

FURTHER NOTING the existence of differences in their respective socio-economic conditions and legal systems;

ACKNOWLEDGING the importance of transparency and public participation in the development of environmental law and policies;

AFFIRMING that it is inappropriate to relax environmental law in order to encourage trade and investment;

RECOGNIZING that enhanced cooperation between the Parties brings benefits which can help strengthen the environmental management systems of the Parties; and

EXPRESSING their shared desire to support and build on international environmental agreements through cooperation between the Parties,

HAVE AGREED as follows: