any of the covered agreements alleged to have been breached and any other relevant provision) of the complaint. The complaining party shall send the request to the party complained against and the rest of the Parties. Upon receipt, the party complained against shall promptly acknowledge receipt of such request to the complaining party and the rest of the Parties at the same time.

3. If a request for consultations is made, the party complained against shall reply to the request within seven (7) days after the date of its receipt and shall enter into consultations in good faith within a period of not more than thirty (30) days after the date of receipt of the request, with a view to reaching a mutually satisfactory solution. If the party complained against does not respond within the aforesaid seven (7) days, or does not enter into consultations within the aforesaid thirty (30) days, then the complaining party may proceed directly to request for the establishment of an arbitral panel under Article 5.

4. The parties to a dispute shall make every effort to reach a mutually satisfactory resolution of any matter through consultations under this Article. To this end, the parties to the dispute shall:

   (a) provide sufficient information to enable a full examination of how the measure might affect the operation of the covered agreement; and

   (b) treat as confidential any information exchanged in the course of consultations which the other party to the dispute has designated as confidential.

5. Consultations shall be confidential and without prejudice to the rights of any Party in any further proceedings under this Agreement or other proceedings before a forum selected by the Parties. The parties to the dispute shall inform the rest of the Parties the outcome of the consultations.

6. In cases of urgency, including those which concern perishable goods, the parties to the dispute shall enter into consultations within a period of no more than ten (10) days after the date of receipt by the party complained against of the request. If the consultations have failed to settle the dispute within a period of twenty (20) days after the date of receipt by the party complained against of the request, the complaining party may proceed directly to request for the establishment of an arbitral panel under Article 5.

7. In cases of urgency, including those which concern perishable goods, the parties to the dispute and arbitral panels shall make every effort to accelerate the proceedings to the greatest extent possible.

Article 4
Good Offices, Conciliation and Mediation

1. Good offices, conciliation and mediation are procedures that are undertaken voluntarily if the parties to the dispute so agree.

2. Good offices, conciliation or mediation may be requested at any time by any party to a dispute. They may begin at any time and be terminated by any party to a
dispute at any time.

3. If the parties to a dispute agree, good offices, conciliation or mediation proceedings may continue before any person or body as may be agreed by the parties to the dispute while the dispute proceeds for resolution before an arbitral panel established under Article 5.

4. Proceedings involving good offices, conciliation and mediation, and in particular, positions taken by the parties to a dispute during these proceedings, shall be confidential, and without prejudice to the rights of any Party in any further proceedings under this Agreement or other proceedings before a forum selected by the Parties.

Article 5
Establishment of Arbitral Panels

1. If the consultations under Article 3 fail to settle a dispute within sixty (60) days after the date of receipt of the request for consultations or within twenty (20) days after such date in cases of urgency including those which concern perishable goods, the complaining party may make a written request to the party complained against to establish an arbitral panel. A copy of this request shall also be communicated to the rest of the Parties.

2. A request for the establishment of an arbitral panel shall give the reasons for the request, including the identification of:

   (a) the specific measure at issue; and

   (b) the factual and legal basis (including the provisions of any of the covered agreements alleged to have been breached and any other relevant provisions) for the complaint sufficient to present the problem clearly.

3. Upon delivery of the request, an arbitral panel shall be established.

4. Unless otherwise agreed by the parties to the dispute, an arbitral panel shall be established and perform its functions in accordance with the provisions of this Agreement, and the Annex on the Rules and Procedures for the Arbitral Panel Proceedings.

5. Where more than one complaining party requests the establishment of an arbitral panel related to the same matter, a single arbitral panel may, whenever feasible, be established by the parties to the dispute to examine the matter, taking into account their respective rights.

6. Where a single arbitral panel is established under paragraph 5, the arbitral panel shall organise its examination and present its findings to all the parties to the dispute in such manner that the rights which the parties to the dispute would have enjoyed had separate arbitral panels examined the same matter are in no way impaired. If one of the parties to the dispute so requests, the arbitral panel may