

PART TWO
INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISMS

Article 7: Ministerial Council

1. The Parties hereby establish a Ministerial Council composed of Ministers responsible for labour affairs of the Parties, or their designees, to discuss matters of common interest, to oversee the implementation of this Agreement, including cooperative activities under Article 9 (Cooperative Activities), and to review progress under this Agreement. The Council shall promote transparency and public participation in its work.

2. The Council may consider any matter within the scope of this Agreement and take such other action in the exercise of its functions as the Parties may jointly decide, including:

- (a) working through the National Points of Contact to coordinate cooperative programs and activities; and
- (b) establishing, and assigning responsibilities to committees, working groups or expert groups.

3. The Council shall meet within the first year after the date of entry into force of this Agreement and thereafter as often as it considers necessary. The Council may hold joint meetings with councils established under similar agreements. Unless the Parties otherwise decide, each meeting of the Council shall include a session at which members of the Council have an opportunity to meet with the public to discuss matters relating to the implementation of this Agreement.

4. The Council shall review the operation and effectiveness of this Agreement, including the degree to which progress has been made in implementing the objectives of this Agreement, within five years after the date of entry into force of this Agreement and thereafter within such other period as may be directed by the Council. Unless the Council otherwise directs:

- (a) this review shall include a literature review, the views of the national labour advisory or consultative committees or groups referred to in Article 8 (National Mechanisms) and a summary report prepared by the National Points of Contact; and
- (b) this review shall be concluded within 180 days of its commencement, and within 30 days thereafter the report shall be made public and background materials made available to the public upon request, subject to domestic law regarding confidentiality of personal and commercial information.