ANNEX 8-C

UNDERSTANDING ON MOVEMENT OF NATURAL PERSONS
FOR BUSINESS PURPOSES

Procedural commitments related to entry and temporary stay

1. The Parties should ensure that the processing of applications for entry and temporary stay pursuant to their respective commitments in this Agreement follows good administrative practice. To that effect:

   (a) the Parties shall ensure that fees charged by competent authorities for the processing of applications for the entry and temporary stay do not unduly impair or delay trade in goods or services or establishment or operation under this Agreement;

   (b) subject to the competent authorities' discretion, documents required from the applicant for applications for the grant of entry and temporary stay of short-term visitors for business purposes[1] should be commensurate with the purpose for which they are collected;

   (c) complete applications for the grant of entry and temporary stay shall be processed as expeditiously as possible;

   (d) the competent authorities of a Party shall endeavour to provide, without undue delay, information in response to any reasonable request from an applicant concerning the status of an application;

   (e) if the competent authorities of a Party require additional information from the applicant in order to process the application, they shall endeavour to notify, without undue delay, the applicant of the required additional information;

   (f) the competent authorities of a Party shall notify the applicant of the outcome of the application promptly after a decision has been taken; if the application is approved, the competent authorities of a Party shall notify the applicant of the period of stay and other relevant terms and conditions; if the application is denied, the competent authorities of a Party shall, upon request or upon their own initiative, make available to the applicant information on any available review or appeal procedures; and

   (g) the Parties shall endeavour to accept and process applications in electronic format.

Additional procedural commitments applying to intra-corporate transferees

2. To the extent practicable, the competent authorities of the United Kingdom shall adopt a decision on the application for entry and temporary stay of an intra-corporate transferee, or a renewal of it, and shall notify the decision to the applicant in writing, in accordance with the notification procedures under the relevant laws and regulations of the United Kingdom, as soon as possible but not later than 90 days from the date on which the complete application was submitted. Where it is not practicable for a decision to be made within 90 days, the competent authorities of the United Kingdom shall endeavour to make the decision within a reasonable period of time thereafter.

3. To the extent practicable, the competent authorities of Japan shall adopt a decision on the application for an entry visa of an intra-corporate transferee, or for an extension permit of an intra-corporate transferee, and shall notify the decision to the applicant in writing within a period of time not exceeding 90 days after the submission of a complete application or, where applicable, after the submission of a complete application relating to the entry and temporary stay prior to the application requesting entry visa as defined in paragraph 4. Where it is not practicable for a decision to be made within 90 days, the competent authorities of Japan shall endeavour to make the decision within a reasonable period of time thereafter.

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[1] The United Kingdom does not take commitments in respect of short-term business visitors as set out in Article 8.27.