

CHAPTER X INSTITUTIONAL AND FINAL PROVISIONS

Article 10.1 Annexes

The Annexes to this Agreement constitute an integral part of this Agreement.

Article 10.2 Joint Committee

1. The Parties hereby establish a Joint Committee comprising representatives of the People's Republic of China and the Republic of Belarus as follows:
 - (a) in the case of the People's Republic of China, the Ministry of Commerce (MOFCOM); and
 - (b) in the case of the Republic of Belarus, the Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Belarus.
2. All decisions and recommendations referred to in this Chapter shall be taken by consensus.
3. The Joint Committee shall:
 - (a) endeavour to ensure that this Agreement operates properly;
 - (b) supervise, review and facilitate the implementation and application of this Agreement;
 - (c) supervise the work of all sub-committees, working groups and other bodies established under this Agreement;
 - (d) consider ways to further enhance trade and investment between the Parties;
 - (e) without prejudice to Chapter IX (Dispute Settlement), seek to solve differences or disputes which might arise regarding the interpretation or application of this Agreement;

- (f) consider proposals and make recommendations to the Parties on amendments of this Agreement in accordance with Article 10.4 (Amendments and Review) of this Chapter;
- (g) consider any other matter of interest relating to the implementation or operation of this Agreement.

4. The Joint Committee may:

- (a) decide to establish or dissolve sub-committees, or allocate responsibilities to them;
- (b) seek the advice of all interested parties including private sector and non-governmental organizations;
- (c) consult the Parties in case of any controversial issue;
- (d) adopt its own rules of procedure; and
- (e) take any other action in the exercise of its functions as the Parties may agree.

5. The first meeting of the Joint Committee shall be held within one year after the entry into force of this Agreement. Thereafter, the Joint Committee shall meet every two years or whenever necessary in the People's Republic of China or the Republic of Belarus alternately, unless the Parties agree otherwise. The Joint Committee shall be co-chaired by the representatives appointed by the People's Republic of China and the Republic of Belarus at the Ministerial level or its designated representatives.

6. Each Party may request at any time, through a notice in writing to the other Party, that a special meeting of the Joint Committee be held. Such a meeting shall take place within 30 days from the receipt of the request, unless the Parties agree otherwise.

7. Each meeting of the Joint Committee shall be held on a date mutually agreed by the Parties.

8. The Parties hold Joint Committee meetings as both virtual and face-to-face meetings.
9. The Joint Committee may invite, by agreement between the Parties, academics, experts from private sector or representatives from non-governmental organizations to attend its meetings in order to provide information on particular subjects.
10. A provisional agenda for each meeting shall be drawn up by the hosting Party on the basis of suggestions by the Parties. It shall be circulated to the other Party no later than 14 days before the meeting. The agenda shall be adopted by the Joint Committee at the beginning of each meeting. At the meeting, additional items may be included in the agenda, if the Parties so agree.
11. The working language of the Joint Committee shall be English. All working documents, minutes and decisions shall be in English.
12. Draft minutes of each meeting shall be drawn up by the host Party. The minutes shall, as a general rule, contain the following:
 - (a) a summary of the statements and conclusions reached on specific issues;
 - (b) decisions, recommendations and declarations adopted by the Joint Committee;
 - (c) all documentation formally presented by a Party and agreed to be included as annexes to the Joint Report; and
 - (d) a list of participants.
13. The draft agreed minutes shall be submitted to the Joint Committee for approval at the end of the meeting. If the approval is not possible during the meeting, the agreed minutes shall be approved by the Parties no later than three months after the date of the meeting.

14. The Joint Committee may adopt decisions or make recommendations by written procedure, if so agreed by the Parties.

15. Decisions and recommendations adopted by the Joint Committee shall bear a number and a title referring to their subject matter.

16. Each Party shall cover its own expenses relating to meetings of the Joint Committee. Expenses in connection with the organization of meetings, shall be borne by the Party that hosts the meeting.

Article 10.3 Entry into Force

This Agreement shall come into force on the first day of the second month following the date of receipt through diplomatic channels of the last written notification of the completion of the internal legal procedures required for its entry into force by the Parties.

Article 10.4 Amendments and Review

1. The Parties may agree, in writing, to amend this Agreement. An amendment shall enter into force in accordance with the procedure under Article 10.3 (Entry into Force), or on such other date as the Parties may agree.

2. The Parties shall periodically review in the Joint Committee progress achieved in pursuing the objectives set out in this Agreement and consider relevant international developments to identify areas where further action could promote these objectives.

3. If any provision of the WTO Agreement that the Parties have incorporated into this Agreement is amended, the Parties shall consult with each other, via the Joint Committee, with a view to finding a mutually satisfactory solution, where necessary. As a result of such a review, the Parties may, by decision in the Joint Committee, modify this Agreement accordingly.

Article 10.5 Further Negotiations

1. Not later than five years from the date of entry into force of this Agreement and periodically thereafter Parties may enter into

negotiations with a view to achieving a progressively higher level of commitments of this Agreement. This process shall take place with a view to promoting the interests of both Parties on a mutually advantageous basis and to securing balance of rights and obligations.

2. Upon the Republic of Belarus' accession to the WTO, the Parties shall enter into negotiations, beginning no later than one year from that date, with a view to achieving higher level of liberalization, promoting the interests of the Parties on a mutually advantageous basis and to secure an overall balance of rights and obligations.

Article 10.6 General Exceptions

1. For the purposes of Chapter III (Investment) and Chapter V (Electronic Commerce), Article XX of the GATT 1994, including its interpretative notes, is incorporated into and made part of this Agreement, *mutatis mutandis*.

2. For the purposes of Chapter II (Trade in Services), Chapter III (Investment), Chapter IV (Movement of Natural Persons) and Chapter V (Electronic Commerce), Article XIV of GATS, including its footnotes, is incorporated into and made part of this Agreement, *mutatis mutandis*.

Article 10.7 Termination

1. This Agreement is concluded for an indefinite period.

2. Either Party may terminate this Agreement by sending a written notification to the other Party of its intention to terminate the Agreement through diplomatic channels.

3. In such case, the Agreement shall be terminated in six months after the date of notification under paragraph 2 of this Article.

4. Within 30 days of a notification under paragraph 2 of this Article, either Party may request consultations regarding whether the termination of any provision of this Agreement should take effect on a later date than provided under paragraph 3 of this Article. Such

consultations shall commence within 30 days of a Party's delivery of such request. If no consensus is reached through consultations, the said provision will be terminated under paragraph 3 of this Article.

Article 10.8 Authentic Texts

This Agreement is done in Minsk on 22 August 2024 in duplicate in the Russian, Chinese and English languages, all texts being equally authentic. In case of divergence of interpretation of this Agreement the English text shall prevail.

**For the Government
of the People's Republic of China** **For the Government
of the Republic of Belarus**