Chapter 4
Customs Procedures and Trade Facilitation

Article 4.1
Scope and Objectives

1. This Chapter shall apply to customs procedures required for the clearance of goods traded between the Parties.

2. This Chapter shall be implemented by the Parties in accordance with the laws and regulations of each Party and within the available resources of their respective customs authorities.

3. The objectives of this Chapter are to establish a framework to ensure transparency, proper application of customs laws and prompt clearance of goods and to promote cooperation in the field of customs procedures, with a view to facilitating trade in goods between the Parties.

Article 4.2
Definition

For the purposes of this Chapter, the term "customs laws" means such laws and regulations administered and enforced by the customs authority of each Party concerning the importation, exportation and transit of goods, as they relate to customs duties, charges and other taxes, or to prohibitions, restrictions and other similar controls with respect to the movement of controlled items across the boundary of the customs territory of each Party.

Article 4.3
Transparency

1. Each Party shall ensure that all relevant information of general application pertaining to its customs laws is readily available to any interested person.

2. When information that has been made available must be revised due to changes in its customs laws, each Party shall make the revised information readily available, whenever possible in advance of the entry into force of the changes, to enable interested persons to take account of them.

3. Upon request of any interested person of the Parties, each Party shall provide, as quickly and accurately as possible, information related to the specific customs matters raised by the interested person and pertaining to its customs laws. Each Party shall supply not only the information specifically requested but also any other pertinent information which it considers the interested person should be made aware of.

4. Each Party shall designate one or more enquiry points to answer reasonable enquiries from any interested person of the Parties concerning customs matters, and shall make publicly available, including through its website, the names and addresses of such enquiry points.

Article 4.4
Customs Clearance

1. The Parties shall apply their respective customs procedures in a predictable, consistent and transparent manner.

2. For prompt customs clearance of goods traded between the Parties, each Party shall:

(a) make use of information and communications technology;

(b) simplify its customs procedures;

(c) harmonize its customs procedures, to the extent possible, with relevant international standards and recommended practices such as those made under the auspices of the Customs Co-operation Council; and

(d) promote cooperation, where appropriate, between its customs authority and: