

- (c) labour market conditions such as employment rates, average wages and labour productivity; and
  - (d) human resource development issues such as training and adjustment programs.
2. The Council may periodically engage independent experts of recognized experience to prepare studies on any other matter. Any such study shall be prepared in accordance with terms of reference established by the Council.
  3. The Council may periodically request that the National Secretariats prepare joint reports referred to in paragraph 1 or studies referred to in paragraph 2. In making such a request, the Council shall take into account the availability of resources and expertise in the National Secretariats. In responding to such a request, either National Secretariat may engage independent experts in the preparation of such reports or studies.
  4. The independent experts engaged pursuant to paragraph 1 or 2 shall submit a draft of any report or study to the Council. The National Secretariats shall submit to the Council a draft of any report or study referred to in paragraph 3. If the Council considers that a report or study is materially inaccurate or otherwise deficient, the Council may remand it to the independent experts or the National Secretariats for reconsideration or other disposition.
  5. Such reports and studies shall be made public 45 days after their approval by the Council, unless the Council otherwise decides.
  6. When the Council requests the preparation of background reports or studies, it shall also decide on the funding involved in the preparation and publication of such reports or studies, as appropriate.

## **Section B: The National Secretariats**

### **Article 13: National Secretariat**

1. Each Party shall establish a National Secretariat at the national government level and notify the other Party of its location.
2. Each Party shall designate an Executive Secretary for its National Secretariat, who shall be responsible for its administration and management.
3. Each Party shall be responsible for the operation and costs of its National Secretariat.

### **Article 14: National Secretariat Functions**

1. Each National Secretariat shall serve as a point of contact with:
  - (a) governmental agencies of the Party in whose territory the National Secretariat is located; and
  - (b) the National Secretariat of the other Party.