

CHAPTER 6

SMALL AND MEDIUM-SIZED ENTERPRISES

Article 6.1: General Principles on Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises

1. Recognizing the fundamental role of SMEs in maintaining dynamism and enhancing competitiveness of their respective economies, the Parties, through their Designated Representatives, shall seek to foster cooperation between SMEs located in the territories represented by the Parties and cooperate in promoting jobs and growth in SMEs.
2. The Parties, through their Designated Representatives, recognize the integral role of the private sector in the SME cooperation.

Article 6.2: Cooperation to Increase Trade and Investment Opportunities for SMEs

With a view to enhancing commercial opportunities for SMEs located in the territories represented by the Parties, each Party, through its Designated Representative, shall consider ways to increase and improve the quality of trade and investment opportunities, subject to the availability of resources for the activities described in this Article, and in particular may:

- (a) promote cooperation between the small business support infrastructures located in the territories represented by the Parties, such as dedicated SME centers, incubators and accelerators, export assistance centers, and other centers as appropriate, with a view to sharing best practices, exchanging market research, and promoting SME participation in international trade, as well as business growth in local markets;
- (b) strengthen its collaboration with the other Party, through its Designated Representative, on activities to promote SMEs owned by underserved and underrepresented groups, including women, indigenous peoples, youth, and minorities, as well as start-ups, agricultural, and rural SMEs, and promote partnership among these SMEs and their participation in international trade;
- (c) enhance its cooperation with the other Party, through its Designated Representative, to exchange information and best practices in areas such as improving SME access to capital and credit, training programs, trade education, trade finance, trade missions, trade facilitation, digital trade, and helping SMEs adapt to changing market conditions; and
- (d) promote the participation of SMEs in digital trade in order to take advantage of the opportunities to increase and improve the quality of trade and investment.

Article 6.3: Information Sharing

1. Each Party, through its Designated Representative, shall publish a free, publicly accessible website with links or information to the websites of the authorities of the territory represented by the Party and other appropriate entities that provide information that such authorities consider useful to any person interested in trading, investing, or doing business in the territory represented by the Party.
2. The information described in paragraph 1 may include:
 - (a) customs regulations, procedures, or enquiry points;
 - (b) regulations or procedures concerning intellectual property rights;
 - (c) technical regulations, standards, or conformity assessment procedures;
 - (d) sanitary or phytosanitary measures relating to importation or exportation;
 - (e) foreign investment regulations;
 - (f) business registration procedures;
 - (g) trade promotion programs;
 - (h) competitiveness programs;
 - (i) SME financing programs;
 - (j) employment regulations;
 - (k) taxation information; and
 - (l) additional information that would be useful for SMEs interested in benefitting from trade between the territories represented by the Parties.
3. Each Party, through its Designated Representative, shall regularly review the information and links on the website referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2 to ensure the information and links are up-to-date and accurate.
4. To the extent possible, each Party, through its Designated Representative, shall make the information provided in accordance with this Article available in English.

Article 6.4: SME Dialogue

The Parties, in consultation with their Designated Representatives, may periodically convene an SME Dialogue when the Parties, in consultation with their Designated Representatives, decide that such a Dialogue would be useful. The SME Dialogue may include the Parties, their Designated Representatives, private sector, employees, non-government organizations, academic experts, SMEs owned by diverse, underserved, and underrepresented groups, and other stakeholders from each of the territories represented by the Parties.