CHAPTER 1

INITIAL PROVISIONS AND GENERAL DEFINITIONS

Article 1.1: Establishment of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership as a Free Trade Area

The Parties, consistent with Article XXIV of GATT 1994 and Article V of GATS, hereby establish the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership as a free trade area in accordance with the provisions of this Agreement.

Article 1.2: General Definitions

For the purposes of this Agreement, unless otherwise provided in this Agreement:

(a) **AD Agreement** means the *Agreement on Implementation of Article VI of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade 1994* in Annex 1A to the WTO Agreement;

(b) **Agreement** means the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement;

(c) **Agreement on Agriculture** means the *Agreement on Agriculture* in Annex 1A to the WTO Agreement;

(d) **Customs Valuation Agreement** means the *Agreement on Implementation of Article VII of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade 1994* in Annex 1A to the WTO Agreement;

(e) **days** means calendar days, including weekends and holidays;

(f) **existing** means in effect on the date of entry into force of this Agreement;

(g) **GATS** means the *General Agreement on Trade in Services* in Annex 1B to the WTO Agreement;

(h) **GATT 1994** means the *General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade 1994* in Annex 1A to the WTO Agreement;

(i) **GPA** means the *Agreement on Government Procurement* in Annex 4 to the WTO Agreement;

(j) **Harmonized System** or **HS** means the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System, including its General Rules of Interpretation, Section Notes, Chapter Notes, and Subheading Notes, as adopted and administered by the World Customs Organization, set out in the Annex to the *International Convention on the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System* done at Brussels on 14 June 1983, as may be amended, adopted and implemented by the Parties in their respective laws;

(k) **IMF** means the International Monetary Fund;

(l) **IMF Articles of Agreement** means the *Articles of Agreement of the International Monetary Fund* adopted at Bretton Woods on 22 July 1944;

(m) **Import Licensing Agreement** means the *Agreement on Import Licensing Procedures* in Annex 1A to the WTO Agreement;

(n) **juridical person** means any entity constituted or organised under applicable law, whether or not for profit, and whether privately-owned or governmentally-owned, including any corporation, trust, partnership, joint venture, sole proprietorship, association, or similar organisation;

(o) **Least Developed Country** means any country designated as such by the United Nations and which has not obtained graduation from the least developed country category;

(p) **Least Developed Country Party** means any Party that is a Least Developed Country;

(q) **measure** means any measure by a Party, whether in the form of a law, regulation, rule, procedure, decision, administrative action, or any other form;

(r) **Party** means any State or separate customs territory for which this Agreement is in force;