

## CHAPTER 25

### SMALL AND MEDIUM -SIZED ENTERPRISES

#### Article 25.1: General Principles

1. The Parties, recognizing the fundamental role of SMEs in maintaining dynamism and enhancing competitiveness of their respective economies, shall foster close cooperation between SMEs of the Parties and cooperate in promoting jobs and growth in SMEs

2. The Parties recognize the integral role of the private sector in SME cooperation to be

### Article 25.3: Information Sharing

1. Each Party shall establish or maintain its own publicly accessible website containing information regarding this Agreement, including:
  - (a) the text of this Agreement;
  - (b) a summary of this Agreement; and
  - (c) information designed for SMEs that contains:
    - (i) a description of the provisions in this Agreement that the Party considers to be relevant to SMEs; and
    - (ii) any additional information that would be useful for SMEs interested in benefitting from the opportunities provided by this Agreement.
2. Each Party shall include in its website links or information through automated electronic transfer to:
  - (a) the equivalent websites of the other Parties; and
  - (b) the websites of its own government agencies and other appropriate entities that provide information the Party considers useful to any person interested in trading, investing, or doing business in that Party's territory.
3. The information described in paragraph 2(b) may include:
  - (a) customs regulations, procedures, enquiry points;
  - (b) regulations or



- (f) recommend additional information that a Party may include on the website referred to in Article 25.3 (Information Sharing);
- (g) review and coordinate its work program with the work of other committees, working groups, and other subsidiary bodies established under this Agreement, as well as of other relevant international bodies, to avoid duplication of work programs

## Article 25.5: SME Dialogue

1. The SME Committee shall convene a Trilateral SME Dialogue (the "SME Dialogue"). The SME Dialogue may include private sector, employees, government organizations, academic experts, SMEs owned by diverse and underrepresented groups, and other stakeholders from each Party.
2. The SME Committee shall convene the SME Dialogue annually, unless it decides otherwise.
3. SME Dialogue participants may provide views to the Committee on any matter within the scope of this Agreement and on the implementation and further modernization of this Agreement.
4. SME Dialogue participants may provide relevant technical, scientific, or other information to the Committee.

## Article 25.6: Obligations in the Agreement that Benefit SMEs

The Parties recognize that in addition to the provisions in this Chapter, there are provisions in other Chapters of this Agreement that seek to enhance cooperation among the Parties on SME issues or that otherwise may be of particular benefit to SMEs. These include:

- (a) Origin Procedures: Article 5.18 (Committee on Rules of Origin and Origin Procedures);
- (b) Government Procurement: Article 13.17 (Ensuring Integrity in Procurement Practices); Article 13.20 (Facilitation of Participation by SMEs), and Article 13.21 (Committee on Government Procurement)
- (c) CrossBorder Trade in Services Article 15.10 (Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises);
- (d) Digital Trade: Article 19.17 (Interactive Computer Services); Article 19.18 (Open Government Data);
- (e) Intellectual Property Article 20.14 (Committee on Intellectual Property Rights)
- (f) Labor: Article 23.12 (Cooperation);
- (g) Environment: Article 24.17 (Marine Wild Capture Fisheries)
- (h) Competitiveness: Article 26.1 (North American Competitiveness Committee);

- (i) Anticorruption: Article 27.5 (Participation of Private Sector and Society) and
- (j) Good Regulatory Practices: Article 28.4 (Internal Consultation, Coordination, and Review), Article 28.11 (Regulatory Impact Assessment), and Article 28.13 (Retrospective Review)

#### Article 25.7: Non-Application of Dispute Settlement

No Party shall have recourse to dispute settlement under Chapter 28 (Dispute Settlement) for any matter arising under this Chapter.