

## **CHAPTER 13 ADMINISTRATION OF THE AGREEMENT**

### **Article 13.1: Establishment of the Joint Committee**

1. The Parties hereby establish the Joint Committee.
2. The Joint Committee shall be composed of relevant government officials of each Party and shall be co-chaired by senior officials of the Parties from ministries primarily responsible for international trade.

### **Article 13.2: Procedures of the Joint Committee**

1. The Joint Committee shall, normally, convene once every two years or when necessary upon request in writing of either Party.
2. Unless the Parties otherwise agree, meetings of the Joint Committee shall be held alternately in each country, or by any technological means available.
3. All decisions of the Joint Committee shall be taken by mutual agreement.
4. The Joint Committee shall adopt its own rules of procedure, as well as its meeting schedule and the agenda for its meetings.

### **Article 13.3: Functions of the Joint Committee**

1. The Joint Committee shall:
  - (a) monitor and review the implementation and operation of this Agreement;
  - (b) supervise and coordinate the work of all bodies established under this Agreement;
  - (c) evaluate and adopt decisions as envisaged in this Agreement regarding any subject matter which is referred to it by any subcommittee, working group and other bodies established under this Agreement;
  - (d) establish the amount of remuneration and expenses to be paid to arbitrators under Chapter 14 (Dispute Settlement) taking into consideration WTO standards regarding remuneration;
  - (e) without prejudice to Chapter 14 (Dispute Settlement) and other relevant provisions of this Agreement, seek to prevent and to solve problems which might arise in areas covered by this Agreement, or resolve disputes that may arise regarding the interpretation or application of this Agreement;

- (f) consider any other matters that may affect the operation of this Agreement and carry out any other functions as the Parties may agree; and
- (g) consider ways to further enhance trade and investment relations between the Parties.

2. The Joint Committee may:

- (a) consider and recommend to the Parties any amendments to this Agreement. If such amendment is agreed upon by the Parties, it shall enter into force in accordance with the procedure set forth in Article 15.3 (Entry into Force);
- (b) modify by a Joint Committee decision:
  - (i) the Schedules to Annex 2B (Reduction or Elimination of Customs Duties), with the purpose of adding one or more goods excluded in the Tariff Elimination Schedule;
  - (ii) the phase-out periods established in Annex 2B (Reduction or Elimination of Customs Duties), with the purpose of accelerating the tariff reduction;
  - (iii) the specific rules of origin established in Annex 3A (Rules of Origin – Specific Rules of Origin); and
  - (iv) the Rules of Procedure for Arbitral Tribunal Proceedings established in Annex 14-A and the Code of Conduct established in Annex 14-B.

Each Party shall make any modifications referred to in this subparagraph, subject to the completion of its applicable internal legal procedures and upon notification of such, within such period as the Parties may agree; and

- (c) adopt interpretive decisions concerning this Agreement binding on arbitral tribunals established under Article 14. 8 (Dispute Settlement – Request for the Establishment of an Arbitral Tribunal) and tribunals established under Article 9.23 (Selection of Arbitrators).

3. For the purposes of this Article, the Parties shall exchange information upon the request of either Party.

**Article 13.4: Establishment of Subcommittees, Working Groups and Other Bodies:**

1. The Parties hereby establish the following subcommittees comprising representatives from both Parties:

- (a) Sub-committee on Trade in Goods;
- (b) Sub-committee on Customs and Rules of Origin;
- (c) Sub-committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary measures;
- (d) Sub-Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade;

2. The Joint Committee may establish subcommittees, working groups, or any other bodies comprised of appropriate representatives from both Parties and delegate responsibilities to them in order to assist it in the performance of its tasks. The composition, duties and rules of procedure of such subcommittees, working groups or other bodies shall be in accordance with the relevant provisions of this Agreement or determined by the Joint Committee consistent with this Agreement.

3. The subcommittees, working groups and other bodies shall inform the Joint Committee, sufficiently in advance, of their schedule of meetings and of the agenda of those meetings. The subcommittees, working groups and other bodies, shall submit summaries of their meetings to the Joint Committee.

4. All decisions of the subcommittees, working groups and other bodies shall be taken by mutual agreement.

### **Article 13.5: Free Trade Agreement Coordinators**

1. Each Party shall appoint a Free Trade Agreement Coordinator and notify the other Party of the details of such Coordinator within 60 days after the date of entry into force of this Agreement, as follows:

- (a) For Viet Nam, the Multilateral Trade Policy Department, the Ministry of Industry and Trade, or its successor; and
- (b) For Israel, Bilateral Agreements Department, Foreign Trade Administration, Ministry of Economy and Industry, or its successor.

2. The Coordinators shall jointly:

- (a) develop agendas;
- (b) make other preparations for the Joint Committee meetings;
- (c) follow-up on the Joint Committee's decisions as appropriate;
- (d) act as contact points to facilitate communication between the Parties on any matter covered by this Agreement, unless otherwise provided for in this Agreement;
- (e) receive any notifications and information submitted under this Agreement, unless otherwise provided for in this Agreement;
- (f) assist the Joint Committee in any other matter referred to them by the Joint Committee; and
- (g) identify, upon request of the other Party, the office or official responsible for the matter and assist, as necessary, in facilitating communication with the requesting Party.