

10. The Parties to the dispute may agree in writing for the purposes of a specific dispute under this Article to follow different procedures than those set out in this Article for the purpose of expediting, enhancing, or facilitating resolution of the specific dispute.

11. Where Parties have separately requested consultations under Article 16.1, the Parties to the different disputes may agree to join consultations together as a single matter under dispute.

12. For purposes of this Article, "Parties to the dispute" means the Party requesting consultations and the Party to whom the request is addressed.

13. All requests, notifications, or other communications required by this Article shall be delivered to contact points notified under Article 15.1(b) for the Parties, and to the depositary for the Council.

14. Nothing in this Article shall be interpreted as implying any change in the rights and obligations of a Party under the WTO Agreement, including the dispute settlement provisions of that Agreement.

15. Articles 16.5 through 16.9 shall not apply to matters arising under Articles 3, 4, or 5.4 of this Agreement, or to any other matters for which a finding or recommendation requires an examination of the consistency of any measure of a Party or its application with the WTO Agreement.

16. Each Party shall endeavour, in good faith, to ensure that all reasonably available administrative remedies and procedures of a Party have been pursued prior to requesting consultations under Article 16.1.

17. Each Party to a dispute shall bear its own costs and expenses incurred in relation to the dispute.

## **Article 17**

### **Amendment**

1. Any Party may propose an amendment to this Agreement by submitting the text of the proposed amendment to the depositary. The depositary shall within 30 days of receiving the proposed amendment communicate it to all Parties for their consideration.

2. The Council shall consider any proposed amendment at the first Council meeting held after all of the Parties have received it. The Council may decide to adopt or reject the proposed amendment no earlier than 90 days after its communication to all Parties.

3. Amendments shall be subject to acceptance by the Parties. Instruments of acceptance in respect of an amendment shall be deposited with the depositary. An amendment shall enter into force on the 30th day following the receipt by the depositary of the instruments of acceptance from all Parties, or as otherwise decided by the Council. Each State that accedes to this Agreement after the entry into force of any amendment shall become a Party to the Agreement as amended.