

CHAPTER 15

ADMINISTRATION OF THE AGREEMENT

Article 15.1

Joint Committee

1. The Parties hereby establish a Joint Committee.
2. The Joint Committee:
 - (a) shall be composed of representatives of the Parties; and
 - (b) in addition to the committees, subcommittees or working groups expressly provided for under this Agreement, may establish or restructure committees, 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 1 year from the entry into force of this Agreement. Thereafter, it shall meet at least once every 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. Upon request by a Party, the Joint Committee shall hold special sessions without undue delay.
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 committees, subcommittees, working groups or contact points;
 - (b) to consider and recommend any amendments to this Agreement that may be proposed by either Party, including those listed in paragraph 3 of 16.2 (Amendment – Final Provisions);
 - (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 13 (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 to by the Parties.
6. The Joint Committee shall establish its own working procedures. A committee, subcommittee or working group under this Agreement may adopt the Joint Committee working procedures with necessary modifications.
7. Meetings of the Joint Committee and of any committee, subcommittee or working group under this Agreement may be conducted in person or by any other means as determined by the Parties.

Article 15.2 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, except for matters for which this Agreement establishes a specific contact point.
2. All official communications in relation to this Agreement shall be in the English language.
3. Each Party shall promptly notify the other Party, in writing, of any changes to its overall contact point or any other contact point under this Agreement.