3. Each Party shall adopt or maintain measures granting favourable treatment with respect to customs controls prior to the release of goods to traders or operators fulfilling criteria specified in its laws and regulations.

4. Each Party shall promote the development and use of advanced systems, including those based on information and communications technology, to facilitate the exchange of electronic data between traders or operators and its customs authority and other trade-related agencies.

5. Each Party shall work towards further simplification and standardisation of data and documentation required by its customs authority and other trade-related agencies.

ARTICLE 4.5

Release of goods

Each Party shall adopt or maintain customs procedures that:

(a) provide for the prompt release of goods within a period that is not longer than necessary to ensure compliance with its laws and regulations;

(b) allow for advance electronic submission and processing of documentation and any other required information prior to the arrival of the goods; and

(c) allow for the release of goods prior to the final determination of customs duties, taxes, fees and charges, subject to the provision of a guarantee, if required by its laws and regulations, in order to secure their final payment.

ARTICLE 4.6

Simplification of customs procedures

1. Each Party shall work towards simplification of its requirements and formalities for customs procedures in order to reduce the time and costs thereof for traders or operators, including small and medium-sized enterprises.

2. Each Party shall adopt or maintain measures allowing traders or operators fulfilling criteria specified in its laws and regulations to benefit from further simplification of customs procedures. Such simplification may allow periodical declaration for the determination and payment of customs duties and taxes covering multiple imports within a given period, after the release of the goods.

3. Each Party shall adopt or maintain programmes which enable operators fulfilling criteria specified in its laws and regulations to benefit further from or have easier access to the simplification referred to in paragraph 2.

ARTICLE 4.7

Advance rulings

1. Each Party shall issue, through its customs authority, an advance ruling that sets forth the treatment to be provided to the goods concerned. That ruling shall be issued in a reasonable, time-bound manner to the applicant that has submitted a written request, including in electronic format, containing all necessary information in accordance with the laws and regulations of the issuing Party.

2. An advance ruling shall cover tariff classification of the goods, origin of goods including their qualification as originating goods under Chapter 3 or any other matter as the Parties may agree, in particular regarding the appropriate method or criteria to be used for the customs valuation of the goods.