

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.
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 the 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 the Agreement and thereafter within such other period as may be directed by the Council. The Council may call upon one or more independent experts to conduct the review and shall cooperate with the expert or experts in the preparation of the report. Unless the Council directs otherwise, such review:
 - (a) shall include a literature review, information provided by the Parties and consultation with members of the public, including representatives of labour and business organizations;
 - (b) may make recommendations for the future; and,