

## **Annex 6-A**

### **Cooperation to Alleviate the Economic Impact of the Pandemic<sup>1</sup>**

#### **General Provisions**

1. The Parties acknowledge that the coronavirus (COVID-19) presents an unprecedented and severe global challenge to the health and well-being, livelihood and safety of people that requires a coordinated response to ensure the continued flow of goods, services and personnel in global supply chains.
2. The Parties recognize the potential for developing appropriate activities that reinforce efforts to alleviate the socioeconomic impact of the pandemic reserving policy space in line with their development objectives.

#### **Working to Ensure the Flow of Goods in Global Supply Chains**

3. The Parties acknowledge the importance of facilitating timely to the extent possible the transportation and customs clearances of essential goods, such as food, critical medical supplies and personal protection equipment in accordance with the *Agreement on Trade Facilitation* in Annex 1A to the WTO Agreement and domestic laws and regulations.
4. The Parties shall endeavor to refrain from the introduction of export prohibitions or restrictions, non-tariff barriers on essential goods, including food, pharmaceuticals, and critical medical supplies, ensuring that such measures are targeted, proportionate, transparent, temporary and consistent with the WTO rules.

#### **Facilitating the Essential Movement of People**

5. The Parties acknowledge the importance of facilitating the essential movement of people to the extent possible, including cross-border business travels, while safeguarding public health in line with their efforts to combat the pandemic as well as minimize socioeconomic impacts of the pandemic.
6. The Parties also acknowledge the benefit of establishing guidelines to

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<sup>1</sup> “**The pandemic**” refers to a disease which the World Health Organisation (WHO) has declared a pandemic, such as COVID-19 on 11 March 2020.

provide support and assistance to each other and to facilitate the movement of people, including essential cross-border travel to ensure business continuity in accordance with their domestic laws and regulations, and without undermining the efforts to prevent the spread of the virus.

7. The Parties shall endeavor to enhance cooperation to provide appropriate support and assistance to nationals of each other, especially the most vulnerable, who live, work, and study in the other's country, working towards the dignity, health and well-being, safety and fair and effective treatments of those affected by the pandemic as well as facilitating the movement of people as appropriate.

### **Strengthening Solidarity to Control the Spread of the Pandemic**

8. The Parties recognize that the pandemic response requires worldwide solidarity and global effort, and reaffirm shared commitment to strengthen solidarity and mutual support to control the spread of the pandemic, by addressing its adverse impact on the societies and economies of both Parties.

9. The Parties recognize the importance of sharing information and experience in order to prevent and control the spread of the pandemic.

### **Minimizing the Negative Impacts on Trade and Investment Arising from the Pandemic to Facilitate an Inclusive, Sustainable and Resilient Economic Recovery**

10. The Parties shall endeavor to develop and implement cooperation activities to minimize the negative impacts of the pandemic on trade and investment as mutually agreed by the Parties.

11. The Parties shall endeavor to provide relevant information and best practices in a timely manner to the extent possible when adopting a measure with a foreseeable impact on international trade and investment.

12. The Parties shall endeavor to implement joint initiatives with relevant stakeholders that contribute to facilitating an inclusive, sustainable and resilient economic recovery of both Parties.