

## CHAPTER 18

### TRADE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

#### ARTICLE 18.1

##### Objectives and scope

1. The objective of this Chapter is to enhance the integration of sustainable development in the Parties' trade and investment relationship, notably by establishing principles and actions concerning labour<sup>1</sup> and environmental aspects of sustainable development of specific relevance in a trade and investment context.
  
2. The Parties recall the Agenda 21 on Environment and Development, adopted at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, on 3 to 14 June 1992, and the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in 1992, the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development of 2002, the Ministerial Declaration of the United Nations Economic and Social Council on creating an environment at the national and international levels conducive to generating full and productive employment and decent work for all, and its impact on sustainable development of 2006, the Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization of 2008 of the International Labour Organization (hereinafter referred to as "ILO") adopted by the International Labour Conference at its 97th Session in Geneva on 10 June 2008 (hereinafter referred to as "ILO Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization"), and the Outcome Document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development of 2012 incorporated in Resolution 66/288 adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 27 July 2012 entitled "The Future We Want" and the SDGs of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development document "Transforming

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<sup>1</sup> For the purposes of this Chapter, the term "labour" means the strategic objectives of the International Labour Organization under the Decent Work Agenda, which is expressed in the ILO Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization.

our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development" adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 25 September 2015 (hereinafter referred to as "the 2030 Agenda").

3. The Parties recognise that the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development are interdependent and mutually reinforcing, and affirm their commitment to promoting the development of international trade in such a way as to contribute to the objective of sustainable development, for the welfare of present and future generations.

4. Consistent with the instruments referred to in paragraph 2, the Parties shall promote sustainable development through:

- (a) the development of trade and economic relations in a manner that contributes to the objective of achieving the SDGs and supports their respective labour and environmental standards and objectives in a context of trade relations that are free, open, transparent and respectful of multilateral agreements to which they are party;
- (b) the respect of their multilateral commitments in the fields of labour and of the environment; and
- (c) enhanced cooperation and understanding of their respective labour and environmental trade-related policies and measures, taking into account the different national realities, capacities, needs and levels of development and respecting national policies and priorities.

5. Recognising the differences in their levels of development, the Parties agree that this Chapter embodies a cooperative approach based on common values and interests.

## ARTICLE 18.2

### Right to regulate and levels of protection

1. The Parties recognise the right of each Party to determine its sustainable development policies and priorities, to establish the levels of domestic environmental and labour protection it deems appropriate and to adopt or modify its laws, regulations and policies. Such levels, laws, regulations and policies shall be consistent with each Party's commitment to the international agreements and labour standards referred to in Articles 18.4 and 18.5.
2. Each Party shall strive to improve its relevant laws, regulations and policies so as to ensure high and effective levels of environmental and labour protection.
3. A Party should not weaken the levels of protection afforded in its environmental or labour laws and regulations with the intention of encouraging trade or investment.
4. A Party shall not waive or derogate from, or offer to waive or derogate from, its environmental or labour laws and regulations in order to encourage trade or investment.
5. A Party shall not, through sustained or recurring course of action or inaction, fail to effectively enforce its environmental or labour laws and regulations in order to encourage trade or investment.
6. A Party shall not apply its environmental and labour laws and regulations in a manner that would constitute a disguised restriction on trade or an unjustifiable or arbitrary discrimination.

## ARTICLE 18.3

### Transparency

1. Each Party shall, in accordance with Chapter 19, ensure that the development, enactment and implementation of the following is done in a transparent manner, ensuring awareness and encouraging public participation, in accordance with its rules and procedures:
  - (a) measures aimed at protecting the environment and labour conditions that may affect trade or investment; and
  - (b) trade or investment measures that may affect the protection of the environment or labour conditions.

## ARTICLE 18.4

### Multilateral labour standards and agreements

1. The Parties affirm the value of greater policy coherence in decent work, encompassing core labour standards, and high levels of labour protection, coupled with their effective enforcement, and recognise the beneficial role that those areas can have on economic efficiency, innovation and productivity, including export performance. In this context, they also recognise the importance of social dialogue on labour matters among workers and employers, and their respective organisations and governments, and commit to the promotion of such dialogue.

2. The Parties reaffirm their commitment to promote the development of international trade in a way that is conducive to decent work for all, including for women and young people. In this context, each Party reaffirms its commitment to promote and effectively implement the ILO Conventions and Protocols ratified by the Signatory MERCOSUR States and by the Member States of the European Union and classified as up to date by the ILO.

3. In accordance with the ILO Constitution and with the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work and its Follow-up, adopted in Geneva on 18 June 1998 (hereinafter referred to as "ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work"), each Party shall respect, promote and effectively implement the internationally recognised core labour standards, as defined in the fundamental ILO Conventions, which are:

- (a) freedom of association and the effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining;
- (b) the elimination of all forms of forced or compulsory labour;
- (c) the effective abolition of child labour; and
- (d) the elimination of discrimination in respect of employment and occupation.

4. Each Party shall make continued and sustained efforts towards ratifying the fundamental ILO Conventions, Protocols and other relevant ILO Conventions to which it is not yet a party and that are classified as up to date by the ILO. The Parties shall regularly exchange information on their respective progress in this regard.

5. The Parties recall that among the objectives of the 2030 Agenda is the elimination of forced labour and underline the importance of ratification and effective implementation of the 2014 Protocol to the Forced Labour Convention.
6. The Parties shall consult and cooperate, as appropriate, on trade-related labour issues of mutual interest, including in the context of the ILO.
7. Recalling the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work and the ILO Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization, the Parties note that the violation of fundamental principles and rights at work cannot be invoked or otherwise used as a legitimate comparative advantage and that labour standards should not be used for protectionist trade purposes.
8. Each Party shall promote decent work as provided by the ILO Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization. Each Party shall pay particular attention to:
  - (a) developing and enhancing measures for occupational safety and health, including compensation in the event of occupational injury or illness, as defined in the relevant ILO Conventions and other international commitments;
  - (b) decent working conditions for all, with regard to, inter alia, wages and earnings, working hours and other conditions of work;
  - (c) labour inspection, in particular through effective implementation of relevant ILO standards on labour inspections; and

- (d) non-discrimination in respect of working conditions, including for migrant workers.

9. Each Party shall ensure that administrative and judicial proceedings are available and accessible in order to permit effective action to be taken against infringements of labour rights referred to in this Chapter.

## ARTICLE 18.5

### Multilateral environmental agreements

1. The Parties recognise that the environment is one of the three dimensions of sustainable development – economic, social and environmental – and that those three should be addressed in a balanced and integrated manner. Additionally, the Parties recognise the contribution that trade can make to sustainable development.

2. The Parties recognise the importance of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme (hereinafter referred to as "UNEP") and of multilateral environmental agreements (hereinafter referred to as "MEAs") as a response of the international community to global or regional environmental challenges, and stress the need to enhance the mutual supportiveness between trade and environment policies.

3. Each Party affirms its commitments to promote and effectively implement MEAs, protocols and amendments thereto to which it is a party.

4. The Parties shall regularly exchange information on their respective progress as regards the ratification of MEAs, including their protocols and amendments.
5. The Parties shall consult and cooperate, as appropriate, on trade-related environmental matters of mutual interest in the context of MEAs.
6. The Parties acknowledge their right to invoke Article 20.2 in relation to environmental measures.
7. Nothing in this agreement shall prevent a Party from adopting or maintaining measures to implement the MEAs to which it is a party if such measures are consistent with Article 18.2(6).

#### ARTICLE 18.6

##### Trade and climate change

1. The Parties recognise the importance of pursuing the ultimate objective of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, done at New York on 9 May 1992 (hereinafter referred to as "UNFCCC"), in order to address the urgent threat of climate change and recognise the role of trade to this end.
2. Pursuant to paragraph 1, each Party shall:
  - (a) effectively implement the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement, done at Paris on 20 December 2015 (hereinafter referred to as "the Paris Agreement"), established thereunder; and



- (b) consistent with Article 2 of the Paris Agreement, promote the positive contribution of trade to a pathway towards low greenhouse gas emissions and climate-resilient development and to increasing the ability to adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change in a manner that does not threaten food production.
3. The Parties shall cooperate, as appropriate, on trade-related climate change issues bilaterally, regionally and in international fora, particularly in the UNFCCC.

## ARTICLE 18.7

### Trade and biodiversity

1. The Parties recognise the importance of the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity in accordance with the Convention on Biological Diversity done at Rio de Janeiro on 5 June 1992, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora signed at Washington D. C. on 3 March 1973 (hereinafter referred to as "CITES"), the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, and the decisions adopted thereunder, and the role that trade can play in contributing to the objectives of those Conventions and that Treaty.

2. Pursuant to paragraph 1, each Party shall:

- (a) promote the use of CITES as an instrument for conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, including through the inclusion of animal and plant species in the Appendices to CITES where the conservation status of those species is considered at risk because of international trade;
- (b) implement effective measures leading to a reduction in illegal trade in wildlife, consistent with international agreements to which it is a party;
- (c) encourage trade in natural resource-based products obtained through sustainable use of biological resources or which contribute to the conservation of biodiversity, in accordance with its laws and regulations; and
- (d) promote the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of genetic resources and, if appropriate, adopt measures concerning access to such resources and prior informed consent.

3. The Parties shall also exchange information on initiatives and good practices on trade in natural resource-based products with the aim of conserving biological diversity and cooperate, as appropriate, bilaterally, regionally and in international fora on issues covered by this Article.

## ARTICLE 18.8

### Trade and sustainable management of forests

1. The Parties recognise the importance of sustainable forest management and the role of trade in pursuing this objective and of forest restoration for conservation and sustainable use.
2. Pursuant to paragraph 1, each Party shall:
  - (a) encourage trade in products from sustainably managed forests harvested in accordance with the laws and regulations of the country of harvest;
  - (b) promote, as appropriate and with their prior informed consent, the inclusion of forest-based local communities and indigenous peoples in sustainable supply chains of timber and non-timber forest products, as a means of enhancing their livelihoods and of promoting the conservation and sustainable use of forests;
  - (c) implement measures to combat illegal logging and related trade;
  - (d) exchange information concerning trade-related initiatives on sustainable forest management, forest governance and on the conservation of forest cover and cooperate to maximise the impact and ensure the mutual supportiveness of their respective policies of mutual interest; and

- (e) cooperate, as appropriate, bilaterally, regionally and in international fora on issues concerning trade and conservation of forest cover as well as sustainable forest management, consistent with the 2030 Agenda.

## ARTICLE 18.9

### Trade and sustainable management of fisheries and aquaculture

1. The Parties recognise the importance of conserving and sustainably managing marine biological resources and marine ecosystems as well as of promoting responsible and sustainable aquaculture, and the role of trade in pursuing these objectives and their shared commitment to achieving SDG 14 of the 2030 Agenda, particularly targets 4 and 6 thereof.
2. Pursuant to paragraph 1 and in a manner consistent with its international commitments, each Party shall:
  - (a) implement long-term conservation and management measures and sustainable exploitation of marine living resources in accordance with international law as enshrined in the UNCLOS and other relevant United Nations and Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (hereinafter referred to as "FAO") instruments to which it is a party;
  - (b) act in accordance with the principles of the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries adopted by Resolution 4/95 of 31 October 1995 (hereinafter referred to as "the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries");

- (c) participate and cooperate actively within the regional fisheries management organisations and other relevant international fora to which it is a member, observer or cooperating non-contracting party, with the aim of achieving good fisheries governance and sustainable fisheries, including through effective control, monitoring and enforcement of management measures and, if applicable, the implementation of catch documentation or certification schemes;
- (d) implement, in accordance with its international commitments, comprehensive, effective and transparent measures to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, and exclude from international trade products that do not comply with such measures, and cooperate to this end, including by facilitating the exchange of information;
- (e) work with a view to coordinating the measures necessary for the conservation and sustainable use of straddling fish stocks in areas of common interest; and
- (f) promote the development of sustainable and responsible aquaculture, taking into account its economic, social and environmental aspects, including with regard to the implementation of the objectives and principles contained in the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries.

## ARTICLE 18.10

### Scientific and technical information

1. When establishing or implementing measures aimed at protecting the environment or labour conditions that may affect trade or investment, each Party shall ensure that the scientific and technical evidence on which they are based is from recognised technical and scientific bodies and that the measures are based on relevant international standards, guidelines or recommendations where they exist.
2. In cases when scientific evidence or information is insufficient or inconclusive and there is a risk of serious environmental degradation or to occupational health and safety in its territory, a Party may adopt measures based on the precautionary principle. Such measures shall be based upon available pertinent information and be subject to periodic review. The Party adopting such measures shall seek to obtain new or additional scientific information necessary for a more conclusive assessment and shall review such measures as appropriate.
3. If a measure adopted in accordance with paragraph 2 has an impact on trade or investment, a Party may request the Party adopting the measure to provide information indicating that the scientific evidence or information is insufficient or inconclusive in relation to the matter at stake and that the measure adopted is consistent with its own level of protection, and may request discussions of the matter in the Subcommittee on trade and sustainable development referred to in Article 18.14.
4. The measures referred to in this Article shall not be applied in a manner which would constitute a means of arbitrary or unjustifiable discrimination or a disguised restriction on international trade.

## ARTICLE 18.11

### Trade and responsible management of supply chains

1. The Parties recognise the importance of responsible management of supply chains through responsible business conduct and corporate social responsibility practices based on internationally agreed guidance.
2. Pursuant to paragraph 1, each Party shall:
  - (a) support the dissemination and use of relevant international instruments that it has endorsed or supported, such as the ILO Tripartite Declaration of Principles concerning Multinational Enterprises and Social Policy, adopted in Geneva in November 1977, the United Nations Global Compact, the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, endorsed by the Human Rights Council in its resolution 17/4 of 16 June of 2011, and the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises: Recommendations for Responsible Business Conduct in a Global Context, annexed to the OECD Declaration on International Investment and Multinational Enterprises done in Paris on 21 June 1976.
  - (b) promote the voluntary uptake by enterprises of corporate social responsibility or responsible business practices, consistent with the guidelines and principles referred to in point (a); and
  - (c) provide a supportive policy framework for the effective implementation of the principles and guidelines referred to in point (a).

3. The Parties recognise the utility of international sector-specific guidelines in the areas of corporate social responsibility and responsible business conduct and shall promote joint work in this regard. In respect of the OECD Due Diligence Guidance for Responsible Supply Chains of Minerals from Conflict-Affected and High-Risk Areas and its supplements, the Parties adhering to or supporting that Guidance shall also promote the uptake thereof.

4. The Parties shall exchange information as well as best practices and, if appropriate, cooperate on issues covered by this Article, including in relevant regional and international fora.

#### ARTICLE 18.12

##### Other trade and investment-related initiatives favouring sustainable development

1. The Parties confirm their commitment to enhance the contribution of trade and investment to the objective of sustainable development in its economic, social and environmental dimensions.

2. Pursuant to paragraph 1, the Parties shall:

- (a) promote the objectives of the Decent Work Agenda, in accordance with the ILO Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization, including the minimum living wage, inclusive social protection, health and safety at work, and other aspects related to working conditions;



- (b) encourage trade and investment in goods and services as well as the voluntary exchange of practices and technologies that contribute to enhanced social and environmental conditions, including those of particular relevance for climate change mitigation and adaptation, in a manner consistent with this Agreement; and
- (c) cooperate, as appropriate, bilaterally, regionally and in international fora on matters covered by this Article.

## ARTICLE 18.13

### Working together on trade and sustainable development

1. The Parties recognise the importance of working together in order to achieve the objectives of this Chapter. They may work together on, inter alia:
  - (a) labour and environmental aspects of trade and sustainable development in international fora, including in particular the WTO, the ILO, the UNEP, the UNCTAD, the United Nations High-level Political Forum for Sustainable Development and MEAs;
  - (b) the impact of labour and environmental law and standards on trade and investment;
  - (c) the impact of trade and investment law on labour and the environment; and
  - (d) voluntary sustainability assurance schemes, such as fair and ethical trade schemes and eco-labels, through the sharing of experience and information on such schemes.

2. In order to achieve the objectives of this Chapter, the Parties may also work together on the trade-related aspects of:

- (a) the implementation of fundamental, priority and other up to date ILO Conventions;
- (b) the ILO Decent Work Agenda, including on the interlinkages between trade and full and productive employment, labour market adjustment, core labour standards, decent work in global supply chains, social protection and social inclusion, social dialogue, skills development and gender equality;
- (c) the implementation of MEAs and support for each other's participation in such MEAs;
- (d) the dynamic international climate change regime under the UNFCCC, in particular the implementation of the Paris Agreement;
- (e) the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, done at Montreal on 16 September 1987, and any amendments to it ratified by the Parties, in particular measures to control the production and consumption of, and trade in, Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS) and Hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), and the promotion of environmentally friendly alternatives to them, and measures to address illegal trade of substances regulated by that Protocol;
- (f) corporate social responsibility, responsible business conduct, responsible management of global supply chains and accountability, including with regard to implementation, follow-up and dissemination of relevant international instruments;

- (g) the sound management of chemicals and waste;
- (h) the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilisation of genetic resources, including by appropriate access to such resources, as referred to in Article 18.7;
- (i) combatting wildlife trafficking, as referred to in Article 18.7;
- (j) the promotion of the conservation and sustainable management of forests with a view to reducing deforestation and illegal logging, as referred to in Article 18.8;
- (k) private and public initiatives contributing to the objective of halting deforestation, including those linking production and consumption through supply chains, consistent with SDGs 12 and 15 of the 2030 Agenda;
- (l) the promotion of sustainable fishing practices and trade in sustainably managed fish products, as referred to in Article 18.9; and
- (m) sustainable consumption and production initiatives consistent with SDG 12 of the 2030 Agenda, including, but not limited to, circular economy and other sustainable economic models aimed at increasing resource efficiency and reducing waste generation.

## ARTICLE 18.14

### Subcommittee on trade and sustainable development and contact points

1. The Subcommittee on trade and sustainable development, established pursuant to Article 22.3(4), shall have the following functions, in addition to those listed in Article 22.3:
  - (a) facilitate and monitor cooperation activities undertaken under this Chapter;
  - (b) carry out the tasks referred to in Articles 18.16 to 18.18; and
  - (c) conduct the preparatory internal work necessary for the Trade Committee, including with regard to topics for discussion with the Domestic Advisory Groups referred to in Article 22.6.
2. The Subcommittee shall publish a report after each of its meetings.
3. Each Party shall designate a contact point within its administration to facilitate communication and coordination between the Parties on any matter relating to the implementation of this Chapter.

## ARTICLE 18.15

### Dispute resolution

1. The Parties shall make all efforts through dialogue, consultation, exchange of information and cooperation to address any disagreement on the interpretation or application of this Chapter.
2. Any time period mentioned in Articles 18.16 and 18.17 may be extended by mutual agreement of the Parties.
3. All time periods established under this Chapter shall be counted in calendar days from the day following the act or fact to which they refer.
4. For the purposes of this Chapter, Parties to a dispute under this Chapter shall be as set out in Article 21.3.
5. No Party shall have recourse to dispute settlement under Chapter 21 for any matter arising under this Chapter.

## ARTICLE 18.16

### Consultations

1. A Party may request consultations with the other Party regarding the interpretation or application of this Chapter by delivering a written request to the contact point of the other Party designated pursuant to Article 18.14(3). The request shall present the matter at issue clearly and provide a brief summary of the claims under this Chapter, including an indication of the relevant provisions thereof and explaining how it affects the objectives of this Chapter, as well as any other information the Party deems relevant. Consultations shall start promptly after a Party delivers a request for consultations, and in any event no later than 30 (thirty) days after the date of receipt of the request.
2. Consultations shall be held in person or, if so agreed by the Parties, by videoconference or other electronic means. If the consultations are held in person, they shall be held in the territory of the Party to whom the request is made, unless the Parties agree otherwise.
3. The Parties shall enter into consultations with the aim of reaching a mutually satisfactory resolution of the matter. In matters related to the multilateral agreements referred to in this Chapter, the Parties shall take into account information from the ILO or from relevant organisations or bodies responsible for MEAs ratified by both Parties, in order to promote coherence between the work of the Parties and these organisations. If relevant, the Parties may agree to seek advice from such organisations or bodies, or any other expert or body they deem appropriate.

4. If a Party considers that the matter needs further discussion, it may request in writing that the Subcommittee on trade and sustainable development be convened and it shall notify that request to the contact point designated pursuant to Article 18.14(3). Such a request shall be made no earlier than 60 (sixty) days from the date of the receipt of the request under paragraph 1. The Subcommittee on trade and sustainable development shall meet promptly and endeavour to reach a mutually satisfactory resolution of the matter.
5. The Subcommittee on trade and sustainable development shall take into account any views on the matter provided by the Domestic Advisory Groups referred to in Article 22.6 as well as any expert advice.
6. Any resolution reached by the Parties shall be made publicly available.

## ARTICLE 18.17

### Panel of experts

1. If, within 120 (one hundred and twenty) days after a request for consultations under Article 18.16, no mutually satisfactory resolution has been reached, a Party may request the establishment of a panel of experts to examine the matter. Any such request shall be made in writing to the contact point of the other Party designated pursuant to Article 18.14(3) and shall identify the reasons for requesting the establishment of a panel of experts, including a description of the measures at issue and the relevant provisions of this Chapter that it considers applicable.

2. Except as otherwise provided for in this Article, Articles 21.9, 21.11, 21.12, 21.26 and 21.27, as well as the Rules of Procedure in Annex 21-A and the Code of Conduct in Annex 21-B, apply.
3. The Subcommittee on trade and sustainable development shall, at its first meeting after the date of entry into force of this Agreement, establish a list of at least 15 (fifteen) individuals who are willing and able to serve on a panel of experts. The list shall be composed of 3 (three) sub-lists: 1 (one) sub-list proposed by the EU, 1 (one) sub-list proposed by MERCOSUR and 1 (one) sub-list of individuals that are not nationals of either Party. Each Party shall propose at least 5 (five) individuals for its sub-list. The Parties shall also select at least 5 (five) individuals for the list of individuals that are not nationals of either Party. The Subcommittee on trade and sustainable development shall ensure that the list is kept up to date and that the number of experts is maintained at least at 15 (fifteen) individuals.
4. The individuals referred to in paragraph 3 shall have specialised knowledge of, or expertise in, matters addressed in this Chapter, including labour, environmental or trade law, or in the resolution of disputes arising under international agreements. They shall serve in their individual capacities, be independent and not take instructions from any organisation or government with regard to issues related to the disagreement, or be affiliated with the government of any Party. They shall also comply with Annex 21-B.
5. A panel of experts shall be composed of 3 (three) members, unless the Parties agree otherwise. The chairperson shall be from the sub-list of individuals that are not nationals of either Party. A panel of experts shall be established according to the procedures set out in Article 21.9(1) to (4). The experts shall be selected from the relevant individuals on the sub-lists referred to in paragraph 3 of this Article, in accordance with the relevant provisions of Article 21.9(2), (3) and (4).



6. Unless the Parties agree otherwise within 7 (seven) days after the date of establishment of the panel of experts, as defined in Article 21.9(5), the terms of reference shall be:

"to examine, in the light of the relevant provisions of Chapter 18 of the Interim Agreement on Trade between the European Union, of the one part, and the Common Market of the South, the Argentine Republic, the Federative Republic of Brazil, the Republic of Paraguay and the Oriental Republic of Uruguay, of the other part, the matter referred to in the request for the establishment of the panel of experts, and to issue a report, in accordance with Article 18.17, making recommendations for the resolution of the matter".

7. With regard to matters related to the respect of multilateral agreements referred to in this Chapter, the opinions of experts or information requested by the panel of experts in accordance with Article 21.12 should include information and advice from the relevant ILO or MEA bodies. Any information obtained under this paragraph shall be provided to both Parties for their comments.

8. The panel of experts shall interpret the provisions of this Chapter in accordance with the customary rules of interpretation of public international law.

9. The panel of experts shall issue to the Parties an interim report within 90 (ninety) days after the establishment of the panel of experts, and a final report no later than 60 (sixty) days after issuing the interim report. Those reports shall set out the findings of fact, the applicability of the relevant provisions and the basic rationale behind any findings and recommendations. Either of the involved Parties may submit written comments on the interim report to the panel of experts within 45 (forty-five) days after the date of issue of the interim report. After considering any such written comments, the panel of experts may modify the report and make any further examination it considers appropriate. If it considers that the deadlines set in this paragraph cannot be met, the chairperson of the panel of experts shall notify the Parties in writing, stating the reasons for the delay and the date on which the panel plans to issue its interim or final report.

10. The Parties shall make the final report publicly available within 15 (fifteen) days after its submission by the panel of experts.

11. The Parties shall discuss appropriate measures to be implemented, taking into account the report and recommendations of the panel of experts. The Party complained against shall inform its Domestic Advisory Group referred to in Article 22.6 and the other Party of its decisions on any actions or measures to be implemented no later than 90 (ninety) days after the report has been made publicly available. The Subcommittee on trade and sustainable development shall monitor the follow-up to the report of the panel of experts and its recommendations. The Domestic Advisory Group referred to in Article 22.6 may submit observations to the Subcommittee on trade and sustainable development in this regard.

## ARTICLE 18.18

### Review

1. For the purpose of facilitating the achievement of the objectives of this Chapter, the Parties shall discuss through the meetings of the Subcommittee on trade and sustainable development its effective implementation, including a possible review of its provisions, taking into account, inter alia, the experience gained, policy developments in each Party, developments in international agreements and views presented by stakeholders.
2. The Subcommittee on trade and sustainable development may recommend to the Parties amendments to the relevant provisions of this Chapter reflecting the outcome of the discussions referred to in paragraph 1.