

CHAPTER ELEVEN

COOPERATION IN PROMOTING SMALL AND MEDIUM-SIZED ENTERPRISES

Article 11.1: Objective

The Parties recognize the importance of the provisions of this Chapter as well as other provisions in this Agreement that seek to enhance cooperation between the Parties on matters of relevance to small and medium-sized enterprises (hereinafter referred to in this Chapter as “SMEs”).

Article 11.2: Information Sharing

1. Each Party shall promote the sharing of information related to SMEs relevant to this Agreement, including through the establishment of an accessible information platform, and information exchange to share knowledge, experiences, and best practices among the Parties.
2. The information referred to in paragraph 1 shall include:
 - (a) the full text of this Agreement;
 - (b) information on trade and investment-related laws and regulations that the Party considers relevant to SMEs; and
 - (c) any other additional business-related information that the Party considers useful for SMEs under this Agreement.
3. Each Party shall take reasonable steps to ensure that the information referred to in paragraph 2 is accurate and up to date.

Article 11.3: Cooperation

Areas of cooperation between the Parties under this chapter may include the following:

- (a) improving SMEs’ access to markets and participation in global value chains by including but not limited to promoting and facilitating partnerships among businesses;
- (b) promoting the use of electronic commerce by SMEs;

- (c) exploring opportunities for exchanges of experiences among the Parties' entrepreneurial programs;
- (d) encouraging innovation and use of technology;
- (e) promoting awareness, understanding, and effective use of the intellectual property system among SMEs;
- (f) promoting good regulatory practices and building capacity in formulating regulations, policies, and programs that contribute to SMEs development; and sharing best practices on enhancing the capability and competitiveness of SMEs;
- (g) identifying ways to cooperate and exchange information for GCC Member States and Korea SMEs to take advantage of new opportunities under this Agreement to increase trade and investment;
- (h) exploring ways to promote SMEs through different channels such as, trade shows, broadcast media, and social media;
- (i) promoting the upgrading of skills and innovation in SMEs; and
- (j) encouraging and supporting SMEs to benefit from the growth of markets.

Article 11.4: Non-Application of Dispute Settlement

Dispute settlement mechanisms under Chapter Fifteen (Dispute Settlement) of this Agreement shall not apply to any matter arising under this Chapter.