2. Recognising the importance of international efforts on harmonisation of technical regulations through UN Regulations, the Parties shall consider positively an increase in their convergence with existing UN Regulations when amending an existing domestic technical regulation with a view to enhancing safety and environmental protection.

ARTICLE 12

Introducing domestic technical regulations

1. The Parties shall refrain from introducing any new domestic technical regulations or conformity assessment procedures which have the effect of preventing or increasing the burden for the importation and the putting into service on their domestic market of products for which type approvals have been granted under UN Regulations applied by both Parties, for the areas covered by those UN Regulations unless such domestic technical regulations or conformity assessment procedures are explicitly provided for by those UN Regulations.

2. Except for cases where the Parties complied with Articles 6 and 7 of this Annex, when a Party intends to develop or amend a domestic technical regulation or conformity assessment procedure in areas not covered by existing UN Regulations, the regulatory authorities of the Party shall:

(a) inform the regulatory authorities of the other Party of the regulatory objective and plan as well as transmit any regulatory justification or existing impact assessment regarding the intended domestic technical regulation or conformity assessment procedure at an early stage;

(b) assess the possibility to develop and adopt a new UN Regulation or to amend an existing UN Regulation in the area in which that Party intends to introduce a domestic technical regulation or conformity assessment procedure; and

(c) notify the Co-Chair of the Working Group on Motor Vehicles and Parts of the other Party when that Party decides to introduce a domestic technical regulation or conformity assessment procedure in an area not covered by a UN Regulation.