

## **CHAPTER 1**

### **GENERAL PROVISIONS**

#### **Article 1: Establishment of a Free Trade Area**

The Parties, consistent with Article XXIV of GATT 1994 and Article V of GATS, hereby establish a free trade area.

#### **Article 2: Relation to Other Agreements**

1. The Parties affirm their existing rights and obligations with respect to each other under the WTO Agreement and other existing agreements to which the Parties are party.
2. In the event of any inconsistency between this Agreement and any other multilateral or bilateral agreement to which the Parties are party, the Parties shall immediately consult with a view to finding a mutually satisfactory solution.

#### **Article 3: Geographical Applicability**

1. This Agreement shall apply to the entire customs territory of China, including land territory, territorial airspace, internal waters and territorial sea as well as their bed and subsoil, and any area beyond its territorial sea within which it may exercise sovereign rights and/or jurisdiction in accordance with international law and its domestic law.
2. This Agreement shall apply to the territory of Maldives, which shall encompass the land, air space, sea and seabed within the archipelagic baselines of the Maldives drawn in accordance with its domestic law and international law, and includes the territorial waters, the seabed and air space thereof beyond the said baselines, where it may exercise sovereign rights or jurisdiction in accordance with its domestic law and international law.
3. Each Party is fully responsible for the observance of all provisions of this Agreement and shall take such reasonable measures as may be available to it to ensure their observance by local governments and authorities in its territory.