(i) the central government of a Contracting Party; or

(ii) a prefecture of Japan, or a region of the Republic of Armenia;

For the purpose of this Article, the term "region" means a marz or Yerevan city.

(b) any existing non-conforming measure that is maintained by a local government other than a prefecture or a region referred to in subparagraph (a)(ii);

(c) the continuation or prompt renewal of any non-conforming measure referred to in subparagraphs (a) and (b); or

(d) an amendment or modification to any non-conforming measure referred to in subparagraphs (a) and (b), provided that the amendment or modification does not decrease the conformity of the measure, as it existed immediately before the amendment or modification, with Articles 2, 3 and 6.

2. Articles 2, 3 and 6 shall not apply to any measure that a Contracting Party adopts or maintains with respect to sectors, sub-sectors or activities set out in its Schedule in Annex II.

3. Neither Contracting Party shall, under any measure adopted after the date of entry into force of this Agreement and covered by its Schedule in Annex II, require an investor of the other Contracting Party, by reason of its nationality, to sell or otherwise dispose of an investment that exists at the time when the measure becomes effective.

4. In cases where a Contracting Party makes an amendment or a modification to any existing non-conforming measure set out in its Schedule in Annex I or where a Contracting Party adopts any new or more restrictive measure with respect to sectors, sub-sectors or activities set out in its Schedule in Annex II after the date of entry into force of this Agreement, the Contracting Party shall, prior to the implementation of the amendment or modification or the new or more restrictive measure, or in exceptional circumstances, as soon as possible thereafter:

(a) notify the other Contracting Party of detailed information on such amendment or modification, or such measure; and

(b) hold, upon request by the other Contracting Party, consultations in good faith with the other Contracting Party with a view to achieving mutual satisfaction.

5. Each Contracting Party shall endeavour, where appropriate, to reduce or eliminate the non-conforming measures specified in its Schedules in Annexes I and II respectively.

6. Articles 2 and 3 shall not apply to any measure covered by the exceptions to, or derogations from, obligations under Articles 3 and 4 of the TRIPS Agreement, as specifically provided in Articles 3 through 5 of the TRIPS Agreement.

7. Articles 2, 3 and 6 shall not apply to any measure that a Contracting Party adopts or maintains with respect to government procurement.

Article 8
Transparency

1. Each Contracting Party shall promptly publish, or otherwise make publicly available, its laws, regulations, administrative procedures, administrative rulings and judicial decisions of general application as well as international agreements which pertain to or affect the implementation and operation of this Agreement.

2. Each Contracting Party shall, upon request by the other Contracting Party, promptly respond to specific questions and provide that other Contracting Party with information on matters set out in paragraph 1.

3. Paragraphs 1 and 2 shall not be construed so as to oblige either Contracting Party to disclose confidential information, the disclosure of which would impede law enforcement or otherwise be contrary to the public interest, or which would prejudice privacy or legitimate commercial interests.