6. The prompt settlement of disputes in which a Party considers that any benefits accruing to it directly or indirectly under this Agreement is being impaired by measures taken by another Party is essential to the effective functioning of this Agreement and the maintenance of a proper balance between the rights and obligations of the Parties.

Article 19.5: Choice of Forum

1. Where a dispute concerns substantially equivalent rights and obligations under this Agreement and another international trade or investment agreement to which the Parties to the dispute are party, the Complaining Party may select the forum in which to settle the dispute and that forum shall be used to the exclusion of other fora.

2. For the purposes of this Article, the Complaining Party shall be deemed to have selected the forum in which to settle the dispute when it has requested the establishment of a panel pursuant to paragraph 1 of Article 19.8 (Request for Establishment of a Panel) or requested the establishment of, or referred a matter to, a dispute settlement panel or tribunal under another international trade or investment agreement.

3. This Article shall not apply where the Parties to the dispute agree in writing that this Article shall not apply to a particular dispute.

Article 19.6: Consultations

1. Any Party may request consultations with any other Party with respect to any matter described in paragraph 1 of Article 19.3 (Scope). A Responding Party shall accord due consideration to a request for consultations made by a Complaining Party and shall accord adequate opportunity for such consultations.

2. Any request for consultations made pursuant to paragraph 1 shall give the reasons for the request, including identification of the measures at issue and an indication of the factual and legal basis for the complaint.

3. The Complaining Party shall simultaneously provide a copy of the request for consultations made pursuant to paragraph 1 to the other Parties.

4. The Responding Party shall immediately acknowledge its receipt of the request for consultations made pursuant to paragraph 1, by way of notification to the Complaining Party, indicating the date on which the request was received, otherwise the date when the request was made shall be deemed to be the date of the Responding Party's receipt of the request. The Responding Party shall simultaneously provide a copy of the notification to the other Parties.

5. The Responding Party shall:

   (a) reply to the request for consultations made pursuant to paragraph 1 no later than seven days after the date of its receipt of the request; and

   (b) simultaneously provide a copy of the reply to the other Parties.

6. The Responding Party shall enter into consultations no later than:

   (a) 15 days after the date of its receipt of the request for consultations made pursuant to paragraph 1 in cases of urgency including those which concern perishable goods; or

   (b) 30 days after the date of its receipt of the request for consultations made pursuant to paragraph 1 regarding any other matter.

7. The Parties to the dispute shall engage in consultations in good faith and make every effort to reach a mutually agreed solution through consultations. To this end, the Parties to the dispute shall:

   (a) provide sufficient information in the course of consultations to enable a full examination of the matter, including how the measures at issue might affect the implementation or application of this Agreement;

   (b) treat any confidential or proprietary information exchanged in the course of consultations on the same basis as the Party providing the information; and

   (c) endeavour to make available for the consultations personnel of their government agencies or other regulatory