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CHAPTER XX

SANITARY AND PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES

ARTICLE X.1

Objectives

The objectives of this Chapter are to:

- (a) protect human, animal and plant life or health in the territory of the Parties while facilitating trade between them;
- (b) ensure that the Parties' sanitary and phytosanitary ("SPS") measures do not create unnecessary barriers to trade;
- (c) further the implementation of the SPS Agreement;
- (d) enhance cooperation in international standard-setting bodies to develop international standards, guidelines and recommendations on animal health, food safety and plant health, including international plant commodity standards;
- (e) promote the implementation by each Party of international standards, guidelines and recommendations;
- (f) promote greater transparency and understanding on the application of each Party's SPS measures;
- (g) enhance cooperation between the Parties on animal welfare and on the fight against antimicrobial resistance (AMR); and
- (h) strengthen communication, cooperation and resolution of SPS issues that may affect trade between the Parties.

ARTICLE X.2

Scope

1. This Chapter applies to SPS measures that may, directly or indirectly, affect trade between the Parties.
2. This Chapter also applies to cooperation on animal welfare and antimicrobial resistance.

ARTICLE X.3

Definitions

1. For the purposes of this Chapter:
 - (a) "competent authority" means an authority listed in Annex I;
 - (b) "protected zone for a specified regulated harmful organism" means an officially defined geographical area in the European Union in which that organism is not established in spite of favourable conditions for its establishment and its presence in other parts of the European Union; and
 - (c) "SPS Agreement" means the World Trade Organization Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures.
2. The definitions in Annex A of the SPS Agreement, as well as those adopted under the auspices of the *Codex Alimentarius Commission* (the "Codex"), the World Organisation for Animal Health (the "OIE") and the International Plant Protection Convention (the "IPPC") shall apply.

ARTICLE X.4

Relationship with the SPS Agreement

The Parties affirm their rights and obligations under the SPS Agreement. In particular, the Parties recall that in cases where relevant scientific evidence is insufficient, a Party may provisionally adopt SPS measures on the basis of available pertinent information, including that from the relevant international organizations. In such circumstances, the Party adopting the measure shall seek to obtain the additional information necessary for a more objective assessment of risk and review the measure accordingly within a reasonable period of time.

ARTICLE X.5

Trade conditions and facilitation

1. The importing Party shall establish and communicate to the other Party SPS import requirements for all products.

2. Except as provided for in Article 10, each Party shall apply its sanitary or phytosanitary import conditions to the entire territory of the other Party.
3. Each Party shall ensure that all sanitary and phytosanitary control, inspection and approval procedures are initiated and completed without undue delay. Each Party shall in particular avoid unnecessary or unduly burdensome information requests.
4. Each Party shall promptly communicate to the other Party any changes to its approval procedures. Except in duly justified circumstances related to its level of protection, each Party shall provide a transition period between the publication of any changes to its approval procedures and their application to allow the other Party to become familiar with and adapt to such changes. Each Party shall not unduly prolong the approval process for applications submitted prior to publication of the changes.
5. When a risk assessment is required, each Party shall promptly, and normally within one year from the date of receipt of the required information for exporting the product, make available the risk assessment it conducts as part of an approval procedure.
6. Where one or more alternative SPS measures may be available to achieve the appropriate level of protection of the importing Party, the Parties shall, upon request of the exporting Party, establish a technical dialogue to avoid unnecessary trade disruption and with a view to selecting the most practicable solution.
7. The Parties shall follow the guidelines and procedures set out in Annex II.

ARTICLE X.6

Approval procedures

1. In case of a first-time export request for a specific product, the importing Party shall promptly start the approval procedure for an application from the other Party (in case of the EU, this may also refer to an application from one Member State or group of Member States). In case of an application from a group of Member States where identical or similar sanitary or phytosanitary conditions exist, the approval procedure shall not take longer than for an application from one Member State.
2. Other than in duly justified circumstances, in case of a subsequent export request related to the same product from another Member State or a group of Member States, the importing Party shall approve the application no later than 6 months from receipt. Information requirements shall be limited to what is necessary for the approval process and take into account information already available in the importing Party, such as on the legislative framework and audit reports of the exporting Party.

3. As soon as the importing Party has positively concluded its assessment, it shall promptly take the necessary legislative or administrative measures to complete the approval procedure.

ARTICLE X.7

Specific plant health related conditions

1. In accordance with applicable standards agreed under the IPPC, the Parties shall exchange information on their pest status in their territory in order to justify the categorisation of pests and related phytosanitary measures.
2. Each Party shall establish and update a list of regulated pests for products for which a phytosanitary concern exists. The list shall contain:
 - (a) the quarantine pests not present within any part of its territory;
 - (b) the quarantine pests present but not widely distributed and under official control; and
 - (c) the regulated non-quarantine pests.
3. Each Party shall limit its import requirements for plants or plant products to measures ensuring the absence of regulated pests. Such import requirements shall be applicable to the entire territory of the exporting Party taking into account the regional conditions.
4. Consignments of regulated products shall be accepted without pre-clearance programmes.
5. The Parties shall follow the guidelines and procedures set out in Annex II.

ARTICLE X.8

Elimination of redundant control measures (pre-listing)

1. The exporting Party shall ensure that establishments, facilities and products eligible for export meet the applicable sanitary requirements of the importing Party.
2. If the importing Party maintains a list of authorised establishments or facilities for the import of a specific product, it shall approve an establishment or facility situated in the territory of the exporting Party without prior inspection of that establishment or facility if the exporting Party has requested such an approval, accompanied by the appropriate guarantees, and the importing Party has authorised the import of the product on the basis of an evaluation of the control system on animal health and food safety conditions applied by the competent authorities of the exporting Party.
3. The importing Party shall include the establishment or facility on the list of authorised establishments within 45 days from the date of receipt of the request. This list shall be publicly available. In duly justified circumstances, the importing Party may refuse the

approval of an establishment or facility that is not in compliance with its import requirements. In such cases, the importing Party shall notify the competent authority of the exporting Party and provide a justification for the refusal.

4. The importing Party may carry out verifications in accordance with the provisions of Article 12 as part of the approval procedure. These verifications may relate to the structure, organization and responsibilities of the competent authority responsible for the establishment or facility and the sanitary guarantees regarding compliance with the importing Party's requirements. These verifications may include on the spot inspection of a representative number of establishments or facilities appearing on the list of establishments or facilities provided by the exporting Party. Based on the results, the importing Party may amend the list of establishments or facilities.
5. The Parties shall follow the guidelines and procedures set out in Annex II.

ARTICLE X.9

Transparency and information exchange

1. The Parties shall promptly inform each other of any significant:
 - (a) change to plant pest or animal disease status, such as the presence and evolution of a pest or disease listed in Annex IV or of relevance for exports;
 - (b) finding of epidemiological importance with respect to a plant pest or animal disease, which is not listed in Annex IV or which is a new;
 - (c) food safety issue related to a product traded between the Parties;
 - (d) matter related to SPS measures that may affect trade between the Parties;
 - (e) change to the structure or organisation of a Party's competent authority; and
 - (f) any other pertinent information for the adequate implementation of this Chapter.
2. Unless the [Joint Management Committee]¹ decides otherwise, when the information referred to in paragraph 1 has been made available via notification to the WTO or to the relevant international standard-setting body, in accordance with its relevant rules, or on publicly available web-sites of the Parties, the requirement in paragraph 1 is deemed to be fulfilled.
3. Each Party shall promptly respond to information requests by the other Party a part of an approval procedure in accordance with the provisions of Annex III.

¹ Depending on the institutional chapter.

ARTICLE X.10

Adaptation to regional conditions

1. Each Party shall adapt its SPS measures to regional pest or disease conditions in accordance with this Article to protect animal and plant life or health and to facilitate trade.
2. With respect to live animals, animal products and animal by-products, the following shall apply.
 - (a) Each Party shall apply zoning to the diseases listed in Annex IV.
 - (b) For the purpose of sub-paragraph (a), the importing Party shall base its sanitary measure applicable to the exporting Party whose territory is affected by a disease listed in Annex IV on the zoning decision of the exporting Party, provided that the importing Party is satisfied that the exporting Party's zoning decision is in accordance with the guidelines and procedures set out in Annex IV.
 - (c) The exporting party may request the importing Party to recognise its status for any disease. The importing Party may request additional guarantees for imports of live animals, animal products, and animal by-products appropriate to the agreed status which shall be specified in Annex V.
 - (d) The Parties may explore the use of compartmentalisation.
3. With respect to plants and products of plant origin, the following shall apply:
 - (a) When the importing Party establishes or maintains a phytosanitary measure, it shall take into account, among other things, the pest status of an area, such as a pest-free area, pest-free place of production, pest-free production site, an area of low pest prevalence and a protected zone that the exporting Party has established.
 - (b) For the purpose of sub-paragraph (a), the importing Party shall recognise the pest-free areas, pest-free places of production, pest-free production sites, areas of low pest prevalence and protected zones established by the exporting Party as a basis for allowing or maintaining trade provided that these have been established in accordance with the guidelines and procedures set out in Annex IV.

ARTICLE X.11

Equivalence

1. The importing Party shall accept an SPS measure of the exporting Party as equivalent to its own if the exporting Party objectively demonstrates to the importing Party that its

measure achieves the importing Party's appropriate level of protection. The final determination of equivalence rests with the importing Party.

2. The Parties shall follow the guidelines and procedures to determine, recognise and maintain equivalence set out in Annex V.
3. Each Party shall accept the measures listed in Annex V as equivalent to its own under the terms sets out therein, including:
 - (a) the area for which the importing Party recognises that an SPS measure of the exporting Party is equivalent to its own;
 - (b) the area for which the importing Party recognises that the fulfilment of the specified special condition, combined with the exporting Party's SPS measure, achieves the importing Party's appropriate level of protection.
4. If a Party intends to adopt, modify, or repeal an SPS measure in an area for which it has made a recognition of equivalence under this Article, that Party shall:
 - (a) evaluate whether the adoption, modification or repeal of that SPS measure may affect the recognition; and
 - (b) notify the other Party of its intention to adopt, modify, or repeal that SPS measure, and of the evaluation under sub-paragraph (a). The notification shall take place at an early stage, when amendments can still be introduced and comments taken into account.
5. If a Party adopts, modifies, or repeals an SPS measure in an area for which it has made a recognition of equivalence under this Article, the importing Party shall continue to accept the recognition until it has communicated to the exporting Party whether special conditions must be met, and if so, provided the special conditions to the exporting Party. The importing Party shall consult with the exporting Party to develop these special conditions.

ARTICLE X.12

Audits and verifications

1. For the purpose of maintaining confidence in the implementation of this Chapter, each Party has the right to carry out an audit or verification, or both, of all or part of the control system of the competent authority of the other Party.
2. The Parties shall carry out audits and verifications following the procedure set out in Annex VI and shall endeavour to reduce the frequency and number of audit visits. Where deemed necessary by the importing Party to carry out an audit, the following shall apply:
 - (a) In case of a first-time export request for a specific product, the importing Party shall carry out an audit in a representative sample of competent authorities of the other Party.

- (b) In case of a subsequent export request from another Member State or a group of Member States related to the same product, with the aim to shorten the approval procedure, the importing Party shall carry out an audit only in duly justified circumstances. If the importing Party carries out an audit, it shall provide an explanation to the exporting Party.
3. Each Party shall bear its own costs associated with audits and verifications.
 4. Any measures taken as a consequence of audits and verifications shall be proportionate to the risks identified and not more trade restrictive than necessary to achieve the importing Party's appropriate level of protection.

ARTICLE X.13

Export certification

1. If an official health certificate is required to import a consignment of live animals, animal products or animal by-products, and if the importing Party has accepted the sanitary measure of the exporting Party as equivalent to its own with respect to such live animals, animal products or animal by-products, the Parties shall include the model health attestation in Annex VII. The Parties may also use a model attestation for other products if they so decide.
2. The Parties shall promote the implementation of electronic certification and other technologies to facilitate trade.
3. The Parties shall follow the guidelines and procedures set out in Annex VII on export certification.

ARTICLE X.14

Import checks and fees

1. The importing Party shall have the right to carry out import checks based on the sanitary and phytosanitary risks associated with imports. These checks shall be carried out without undue delay and with minimum trade disrupting effects.
2. If import checks reveal non-compliance with the relevant import requirements, the action taken by the importing Party shall follow international standards, be based on an assessment of the risk involved and not be more trade-restrictive than required to achieve the Party's appropriate level of protection.
3. The importing Party shall notify the importer or its representative of a non-compliant consignment including the reason for non-compliance, and provide them with an opportunity for a review of the decision. The importing Party shall consider any relevant information submitted to assist in the review.
4. Any fees imposed for procedures on imported products shall be not be higher than any fees charged on like domestic products for comparable checks and not higher than the actual cost of the service.

5. The Parties shall apply the provisions set out in Annex VIII on import checks and fees, including the frequency of import checks.

ARTICLE X.15

Technical consultations

1. If a Party has a significant concern with respect to human, animal or plant health, or an SPS measure that the other Party has proposed or implemented, that Party may request technical consultations with the other Party. The Party to which the request is addressed shall respond within 30 days. Each Party shall endeavour to provide the information necessary to avoid a disruption to trade and, as the case may be, to reach a mutually acceptable solution.
2. The Parties shall seek to resolve any concerns referred to in the previous paragraph through technical consultations pursuant to this Article prior to initiating dispute settlement proceedings under this Agreement.

ARTICLE X.16

Emergency SPS measures

1. If a Party adopts an emergency measure that is necessary for the protection of human, animal or plant life or health, the competent authority of the Party shall notify the competent authority of the other Party within 24 hours. If a Party requests technical consultations to address the emergency SPS measure, the technical consultations shall be held within 10 days of the notification of the emergency SPS measure. The Parties shall consider any information provided through the technical consultations.
2. The importing Party shall consider any information provided in a timely manner by the exporting Party when it makes its decision with respect to a consignment that, at the time of adoption of the emergency SPS measure, is being transported between the Parties.
3. The importing Party shall ensure that any emergency measure referred to in paragraph 1 is not adopted and maintained without scientific evidence. In cases where scientific evidence is insufficient, the importing Party may provisionally adopt emergency measures in accordance with Article 4.

ARTICLE X.17

Animal welfare

1. The Parties recognise that animals are sentient beings. They also recognize the connection between improved welfare of animals and sustainable food production systems.

2. The Parties undertake to cooperate in international fora to promote the development of the best possible animal welfare practices and their implementation. In particular, the Parties will cooperate to reinforce and broaden the scope of the OIE animal welfare standards, as well as the implementation, with a focus on farmed animals.
3. The Parties shall exchange information, expertise and experiences in the field of animal welfare with the aim to align regulatory standards related to breeding, holding, handling, transportation and slaughter of food-producing animals.
4. The Parties shall strengthen their cooperation on research in the area of animal welfare to develop adequate and science-based animal welfare standards related to animal breeding and the treatment of animals on the farm, during transport and at slaughter.
5. The Parties hereby establish a Technical Working Group on animal welfare. The working group shall agree on a work plan and report to the [Joint Management Committee]² on its activities on an annual basis.

ARTICLE X.18

Antimicrobial Resistance

1. The Parties recognise that antimicrobial resistance is a serious threat to human and animal health. The Parties shall facilitate the exchange of information, expertise and experiences in the field of antimicrobial resistance and animal production; and identify common views, interests, priorities and policies in the area.
2. The Parties shall support the development of:
 - (a) a harmonised system for surveillance and monitoring of antimicrobial resistance, and a harmonised system for collection and analysis of data on the use of antimicrobial agents in animal production;
 - (b) a stewardship programme including:
 - i. guidelines for veterinarians and animal producers on prudent use of antimicrobial agents in animal production,
 - ii. guidelines for animal producers on good animal husbandry practices and biosecurity measures (infection prevention) that are required to prevent infection and spread of infections, thereby reducing the need for use of antimicrobial agents, and
 - iii. guidelines for decision making, explaining inter alia the costs and benefits of applying b) i–ii above, and the practicalities of participating in the governmental surveillance, monitoring and data collection programmes mentioned in a) above;

² Depending on the institutional chapter.

- (c) initiatives to promote the reduction of use of antimicrobial agents in animal production including the phasing out of the use of antimicrobial agents as growth promoters in animal production; and
 - (d) quality assurance programmes that allow for assessment of antimicrobial stewardship in animal production.
3. Furthermore, the Parties shall:
- (a) cooperate in and follow existing and future codes, guidelines, standards, recommendations and actions developed in relevant international organisations, initiatives and national plans to promote reduced use of antimicrobial agents and relating to animal production and veterinary practices;
 - (b) cooperate to promote reduced use of antimicrobial agents in animal production in third countries including the phasing out of the use of antimicrobial agents as growth promoters in animal production; and
 - (c) support the implementation of agreed international action plans and strategies on antimicrobial resistance.
4. The Parties hereby establish a Technical Working Group on antimicrobial resistance. The working group shall agree on a work plan and report to the [Joint Management Committee]³ on its activities on an annual basis.

ARTICLE X.19

[Joint Management Committee for sanitary and phytosanitary measures]⁴

1. The Joint Management Committee for Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (the “Joint Management Committee”) shall be responsible for the effective implementation and operation of this Chapter, and shall be composed of representatives of the Parties.
2. The functions of the Joint Management Committee include:
 - (a) to monitor implementation and consider any matter related to this Chapter;
 - (b) *[Placeholder: The scope and modalities for amending the existing Annexes or proposing new Annexes to be further discussed]*; and
 - (c) to provide a forum to exchange information on each Party’s regulatory system and SPS measures.
3. The Joint Management Committee may, among other things:

³ Depending on the institutional chapter.

- (a) identify opportunities for cooperation, including trade facilitation initiatives and further work on eliminating unnecessary barriers to trade between the Parties;
 - (b) facilitate understanding between the Parties on the implementation of the SPS Agreement, and promote cooperation on SPS issues in multilateral fora, including the WTO Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures and international standard-setting bodies, as appropriate; and
 - (c) serve as a forum to resolve issues provided that the Parties have first attempted to address them through technical consultations pursuant to Article 15.
4. The Joint Management Committee may establish ad hoc working groups.
 5. A Party may refer any issue to the Joint Management Committee. The Joint Management Committee shall consider the issue as expeditiously as possible. If the Joint Management Committee is unable to resolve an issue expeditiously, it shall, at the request of a Party, report to the [Joint Committee]⁴.
 6. Unless the Parties decide otherwise, the Joint Management Committee shall meet and establish its work programme no later than one year following the entry into force of this Agreement. The Joint Management Committee shall establish its rules of procedure at its first meeting and may revise them as necessary.
 7. The Joint Management Committee shall report annually on its activities and work programme to the [Joint Committee]⁴.

ARTICLE X.20

Implementation and resources

1. Each Party shall take into account where relevant for implementing this Chapter:
 - (a) decisions of the WTO SPS Committee;
 - (b) the work of the relevant international standard setting bodies;
 - (c) any knowledge and past experience it has in trading with the exporting Party, and
 - (d) information provided by the other Party.
2. Each Party shall ensure that its competent authorities have the necessary resources to effectively implement this Chapter.

⁴ Depending on the institutional chapter.

ANNEX I - COMPETENT AUTHORITIES

A. Competent authorities of the European Union

1. Control is shared between the national authorities of the Member States and the European Commission. In this respect, the following applies:
 - (a) for exports to Australia, the Member States are responsible for the control of the production circumstances and requirements, including statutory inspections or audits and issuing health certification in relation to the agreed SPS measures and requirements;
 - (b) for imports from Australia, the Member States are responsible for the control of compliance of the imports with the European Union's import conditions; and
 - (c) the European Commission is responsible for the overall coordination, inspection or audits of control systems and the necessary measures, including legislative action to ensure uniform application of standards and requirements of this Agreement.

B. Competent authorities of Australia

2. The following authorities are responsible for the application of SPS measures with respect to domestically produced, exported and imported live animals and animal products, plants and plant products, and for issuing health certificates in relation to the agreed SPS measures unless otherwise noted:
 - (a)
 - (b)

ANNEX II - TRADE CONDITIONS AND FACILITATION

1. Each Party shall make publicly available updated information on its:
 - (a) SPS import requirements, model health certificates, control, inspection and approval procedures;
 - (b) lists of authorised establishments or facilities, pursuant to Article 8; and
 - (c) A list of plant regulated pests.

2. Where a Party requires a product to be approved prior to its importation, each Party shall promptly make available, upon request, to the other Party information about sanitary and phytosanitary import procedures, in particular that:
 - (a) the standard processing period of each procedure is published or that the anticipated processing period is communicated to the exporting Party upon request;
 - (b) when receiving an application, the competent authority of the importing Party promptly examines the completeness of the documentation and informs the exporting Party in a precise and complete manner of all deficiencies;
 - (c) the competent authority of the importing Party transmits as soon as possible the results of the procedure in a precise and complete manner to the exporting Party so that corrective action may be taken if necessary; and
 - (d) even when the application has deficiencies, the competent authority of the importing Party proceeds as far as practicable with the procedure if the exporting Party so requests; and that upon request, the exporting Party is informed of the stage of the procedure, with any delay being explained.

ANNEX III - TRANSPARENCY AND INFORMATION EXCHANGE

If the importing Party requires a product to be approved prior to importation, it shall on request make available within 45 working days following the date of request of the exporting Party available information about:

- (a) the state of play of the SPS import procedure and assessment process for a specific product or market access application;
- (b) animal disease or quarantine plant pest status in its territory;
- (c) results of a Party's official control and a report that concerns the results of the control carried out,
- (d) risk assessment or scientific opinion that a Party has produced and that is relevant to this Chapter;
- (e) the relation of the SPS measure to international standards, guidelines and recommendations and, in case that a measure is not based on international standard, the information on which the SPS measure is based and an explanation of the reasons of such measure.

**ANNEX IV - DISEASES FOR WHICH REGIONALIZATION
DECISIONS MAY BE TAKEN, AND REGIONAL CONDITIONS**

A. Animal diseases

1. Foot-and-mouth disease
2. Vesicular stomatitis
3. Swine vesicular disease
4. Rinderpest
5. Peste des petits ruminants
6. Contagious bovine pleuropneumonia
7. Lumpy skin disease
8. Rift Valley fever
9. Bluetongue
10. Sheep pox and goat pox
11. African horse sickness
12. African swine fever
13. Classical swine fever
14. Notifiable avian influenza
15. Newcastle disease
16. Venezuelan equine encephalomyelitis
17. Epizootic haemorrhagic disease

B. Regional conditions for animals, animal products and animal by-products

The importing Party shall assess any additional information received from the exporting Party without undue delay and normally within 90 days after receipt.

C. Regional conditions for plants and plant products

Without prejudice
Limited

The importing Party shall assess any additional information received from the exporting Party without undue delay.

ANNEX V - RECOGNITION OF SANITARY MEASURES

A. General

1. If an importing Party determines that a special condition listed in this Annex is no longer necessary, that Party shall notify the other Party in accordance with Article 11 that it will no longer apply that special condition to imports from the other Party.
2. For greater certainty, an SPS measure of an importing Party that is not included in this Annex or a measure of an importing Party that is not an SPS measure applies, as appropriate, to imports from the other Party.
3. For the updated SPS measures, refer to the legislative publication of each Party and which are applicable for trade.

B. Sanitary Measures

[Placeholder: To be integrated at a later stage, awaiting the completion of the Mutual Equivalence Recognition project]

**ANNEX VI - GUIDELINES AND PROCEDURES FOR AN AUDIT
OR VERIFICATION**

1. The importing Party may determine that it is necessary to carry out an audit as one of the tools to assess the exporting Party's official inspection and certification systems. These audits shall follow a systems-based approach which relies on the examination of a sample of system procedures, documents or records and, where required, on-site inspections of facilities within the scope of the audit.
2. Audits shall concentrate primarily on evaluating the effectiveness of the official inspection and certification systems as well as the capacity of the exporting Party to comply with the sanitary and phytosanitary import requirements and related control measures rather than on specific establishments in order to determine the ability of the exporting Party's competent authorities to have and maintain control and deliver the required assurances to the importing country.
3. Prior to the commencement of an audit, the Parties shall discuss the objectives and scope of the audit, the criteria or requirements against which the exporting Party will be assessed, and the itinerary and procedures for conducting the audit which shall be laid down in an audit plan. Unless otherwise agreed by the Parties, the importing Party shall provide the exporting Party an audit plan at least 30 days prior to the commencement of the audit.
4. The importing Party shall set forth its findings, conclusions and recommendations (if any) from the audit in writing in a draft audit report.
5. The importing Party shall provide the draft audit report to the exporting Party, normally within 30 days of the conclusion of the audit.
6. The exporting Party shall inform the importing Party of any corrective actions based on the findings and conclusions in the draft audit report.
7. The importing Party shall provide the exporting Party the opportunity to comment on the draft audit report. The importing Party shall provide a final report in writing to the exporting Party normally within two months from the date of receipt of those comments.
8. Each Party shall ensure that procedures are in place to prevent the disclosure of confidential information that is acquired during an audit of the exporting Party's competent authorities, including procedures to remove any confidential information from a final audit report that is made publicly available.

ANNEX VII - EXPORT CERTIFICATION

Official health certificates will cover consignments of live animals and/or animal products being traded between the Parties.

[Placeholder: To be integrated at a later stage of the negotiations]

ANNEX VIII - IMPORT CHECKS AND FEES

FRONTIER CHECKS AND INSPECTION FEES

A. FRONTIER CHECKS ON CONSIGNMENTS OF LIVE ANIMALS AND ANIMAL PRODUCTS

B. INSPECTION FEES

[Placeholder: To be integrated at a later stage of the negotiations]