

CHAPTER 18

ECONOMIC COOPERATION

Section A: General Provisions

Article 18.1: Objectives

1. The Parties agree to strengthen economic cooperation with the aim of enhancing the mutual benefits of this Agreement in accordance with their national strategies and policy objectives.
2. The cooperation under this Chapter shall pursue the following objectives:
 - (a) promoting economic and social development of the Parties;
 - (b) strengthening the capacities of the Parties to maximise opportunities and benefits derived from this Agreement;
 - (c) stimulating productive synergies creating new opportunities for trade and investment and promoting competitiveness and innovation;
 - (d) reinforcing collaboration and exchanges in areas of mutual interest;
 - (e) supporting and promoting the development of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (hereinafter referred to as the “MSMEs”) in order to achieve their insertion in international trade or global value chains; and
 - (f) on the basis of fully respecting sovereignty and territorial integrity of all states, examining the opportunities of international cooperation through the *Belt and Road Initiative and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*.

Article 18.2: Methods and Means

1. Cooperation between the Parties will be implemented through the tools, resources and mechanisms available to them, following the rules and procedures and through the appropriate agencies.

2. Cooperation between the Parties may be effected through separate exchange of diplomatic notes, memoranda of understanding, agreements or protocols or agreed frameworks to be concluded between authorised institutions or bodies in accordance with the laws and regulations in force in each Party.

Article 18.3: Scope

1. Cooperation between the Parties under this Chapter will supplement the cooperation and cooperative activities between the Parties set out in other Chapters of this Agreement.

2. The Parties affirm the importance of all forms of cooperation, including economic, technical and commercial cooperation, in contributing towards implementation of the objectives and principles of this Agreement taking into account their different levels of development and the size of their economies.

3. The areas of cooperation include, but are not limited to, those listed in Section B, and shall be subject to revision and update as may be decided after mutual consultation between the Parties with the objective of including other sectors or areas of interest.

Article 18.4: Non-Application of Dispute Settlement

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

Section B: Areas of Cooperation

Article 18.5: Agricultural Cooperation

1. Promote exchange of experience, establish partnerships and conduct project cooperation in areas of mutual interests, such as agricultural innovation and technology transfer for smallholder development, conservation and management of water resources for agriculture, promotion of advanced agricultural and agro-to-industrial technologies and digital agriculture.

2. Strengthen institutional capabilities of government agencies, research institutions, universities and businesses, in the areas of scientific investigation and

transfer and validation of technologies including, among others, soil management and nutrition, irrigation and drainage, animal nutrition, horticulture under protected environments, traceability and safety.

3. Promote effective risk management in the agribusiness chains aiming to incorporate measures for adaptation and mitigation of climate change.
4. Encourage capacity building, technology transfer, and research and development of agricultural and livestock biotechnology and bio-safety.
5. Explore opportunities for cooperation in global food security through relevant regional and international forums.

Article 18.6: Other areas of Cooperation

1. The Parties will promote the use of instruments and mechanisms of cooperation through mutually advantageous conditions, including but not limited to the following areas:

- (a) micro, small and medium-sized enterprises;
- (b) culture (including tourism and audiovisual services);
- (c) promotion of a more favorable business environment;
- (d) healthcare industry;
- (e) textile and apparel;
- (f) science and technology (including information technology and communication);
- (g) transport, logistics and distribution;
- (h) trade and sustainable development (including forestry and renewable energy);
- (i) fisheries and aquaculture; and
- (j) other areas agreed by the Parties.

2. The Parties shall endeavor to develop, promote and strengthen cooperation in the areas described in paragraph 1 as well as the activities or areas of cooperation established in other Chapters of this Agreement.

Article 18.7: Cooperation in the Law-Based Internet Governance

The Parties recognize the importance of and are committed to enhancing exchanges and cooperation in the law-based Internet governance.