

## CHAPTER 16

### SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES

#### **Article 16.1: Objectives**

1. The Parties recognize that small and medium enterprises, including micro enterprises, contribute significantly to economic growth, employment, and innovation, and therefore seek to promote information sharing and cooperation in increasing the ability of small and medium enterprises to utilize and benefit from the opportunities created by this Agreement.
2. The Parties acknowledge the provisions of various Chapters in this Agreement that contribute to encouraging and facilitating the participation of small and medium enterprises in this Agreement.

#### **Article 16.2: Information Sharing**

1. Each Party shall promote the sharing of information related to this Agreement that is relevant to small and medium enterprises, including through the establishment and maintenance of its publicly accessible information platform, and information exchange to share knowledge, experiences, and best practices among the Parties.
2. Each Party shall take reasonable steps to ensure the information is accurate and up-to-date.

#### **Article 16.3: Cooperation**

The Parties shall strengthen their cooperation under this Chapter, which may include:

- (a) encouraging small and medium enterprises (hereinafter referred to as the “SMEs”) service agencies of both countries to deepen cooperation in such areas as information exchange and business surveys, and build bridges of cooperation between SMEs of the two countries;
- (b) encouraging SMEs to participate in trade fairs of the two countries;

- (c) supporting the development of entrepreneurs and innovators;
- (d) supporting the organization of investment forums to promote bilateral investment activities; and
- (e) encouraging service providers to establish a one-stop service system to support the development of SMEs in both countries.

#### **Article 16.4: Contact Points**

Each Party shall designate a Contact Point to facilitate cooperation and information sharing under this Chapter. Each Party shall notify the other Party of any change to the details of those Contact Points.

#### **Article 16.5: Non-Application of Dispute Settlement**

No Party shall have recourse to dispute settlement for any issue arising from or relating to this Chapter.