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CHAPTER 7

SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SYSTEMS

ARTICLE 7.1

Objectives

1. The Parties, recognising the importance of strengthening policies and defining priorities that contribute to the development of sustainable, inclusive, healthy and resilient agri-food systems agree to establish close cooperation in the ongoing transition towards sustainable agri-food systems.
2. The Parties recognise that agri-food systems are diverse and context-specific, encompassing a range of actors and their interlinked activities across all areas of the agri-food system, including all agricultural, fisheries, aquaculture production, harvesting, processing, manufacturing, packaging, transport, storage, distribution, sale, consumption, recycling and disposal of agri-food products. The Parties also acknowledge that the advancement of sustainable agri-food systems requires coordination with key enabling sectors. These include sectors involved in the development of knowledge and skills exchange, research and innovation, data collection and analysis and financing.

ARTICLE 7.2

Scope

1. This Chapter applies without prejudice to the Chapters of this Agreement related to agri-food systems or sustainability, in particular Chapter 6 (Sanitary and phytosanitary measures), Chapter 8 (Technical barriers to trade) and Chapter 18 (Trade and sustainable development).
2. This Chapter applies to the cooperation between the Parties to improve the sustainability and resilience of their respective agri-food systems. Article 7.4 (Cooperation to improve the sustainability of food systems), Article 7.6 (Animal welfare) and Article 7.7 (Cooperation in fighting antimicrobial resistance) set out indicative areas of cooperation.
3. The Parties recognise that priorities for cooperation may change over time as the domestic and international understanding and treatment of agri-food systems develop. The Committee on Trade in Goods and Technical Barriers to Trade will identify priorities for cooperation and related activities.

ARTICLE 7.3

Definition of sustainable agri-food systems

For the purposes of this Chapter, and acknowledging that definitions of sustainable agri-food systems can adapt over time, the Parties consider sustainable agri-food systems to be food systems that ensure continuous access to safe, nutritious, sufficient and affordable food in such a way that the economic, social, cultural, and environmental bases to generate food security and nutrition for future generations are not compromised.

ARTICLE 7.4

Cooperation to improve the sustainability of agri-food systems

1. The Parties recognise the importance of cooperation under this Chapter as a mechanism to facilitate and strengthen their trade and investment relations.
2. Taking into account their respective priorities and circumstances, the Parties shall cooperate to address matters of mutual interest related to the implementation of this Chapter.

3. The cooperation referred to in paragraph 2 may take place bilaterally or in international fora, through:

- (a) the exchange of information, expertise, experiences and best practices;
- (b) collaborative research, development and innovation related to areas of mutual interest;
- (c) dialogues, workshops, seminars, conferences, collaborative projects, and technical assistance to promote and facilitate cooperation and training; and
- (d) any other form the representatives of the Parties to the Trade in Goods and Technical Barriers to Trade Committee may consider appropriate.

4. To achieve the objectives set out in Article 7.1, the Parties may cooperate on topics that include:

- (a) agri-food production methods and practices that aim to improve sustainability;
- (b) natural resource stewardship, including the efficient use of natural resources and agricultural inputs, and reducing the use and risk of pesticides and fertilisers where appropriate and according to differences in circumstances and agronomic conditions;
- (c) assessing and reducing the negative environmental and climate impacts of agri-food systems, including on greenhouse gas emissions, carbon sinks, water, soil and air quality, biodiversity and marine health;
- (d) contingency plans to ensure the security and resilience of agri-food supply chains and trade in times of crisis or ongoing environmental stress;
- (e) promoting global food security based on multilateral trade rules;
- (f) healthy, sustainable, nutritious and culturally-appropriate diets;
- (g) food loss and waste;

- (h) reducing the adverse environmental effects of policies and measures linked to the agri-food system;
- (i) best practices approaches to the monitoring and measurement of environmental, social and economic sustainability outcomes; and
- (j) addressing agri-food fraud¹ practices that mislead consumers or pose a risk to health of humans, animals or plants or a biosecurity risk to the environment.

ARTICLE 7.5

Australian First Nations peoples and sustainable agri-food systems

1. Recognising the importance of participation and leadership of Australian First Nations peoples in the sustainability of Australia's agri-food systems, and that their knowledge and cultural practices can improve the sustainability, diversity and resilience of agri-food systems, the Parties shall endeavour to cooperate in accordance with Article 7.4 (Cooperation to improve the sustainability of agri-food systems) to:

- (a) integrate Australian First Nations peoples' knowledge, cultural practices and stewardship approaches into agri-food systems, where appropriate, with a view to improving sustainability, diversity and resilience of agri-food systems; and
- (b) create new opportunities for Australian First Nations peoples to participate in agri-food trade, including with respect to native bushfoods and botanicals.

2. The Parties may consider the views and participation of Australian First Nations peoples in relevant cooperation activities under this Chapter.

¹ For greater certainty, for the purposes of this Chapter, the term "agri-food fraud" does not include misrepresentation of geographical indications. This footnote is without prejudice to Chapter 17 (Intellectual property).

ARTICLE 7.6

Animal welfare

1. The Parties recognise that animals are sentient beings and that there is a connection between improved animal welfare and sustainable agri-food production systems.
2. The Parties shall cooperate in international fora to promote the development of the best possible animal welfare practices for animals farmed for food production and support the implementation of such practices. In particular, the Parties shall cooperate on areas of mutual interest in support of international work on animal welfare standards with a focus on animals farmed for food production.
3. The Parties shall, where practicable and appropriate, exchange information, expertise and experiences in the field of animal welfare related to, in particular, the treatment on the farm, during transport and at slaughter of animals farmed for food production, with the aim of improving the understanding and implementation of their respective animal welfare standards, laws and regulations.
4. The Parties shall encourage cooperation on research in the area of animal welfare in particular related to the treatment on the farm, during transport and at slaughter of animals farmed for food production.

ARTICLE 7.7

Cooperation in fighting antimicrobial resistance

1. The Parties recognise that antimicrobial resistance is a serious global threat to human health, animal health and the environment, and that the nature of the threat requires a transnational and One Health approach.
2. The Parties shall facilitate the exchange of information, expertise and experiences in the field of antimicrobial resistance and animal health and production and shall identify common views, interests, priorities and policies in that field.

3. Each Party shall promote:

- (a) strengthened surveillance and monitoring of antimicrobial resistance and antimicrobial use under the 'One Health' approach, and collection and analysis of data on the use of antimicrobial agents in animal production;
- (b) guidance and initiatives for veterinarians and animal producers:
 - (i) on the prudent use of antimicrobial agents in animal production, good animal husbandry practices and biosecurity measures; and
 - (ii) explaining *inter alia* the societal costs and benefits of different strategies for combatting antimicrobial resistance; and
- (c) initiatives on the reduced need for and responsible use of antimicrobial agents in animal production and health, including the phasing out, in the absence of risk analysis, of the use of antimicrobial agents which are critically important for human medicine as growth promoters in animal production.

4. The Parties shall cooperate in relevant international organisations to further develop and support the implementation of agreed codes, guidelines, standards, recommendations, actions and other international initiatives with a view to promoting the reduced need for, and appropriate use of, antimicrobial agents which are critically important for human medicine including the phasing out, in the absence of risk analysis, of the use of such antimicrobial agents as growth promoters in animal production.

ARTICLE 7.8

Right to regulate and independence of national and regional agencies

1. The cooperation activities under this Chapter shall be without prejudice to the independence of each Party's national or regional agencies.

2. Consistently with each Party's right to regulate, nothing in this Chapter shall be construed to oblige a Party to:

- (a) modify its import requirements;
- (b) deviate from its procedures for preparing and adopting regulatory measures;
- (c) take action that would undermine or impede the timely adoption of regulatory measures to achieve its public policy objectives; or
- (d) adopt any particular regulatory outcome.

ARTICLE 7.9

Committee on Trade in Goods and Technical Barriers to Trade

1. The Committee on Trade in Goods and Technical Barriers to Trade is established pursuant to Article 22.5(1) (Specialised committees).

2. In addition to the functions specified in Article 22.6 (Functions of the specialised committees), with respect to this Chapter, the Committee on Trade in Goods and Technical Barriers to Trade shall have the following functions:

- (a) establish priorities for cooperation between the Parties and work to implement them; and
- (b) promote cooperation between the Parties in multilateral fora.

3. The Committee on Trade in Goods and Technical Barriers to Trade may establish working groups consisting of representatives of the Parties with expertise on matters covered by this Chapter.

4. The Committee on Trade in Goods and Technical Barriers to Trade shall meet within one year after the date of entry into force of this Agreement and thereafter as agreed by the co-chairs of the Committee on Trade in Goods and Technical Barriers to Trade.

ARTICLE 7.10

Contact points

1. Within 90 days after the date of entry into force of this Agreement, each Party shall:
 - (a) designate a contact point responsible for facilitating communication between the Parties on matters covered by this Chapter; and
 - (b) promptly notify the other Party of the contact details of its contact point.
2. Each Party shall promptly notify the other Party of any changes to the contact details of its contact point.