

Chapter VIII: Technical Barriers to Trade

Article VIII.01 Technical Barriers to Trade

1. The Parties reaffirm their rights and obligations under the *WTO Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade* (TBT Agreement).

2. The Parties shall develop programs for technical cooperation aimed at achieving full and effective compliance with the obligations set forth in the TBT Agreement. To this end, the Parties shall encourage their competent authorities in the area of technical regulations, conformity assessment procedures and standards, to undertake the following activities:

- (a) Promote bilateral institutional and regulatory information exchange and technical cooperation;
- (b) Promote bilateral coordination by appropriate agencies in multilateral and international fora on technical regulations, conformity assessment procedures and standards;
- (c) Facilitate the provision to the other Party of technical advice, information and assistance, on mutually agreed terms and conditions, to enhance the Party's TBT measures and related activities, processes and systems;
- (d) Extend the assistance mentioned in subparagraph (c), *inter alia*, in the areas of:
 - (i) processing technologies;
 - (ii) exchange of information on new research data;
 - (iii) infrastructure;
 - (iv) institutional and regulatory co-operation;
 - (v) harmonization;
 - (vi) mutual recognition and equivalence agreements;
 - (vii) transparency;
 - (viii) conformity assessment procedures;
 - (ix) identification, consultation and resolution of TBT-related problems;
 - (x) technical expertise; and
 - (xi) training and equipment.

3. The Parties shall include technical cooperation and coordination issues related to standards, technical regulations and conformity assessment procedures on the agenda of the Free Trade Coordinators as required.