

## **CHAPTER 13 ECONOMIC COOPERATION**

### **Article 13.1: Objectives**

1. The Parties shall undertake to promote cooperation under this Agreement for their mutual benefit in order to liberalise and facilitate trade and investment between the Parties and foster economic growth.
2. Economic cooperation under this Chapter shall be built upon a common understanding between the Parties to support the implementation of this Agreement, with the objective of maximising its benefits, and supporting pathways to trade and investment facilitation in order to contribute to the sustainable and inclusive economic growth, development and prosperity of the Parties.

### **Article 13.2: Scope**

1. Economic cooperation under this Chapter shall support the effective and efficient implementation and utilisation of this Agreement through activities that relate to trade and investment.
2. Economic cooperation under this Chapter shall initially focus on the following areas:
  - (a) manufacturing industries;
  - (b) infrastructure and logistics;
  - (c) tourism;
  - (d) transport;
  - (e) shipping and maritime;
  - (f) trade and investment promotion;
  - (g) digital trade;
  - (h) precious metals, including gems and diamonds;
  - (i) petrochemicals;
  - (j) energy development (including renewable energies such as wind power, solar power, oil and gas extraction and processing);
  - (k) trade-related aspects of agriculture, fisheries, livestock and forestry;

- (l) financial services;
  - (m) innovation and digital transformation;
  - (n) micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs); and
  - (o) other areas identified under specific Chapters of this Agreement, and other areas of mutual interest related to this Agreement.
3. The Parties may agree in the Annual Work Programme on Economic Cooperation Activities (“Annual Work Programme”) to modify the above list, including by adding other areas for economic cooperation.

### **Article 13.3: Competition Policy**

1. The Parties recognise the importance of free and undistorted competition in their trade relations. The Parties may cooperate to exchange information relating to the development of competition laws and policy, through their respective competition authorities and subject to domestic laws, regulations and available resources of each Party.
2. To address specific matters relating to anti-competitive practices affecting trade relations and the benefits under this Agreement, on request of either Party, the requested Party may enter into consultations with the requesting Party, through their respective competition authorities, subject to the respective domestic laws and regulations and available resources of each Party. The consultations shall be without prejudice to the autonomy of each Party to develop, maintain and enforce its domestic competition laws and regulations.

### **Article 13.4: Resources**

1. Recognising the different level of development of the Parties, both Parties shall work to provide resources for cooperation and capacity building activities conducted under this Chapter in accordance with the laws, regulations and available resources of each Party.
2. The Parties, on the basis of mutual benefit and agreement, may consider cooperation with, and contributions from, external parties, in accordance with each Party’s laws and regulations, to support the implementation of the Annual Work Programme.

### **Article 13.5: Means of Cooperation**

The Parties, in accordance with their laws and regulations, shall cooperate in the following ways:

- (a) joint organisation of conferences, seminars, workshops, meetings, training sessions, and outreach and education programs;

- (b) exchange of delegations, professionals, technicians and specialists from the academic sector, institutions dedicated to research, private sector, and governmental agencies, including study visits and internship programs for professional training;
- (c) dialogue and exchange of experiences between the Parties' private sector and agencies involved in trade promotion;
- (d) initiation of the knowledge-sharing platform aiming to transfer experience and best practices in the field of government development and modernisation to other countries through the UAE's Government Experience Exchange Programme.
- (e) promote joint business initiatives between entrepreneurs of the Parties; and
- (f) any other form of cooperation that may be agreed by the Parties.

**Article 13.6: Subcommittee on Economic Cooperation and MSMEs**

1. For the purposes of the effective implementation and operation of this Chapter, the Parties hereby establish a Subcommittee on Economic Cooperation and MSMEs ("Subcommittee on Economic Cooperation and MSMEs").
2. The Subcommittee on Economic Cooperation and MSMEs shall undertake the following functions:
  - (a) monitor and review the implementation and operation of this Chapter;
  - (b) identify new opportunities and ways to assist MSMEs of the Parties to take advantage of the commercial opportunities under this Agreement, and agree on new ideas for prospective cooperation or capacity building activities;
  - (c) formulate and develop Annual Work Programme proposals and their implementation mechanisms;
  - (d) coordinate, monitor, and review progress of the Annual Work Programme to assess its overall effectiveness and contribution to the implementation and operation of this Chapter and Chapter 14 (Micro, Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises);
  - (e) suggest amendments to the Annual Work Programme and implementation mechanism through periodic evaluations;
  - (f) consider any other matters pertaining to MSMEs, as appropriate and as agreed by Parties, including any issues raised by MSMEs regarding their ability to benefit from this Agreement;

- (g) initiate and undertake collaboration, as appropriate, to enhance general coordination, cooperation and capacity building activities;
  - (h) invite, as appropriate, international institutions, private sector entities, and other relevant institutions, to assist in the development and implementation of cooperation and capacity building activities;
  - (i) cooperate with other Subcommittees and/or subsidiary bodies established, as appropriate, under this Agreement in support of the development and implementation of cooperation and capacity building activities; and
  - (j) report to and, if deemed necessary, consult with the Joint Committee in relation to the implementation and operation of this Chapter.
3. The Subcommittee on Economic Cooperation and MSMEs shall convene within one year after the date of entry into force of this Agreement and thereafter meet annually, unless the Parties decide otherwise.

#### **Article 13.7: Annual Work Programme**

1. The Subcommittee on Economic Cooperation and MSMEs shall adopt an Annual Work Programme, on a mutually agreed basis, based on proposals submitted by the Parties.
2. Each activity in an Annual Work Programme developed under this Chapter shall:
  - (a) be guided by the objectives agreed in Article 13.1 (Objectives);
  - (b) be related to trade or investment and support the implementation of this Agreement and enhancing its benefits;
  - (c) involve both Parties;
  - (d) address the mutual or agreed priorities of the Parties;
  - (e) and avoid duplicating existing economic cooperation activities.

#### **Article 13.8: Non-Application of Dispute Settlement**

No Party shall have recourse to dispute settlement under Chapter 17 (Dispute Settlement) for any matter arising under this Chapter.