

## **Chapter 14**

### **Cooperation, Promotion and Enhancement of Trade Relations**

#### **Section A: General Provisions**

##### **Article 14.1: General Objective**

The objective of this Chapter is to implement programs of mutual assistance in areas that will allow a high level of benefits derived from trade relations and the promotion of investment. This objective shall be accomplished through the framework set out in this Chapter for present and future development of cooperative relations between the Parties.

##### **Article 14.2: Specific Objectives**

In this Chapter, priority shall be given to the following objectives:

- (a) promoting economic and social development;
- (b) strengthening the capabilities and competitiveness of the Parties to maximize the opportunities and benefits derived from this Agreement;
- (c) increasing the level and depth of cooperative activities among the Parties in areas of mutual interest, with special attention to economic, trade, financial, technological, educational and cultural aspects;
- (d) encouraging the presence of the Parties and their goods and services in their respective markets in Asia Pacific and Latin America;
- (e) stimulating productive synergies, creating new opportunities for trade and investment, and promoting competitiveness and innovation;
- (f) accomplishing a greater impact in scientific, technological and knowledge transfer, research and development, innovation, and entrepreneurship;
- (g) increasing the export capacity of small and medium enterprises (SMEs);
- (h) generating a greater and deeper level of supply chain linkages; and

- (i) reinforcing and expanding cooperation, collaboration, mutual interchanges and good practices in areas of mutual interest.

## **Section B: Cooperation Areas**

Without prejudice to the possibility of extending cooperation to other areas, the Parties agree to set as priority the areas in this Section, with the aim of accomplishing the objectives of this Chapter.

### **Article 14.3: Small and Medium Enterprises**

1. The Parties shall support the enhancement of SMEs' competitiveness and their insertion in the international markets on the basis of strengthening their productive capabilities.
2. Cooperation shall include, among others, activities to:
  - (a) design and execute mechanisms to encourage partnerships and development of productive linkages; and
  - (b) develop SMEs' competitiveness through the exchange of information between the relevant institutions of both Parties and such other mechanisms as may be agreed by these institutions.

### **Article 14.4: Promotion of Science and Technology, Innovation, Technology and Knowledge Transfer, and Entrepreneurship**

1. The Parties recognize the importance of the promotion and the facilitation of cooperation activities in science and technology, innovation, technology and knowledge transfer, and entrepreneurship, aiming to achieve a greater social and economic development. The Parties shall also consider the access to and transfer of knowledge and technology between them at national (including different stakeholders such as universities, private sector, and government) and international levels.
2. The Parties shall encourage and facilitate, as appropriate, the following activities, among others:
  - (a) supporting the participation of public, private and social organizations, including universities, research and development institutions and non-governmental organizations, in the execution of programs and projects related with the areas mentioned in paragraph 1;
  - (b) exchange of specialists, researchers and university professors;

- (c) apprenticeship programs for professional training and instruction;
- (d) joint or coordinated implementation of research and/or technological development programs and projects that link centers for research industry;
- (e) information exchange on scientific and technological research;
- (f) development of joint cooperation activities in third countries, as may be agreed by the Parties;
- (g) granting scholarships for studies of professional specialization and intermediate studies of technical instruction;
- (h) organizing seminars, workshops and conferences;
- (i) exchanging or sharing of equipment subject to the agreement of both Parties; and
- (j) promoting public/private sector partnerships in support of the development of innovative products, processes and services.

#### **Article 14.5: Export Promotion and Attraction of Investments**

1. For the purpose of reaching greater benefits arising from this Agreement, the Parties recognize the importance of supporting the existing programs related to export and investment promotion, and to launch new ones, as well as to enhance both Parties' investment climates.

2. Cooperation shall include, among others, activities to:

- (a) strengthen the export capacity, through training and existing technical assistance programs;
- (b) establish and develop mechanisms related with market research, including exchange of information and access to international databases;
- (c) create exchange programs for exporters in order to provide knowledge of the markets of each Party;
- (d) promote greater participation of SMEs in exports;
- (e) support the export and investment promotion activities between the Parties;
- (f) support entrepreneurship processes as an instrument to strengthen the export capacity and promote investment;

- (g) promote the implementation of research and development, technological and innovation programs with the objective of increasing the export supply and encouraging investment;
- (h) promote joint venture opportunities between both Parties' private sectors; and
- (i) promote simplified administrative procedures.

#### **Article 14.6: Culture, Sports and Recreation Activities**

1. The Parties recognize the importance and significance of arts, culture, sports and recreation as means of consolidation and promotion of partnership among the Parties. In this framework, the Parties shall undertake cooperation in these areas with the purpose of enhancing mutual understanding, fostering balanced exchanges and activities between individuals, institutions and organizations representing civil society.

2. The Parties shall encourage and facilitate the following activities, among others:

- (a) promote arts, cultural and information exchanges between the Parties;
- (b) encourage arts, cultural, recreational and sports events between the Parties;
- (c) establish the possibility of cooperation between arts, cultural, sports and recreational agencies, institutions and associations of both Parties;
- (d) promote the exchange of goods and services related to arts, cultural, sports and recreational activities;
- (e) provide a platform for athletes to travel to, and for training and competing in, the territory of the other Party;
- (f) support activities that raise awareness of artistic works;
- (g) promote the exchange of experiences with respect to the conservation and restoration of national heritage, protection of archaeological monuments and cultural heritage;
- (h) encourage the exchange and training of professionals and technicians, including coaches, players, sports medicine personnel and special needs sports personnel;

- (i) exchange visits to review arts, cultural, sports and recreational facilities and share experiences in the area of implementation, developing, maintenance and operation of these facilities;
- (j) exchange experience on management of different sports disciplines; and
- (k) promote cooperation in audio-visual and media sectors, through joint initiatives in training, as well as audio-visual development, production and distribution activities, including the educational and cultural fields.

#### **Article 14.7: Agro-Industrial Cooperation**

1. The Parties shall encourage and facilitate cooperation in the food industry and agribusiness.
2. The Parties shall facilitate partnerships between the public and/or private sectors for co-development and process improvements pertaining to the food industry and the agro-industry.

#### **Article 14.8: Environmental Cooperation**

1. The Parties recognize the importance of contributing globally to the protection of the environment and, accordingly, reaffirm their commitments and obligations under multilateral environmental agreements to which they are parties.
2. The Parties recognize the importance of strengthening capacities to protect the environment and to promote sustainable development, in accordance with their efforts of strengthening their trade and investment relations. Accordingly, the Parties agree to cooperate on environmental matters of mutual interest and benefit, taking into account their national priorities and available resources. Cooperative activities may be in areas including, but not limited to, the promotion of:
  - (a) green markets and clean technologies; and
  - (b) sustainable environmental management.

#### **Article 14.9: Labour Cooperation**

1. The Parties recognize the importance of labour matters, which must go hand in hand with economic development, and share a similar commitment to uphold labour standards in the context of global economic development and trade liberalization.

2. The Parties reaffirm their commitment to a high standard of labour laws, policies and practices and to seek to cooperate in the promotion of employment and better understanding and observance of the principles embodied in the *International Labour Organization Declaration of Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work and its Follow-up (1998)*. Accordingly, the Parties agree to cooperate on labour matters of mutual interest and benefit, taking into account their national priorities and available resources. Cooperative activities may be in areas including, but not limited to:

- (a) skills development and employability;
- (b) occupational safety and health;
- (c) industrial relations and labour-management cooperation; and
- (d) strengthening of institutional capacities.

#### **Article 14.10: Other Cooperation Areas**

Additionally, the Parties shall engage in the promotion of the following cooperation areas:

- (a) **Health:** Cooperation in the health area shall include, among others, activities to:
  - i. develop efficient health systems, train sufficient health workforce, develop fair financing mechanisms and social protection schemes;
  - ii. promote primary health care and prevention through integrated approaches and actions involving other policy sectors;
  - iii. promote information exchanges about policies, training programs, and product manufacturing, among others;
  - iv. promote the use, application and training of new health technologies; and
  - v. encourage the development of research centers focused in the production of high-quality technologies.
- (b) **Infrastructure: Ports, Airports and Roads:** Cooperation in the ports, airports and roads shall include, among others, activities to:
  - i. design, restructure and modernize infrastructure related to urban planning, air, maritime, rail and road transport and related infrastructure systems;

- ii. promote cooperation between relevant authorities, in aspects related to railways, ports and airports; and
  - iii. encourage the exchange of information on the Parties' policies, especially regarding urban transport and the interconnection and interoperability of multimodal transport networks and other issues of mutual interest.
- (c) **Dispute Settlement:** Cooperation in dispute settlement shall include, among others, activities to:
- i. encourage and facilitate the use of arbitration and other means of alternative dispute resolution for the settlement of international commercial disputes between private parties in the free trade area;
  - ii. promote the execution of technical cooperation projects between private parties;
  - iii. promote the subscription of cooperation agreements between institutions dedicated to the analysis of alternative dispute resolution mechanisms or the administration of these procedures; and
  - iv. strengthen capacity building for the management of dispute settlement conflicts, which could include exchange of better practices, training, internships, consultancies, among others.
- (d) **Information Communication Technology (ICT):** Cooperation in the ICT area shall include, among others:
- i. promotion of electronic commerce;
  - ii. promotion of the use of ICT related services, including newly emerging services, by consumers, the public and private sectors; and
  - iii. human resource development in the area of ICT;
- by, for instance:
- i. promoting dialogue on ICT policy issues and national ICT strategies including e-Government;
  - ii. promoting cooperation between the respective private sectors of the Parties;

- iii. enhancing cooperation in international *fora* relating to ICT; and
- iv. undertaking other appropriate cooperative activities.

#### **Article 14.11: Framework for Cooperation**

1. In order to administer this Chapter, the Parties shall maintain contact points to facilitate the management of cooperation activities, communications, follow-up mechanisms and specific cooperation programs.

2. The contact points for the Parties are:

(a) in the case of Costa Rica:

- i. *Dirección General de Comercio Exterior,  
Ministerio de Comercio Exterior*  
(Directorate General for Foreign Trade,  
Ministry of Foreign Trade)  
Address: 1st and 3rd Avenue, 40th Street, Paseo Colón,  
San José.  
Tel: (506) 22 99 47 00  
Fax: (506) 22 55 32 81  
P.O. Box: 297-1007 Centro Colón  
E-mail: dgce@comex.go.cr  
Web: www.comex.go.cr

and

- ii. *Área de Cooperación Internacional,  
Ministerio de Planificación Nacional y Política Económica*  
(International Cooperation Area,  
Ministry of Planning and Economic Policy)  
Address: Los Yoses, San Pedro, San José.  
Tel: (506) 22 81 27 00  
Fax: (506) 22 81 27 47  
E-mail: cooperacionbilateral@mideplan.go.cr  
Web: www.mideplan.go.cr

(b) in the case of Singapore:

*Ministry of Trade and Industry  
Trade Division*  
Address: 100 High Street #09-01, The Treasury  
Singapore 179434, Republic of Singapore  
Tel: (65) 6225 9911  
Fax: (65) 6332 7260  
Email: mti\_fta@mti.gov.sg  
Web: www.mti.gov.sg

or their successors or designated contact points.

3. The contact points shall report to the Commission all the cooperation activities carried out through this Chapter.

4. The Parties will make maximum use of diplomatic channels to promote dialogue and cooperation consistent with this Agreement.

5. The Parties may agree to cooperate in other areas of mutual interest other than the ones set out in this Agreement. Cooperation in other areas shall be carried out through the relevant authorities of each Party and upon agreement.

6. Any cooperation activity agreed to between the Parties pursuant to the Chapter shall be in writing and shall specify the objectives, financial and technical resources required, time-frame, as well as the task that must be performed by each Party, subject to each Party's internal procedures.

7. Neither Party shall have recourse to any dispute settlement procedures under this Agreement for any issue arising from or relating to this Chapter.