Article 10.15: Security Exceptions

Notwithstanding Article 17.13 (Security Exceptions), nothing in this Chapter shall be construed to:

(a) require a Party to furnish or allow access to any information the disclosure of which it determines to be contrary to its essential security interests; or

(b) preclude a Party from applying measures that it considers necessary for:

(i) the fulfilment of its obligations with respect to the maintenance or restoration of international peace or security; or

(ii) the protection of its own essential security interests.

Article 10.16: Promotion of Investment

The Parties shall endeavour to promote and increase awareness of the region as an investment area including through:

(a) encouraging investments among the Parties;

(b) organising joint investment promotion activities between or among Parties;

(c) promoting business matching events;

(d) organising and supporting the organisation of various briefings and seminars on investment opportunities and on investment laws, regulations, and policies; and

(e) conducting information exchanges on other issues of mutual concern relating to investment promotion.

Article 10.17: Facilitation of Investment

1. Subject to its laws and regulations, each Party shall endeavour to facilitate investments among the Parties, including through:

(a) creating the necessary environment for all forms of investment;

(b) simplifying its procedures for investment applications and approvals;

(c) promoting the dissemination of investment information, including investment rules, laws, regulations, policies, and procedures; and

(d) establishing or maintaining contact points, one-stop investment centres, focal points, or other entities in the respective Party to provide assistance and advisory services to investors, including the facilitation of operating licences and permits.

2. Subject to its laws and regulations, a Party's activities under subparagraph 1(d) may include, to the extent possible, assisting investors of any other Party and covered investments to amicably resolve complaints or grievances with government bodies which have arisen during their investment activities by:

(a) receiving and, where appropriate, considering referring or giving due consideration to complaints raised by investors relating to government activities impacting their covered investment; and

(b) providing assistance, to the extent possible, in resolving difficulties experienced by the investors in relation to their covered investments.

3. Subject to its laws and regulations, each Party may, to the extent possible, consider establishing mechanisms to make recommendations to its relevant government bodies addressing recurrent issues affecting investors of another Party.

4. The Parties shall endeavour to facilitate meetings between their respective competent authorities aimed at exchanging knowledge and approaches to better facilitate investment.

5. Nothing in this Article shall be subject to, or otherwise affect, any dispute resolution proceedings under this Agreement.

Article 10.18: Work Programme

1. The Parties shall, without prejudice to their respective positions, enter into discussions on: