2. Each Party shall ensure that all measures of general application to which this Annex applies are administered in a reasonable, objective, and impartial manner.

3. Each Party shall ensure that measures of general application adopted or maintained by a Party are promptly published, or otherwise made publicly available.[5]

4. To the extent practicable, each Party shall:

   (a) publish or make available to interested persons[6] in advance any regulation of general application relating to this Annex that it proposes to adopt, and the purpose of such regulation; and

   (b) provide interested persons and other Parties with a reasonable opportunity to comment on such proposed regulation.

5. To the extent practicable, each Party should allow a reasonable period of time between the date of publication of any final regulation of general application and the date when it enters into effect.

6. Each Party shall take such reasonable measures as may be available to it to ensure that the rules of general application adopted or maintained by a self-regulatory organisation of the Party are promptly published or otherwise made available.[7]

7. Each Party shall maintain or establish appropriate mechanisms for responding to enquiries from interested persons of another Party regarding measures of general application covered by this Annex.

8. A Party's regulatory authority shall make available to interested persons of another Party its requirements, including any documentation required, for completing applications relating to the supply of financial services.

[5] For greater certainty, each Party may publish such information in its chosen language.

[6] For the purposes of this Article, the Parties confirm their shared understanding that "interested persons" are persons whose direct financial interest could potentially be affected by the adoption of the regulations of general application.

[7] For greater certainty, each Party may publish such information in its chosen language.

9. On request of an applicant in writing, a Party's regulatory authority shall inform the applicant of the status of its application. If the authority requires additional information from the applicant, it shall notify the applicant without undue delay.

10. A Party's regulatory authority shall make an administrative decision on a complete application of a financial service supplier of another Party relating to the supply of a financial service within 180 days, and shall notify the applicant of the decision without undue delay. An application shall not be considered complete until all relevant proceedings are conducted and all necessary information is received. Where it is not practicable for such a decision to be made within 180 days, the regulatory authority shall notify the applicant without undue delay and shall endeavour to make the decision within a reasonable period of time thereafter.

11. On request of an unsuccessful applicant in writing, a Party's regulatory authority that has denied an application shall, to the extent practicable, inform the applicant of the reasons for the denial of the application.

Article 8: Financial Services Exceptions

For greater certainty, nothing in this Annex shall be construed to prevent a Party from adopting or enforcing measures necessary to secure compliance with laws or regulations that are not inconsistent with this Annex, including those relating to the prevention of deceptive and fraudulent practices or to deal with the effects of a default on financial services contracts, subject to the requirement that such measures are not applied in a manner which would constitute a means of arbitrary or unjustifiable discrimination between Parties or between Parties and non-Parties where like conditions prevail, or a disguised restriction on investment in financial institutions or trade in financial services.

Article 9: Transfers of Information and Processing of Information

1. The Parties recognise that each Party may have its own regulatory requirements concerning the transfer of information and the processing of information.[8]

[8] For greater certainty, a Party may adopt a different regulatory approach, and this paragraph does not affect and is without prejudice to a Party's rights and obligations under this Article.