

PREAMBLE

The Government of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam (“Viet Nam”) and the Government of the United Arab Emirates (“UAE”), hereinafter referred to individually as a “Party” and collectively as the “Parties”;

RECOGNISING the strong economic and political ties between the UAE and Viet Nam, and wishing to strengthen these links through the creation of a free trade area, thus establishing close and lasting relations;

DETERMINED to build on their respective rights and obligations under the *Marrakesh Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organization* done at Marrakesh on 15 April 1994;

CONSCIOUS of the dynamic and rapidly changing global environment brought about by globalisation and technological progress that presents various economic and strategic challenges and opportunities to the Parties;

DETERMINED to develop and strengthen their economic and trade relations taking into account the different level of economic development and trade balance between the Parties through the liberalisation and expansion of trade in goods and services in their common interest and for their mutual benefit;

AIMING to promote transfer of technology and expand trade;

CONVINCED that the establishment of a free trade area will provide a more favourable climate for the promotion and development of economic and trade relations between the Parties;

AIMING to facilitate trade by promoting efficient and transparent customs procedures that reduce costs and ensure predictability for their importers and exporters;

DETERMINED to support the growth and development of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises by enhancing their ability to participate in, and benefit from, the opportunities created by this Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (“this Agreement”);

AIMING to establish a clear, transparent, and predictable legal and commercial framework for business planning, that supports further expansion of trade and investment;

HAVE AGREED, in pursuit of the above:

