

**PART THREE****PROCEDURES FOR REVIEW OF OBLIGATIONS****ARTICLE 12: Ministerial Consultations**

1. Following the conclusion of General Consultations, a Party may request in writing consultations with the other Party at the ministerial level regarding any obligation under this Agreement. The Party that is the object of the request shall respond within 60 days of receiving the request, or within such other period as the Parties may decide.
2. To facilitate discussion of the matters under consideration:
  - (a) each Party shall provide the other with sufficient information in its possession to allow a full examination of the matters raised, subject to any domestic legislation regarding confidential personal and commercial information; and
  - (b) either Party may call upon one or more independent experts to prepare a report. The Parties shall make every effort to decide upon the selection of the expert or experts and shall cooperate with the expert or experts in the preparation of the report. Any report shall be made public within 60 days of its receipt by the Parties.
3. The Parties shall make every effort to reach a mutually satisfactory resolution of the matter subject of the consultation, and may resolve it by developing a plan of cooperative activities or other appropriate measures related to issues raised through the consultations. Such plan shall provide that it be implemented within 90 days of the conclusion of the Ministerial Consultations, or within such other period as the Parties may decide.
4. Ministerial consultations shall be concluded no later than 180 days after the request unless the Parties decide on another date.