

CHAPTER 5

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND TRADE CAPACITY BUILDING

ARTICLE 5.1: OBJECTIVES

1. The Parties agree to strengthen cooperation that will contribute to the implementation of this Agreement with the aim of optimizing its results, expanding opportunities and obtaining the greatest benefits for the Parties.
2. Cooperation between the Parties should contribute to achieving the objectives of this Agreement through the identification and development of cooperation initiatives capable of providing added value to the bilateral relationship.
3. Cooperation between the Parties under this Chapter will complement the cooperation referred to in other chapters of this Agreement.

ARTICLE 5.2: SCOPE AND MEANS

1. To achieve the objectives referred to in Article 5.1, the Parties attach particular importance to cooperation initiatives aimed at:
 - (a) strengthening the relations of trade capacity building between the Parties;
 - (b) improving and creating new opportunities for trade and investment;
 - (c) fostering competitiveness and innovation;
 - (d) promoting the development of small and medium-sized enterprises (hereinafter referred to as SMEs);
 - (e) supporting the role of the private sector, with special emphasis on SMEs, in promoting and building strategic alliances to encourage mutual economic growth and development; and
 - (f) addressing the needs for cooperation identified in other parts of this Agreement.
2. Cooperation shall be led by the contact points responsible for this Chapter, by means of the instruments, resources and mechanisms made available by the Parties to that end, in conformity with the rules and procedures in force.
3. In particular, the Parties may use different instruments and modalities, such as exchanging information, experience, best practices, capacity building and technical assistance, as well as triangular cooperation amongst others for the joint identification, development and implementation of projects.

4. The Parties may cooperate in various areas, including but not limited to the following sectors: agricultural technology, telecommunications, public health, innovation, biotechnology and environmental technology.

ARTICLE 5.3: CONTACT POINTS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION

1. The Parties shall attach particular importance to following up the cooperation projects put in place to contribute to their optimal execution and to maximize the benefits of this Agreement.

2. In order to implement this Chapter in an efficient and effective way, and to facilitate communication for any matter covered by this Chapter, the Parties hereby establish the following contact points:

(a) for the Republic of Colombia: Ministry of Trade, Industry and Tourism; Chief of Sectorial Planning Advisory Office;

(b) for the State of Israel: Ministry of Economy; Foreign Trade Administration;

or their successors.

3. The contact points shall be responsible for:

(a) receiving and channeling the project proposals presented by the Parties;

(b) informing on the project status;

(c) informing on the acceptance or denial of the project;

(d) monitoring and assessing the progress in the implementation of trade related cooperation initiatives; and

(e) other tasks on which the Parties may agree.

4. The contact points shall inform the Joint Committee about the cooperation activities covered under this Chapter, in a timely manner through the Coordinators referred to in Article 13.5 (Free Trade Agreement Coordinators).

ARTICLE 5.4: ADDITIONAL BILATERAL INSTRUMENTS

The activities undertaken under this chapter shall not affect other cooperation initiatives based on bilateral instruments between the Parties.