(b) review, without prejudice to paragraph 3 of Article 2 of the TBT Agreement, adopted technical regulations at appropriate intervals, preferably not exceeding five years, in particular with a view to increasing their convergence with relevant international standards. In undertaking this review, each Party shall, *inter alia*, take into account any new development in the relevant international standards and whether the circumstances giving rise to divergences of that Party's technical regulations from any relevant international standard continue to exist. The outcome of this review shall be communicated and explained to the other Party on its request.

2. When a Party considers that its technical regulation and a technical regulation of the other Party that have the same objectives and product coverage are equivalent, that Party may request in writing, providing detailed reasons, that the other Party recognise those technical regulations as equivalent. The requested Party shall give positive consideration to accepting those technical regulations as equivalent, even if they differ, provided that it is satisfied that the technical regulation of the requesting Party adequately fulfils the objectives of its own technical regulation. If the requested Party does not accept a technical regulation of the requesting Party as equivalent, the requested Party shall, on request of the requesting Party, explain the reasons for its decision.

3. On request of a Party that has an interest in developing a technical regulation similar to a technical regulation of the other Party, the requested Party shall, to the extent practicable, provide the requesting Party with relevant information, including studies or documents, except for confidential information, on which it has relied in developing its technical regulation.

4. Each Party shall uniformly and consistently apply requirements relating to the placement of products on the market which are established in technical regulations applicable to its whole territory. If a Party has substantiated reasons to believe that any of these requirements are not applied uniformly and consistently in the territory of the other Party, and that this situation leads to significant impact on bilateral trade, that Party may notify the other Party of those substantiated reasons with a view to clarifying the issue, and, if appropriate, addressing it in a timely manner by the contact point referred to in Article 7.15 or by other appropriate bodies established under this Agreement.

ARTICLE 7.6

International standards

1. For the purposes of applying this Chapter and the TBT Agreement, standards issued by international organisations such as the International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO), the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC), the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), the Codex Alimentarius Commission, the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO), the World Forum for Harmonisation of Vehicle Regulations (WP.29) within the framework of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), the United Nations Sub-Committee of Experts on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (UNSCEGHS), and the International Council for Harmonisation of Technical Requirements for Pharmaceuticals for Human Use (ICH) shall be considered as relevant international standards as referred to in this Chapter, Articles 2 and 5 of the TBT Agreement and Annex 3 to the TBT Agreement, provided that in their development, the principles and procedures set out in the Decision of the WTO Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade on Principles for the Development of International Standards, Guides and Recommendations with Relation to Articles 2 and 5 of the TBT Agreement and Annex 3 to the TBT Agreement[1] have been followed, except when such standards or relevant parts of them would be ineffective or inappropriate for the fulfilment of the legitimate objectives pursued.

2. With a view to harmonising standards on as wide a basis as possible, each Party shall encourage national standardising bodies within its territory to:

(a) play a full part, within the limits of their resources, in the preparation by relevant international standardising bodies of international standards;

(b) use relevant international standards as a basis for the standards they develop, except where such international standards would be ineffective or inappropriate, for instance because of an insufficient level of protection or fundamental climatic or geographical factors or fundamental technological problems;

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[1] Annex 4 to WTO Document G/TBT/9, dated 13 November 2000, as may be revised.