



If consultations fail to resolve a conflict, a meeting of the Commission may be called, with all three nations present. Again, the emphasis is on reaching a settlement, and the NAFTA directs the Commission to consider using good offices, mediation, conciliation (article 2007), or other means of alternative dispute resolution to this end. For example, Canada could call for a meeting of regulatory experts in the United States on areas like meat inspection or health requirements for potatoes. If the Commission is unable to resolve a dispute, the next available option is to call for the creation of an arbitral panel.

NAFTA members can request a binding arbitration panel (article 2008). Arbitral panels will typically be charged with determining whether or not the action taken by the defending