

CHAPTER 27
ADMINISTRATIVE AND INSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS

Article 27.1
Establishment of the Joint Committee

1. The Parties hereby establish a Joint Committee, composed of government representatives of the Parties. The Joint Committee shall meet at the level of:
 - (a) senior officials; or
 - (b) when agreed by the Parties, Ministers.

Article 27.2
Functions of the Joint Committee

1. The Joint Committee shall:
 - (a) consider any matter relating to the implementation of this Agreement;
 - (b) assess, review and monitor the overall operation of this Agreement;
 - (c) consider any proposal to amend or modify this Agreement and, if appropriate, make recommendations to the Parties;
 - (d) supervise and coordinate the work of subcommittees, working groups, and other subsidiary bodies established under this Agreement; and
 - (e) consider ways to further enhance trade between the Parties.
2. The Joint Committee may:
 - (a) establish, assign tasks to, or delegate functions to, a subcommittee, working group, or other subsidiary body;
 - (b) refer matters to, or consider matters raised by, a subcommittee, working group, or other subsidiary body;
 - (c) restructure, reorganise or dissolve a subcommittee, working group, or other subsidiary body established under this Agreement;
 - (d) develop arrangements for implementing this Agreement;
 - (e) seek to resolve differences or disputes that may arise regarding the interpretation or application of this Agreement, without prejudice to the rights of the Parties under Chapter 29 (Dispute Settlement);
 - (f) issue interpretations of the provisions of this Agreement, which shall be binding for panels established under Chapter 29 (Dispute Settlement);

- (g) adopt, after the completion of any necessary domestic legal requirements by each Party, modifications to Annexes or Appendices to this Agreement;
- (h) discuss and consider proposals for future cooperation activities, including on analytical topics for information sharing and for facilitating the monitoring and evaluation of this Agreement; and
- (i) take any other action as the Parties may agree.

Article 27.3

Decision-Making

The Joint Committee and all subcommittees, working groups, or other subsidiary bodies established under this Agreement shall take decisions by mutual agreement.

Article 27.4

Rules of Procedure of the Joint Committee

1. The Joint Committee and any subcommittee, working group or other subsidiary body established under this Agreement, shall be co-chaired by representatives of the Parties.
2. Unless otherwise provided in this Agreement, the Joint Committee and any subsidiary body established under this Agreement shall carry out its work through whatever means are appropriate, which may include electronic mail or videoconferencing.
3. Unless otherwise decided, the Joint Committee shall adopt rules of procedure at its first meeting, and any subsidiary body established under this Agreement may also establish rules of procedure for the conduct of its work.

Article 27.5

Contact Points

1. Each Party shall designate an overall contact point to receive and facilitate communications between the Parties on any matter covered by this Agreement, as well as other contact points as required by this Agreement.
2. Unless otherwise provided in this Agreement, each Party shall notify the other Party in writing of its designated contact points no later than 60 days after the date of entry into force of this Agreement.
3. Each Party shall promptly notify the other Party, in writing, of any changes to its overall contact point or any other contact point.

4. On request of a Party, the overall contact point of the other Party shall identify the office or official responsible for a matter and assist, as necessary, in facilitating communication with the requesting Party.

Article 27.6

Meeting of the Joint Committee

1. The Joint Committee shall meet within one year of entry into force of this Agreement. Thereafter, it shall meet every two years unless the Parties agree otherwise, to consider any matter relating to this Agreement.
2. The Joint Committee may meet in person or by other means, as agreed by the Parties.
3. In-person meetings conducted pursuant to paragraph 1 shall be held alternately in the territories of the Parties, unless the Parties agree otherwise. The Party hosting a session of the Joint Committee shall provide any necessary administrative support for such session.
4. Upon request by a Party, the Joint Committee and any subcommittee, working group, or other subsidiary body established under this Agreement may, if agreed by the Parties, hold special sessions without undue delay at a mutually convenient date.
5. Each Party shall be responsible for composition of its delegation.

Article 27.7

Subcommittee on Sustainability

1. The Parties hereby establish a Subcommittee on Sustainability (“Sustainability Subcommittee”), composed of government representatives of the Parties.
2. The Sustainability Subcommittee shall:
 - (a) monitor and review the implementation and operation of Chapter 20 (Labour), Chapter 21 (Environment), and Chapter 22 (Trade and Development Cooperation);
 - (b) facilitate, monitor, and as appropriate determine and prioritise, cooperative activities, including information sharing, under Article 20.9 (Cooperative Activities – Labour), Chapter 21 (Environment) and Article 22.2 (Joint Development Cooperation Activities – Trade and Development Cooperation); and
 - (c) produce an agreed record of its meetings and report to the Joint Committee with respect to its activities.
3. The Sustainability Subcommittee may:
 - (a) make recommendations, or refer matters, to the Joint Committee;

- (b) cooperate with subcommittees, working groups, and other subsidiary bodies established under this Agreement on issues relevant to Chapter 20 (Labour), Chapter 21 (Environment), or Chapter 22 (Trade and Development Cooperation); and
 - (c) carry out any other function as the Joint Committee may decide.
- 4. The Sustainability Subcommittee shall meet at least once annually in the three years following the entry into force of this Agreement. Thereafter, it shall meet biennially, unless the Parties agree otherwise.
- 5. The Sustainability Subcommittee may meet in person or by other means, as agreed by the Parties. Each Party shall be responsible for the composition of its delegation.