

## **CHAPTER 13 TRANSPARENCY**

### **ARTICLE 13.1: PUBLICATION**

1. Each Party shall ensure that its laws, regulations, procedures and administrative rulings of general application respecting any matter covered by this Agreement are promptly published, including on the internet where feasible, or otherwise made available in such a manner as to enable interested persons and the other Party to become acquainted with them.
2. To the extent possible, each Party shall publish in advance and provide interested persons of the other Party and the other Party a reasonable opportunity to comment on any law, regulation, procedure and administrative ruling of general application referred to in paragraph 1 that it proposes to adopt.

### **ARTICLE 13.2: NOTIFICATION AND PROVISION OF INFORMATION**

1. To the extent possible, each Party shall notify the other Party of any proposed or actual measure that the Party considers might materially affect the operation of this Agreement or otherwise substantially affect the other Party's legitimate interests under this Agreement.
2. At the request of the other Party, a Party shall promptly provide information and respond to questions pertaining to any actual or proposed measure that the other Party considers might materially affect the operation of this Agreement, whether or not the other Party has been previously notified of that measure.
3. The information referred to under this Article shall be considered to have been provided when it has been made available by appropriate notification to the WTO or when it has been made available on the official, public and fee-free accessible website of the Party concerned.
4. Any notification, request, or information under this Article shall be conveyed to the other Party through the Contact Points in Article 14.4 (Overall Contact Points).

### **ARTICLE 13.3: ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEEDINGS**

1. Each Party shall ensure that all laws, regulations, procedures and administrative rulings of general application to which this Agreement applies are administered in a consistent, impartial, objective and reasonable manner.

2. With a view to administering in a consistent, impartial, objective and reasonable manner its laws, regulations, procedures and administrative rulings of general application with respect to any matter covered by this Agreement, each Party shall ensure, in its administrative proceedings applying these measures to particular persons, goods or services of the other Party in specific cases that:

(a) wherever possible, persons of the other Party that are directly affected by a proceeding are provided with reasonable notice when a proceeding is initiated, including a description of the nature of the proceeding, a statement of the legal authority under which the proceeding is initiated, and a general description of any issue in controversy;

(b) such persons are afforded a reasonable opportunity to present facts and arguments in support of their positions prior to any final administrative action, when time, the nature of the proceeding and the public interest permit; and

(c) it follows its procedures in accordance with its law.

#### **ARTICLE 13.4: REVIEW AND APPEAL**

1. Each Party shall establish or maintain judicial, quasi-judicial, or administrative tribunals or procedures for the purposes of the prompt review and, where warranted, correction of final administrative actions regarding matters covered by this Agreement. Such tribunals shall be impartial and independent of the office or authority entrusted with administrative enforcement and shall not have any substantial interest in the outcome of the matter.

2. Each Party shall ensure that, in any such tribunals or procedures, the parties to the proceeding are provided with the right to:

(a) a reasonable opportunity to support or defend their respective positions; and

(b) a decision based on the evidence and submissions of record or, where required by the law of the Party, the record compiled by the administrative authority.

3. Each Party shall ensure, subject to appeal or further review as provided in its law, that such a decision shall be implemented by, and shall govern the practice of, the office or authority with respect to the administrative action at issue.

**CHAPTER 14**  
**ADMINISTRATIVE AND INSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS**

**ARTICLE 14.1: ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CHINA-MAURITIUS FREE TRADE AREA JOINT COMMISSION**

1. The Parties hereby establish the FTA Joint Commission, composed of government representatives of each Party at the level of senior officials.
2. The FTA Joint Commission aims at ensuring the effective operation and implementation of this Agreement and any other agreement or legal instrument concluded or to be concluded under this Agreement.

**ARTICLE 14.2: FUNCTIONS OF THE FTA JOINT COMMISSION**

1. The FTA Joint Commission shall:
  - (a) consider any matter relating to the implementation or operation of this Agreement;
  - (b) consider any proposal to amend this Agreement;
  - (c) supervise the work of all committees and any other subsidiary body established under this Agreement;
  - (d) consider issues referred to it by either Party, or by the committees or any other subsidiary body established under this Agreement; and
  - (e) in accordance with the objectives of this Agreement, explore ways to further enhance trade and investment between the Parties.
2. The FTA Joint Commission may:
  - (a) establish any *ad hoc* or standing committee or other subsidiary body as necessary and refer matters to such a committee or such a subsidiary body for advice;
  - (b) seek to resolve differences or disputes that may arise regarding the interpretation or application of this Agreement;
  - (c) issue interpretations of the provisions of this Agreement;
  - (d) seek the advice of interested parties on any matter falling within the functions of the FTA Joint Commission; and

(e) take any other action as the Parties may agree.

#### **ARTICLE 14.3: RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE FTA JOINT COMMISSION**

1. The FTA Joint Commission shall take decisions by consensus.
2. The FTA Joint Commission shall meet within one year of the date of entry into force of this Agreement and thereafter as the Parties may decide. Meetings of the FTA Joint Commission shall be chaired successively by each Party.
3. The Party chairing a session of the FTA Joint Commission shall provide any necessary administrative support for such a session, and shall record any decisions and discussions of the FTA Joint Commission, copies of which shall be provided to the other Party.
4. Each Party shall be responsible for the composition of its own delegation to the meeting of the FTA Joint Commission.
5. Each Party shall treat any confidential information exchanged in relation to meetings of the FTA Joint Commission, committees and other subsidiary bodies established under this Agreement on the same basis as the Party providing the information.

#### **ARTICLE 14.4: OVERALL CONTACT POINTS**

1. Each Party shall designate an overall contact point to facilitate communication between the Parties on any matter covered by this Chapter.
2. Upon request of the other Party, the overall contact point of a Party shall identify the office or official responsible for the matter and assist, as necessary, in facilitating communication with the requesting Party.
3. Each Party shall notify the other Party in writing of its designated overall contact point no later than 60 days after the date of entry into force of this Agreement.
4. A Party shall promptly notify the other Party of any change of its overall contact point.