

- (b) providing assistance in consultations under Article G-14 of the CCFTA where a Party considers that the other Party is waiving or derogating from, or offering to waive or otherwise derogate from, an environmental measure as an encouragement to establish, acquire, expand or retain an investment of an investor, with a view to avoiding any such encouragement;
- (c) contributing to the prevention or resolution of environment-related trade disputes by:
  - (i) seeking to avoid disputes between the Parties,
  - (ii) making recommendations to the Free Trade Commission with respect to the avoidance of such disputes, and
  - (iii) identifying experts able to provide information or technical advice to CCFTA committees, working groups and other CCFTA bodies;
- (d) considering on an ongoing basis the environmental effects of the CCFTA; and
- (e) otherwise assisting the Free Trade Commission in environment-related matters.

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

### **Article 11: National Secretariat**

1. Each Party shall establish a National Secretariat 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. The National Secretariats shall provide technical, administrative and operational support to the Council and to committees and groups established by the Council, and such other support as the Council may direct.
4. The National Secretariats shall jointly submit for the approval of the Council the annual program of work and budget of the Commission, including provisions for proposed cooperative activities and for the National Secretariats to respond to contingencies. The annual program of work shall identify how its implementation shall be financed and clearly define how it shall be implemented, including identification of institutions, agencies, individuals, and/or cooperative arrangements whereby it shall be implemented. In developing the annual program of work, the National Secretariats shall consider issues arising from factual records previously prepared, or under preparation, by the Commission.
5. The National Secretariats shall, as appropriate, provide the public information on where they may receive technical advice and expertise with respect to environmental matters.
6. The National Secretariats and the Joint Submission Committee shall safeguard:
  - (a) from disclosure information they receive that could identify a non-governmental organization or person making a submission if the person or organization so requests or the National Secretariats or the Joint Submission Committee otherwise consider it appropriate; and