(c) participants shall have access to all proceedings;

(d) proceedings can take place in public;

(e) opinions or decisions are given in writing with a statement describing the basis for the opinions or decisions;

(f) witnesses can be presented; and

(g) documents are disclosed to the reviewing authority.

7. Challenge procedures shall provide for:

(a) rapid interim measures to correct breaches of this Chapter and to preserve commercial opportunities. Such action may result in suspension of the procurement process. However, procedures may provide that overriding adverse consequences for the interests concerned, including the public interest, may be taken into account in deciding whether such measures should be applied;

(b) an assessment and, where appropriate, a decision on the justification of the challenge; and

(c) where appropriate, correction of breaches of this Chapter or compensation for the loss or damages suffered, which may be limited to costs for tender preparation or protest.

8. With a view to the preservation of the commercial and other interests involved, the challenge procedure shall normally be completed within a reasonable time.

Article 160
Use of Electronic Means in Government Procurement

1. The Parties shall seek to provide opportunities for government procurement to be undertaken through the Internet or a comparable computer-based telecommunications network.

2. In order to facilitate commercial opportunities for its suppliers under this Chapter, each Party shall endeavor to adopt or maintain a single electronic portal for access to comprehensive information on government procurement supply opportunities in its Area, and information on measures relating to government procurement shall be available.

3. The Parties shall encourage, to the extent possible, the use of electronic means for the provision of tender documents and the receipt of tenders.

4. The Parties shall endeavor to ensure the adoption of policies and procedures for the use of electronic means in government procurement that:

(a) protect documentation from unauthorized and undetected alteration; and

(b) provide appropriate levels of security for data on, and passing through, the procuring entity's network.

Article 161
Exceptions

1. Nothing in this Chapter shall be construed to prevent a Party from taking any action or not disclosing any information which it considers necessary for the protection of its essential security interests relating to the procurement of arms, ammunition or war materials, or to procurement indispensable for national security or for national defense purposes.

2. Subject to the requirement that such measures are not applied in a manner that would constitute a means of arbitrary or unjustifiable discrimination between the Parties where the same conditions prevail, or a disguised restriction on trade, nothing in this Chapter shall be construed to prevent a Party from imposing, enforcing or maintaining measures:

(a) necessary to protect public morals, order or safety;