administration of such laws and regulations, except for internal operating procedures.

7. Each Party shall make public the grounds for any final decision or order to impose a sanction or remedy under its competition laws and regulations, and any appeal therefrom, subject to:

   (a) (i) its laws and regulations;

   (ii) its need to safeguard confidential information; or

   (iii) its need to safeguard information on grounds of public policy or public interest; and

   (b) redactions from the final decision or order on any of the grounds referred to in subparagraphs (a)(i) through (iii).

8. Each Party shall ensure that before a sanction or remedy is imposed on any person or entity for breaching its competition laws or regulations, such person or entity is given the reasons, which should be in writing where possible, for the allegations that the Party's competition laws or regulations have been breached, and a fair opportunity to be heard and to present evidence.

9. Each Party shall, subject to any redactions necessary to safeguard confidential information, make the grounds for any final decision or order to impose a sanction or remedy under its competition laws and regulations, and any appeal therefrom, available to the person or entity subject to that sanction or remedy.[3]

10. Each Party shall ensure that any person or entity subject to the imposition of a sanction or remedy under its competition laws and regulations has access to an independent review of or appeal against that sanction or remedy.

11. Each Party recognises the importance of timeliness in the handling of competition cases.

[3] This paragraph shall not apply to a jury verdict in a criminal trial.

Article 13.4: Cooperation[4]

The Parties recognise the importance of cooperation between or among their respective competition authorities to promote effective competition law enforcement. To this end, the Parties may cooperate on issues relating to competition law enforcement, through their respective competition authorities, in a manner compatible with their respective laws, regulations, and important interests, and within their respective available resources. The form of such cooperation may include:

(a) notification by a Party to another Party of its competition law enforcement activities that it considers may substantially affect the important interests of the other Party, as promptly as reasonably possible;[5]

(b) upon request, discussion between or among Parties to address any matter relating to competition law enforcement that substantially affects the important interest of the requesting Party;

(c) upon request, exchange of information between or among Parties to foster understanding or to facilitate effective competition law enforcement; and

[4] This Article is subject to:

(a) Annex 13A (Application of Article 13.3 (Appropriate Measures against Anti-Competitive Activities) and Article 13.4 (Cooperation) to Brunei Darussalam);

(b) Annex 13B (Application of Article 13.3 (Appropriate Measures against Anti-Competitive Activities) and Article 13.4 (Cooperation) to Cambodia);

(c) Annex 13C (Application of Article 13.3 (Appropriate Measures against Anti-Competitive Activities) and Article 13.4 (Cooperation) to Lao PDR); and

(d) Annex 13D (Application of Article 13.3 (Appropriate Measures against Anti-Competitive Activities) and Article 13.4 (Cooperation) to Myanmar).

[5] In the case of notification to the competition authority of Japan pursuant to this subparagraph, the notification should be confirmed in writing through the diplomatic channel. Such confirmation should be made as promptly as possible after the communication concerned among the competition authorities of the Parties concerned.