

## **Section A: Cooperative Consultations**

### **Article 19: Consultations between National Secretariats**

1. A National Secretariat may request consultations, to be conducted in accordance with the procedures set out in paragraph 2, with the other National Secretariat in relation to the other Party's labour law, its administration, or labour market conditions in its territory.

2. In such consultations, the requested National Secretariat shall promptly provide such publicly available data or information, including:

- (a) descriptions of its laws, regulations, procedures, policies or practices,
- (b) proposed changes to such procedures, policies or practices, and
- (c) such clarifications and explanations related to such matters,

as may assist the National Secretariats to understand better and respond to the issues raised.

### **Article 20: Ministerial Consultations**

1. Either Party may request in writing consultations with the other Party at the ministerial level regarding any matter within the scope of this Agreement. The requesting Party shall provide specific and sufficient information to allow the requested Party to respond.

2. In such consultations, the Parties shall make every attempt to resolve the matter, including through the exchange of sufficient publicly available information to enable a full examination of the matter.

## **Section B: Evaluations**

### **Article 21: Evaluation Committee of Experts**

1. If a matter has not been resolved after ministerial consultations pursuant to Article 20, either Party may request in writing the establishment of an Evaluation Committee of Experts (ECE). The requesting Party shall deliver the request to the other Party. Subject to paragraphs 3 and 4, the Council shall establish an ECE on delivery of the request.

2. The ECE shall analyze, in the light of the objectives of this Agreement and in a non-adversarial manner, patterns of practice of both Parties in the enforcement of their occupational safety and health or other technical labour standards as they apply to the particular matter considered by the Parties under Article 20.

3. No ECE may be convened if a Party obtains a ruling under Annex 21 that the matter:

- (a) is not trade-related; or
- (b) is not covered by mutually recognized labour laws.