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ARTICLE 14.13

Non-application of dispute settlement

Neither Party shall have recourse to dispute settlement under Chapter 17 (Dispute settlement) for any matter arising under this Chapter.

CHAPTER 15

SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS

ARTICLE 15.1

Objective

1. The Parties recognise the importance of the sustainability of the food systems and shall establish cooperation on the transition towards sustainable food systems (hereinafter referred to as "SFS").
2. This Chapter applies without prejudice to the provisions of the other Chapters of this Agreement.

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ARTICLE 15.2

Scope

1. This Chapter applies to cooperation in mutually agreed areas with a view to improving the sustainability of the Parties' respective food systems and to promoting trade relations between the Parties.
2. This Chapter includes provisions for cooperation on specific aspects of SFS, as provided in Articles 15.4 (Sustainability of food production, supply, processing, marketing and consumption, and reduction in food loss and waste), 15.5 (Deceptive practices along the agri-food chain), 15.6 (Animal welfare) and 15.7 (Antimicrobial resistance).

ARTICLE 15.3

Definitions

1. A sustainable food system is one that delivers adequate, affordable, safe and nutritious food to meet the needs of the present and future generations with minimal negative impact on the environment, while aiming to enhance benefits for the society and the economy of the Parties.

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2. In accordance with the Parties' respective laws, regulations and practices, SFS may include the following important characteristics:

- (a) the sustainability of food production;
- (b) the sustainability of food supply, including affordable access for consumers;
- (c) the sustainability of food processing and marketing;
- (d) the sustainability of food consumption; and
- (e) the reduction of food loss and waste.

ARTICLE 15.4

Sustainability of food production, supply, processing, marketing and consumption,
and reduction in food loss and waste

1. Taking into account their priorities and circumstances, the Parties shall endeavour to cooperate with the objective of enhancing the sustainability and resilience of their respective food systems. Such cooperation may also, if agreed, be undertaken at international fora.

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2. To achieve the objective established in paragraph 1, the Parties will, among other things, cooperate to promote:

- (a) sustainable food production, methods and practices which aim to improve sustainability;
- (b) sustainable management of natural resources and address biodiversity loss in the process of food production;
- (c) sustainable use of chemical pesticides and fertilizers, by reducing their use and mitigating their harmful effects in the food chain, when appropriate and taking into account the differences in circumstances and agronomic conditions of the Parties;
- (d) efforts to accelerate climate adaptation and mitigation in food production;
- (e) enhanced resilience of their respective food supply chains;
- (f) sustainable food processing and marketing;
- (g) consumption of broad varieties of nutritious food and healthy diets;

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- (h) environment-friendly consumption; and
 - (i) reduction in food loss and waste taking into consideration the Sustainable Development Goals target 12.3.
3. The cooperation may include research and innovation collaborations, exchange of relevant and available information, expertise and experiences in the above fields.

ARTICLE 15.5

Deceptive practices along the agri-food chain

1. For the purposes of this Article, "deceptive practice" means any suspected intentional unfair practice with the aim of gaining undue competitive advantage and misleading customers or consumers.
2. The Parties shall endeavour to cooperate in the fight against deceptive practices in the agri-food chain that are, or appear to be, non-compliant with their laws and regulations, or that pose a risk to health of humans, animals or plants or the environment, or that mislead customers or consumers.

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3. The information exchange for cooperation under paragraph 2 will be undertaken by prioritising existing systems and taking advantage of the information already acquired through such systems.

ARTICLE 15.6

Animal welfare

1. The Parties recognise the importance of the well-being of animals in food production system and the connection between improved animal health and the welfare of farmed animals.
2. Based on their respective laws and regulations, the Parties aim to cooperate on animal welfare matters and the promotion of WOAHS animal welfare standards. Such cooperation will take into account any possible WTO commitment related to animal welfare that the Parties may take.

ARTICLE 15.7

Antimicrobial resistance

1. The Parties recognise that antimicrobial resistance (hereinafter referred to as "AMR") is a serious problem and a global threat to human and animal health.

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2. The Parties acknowledge that the nature of the threat requires a "One Health" approach in line with the Global Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance adopted by the 68th World Health Assembly of the World Health Organisation in Geneva on 26 May 2015 (hereinafter referred to as "Global Action Plan"), which the Parties support.

3. The Parties acknowledge that the threat of AMR requires developing and implementing national action plans on AMR in line with the Global Action Plan.

4. Based on their respective laws and regulations, priorities and needs, the Parties aim to cooperate on areas of mutual interest in the fight against AMR and exchange their relevant experiences and expertise with each other on:

- (a) promoting the prudent and responsible use of antimicrobials in animal production and veterinary practice; and
- (b) phasing out the use of antimicrobials as growth promoters in food-producing animals.

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ARTICLE 15.8

The Committee on Sustainable Food Systems

1. The Committee on Sustainable Food Systems (hereinafter referred to as "the SFS Committee") is established pursuant to Article 18.3 (Specialised committees). In addition to the functions specified in Article 18.4 (Functions of the specialised committees), the SFS Committee:
 - (a) will, in pursuing the objective of this Chapter, establish an action plan to cooperate on the transition towards a sustainable food system; and
 - (b) shall review the implementation of this Chapter, including the action plan established pursuant to paragraph 5, taking into account the progress achieved.
2. The SFS Committee may recommend the Joint Committee to establish technical working groups consisting of expert-level government representatives of the Parties, which shall identify and address technical and scientific matters covered by this Chapter.
3. When additional expertise is required, the SFS Committee may recommend the Joint Committee to establish *ad hoc* groups, including scientific groups. Membership of such *ad hoc* groups need not be restricted to representatives of the Parties and shall be mutually agreed upon by the Parties. If the Parties fail to reach consensus on the inclusion of an individual expert in the *ad hoc* group, such expert shall not be included.

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4. The SFS Committee shall report as needed on its activities to the Joint Committee and refer the matter to the Joint Committee in case of disagreement between the Parties.

ARTICLE 15.9

Additional provisions

1. The Parties shall ensure that the activities of the SFS Committee referred to in Article 15.8 (The Committee on Sustainable Food Systems) do not endanger the independence of their respective national or regional agencies. The SFS Committee shall establish rules mitigating potential conflicts of interest for the participants of its meetings and those of any technical working group reporting to it.
2. Nothing in this Chapter shall affect the rights and obligations of each Party to protect confidential information, in accordance with each Party's relevant laws and regulations. Each Party shall ensure that procedures are in place to prevent the disclosure of confidential information that is acquired during the process established in this Chapter.

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3. Fully respecting the Parties' right to regulate, nothing in this Chapter shall be construed as obliging a Party to:

- (a) modify its import requirements;
- (b) deviate from domestic procedures for preparing and 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 or financial provisions.

ARTICLE 15.10

Dispute settlement

Neither Party shall have recourse to dispute settlement under Chapter 17 (Dispute settlement) for any matter arising under this Chapter.