

I. BILATERAL OPTIONS

A. Facilitation of the Access to Each Country's Market for Products and Services of Comparative Advantage

Overview

Both sides shared the view that improved market access in each country for goods and services is a vital element of the special partnership between the two countries.

Both sides agreed that this Working Group will contribute to this end by approaching market access issues in a systemic and comprehensive way. While both governments are making continuous efforts to achieve progress in the pending market access issues, the Working Group concentrated its attention on building an institutional mechanism under which the underlying causes of individual conflicts will be addressed in a systemic manner.

In this context, the Working Group agreed that both governments should approach market access issues through certain guiding principles, including but not limited to:

- fair and non-discriminatory treatment toward products and services of the other country vis-a-vis those of third countries, except for treatment that is granted to third countries in application of customs union agreements and free trade agreements;
- transparency in import-related procedures and administration; and
- predictability and consistency to be provided to the maximum extent possible in import-related procedures and administration.

Throughout the activities of the Working Group, a number of specific pending issues were identified by each side, including tariff treatment,