CHAPTER 18

GOOD REGULATORY PRACTICES AND REGULATORY COOPERATION

SECTION A

Good regulatory practices and regulatory cooperation

SUB-SECTION 1

General provisions

ARTICLE 18.1

Objectives and general principles

1. The objectives of this Section are to promote good regulatory practices and regulatory cooperation between the Parties with the aim of enhancing bilateral trade and investment by:

(a) promoting an effective, transparent and predictable regulatory environment;

(b) promoting compatible regulatory approaches and reducing unnecessarily burdensome, duplicative or divergent regulatory requirements;

(c) discussing regulatory measures, practices or approaches of a Party, including how to enhance their efficient application; and

(d) reinforcing bilateral cooperation between the Parties in international fora.

2. Nothing in this Section shall affect the right of a Party to define or regulate its own levels of protection in pursuit or furtherance of its public policy objectives in areas such as:

(a) public health;

(b) human, animal and plant life and health;

(c) occupational health and safety;

(d) labour conditions;

(e) the environment including climate change;

(f) consumers;

(g) social protection and social security;

(h) personal data and cybersecurity;

(i) cultural diversity;

(j) financial stability; and

(k) energy security.

3. Nothing in this Section shall be construed to prevent a Party from:

(a) adopting, maintaining and applying regulatory measures in accordance with its legal framework, principles and deadlines, in order to achieve its public policy objectives at the level of protection it deems appropriate; and

(b) providing and supporting services of general interest, including those related to water, health, education or social services.

4. Regulatory measures shall not constitute a disguised barrier to trade.