

12. Before the panel seeks information or technical advice under paragraph 11, it shall:
- (a) notify the Parties of its intention to seek information or technical advice and provide them with an adequate period of time to submit comments; and
  - (b) provide the Parties with a copy of information or technical advice received and provide them with an adequate period of time to submit comments.
13. If the panel takes into consideration the information or technical advice received under paragraph 11 for the preparation of its report, it shall also take into consideration comments or observations submitted by the Parties with respect to that information or technical advice.

*Operation of Panels*

14. The chair shall preside at all of the panel's meetings.
15. The panel may conduct its business by any appropriate means, including by telephone, facsimile transmission and video or computer links.
16. Only panellists may take part in the deliberations of the panel. The panel, in consultation with the Parties, may employ assistants, interpreters or translators, or stenographers to the extent they may be required for the proceeding, and may permit them to be present during the deliberations. The members of the panel and the persons employed by the panel shall maintain the confidentiality of the panel's deliberations and information that is protected under Article 17.10(g).
17. A panel, in consultation with the Parties, may modify a time period applicable in the panel proceedings and make other procedural or administrative adjustments required in the proceeding.

*Hearings*

18. The chair shall fix the date and time of the initial hearing and any subsequent hearing in consultation with the Parties and the panellists, and then notify the Parties in writing of those dates and times.
19. Unless the Parties decide otherwise, the location of hearings shall alternate between the territories of the Parties, with the first hearing to take place in the territory of the Party complained against.
20. No later than 5 days before the date of a hearing, each Party shall deliver to the other Party and the panel a list of the names of the persons who will be present at the hearing on behalf of that Party, as well as a list of the other representatives or advisers who will be attending the hearing.
21. Each hearing shall be conducted by the panel in a manner that ensures that the complaining Party and the Party complained against are afforded equal time for arguments, replies and counter-replies.