(b) documents that provide sufficient details about such a possible new law or regulation to allow interested persons and other Members to assess whether and how their interests might be significantly affected.

15. To the extent practicable and in a manner consistent with its legal system for adopting measures, each Member is encouraged to apply paragraph 14 of this Section to procedures and administrative rulings of general application it proposes to adopt in relation to matters falling within the scope of paragraph 1 of this Section.

16. To the extent practicable and in a manner consistent with its legal system for adopting measures, each Member shall provide interested persons and other Members a reasonable opportunity to comment on such proposed measures or documents published under paragraphs 14 or 15 of this Section.

17. To the extent practicable and in a manner consistent with its legal system for adopting measures, each Member shall consider comments received under paragraph 16 of this Section.[12]

18. In publishing a law or regulation referred to in paragraph 14 (a) of this Section, or in advance of such publication, to the extent practicable and in a manner consistent with its legal system for adopting measures, a Member is encouraged to explain the purpose and rationale of the law or regulation.

19. Each Member shall, to the extent practicable, endeavour to allow reasonable time between publication of the text of a law or regulation referred to in paragraph 14 (a) of this Section and the date on which service suppliers must comply with the law or regulation.

Enquiry Points

20. Each Member shall maintain or establish appropriate mechanisms for responding to enquiries from service suppliers or persons seeking to supply a service regarding the measures referred to in paragraph 1 of this Section.[13] A Member may choose to address such enquiries through either the enquiry and contact points established under Articles III and IV of the Agreement or any other mechanisms as appropriate.

Technical Standards

21. Each Member shall encourage its competent authorities, when adopting technical standards, to adopt technical standards developed through open and transparent processes, and shall encourage any body, including relevant international organizations,[14] designated to develop technical standards to use open and transparent processes.

Development of Measures

22. If a Member adopts or maintains measures relating to the authorization for the supply of a service, the Member shall ensure that:

(a) such measures are based on objective and transparent criteria;[15]

(b) the procedures are impartial, and that the procedures are adequate for applicants to demonstrate whether they meet the requirements, if such requirements exist;

[12] This provision is without prejudice to the final decision of a Member that adopts or maintains any measure for authorization for the supply of a service.

[13] It is understood that resource constraints may be a factor in determining whether a mechanism for responding to enquiries is appropriate.

[14] The term "relevant international organizations" refers to international bodies whose membership is open to the relevant bodies of at least all Members of the WTO.

[15] Such criteria may include, *inter alia*, competence and the ability to supply a service, including to do so in a manner consistent with a Member's regulatory requirements, such as health and environmental requirements. Competent authorities may assess the weight to be given to each criterion.

(c) the procedures do not in themselves unjustifiably prevent the fulfilment of requirements; and

(d) such measures do not discriminate between men and women.[16]

[16] Differential treatment that is reasonable and objective, and aims to achieve a legitimate purpose, and adoption by Members of temporary special measures aimed at accelerating de facto equality between men and women, shall not be considered discrimination for the purposes of this provision.