

9. Replace Chapter 9 (Trade Remedy Measures) with:

## **CHAPTER 9**

### **ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION**

#### **Article 9.1**

##### **Objectives and Scope**

1. Member States reaffirm the importance of economic and technical co-operation initiatives among the Member States and agree to complement existing economic and technical co-operation programmes and activities in areas of mutual interest and benefits to the Member States, taking into account the different levels of development of the Member States.
2. Member States agree that the economic and technical co-operation under this Agreement aims at narrowing development gaps among the Member States and maximising mutual benefits from the implementation and utilisation of this Agreement.
3. Member States acknowledge the provisions to encourage and facilitate economic and technical co-operation included in this Agreement.
4. Member States shall seek to prioritise economic and technical co-operation initiatives and, to the extent possible, minimise duplication of ongoing efforts and utilisation of resources, particularly those under the FTAs between ASEAN and their FTA partners.
5. Economic and technical co-operation under this Chapter shall support the inclusive, effective, and efficient implementation and utilisation of this Agreement through economic and technical co-operation activities in areas specified in Article 9.2 (Work Programme).

## Article 9.2

### Work Programme

1. In accordance with paragraph 5 of Article 9.1 (Objectives and Scope), the committees established pursuant to Chapter 15 (Institutional Provisions) shall take into consideration the economic and technical co-operation provisions in this Agreement and the needs of Member States in their respective work programmes.

2. To encourage effective implementation and utilisation of this Agreement, Member States shall consider activities that would:

- (a) provide capacity building and technical assistance to all Member States, particularly the Least Developed Member States;<sup>1</sup>
- (b) increase public awareness;
- (c) enhance access to information for businesses, especially the MSMEs;
- (d) enable this Agreement to contribute to ASEAN's priorities; and
- (e) other activities as may be agreed upon among the Member States.

---

<sup>1</sup> For the purposes of this Article, **Least Developed Member State** means any Member State designated as a least developed country by the United Nations and which has not obtained graduation from that category.

## **Article 9.3**

### **Resources**

1. Resources for economic and technical co-operation under this Chapter shall be provided in a manner that is agreed upon by the Member States while recognising the development gaps among the Member States.
2. Member States, on the basis of mutual benefit, may consider co-operation with, and contribution from:
  - (a) ASEAN's dialogue and development partners;
  - (b) non-Member States;
  - (c) sub-regional, regional, or international organisations or institutions; and
  - (d) private sectors,

that are interested in developing mutually beneficial economic co-operation and partnerships.

## **Article 9.4**

### **Non-Application of Dispute Settlement**

Dispute settlement mechanisms in this Agreement shall not apply to any matter arising under this Chapter.