

## **MODULE 10**

### **SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES COOPERATION**

#### **Article 10.1: General Principles**

1. The Parties recognise the fundamental role of SMEs in maintaining dynamism and enhancing competitiveness in the digital economy.
2. The Parties recognise the integral role of the private sector in the SMEs cooperation to be implemented under this Module.
3. The Parties shall foster close cooperation on the digital economy between SMEs of the Parties and cooperate in promoting jobs and growth for SMEs.

#### **Article 10.2: Cooperation to Enhance Trade and Investment Opportunities for SMEs in the Digital Economy**

With a view to more robust cooperation between the Parties to enhance trade and investment opportunities for SMEs in the digital economy, the Parties shall:

- (a) continue cooperation with the other Parties to exchange information and best practices in leveraging on digital tools and technology to improve SMEs access to capital and credit, SMEs participation in government procurement opportunities and other areas that could help SMEs adapt to the digital economy; and
- (b) encourage participation by the Parties' SMEs in platforms that could help SMEs link with international suppliers, buyers and other potential business partners.

#### **Article 10.3: Information Sharing**

1. Each Party shall establish or maintain its own free, publicly accessible website containing information regarding this Agreement, including:
  - (a) the text of this Agreement;
  - (b) a summary of this Agreement; and
  - (c) information designed for SMEs that contains:
    - (i) a description of the provisions in this Agreement that the Party considers to be relevant to SMEs; and
    - (ii) any additional information that would be useful for SMEs interested in benefitting from the opportunities provided by this Agreement.

2. Each Party shall include on its website, established or maintained in accordance with paragraph 1, links or information accessible through automated electronic transfer to:

- (a) the equivalent websites of the other Parties; and
- (b) the websites of its own government agencies and other appropriate entities that provide information that the Party considers useful to any person interested in the implementation of this Agreement.

3. The information described in paragraph 2(b) may include information related to the following areas:

- (a) customs regulations, procedures or enquiry points;
- (b) regulations concerning data flows and data privacy;
- (c) innovation and data regulatory sandboxes;
- (d) regulations or procedures concerning intellectual property rights;
- (e) technical regulations, standards, or conformity assessment procedures related to digital trade;
- (f) sanitary or phytosanitary measures relating to importation or exportation;
- (g) trade promotion programmes;
- (h) government procurement opportunities; and
- (i) financing programmes for SMEs.

4. Each Party shall regularly review the information and links on the website referred to in paragraph 2 and paragraph 3 to ensure that the information and links are up-to-date and accurate.

5. To the extent possible, each Party shall make the information published in accordance with this Article available in English.

#### **Article 10.4: Digital SME Dialogue**

1. The Parties shall convene a Digital SME Dialogue (the Dialogue). The Dialogue may include private sector, non-government organisations, academic experts and other stakeholders from each Party. The Parties may collaborate with other interested persons in convening the Dialogue.

2. The Dialogue shall promote the benefits of this Agreement for the Parties' SMEs. The Dialogue shall also promote relevant collaboration efforts and initiatives between the Parties arising from this Agreement.

3. To encourage inclusive participation by the Parties' stakeholders and increase outreach impact, the Parties may consider organising the Dialogue on the sidelines, or as part of existing platforms and meetings that the Parties are participants or members of, including APEC or WTO meetings.

4. The Parties may consider using relevant technical or scientific input, or other information arising from the Dialogue towards implementation efforts and further modernisation of this Agreement for the benefit of the Parties' SMEs.