

1. New Chapter Eight (Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises) is hereby added as follows:

“CHAPTER EIGHT

SMALL AND MEDIUM-SIZED ENTERPRISES

ARTICLE 8.1

Definitions

For the purposes of this Chapter:

Harmonized System or **HS** means the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System, including its general rules and legal notes, as adopted and implemented by the Parties in their respective domestic law; and

SME means a small and medium-sized enterprise, including a micro-sized enterprise

ARTICLE 8.2

General Provisions

1. The Parties recognise the importance of:
 - (a) SMEs in their bilateral trade and investment relations; and
 - (b) having provisions in this Agreement that are of particular benefit to SMEs.
2. The Parties affirm their commitment to promoting an environment that:
 - (a) facilitates and supports the development, growth, and competitiveness of SMEs;
 - (b) promotes job creation in SMEs; and
 - (c) enhances SMEs’ ability to benefit from this Agreement.
3. The Parties recognise the importance of work in relevant international fora to support SMEs, and in taking into account the fora’s findings and recommendations, where appropriate.
4. The Parties recognise the benefit of:
 - (a) working cooperatively to identify and address barriers to SMEs’ access to international markets;

- (b) considering the needs of SMEs when formulating new laws and regulations;
- (c) assessing trends in globalisation and their impact on SMEs; and
- (d) examining issues related to SMEs' access to financing and support for innovation.

ARTICLE 8.3

Information Sharing

1. Each Party shall adopt or maintain a publicly accessible website containing information regarding this Agreement, including:

- (a) the full text of this Agreement;
- (b) a summary of this Agreement; and
- (c) information, designed for SMEs, that contains:
 - (i) a description of the provisions in this Agreement that the Party considers to be relevant to SMEs; and
 - (ii) any additional information that the Party considers useful for SMEs.

2. Each Party shall include in its website referred to in paragraph 1 links to:

- (a) the equivalent website of the other Party; and
- (b) the websites of its government authorities, and other appropriate entities, that provide information the Party considers useful to any SME interested in trading, investing, or doing business in that Party's territory.

3. The information described in subparagraph 2(b) may include:

- (a) customs laws, regulations, procedures, and enquiry points;
- (b) laws, regulations, and procedures concerning intellectual property rights;
- (c) technical regulations, standards, conformity assessment procedures, and sanitary and phytosanitary measures relating to importation and exportation;
- (d) laws and regulations relating to foreign investors;
- (e) business registration procedures;

- (f) employment laws and regulations;
- (g) taxation information;
- (h) trade promotion programmes;
- (i) information related to the entry and temporary stay of business persons as defined in Chapter Seven-C (Entry and Temporary Stay of Business Persons); or
- (j) government procurement opportunities within the scope of Chapter Nine (Government Procurement).

4. Each Party shall include on the website referred to in paragraph 1, a link to a database that is electronically searchable, including where possible by HS code, which contains information on access to its market. That information may include:

- (a) rates of customs duty to be applied by the Party to the originating goods of the other Party;
- (b) the most-favoured-nation applied rates of customs duty;
- (c) tariff rate quotas established by the Party;
- (d) rules of origin; or
- (e) other relevant measures as decided by the Party.

5. Each Party shall regularly, or on request of the other Party, review the information and links on the website referred to in paragraph 1 to ensure that the information and links are up to date and accurate.

6. A Party may recommend additional information for inclusion on the website of the other Party referred to in paragraph 1. The other Party shall give positive consideration to any such recommendation.

7. Each Party shall promote its website referred to in paragraph 1 to SMEs looking to benefit from the opportunities provided by this Agreement. This promotion may take place through:

- (a) providing a link to its website on other relevant government websites;
- (b) SME support or training programmes;
- (c) collaboration with business representative organisations;
- (d) cooperation activities carried out under this Chapter; or

- (e) any other means the Party deems appropriate and effective.

ARTICLE 8.4

Cooperation to Increase Trade and Investment Opportunities for SMEs

1. The Parties acknowledge the importance of cooperating to reduce barriers to SMEs' access to international markets.
2. The Parties may cooperate to increase trade and investment opportunities for SMEs, including by:
 - (a) identifying ways to assist SMEs to take advantage of the commercial opportunities under this Agreement;
 - (b) exchanging and discussing each Party's experiences and best practices in supporting and assisting SMEs, including the use of:
 - (i) training programmes;
 - (ii) trade education;
 - (iii) trade finance;
 - (iv) information identifying commercial partners in the other Party;
 - (v) encouragement to SMEs to adopt or maintain good environmental practices and technologies;
 - (vi) information on establishing good business credentials;
 - (vii) information on insurance, tax, and payment practices in the other Party's market; or
 - (viii) help for SMEs to adapt to changing market conditions;
 - (c) facilitating the development of programmes to assist SMEs to participate in, and integrate effectively into, global markets and supply chains;
 - (d) identifying non-tariff barriers that adversely affect trade outcomes for SMEs and considering ways to minimise those barriers;
 - (e) supporting SMEs to participate in digital trade and to take advantage of opportunities arising from this Agreement;

- (f) promoting the participation in international trade of SMEs owned by under-represented groups, including women, youth, persons with a disability, and minority groups; or
- (g) considering any other matter pertaining to SMEs, including any issues raised by SMEs regarding their ability to benefit from this Agreement.

3. In carrying out any activities pursuant to paragraph 2, the Parties shall consider whether it would be appropriate to collaborate with experts, international organisations, or the private sector, as appropriate.

4. The Parties may, at any time, agree a joint statement outlining the cooperation activities that have occurred, or will occur, pursuant to this Article.

ARTICLE 8.5

Other Provisions that Benefit SMEs

The Parties recognise that, in addition to this Chapter, there are provisions in this Agreement that seek to enhance cooperation between the Parties on SME issues, or that may be of benefit to SMEs. These include:

- (a) Chapter Seven-F (Digital Trade);
- (b) Chapter Nine (Government Procurement);
- (c) Chapter Eleven-A (Innovation);
- (d) Chapter Eleven-C (Good Regulatory Practice);
- (e) Chapter Twelve-A (Anti-Corruption);
- (f) Chapter Thirteen-A (Trade and Gender Equality);

ARTICLE 8.6

Contact Points

1. Each Party shall designate, and notify to the other Party, a contact point on SMEs. Each Party shall promptly notify the other Party on any change to its contact point.

2. The contact points shall communicate through channels decided by the Parties.

3. The contact points shall:

- (a) facilitate communications between the Parties on any matter the Party considers relevant to SMEs;
- (b) exchange information to assist in monitoring the implementation of this Agreement as it relates to SMEs; and
- (c) where appropriate, facilitate coordination between the Parties and any committee, working group, or other subsidiary body established by this Agreement, on any matter covered by this Chapter.

ARTICLE 8.7

Non-Application of Dispute Settlement

Neither Party may have recourse to Chapter Fourteen (Dispute Settlement) for any matter arising under this Chapter.”