

Annex 12

Annex on Trade Development and Competitiveness

Under Article 31 of the Agreement

Article 1 Tripartite Strategies

1. Tripartite Member States shall develop and harmonize their trade development and competitiveness strategies.
2. Tripartite Member States shall develop Tripartite sector strategies in all key areas, including value and supply chains and shall promote the establishment of trade support institutions.
3. Tripartite Member States shall develop internal capacities for trade development and competitiveness and create awareness on the role and importance of trade in economic development.
4. In order to ensure effective distribution of goods and services, Tripartite Member States shall undertake to strengthen infrastructure related to trade especially in the areas of transport and storage facilities.

Article 2 Involvement of the Business Community

1. Tripartite Member States shall formulate and implement trade development policies in close co-operation with the private sector.
2. Tripartite Member States shall facilitate the formation of private sector industry and trade associations.
3. Tripartite Member States, in collaboration with the business community, shall encourage and facilitate the creation of small and medium scale enterprises and promote their participation in trade.
4. Tripartite Member States shall promote public-private partnerships. There shall be annual consultative meetings to consider issues of trade promotion.

Article 3 Trade Promotion Measures

1. Tripartite Member States shall promote the participation by the business community in the Tripartite trade fairs, national fairs and exhibitions, specialised fairs and trade missions.
2. In collaboration with the business community, Tripartite Member States shall disseminate market information on the Tripartite Member States and global markets including emerging markets.

Article 4
Trade Related Services

Tripartite Member States shall facilitate the provision of trade related and trade facilitation services within the Tripartite Member States, including those relating to insurance, freight, transportation, banking, customs procedures, warehousing and communication.

Article 5
Market Intelligence

1. Tripartite Member States shall facilitate the establishment of national and regional data bases and trade information networks for the Tripartite.
2. The trade information shall be made compatible with and linked to international information systems.
3. Tripartite Member States shall facilitate market analysis and the use of information and communications technology in trade and shall promote buyer-seller meetings and promote the utilization of market access opportunities available in the regional and global markets.

Article 6
Research and Development

Tripartite Member States recognize that research is important for trade development. In this regard, Tripartite Member States shall develop a strong research base at the Tripartite and national levels and shall establish and facilitate networks of research institutions, and integrate them in the policy making processes.