in this Agreement and the needs identified by committees established pursuant to Chapter 18 (Institutional Provisions).

2. To encourage effective implementation and utilisation of this Agreement, in the work programme the Parties will give priority to activities that:

   (a) provide capacity building and technical assistance to developing country Parties and Least Developed Country Parties;

   (b) increase public awareness;

   (c) enhance access to information for businesses; and

   (d) other activities as may be agreed upon among the Parties.

3. The Parties may, when necessary and as may be agreed, modify the work programme.

Article 15.6: Least Developed Country Parties which are Member States of ASEAN

The Parties shall take into consideration specific constraints faced by Least Developed Country Parties which are Member States of ASEAN. Appropriate capacity building and technical assistance, as agreed upon by the Party or Parties contributing such assistance and the Party or Parties seeking such assistance, shall be provided to help these Parties implement their obligations and take advantage of the benefits of this Agreement.

Article 15.7: Non-Application of Dispute Settlement

Dispute settlement mechanisms in this Agreement shall not apply to any matter arising under this Chapter.

CHAPTER 16

GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT

Article 16.1: Objectives

The Parties recognise the importance of promoting the transparency of laws, regulations, and procedures, and developing cooperation among the Parties, regarding government procurement.

Article 16.2: Scope

1. This Chapter shall apply to the laws, regulations, and procedures of a Party regarding government procurement implemented by its central government entities, as defined or notified by that Party for the purposes of this Chapter.

2. Nothing in this Chapter shall require a Least Developed Country Party to undertake any obligation regarding transparency and cooperation. A Least Developed Country Party may benefit from cooperation among the Parties.

Article 16.3: Principles

The Parties recognise the role of government procurement in furthering the economic integration of the region so as to promote growth and employment. Where government procurement is expressly open to international competition, each Party, to the extent possible and as appropriate, shall conduct its government procurement in accordance with generally accepted government procurement principles as applied by that Party.

Article 16.4: Transparency

1. Each Party shall:

   (a) make publicly available its laws and regulations; and

   (b) endeavour to make publicly available its procedures,

   regarding government procurement, which may include information on where tender opportunities are published.