

PART TWO

INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISMS

ARTICLE 7: Ministerial Council

1. The Parties hereby establish a Ministerial Council comprised of Ministers responsible for labour affairs of the Parties or their designees.
2. 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 to discuss matters of common interest, to oversee the implementation of the Agreement and review progress under it. The Council may hold joint meetings with Councils established under similar agreements.
3. Unless the Parties otherwise jointly 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 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) establishing, and assigning responsibilities to, committees, working groups or expert groups; and
 - (b) seeking the advice of independent experts.
5. 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 the Agreement, within five years after the date of entry into force of the Agreement and thereafter within such other period as may be directed by the Council. Unless the Council directs otherwise, such review:
 - (a) shall be conducted by one or more independent experts. The Parties shall make every effort to decide upon selection of the expert or experts and shall cooperate with the expert or experts in the preparation of the report;