Article 19.9: Procedures for Multiple Complainants

1. Where more than one Party requests the establishment or reconvening of a panel relating to the same matter, a single panel should be established or reconvened to examine the complaints relating to that matter whenever feasible.

2. The single panel shall organise its examination and present its findings and determinations to the Parties to the disputes in such a manner that the rights which the Parties to the disputes would have enjoyed had separate panels examined the complaints are in no way impaired.

3. If more than one panel is established or reconvened to examine the complaints relating to the same matter, the Parties to the disputes shall endeavour to ensure that the same individuals serve as panellists on each of the separate panels. The panels shall consult with each other and the Parties to the disputes to ensure, to the greatest extent possible, that the timetables for the panels' processes are harmonised.

Article 19.10: Third Parties

1. The interests of the Parties to the dispute and those of other Parties shall be fully taken into account during the panel process.

2. Any Party having a substantial interest in a matter before a panel may notify the Parties to the dispute of its interest no later than 10 days after the date of the request made pursuant to:

   (a) paragraph 1 of Article 19.8 (Request for Establishment of a Panel); or

   (b) paragraph 1 of Article 19.16 (Compliance Review); or

   (c) paragraph 13 of Article 19.17 (Compensation and Suspension of Concessions or Other Obligations).

   The notifying Party shall simultaneously provide a copy of the notification to the other Parties.

3. Any Party notifying its substantial interest pursuant to paragraph 2 shall have the rights and obligations of a Third Party.

4. Subject to the protection of confidential information, each Party to the dispute shall make available to each Third Party its written submissions, written versions of its oral statements, and its written responses to questions, made prior to the issuance of the interim report, at the time such submissions, statements, and responses are submitted to the panel.

5. A Third Party shall have the right to:

   (a) subject to the protection of confidential information, be present at the first and second hearings of the panel with the Parties to the dispute prior to the issuance of the interim report;

   (b) make at least one written submission prior to the first hearing;

   (c) make an oral statement to the panel and respond to questions from the panel during a session of the first hearing set aside for that purpose; and

   (d) respond in writing to any questions from the panel directed to the Third Parties.

6. If a Third Party provides any submissions or other documents to the panel, it shall simultaneously provide them to the Parties to the dispute and the other Third Parties.

7. A panel may, with the agreement of the Parties to the dispute, grant additional or supplemental rights to any Third Party regarding its participation in panel proceedings.

Article 19.11: Establishment and Reconvening of a Panel

1. Where a request for the establishment of a panel is made pursuant to paragraph 1 of Article 19.8 (Request for Establishment of a Panel), a panel shall be established in accordance with this Article.

2. Unless the Parties to the dispute agree otherwise, the panel shall consist of three panellists. All appointments and nominations of panellists under this Article shall conform with the requirements referred to in paragraphs 10 and 13.