

## **CHAPTER EIGHTEEN COOPERATION**

### **Article 18.1: Scope and Objectives**

1. The Parties agree to strengthen mutual cooperation that contributes to the implementation and better use of this Agreement, in order to optimize its results, expand opportunities, and maximize the benefits for the Parties, according to their national strategies and policy goals.
2. The Parties shall cooperate with the objective of identifying and employing the most effective methods and means for the implementation of this Chapter. To this end, the Parties shall endeavor to generate synergies with other forms of bilateral cooperation.
3. The Parties agree that the economic and technical cooperation in this agreement aims at narrowing development gaps among the Parties and maximizing mutual benefits from the implementation and utilization of this Agreement. The economic and technical cooperation shall take into account the different levels of development and national capacity of each Party.
4. To achieve these objectives, the Parties agree to pay particular attention to cooperation initiatives aimed at, *inter alia*:
  - (a) stimulating productive synergies, creating new opportunities for trade and investment, and promoting competitiveness and innovation;
  - (b) promoting the development of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises and social and solidarity economies (hereinafter MSMEs and SSEs) with the aim of strengthening their productive capabilities to benefit from the opportunities created by this Agreement;
  - (c) strengthening the capacities of the Parties for implementation and better use of this Agreement; and
  - (d) meeting the needs of cooperation that have been identified in other Chapters of this Agreement.
5. Cooperation between the Parties under this Chapter will supplement the cooperation and cooperative activities between the Parties set out in other Chapters of this Agreement and in other bilateral cooperation mechanisms.

6. Cooperation activities shall be established both at the national and local level, complementing one another so as to support the general and specific objectives set out in this Agreement.

## **Article 18.2: Areas of Cooperation**

1. The Parties agree to promote the use of instruments and mechanisms of cooperation through mutually advantageous conditions, including but not limited to the following areas:

- (a) agriculture and agroindustry;
- (b) fisheries and aquaculture;
- (c) forestry;
- (d) energy and mineral resources;
- (e) manufacturing industry;
- (f) information and communications technology;
- (g) science, technology and innovation;
- (h) healthcare industry;
- (i) micro, small and medium-sized enterprise and social and solidarity economies;
- (j) improvement of the business environment;
- (k) maritime;
- (l) culture;
- (m) tourism; and
- (n) other sectors of cooperation as may be agreed by the Parties.

2. The Parties shall endeavor to develop, promote and strengthen cooperation in the areas described in paragraph 1.

### **Article 18.3: Forms of Cooperation**

The forms of cooperation may include, but are not limited to:

- (a) technical assistance;
- (b) exchanges of relevant information;
- (c) capacity building, including training of human resources;
- (d) design and strengthening of institutions;
- (e) exchanges of persons engaging in scientific or educational activities, such as scholarships, academic exchanges, etc.;
- (f) seminars and workshops;
- (g) formulation of sectoral master plan;
- (h) formulation of development strategy;
- (i) sharing of best practices;
- (j) joint research and development projects;
- (k) joint trade and investment promotion activities;
- (l) technology transfer in the areas of mutual interest; and
- (m) other forms of cooperation as may be agreed by the Parties.

### **Article 18.4: Implementation, Committee and Contact Points**

1. The Parties grant particular importance to the implementation and follow-up of cooperation activities that are implemented in order to contribute to an optimal execution and better use of the benefits of this Agreement.

2. For the implementation of this Chapter, and follow-up of cooperation activities, a Committee on Cooperation (hereinafter referred to as “Committee”) will be established. The Committee shall comprise representatives of the ministries of trade and any other competent ministries of both Parties according to the annexes of this Chapter.

3. The Committee shall meet every year in principle, or as otherwise agreed by the Parties. The date, location, and agenda of each meeting shall be jointly decided through consultations between the contact points.

4. The functions of the Committee shall include, but are not limited to, the following:

- (a) monitoring and assessing the progress in the implementation of trade related cooperation initiatives set out in this Chapter and in other Chapters of this Agreement;
- (b) making recommendations on the cooperation modalities and activities under this Chapter, in accordance with the strategic priorities of the Parties;
- (c) coordinating between the relevant authorities, including but not limited to the national cooperation agencies, research institutes, and universities of each Party in order to foster closer cooperation in thematic areas;
- (d) receiving, channeling and reviewing project proposals, the status of projects and overall implementation of this Chapter periodically; and
- (e) any other issues related to this Chapter as determined by the Joint Committee.

5. The Parties will designate contact points to facilitate communication on possible cooperative activities:

- (a) for Ecuador, the Ministry of Production, Trade, Investment and Fisheries, or its successor; and
- (b) for Korea, the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy, or its successor.

#### **Article 18.5: Resources**

1. The Parties shall cooperate to employ the most effective means for the implementation of this Chapter.

2. The Parties shall endeavor to make available necessary financial and other resources for the implementation of economic cooperation under this Chapter in accordance with their respective domestic laws and regulations.

3. Funding for economic cooperation under this Chapter shall be borne according to mutual agreement, taking into account national capacity of each Party.
4. The Committee shall consider the provision of resources for the specific co-operative activities that it identifies.

#### **Article 18.6: Dispute Settlement**

Neither Party shall have recourse to Chapter Twenty (Dispute Settlement) for any matter arising under this Chapter.

**Annex 18-A**  
**Agricultural and Agroindustry Cooperation**

The Parties shall endeavor to promote cooperation among public, private and academic sectors in the field of agriculture. To this end, the Parties shall, among others:

- (a) promote the creation of partnerships for projects in areas of mutual interest, such as:
  - (i) agricultural industries, including livestock production and processing industries, cropping, horticulture, irrigated agriculture and natural fibre production;
  - (ii) agricultural reforms and policies;
  - (iii) rural development;
  - (iv) peri-urban and urban agriculture;
  - (v) environmental and natural resource economics and management; and
  - (vi) sustainable and conservation farming techniques;
- (b) promote capacity building and technical assistance for the development of innovative products and services;
- (c) encourage study visits to farms and related production centers; and
- (d) promote the exchange of information on trade in agricultural goods between the Parties.

**Annex 18-B**  
**Fisheries and Aquaculture Cooperation**

1. The Parties, recognizing the social and economic importance of fish and fishery products, shall endeavor to cooperate in the field of fisheries and aquaculture.
2. The objectives of cooperation in fisheries are to:
  - (a) strengthen the research and productive capacities for the development of seedstock and processing of hydro-biological fisheries and aquacultural species, with the aim of increasing direct human consumption;
  - (b) facilitate information exchange and the conservation of natural resources under the approach of responsible fishing; and
  - (c) support and develop mechanisms of control of quality, security and hygiene for fishery and aquaculture products on the basis of the principles of equality and mutual benefits.
3. The Parties will develop fisheries and aquaculture through:
  - (a) strengthening public and private institutions related to fisheries and aquaculture development and promoting investment in those sectors;
  - (b) promoting research and development of new products for direct human consumption, as well as the consumption of major aquatic fisheries and aquaculture resources to support food security programs;
  - (c) combating illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing;
  - (d) promoting the training of national officials and members of the fishery community of the Parties, through their participation in jointly organized courses, visits, seminars, and workshops;
  - (e) building partnerships and exchange between research institutes of the Parties; and

- (f) promoting the sustainable and optimal utilization of fish resources of the Parties in compliance with laws and regulations of a Party, through a fisheries cooperation arrangement<sup>1</sup>.

---

<sup>1</sup> The fisheries cooperation arrangement may include, among others, the cooperation between the Parties regarding trade facilitation and enhancement of research of the Parties in the fields of fish resources, hydro-biological species, and aquaculture.



## **Annex 18-C**

### **Forestry Cooperation**

1. The Parties shall endeavor to promote and strengthen cooperation in the field of forestry.

2. The Parties will encourage and facilitate cooperation in, as appropriate, including but not limited to, the following:

- (a) implementation of sustainable forest management including the development of related indicators;
- (b) exchange of best practices and expertise on forest carbon stocks in developing countries (e.g REDD+);
- (c) technical assistance for obtaining of certifications recognized in the international markets (especially for small producers and communities);
- (d) development of eco-forestry technology and conservation of forest ecosystems;
- (e) processing of, supply of, and trade in forest value chain products;
- (f) joint measures to mitigate the adverse effects of climate change;
- (g) forest protection, including the prevention and control of forest fires, diseases, insect pests and actions to reduce illegal trade;
- (h) sustainable and effective participatory forest planning focused on forestry ecology, soils, and geographic dynamics of these resources;
- (i) forest restoration through reforestation with the aim of conservation;
- (j) investment projects in forest plantations and wood processing industries;
- (k) research and development, education, and training;
- (l) forestry control mechanisms, including through independent supervisory institutions, in accordance with the legal framework of each Party;

- (m) technologies and techniques for forests monitoring and assessment;
- (n) exchange of experiences related to sustainable forest management, considering the different forest ecosystems existing in each country; and
- (o) any other areas as agreed by the Parties.

**Annex 18-D**  
**Energy and Mineral Resources Cooperation**

1. The Parties shall promote cooperation under this Chapter as a means of building a stronger, more stable, and mutually beneficial partnership, recognizing the importance of energy and mineral resources to achieve a sustainable development.
2. The Parties agree that their joint objective shall foster cooperation in the field of sustainable, clean and renewable energy sources, energy efficiency and energy saving programs and projects.
3. The Parties agree to take into account their respective legislations and internal procedures as well as aspects of sustainable development which include environmental protection and conservation.
4. Considering the above mentioned, areas of energy and mineral resources cooperation may include, but are not limited to the following:
  - (a) joint programs and financing or clean energy-related areas such as photovoltaic, wind, hydrogen, and biomass energy;
  - (b) design and development of mechanisms that allow an efficient use and administration of the territories of the Parties related to energy and mineral resources;
  - (c) exchange of mining technology for remediation of mining-related environmental liabilities;
  - (d) promotion of energy generating emissions standards, energy efficiency, renewable energy initiatives, market and non-market mechanism under the Paris Agreement in accordance with national legislation;
  - (e) construction of energy infrastructure with low environmental impact;
  - (f) activities for encouraging and supporting business opportunities and investment in the field of energy and mineral resources;
  - (g) enhanced academic and scientific exchanges relating to the exploration, extraction, processing, transportation and use of

energy and mineral resources, including energy efficiency measures;

(h) visits and exchanges between the Parties, such as by relevant experts, technicians and leaders in the public, academic and private sectors; and

(i) any other areas as may be agreed by the Parties.

5. The Parties shall facilitate the exchange of information relevant to energy and mineral resources according to its respective national legislation. This exchange of information may include:

(a) geological data or information;

(b) investment opportunities such as tenders, and mining projects;

(c) relevant laws, regulations and policies;

(d) mine reclamation technology, infrastructure development and environmental issues that could arise between the developers and the local people in the process of energy and mineral resources development; and

(e) any other relevant information as agreed by the Parties.

6. Each Party shall ensure that its laws and regulations regarding energy and mineral resources are published or otherwise made publicly available in accordance with the Article 19.2 (Notification and Provision of Information).

7. In the event of a severe and sustained disruption to supply of a major energy and mineral resource, the Parties, on a request of a Party, may request the Committee on Cooperation to meet to exchange information and to explore any appropriate cooperative mechanisms.

8. Upon request of the other Party, a Party shall provide non-confidential information and respond to questions pertaining to any provision regarding cooperation in this annex.

**Annex 18-E**  
**Manufacturing Industrial Cooperation**

1. The Parties shall endeavor to strengthen and develop trade, investment, and technological cooperation, with an emphasis in the following sectors:

- (a) pulp;
- (b) aluminum;
- (c) shipbuilding and shipyards;
- (d) copper;
- (e) petrochemical;
- (f) steel;
- (g) textile, apparel, design, and fashion;
- (h) software & IT;
- (i) auto parts and automobiles;
- (j) processed food and beverages;
- (k) cosmetics and toiletries;
- (l) plastic; and
- (m) others, of interest of the Parties.

2. The Parties shall endeavor to facilitate cooperation in the manufacturing industry through:

- (a) promoting the diversification and generation of added-value in national production and the sustainable increase of industrial productivity between the Parties;
- (b) assisting the innovation of manufacturing and agro-industrial products as well as traceability systems, through the exchange of best practices, formulation of master plans and the development of R&D&I centers, technology transfer centers, scientific-technological parks, techno-industrial parks and other such sites;

- (c) developing environmentally-based projects and programs, especially those focused on the production and use of electric automobiles and charging stations, as well as the circular economy, eco efficiency, recycling and post-consumption practices; and
- (d) encouraging capacity building, including the training of human resources for productive innovation and the creation, implementation and development of industrial production strategies.

**Annex 18-F**  
**Information and Communications Technology Cooperation**

1. The Parties, recognizing the rapid development led by the private sector, of Information Communications Technologies (ICT) and of business practices regarding ICT-related services both in the domestic and international contexts, shall endeavor to promote the development of ICT and ICT-related services with a view of obtaining the maximum benefit of the use of ICT for the Parties.

2. As such, the Parties will encourage cooperation between both the public and private sectors, including, but not limited to, the following areas:

- (a) cybersecurity;
- (b) inter-operability of Electronic Signature;
- (c) development, processing, management, distribution, and trade of digital contents;
- (d) scientific and technical cooperation for the software industry of the Parties;
- (e) research, development and management of information technology parks;
- (f) research and development on information technology services such as integration of broadcasting and telecommunications;
- (g) research, development and deployment of networks and telecommunications, when the Parties agree on the necessity of such activities;
- (h) business opportunities in the international markets; and
- (i) any other areas as agreed by the Parties.

**Annex 18-G**  
**Science, Technology and Innovation Cooperation**

1. The Parties recognize the importance of technological innovation as well as the technological transfer to the mutual advantage of technology producers and users, particularly in the new digital economy. Accordingly, the Parties shall endeavor to develop and encourage cooperation programs, in order to facilitate access to infrastructure and technology development.

2. The Parties shall endeavor to undertake joint research and development projects, with particular emphasis in the following high-end science or key technology areas:

- (a) biotechnology;
- (b) nanotechnology;
- (c) new materials;
- (d) environmental technology;
- (e) science and technology policy; and
- (f) research and development systems.

3. The Parties will encourage and facilitate cooperation in, as appropriate, including but not limited to, the following activities:

- (a) joint research and development, and high-level education, including, if necessary, sharing of equipment, exchange and supply of non-confidential scientific and technical data, and, where possible, exchange of scientific samples;
- (b) exchange of scientists, researchers, technicians, and experts;
- (c) joint organization of seminars, symposia, conferences, and other scientific and technical meetings, including the participation of experts in those activities;
- (d) promotion of joint science and technology research activities under existing national programs or policies, where the Parties agree on the necessity of the activities;



- (e) exchange of information on practices, policies, laws, regulations, and programs related to science and technology; and
- (f) any other forms of scientific and technological cooperation as agreed by the Parties.

**Annex 18-H**  
**Healthcare Industrial Cooperation**

1. The Parties shall endeavor to cooperate for mutual growth and development in the sector of healthcare industry including pharmaceuticals, medical devices and cosmetics, recognizing the importance of improving and protecting public health.

2. Areas of cooperation in the sector of healthcare industry include, but are not limited to the following:

- (a) information exchange on:
  - (i) public policies;
  - (ii) laws, regulations and resolutions; and
  - (iii) conferences, seminars, workshops, exhibitions, fairs and other events to encourage participation.
- (b) cooperation in relevant private sector for:
  - (i) exchange of researchers, students and those involved in relevant industries;
  - (ii) joint research programs and projects;
  - (iii) capacity building to strengthen the supply chain of the health care industry;
  - (iv) product quality upgrade, supply-chain networking, technology trade, etc.;
  - (v) promotion and facilitation of mutual investment opportunities; and
  - (vi) internships for health care professionals and students of pharmacy degree, on the different production areas of the pharmaceutical industry.

**Annex 18-I**  
**Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Cooperation**

1. The Parties recognize that, micro, small and medium-sized enterprises, (hereinafter MSMEs) contribute significantly to economic growth, employment, and innovation, and therefore seek to promote information sharing and cooperation in increasing the ability of MSMEs to utilise and benefit from the opportunities created by this Agreement, including a gender approach.

2. Each Party shall promote the sharing of information related to this Agreement that is relevant to MSMEs, including through the establishment and maintenance of a publicly accessible information platform, and information exchange to share knowledge, experiences, and best practices among the Parties.

3. The information to be made publicly accessible in accordance with paragraph 1 will include:

- (a) the full text of this agreement;
- (b) information on trade and investment-related laws and regulations that the Party considers relevant to MSMEs; and
- (c) additional business-related information that the Party considers useful for MSMEs interested in benefiting from the opportunities provided by this Agreement.

4. The Parties shall strengthen their cooperation under this Chapter, which may include:

- (a) encouraging efficient and effective implementation of facilitative and transparent trade rules and regulations;
- (b) improving MSMEs' access to markets and participation in global value chains, including by promoting and facilitating partnerships among businesses;
- (c) promoting the use of electronic commerce by MSMEs;
- (d) encouraging innovation and use and transfer of technology;

- (e) promoting good regulatory practices and building capacity in formulating regulations, policies, and programs that contribute to MSME development;
- (f) sharing best practices on enhancing the capability and competitiveness of MSMEs;
- (g) sharing best practices and knowledge in fields such as management skill development, product quality improvement, development of suppliers;
- (h) exchanging information and best practices in areas including improving MSMEs' access to capital and credit, trade facilitation;
- (i) supporting new exporting MSMEs (sponsorships, exporters club);
- (j) promoting networking opportunities such as fairs, trade missions, as well as training and exchange programs for MSMEs; and
- (k) encouraging public and private institutions related to MSMEs to cooperate in areas such as environmental management, circular economy, and other subjects of mutual interest.

5. The Parties may convene a MSME Dialogue (hereinafter referred to as "MSME Dialogue"). The MSME Dialogue may include private sector, employees, non-government organizations, academic experts, MSMEs owned by diverse and under-represented groups, and other stakeholders from each Party.

**Annex 18-J**  
**Improvement of the Business Environment**

1. The Parties shall endeavor to create a more favorable business environment with a view to promoting trade and investment activities by the public and private sectors of the Parties.

2. To achieve the purposes of paragraph 1, the Parties shall designate contact points which will be responsible for channeling all the issues relating to the improvement of the business environment and acting as a coordinator and monitoring body. The contact points are:

- (a) for Ecuador, the Ministry of Production, Trade, Investment and Fisheries or its successors; and
- (b) for Korea, the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy/Korea Trade-Investment Promotion Agency (KOTRA) or their successors.

3. The Parties shall endeavor to facilitate the improvement of the business environment through:

- (a) cooperating on the design, implementation and evaluation of public policies related to improving the business environment of the Parties;
- (b) exchanging best practices and expertise on single window programs aimed at improving the business environment of the Parties;
- (c) collaborating, through by sharing expertise, exchanging information and engaging in technical assistance, among others, on the follow-up management of investment;
- (d) exchanging information about laws, regulations, policies and others related to investments; and
- (e) encouraging joint activities for investment promotion.

**Annex 18-K**  
**Maritime Cooperation**

The Parties shall endeavor to cooperate in maritime transport through:

- (a) formulating of development strategy for strengthening port operation, management, and development;
- (b) designing and strengthening of maritime ports, including but not limited to logistics efficiency and ship maintenance activities;
- (c) arranging training programs and technical cooperation related to port operation, management and development; and
- (d) any other areas as agreed by the Parties.

## **Annex 18-L**

### **Cultural Cooperation**

1. For the purposes of mutual benefits, recognizing cultural cooperation can significantly contribute to the development of the creative industries, the intensification of cultural and economic exchange, the enhancement of understanding between the Parties, and the development of their culture industries, the Parties shall endeavor to cooperate in cultural service sectors, such as audio-visual (including film, animation, broadcasting programs, etc.), entertainment (including theater, live bands, musical, etc.), cultural heritage, museum and library services and video game.
2. With a view to improving relevant industries' development, in accordance with domestic laws and regulations, the Parties shall endeavor to carry out the cooperation through, *inter alia*, (a) information exchange of relevant laws and regulations, (b) technical assistance, (c) knowledge sharing, (d) expansion of joint production such as audio-visual co-production in the fields of culture, and (e) facilitation of immigration formality and temporary entry for the purpose of cultural service activities.
3. The Parties shall endeavor to exchange information in order to protect their cultural heritage, which includes identifying, recovering from, and avoiding the illegal traffic of their cultural heritage. The Parties shall endeavor to generate programs for digitizing historic documents aimed at preserving national heritage.
4. The Parties agree to consider and negotiate co-production agreements in the audio-visual sector, including broadcasting programs.
5. The co-production agreement referred to in paragraph 4, once concluded, shall become an integral part of this Agreement.
6. Co-produced projects in compliance with the co-production agreement referred to in paragraph 4 shall be deemed to be national productions in the territory of each Party and shall thus be fully entitled to all the benefits, including government support which is accorded under the applicable laws and regulations of each Party.

**Annex 18-M**  
**Tourism Cooperation**

The Parties, recognizing that tourism contributes to the enhancement of mutual understanding between them and that it is an important industry for their economies and an attraction for foreign investment, shall endeavor to:

- (a) ensure coordination between the public and private sectors and local communities, to develop an ethic, responsible, sustainable and inclusive tourism;
- (b) consider setting up linkages and networks between the websites of the Parties;
- (c) encourage joint programs aimed at ensuring high-quality services for tourists of the Parties;
- (d) cooperate in joint campaigns to promote tourism in the territories of the Parties;
- (e) collaborate to promote ecotourism and the sustainable development of tourism in the territories of the Parties;
- (f) exchange information on relevant statistics, promotional materials, policies, and laws and regulations in tourism and related sectors;
- (g) encourage tourism and transportation authorities and agencies to improve the aviation connectivity between the Parties; and
- (h) cooperate in any other areas as agreed by the Parties.