protected through the procedures referred to in Article 11.30 (Domestic Administrative Procedures for the Protection of Geographical Indications), that Party shall:

(a) make available to the public information concerning the procedures for protection or recognition of geographical indications, and if applicable, allow at least interested persons to ascertain the status of requests for protection or recognition;

(b) ensure that those geographical indications that are being considered for protection or recognition are published for opposition, provide procedures for at least interested persons to oppose those geographical indications on the ground referred to in paragraph 1 of Article 11.31 (Grounds for Opposition and Cancellation), and apply Article 11.32 (Multi-Component Terms) with respect to those procedures; and

(c) make available to the public details regarding the terms that the Party is considering protecting or recognising through an international agreement involving a Party or a non-Party.

Article 11.35: Protection or Recognition of Geographical Indications under Concluded International Agreements

1. No Party shall be required to apply Article 11.34 (Protection or Recognition of Geographical Indications Pursuant to International Agreements) to geographical indications that have been specifically identified in, and that are protected or recognised pursuant to, an international agreement involving a Party or a non-Party, provided that the agreement was concluded prior to the date of entry into force of this Agreement for that Party.

2. In respect of international agreements referred to in paragraph 1 that permit the protection or recognition of a new geographical indication, a Party shall:[31]

(a) apply subparagraph (c) of Article 11.34 (Protection or Recognition of Geographical Indications Pursuant to International Agreements); and

(b) ensure an opportunity for at least interested persons to comment regarding the protection or recognition of the new geographical indication for a reasonable period of time before such a term is protected or recognised.

SECTION E
PATENTS

Article 11.36: Patentable Subject Matter

1. Subject to paragraphs 2 and 3, patents shall be available for any inventions, whether products or processes, in all fields of technology, provided that they are new, involve an inventive step, and are capable of industrial application[32]. Subject to paragraph 3 and Section M (Transition Periods and Technical Assistance), patents shall be available and patent rights enjoyable without discrimination as to the place of invention, the field of technology, and whether products are imported or locally produced.

2. A Party may exclude from patentability inventions, the prevention within its territory of the commercial exploitation of which is necessary to protect *ordre public* or morality, including to protect human, animal or plant life or health, or to avoid serious prejudice to the environment, provided that such exclusion is not made merely because the exploitation is prohibited by its laws and regulations.

3. A Party may also exclude from patentability:

(a) diagnostic, therapeutic, and surgical methods for the treatment of humans or animals; and

(b) plants and animals other than micro-organisms, and essentially biological processes for the production of plants or animals other than non-biological and microbiological processes. However, each Party shall provide for the

[31] A Party may comply with this paragraph by complying with the obligations under Article 11.30 (Domestic Administrative Procedures for the Protection of Geographical Indications) and Article 11.31 (Grounds for Opposition and Cancellation).

[32] For the purposes of this Section, “inventive step” and “capable of industrial application” may be deemed by a Party to be synonymous with "non-obvious" and "useful", respectively.