement systems at the central-level. Such cooperation may include:
 - (a) exchanging information, to the extent possible, on Parties' laws, regulations and procedures, and any modifications thereof;
 - (b) exchanging experience and information about best practices and regulatory frameworks;
 - (c) providing training, technical assistance or capacity building to Parties, and sharing information on these initiatives;
 - (d) sharing information and best practices in relation to SMEs; and
 - (e) sharing information, where possible, on electronic procurement systems.

Article 9.3

Review

The Parties may, in the Joint Committee, review this Chapter after the entry into force of this Agreement and examine the possibility of developing and deepening their cooperation under this Chapter as mutually agreed by Parties.