2. The Parties recall that, pursuant to the definition of a standard in Annex 1 to the TBT Agreement, compliance with standards is not mandatory. Where compliance with a standard is required in a Party through incorporation of, or reference to, that standard in a technical regulation or conformity assessment procedure, the Party shall, in developing the draft technical regulation or conformity assessment procedure, comply with the transparency obligations set out in paragraph 9 of Article 2 or paragraph 6 of Article 5 of the TBT Agreement, and in Article 7.9.

3. Each Party shall encourage, subject to its laws and regulations, its regional or national standardising bodies to ensure adequate participation of interested persons within the territory of that Party in the standard development process and to allow persons of the other Party to participate in consultation procedures, which are available to the general public, on terms no less favourable than those accorded to its own persons.

4. The Parties undertake to exchange information on:

(a) each Party's use of standards in support of demonstrating or facilitating compliance with technical regulations;

(b) their standard setting processes, in particular the manner and extent to which international or regional standards are used as a basis for their regional or national standards; and

(c) cooperation agreements or arrangements on standardisation with third parties or international organisations.

ARTICLE 7.8

Conformity assessment procedures

1. With respect to the preparation, adoption and application of technical regulations, subparagraphs 1(a)(i), 1(a)(ii) and 1(b) of Article 7.5 also apply, *mutatis mutandis*, to conformity assessment procedures.

2. In conformity with paragraph 1.2 of Article 5 of the TBT Agreement, each Party shall ensure that conformity assessment procedures are not stricter or are not applied more strictly than is necessary to give the importing Party adequate confidence that products conform with the applicable technical regulations or standards, taking into account the risks associated with products, including the risks that non-conformity would create.