Annex I

Elimination of Import Duties

Under Article 9 of the Agreement

**Article 1**

**Definitions**

1. For purposes of this Annex, the definitions set out in Article 1 of the Agreement shall apply.
2. In this Annex, the following definitions shall have the meanings set forth herein unless the context provides otherwise:

**“Tariff Schedules”** means schedules providing customs duties which are imposed by Tripartite Member/Partner States on imports originatingfrom other Tripartite Member/Tripartite States and elimination thereof; and

**“Harmonised System”**means the Harmonised Commodity Description and Coding System established by the International Convention on the Harmonised Commodity Description and Coding System of the World Customs Organization.

**Article 2**

**Objectives**

Without prejudice to the rights and obligations of the Tripartite Member/Partner States under relevant WTO Agreements, this Annex provides for tariff schedules that shallapply to trade among Tripartite Member/Partner States and the process for the gradual elimination of import duties.

**Article 3**

**Scope**

This Annex applies to tariff schedules agreed to by Tripartite Member/Partner Statesin accordance with Article 9(3) of the Agreement.

**Article 4**

**Tariff Schedules**

Agreed tariff schedules shall be appended to Appendix 1 of this Annex and notified to Tripartite Member/Partner States upon approval by the Tripartite Sectoral Ministerial Committee on Trade, Finance, Customs, Economic Matters and Home/Internal Affairs.

**Article 5**

**Transitional Arrangements**

1. In the interim[[1]](#footnote-2), the Tripartite Member/Partner States shall apply existing preferential trade arrangements within their respective RECswith respect toelimination of tariffs for purposes of trade within the RECs.
2. With respect to trade across the RECs the Tripartite Member/ Partner States shall conclude a Tariff Schedule and shall be applied upon entry into force of the Agreement and adoption by the Tripartite Council of Ministers.

**Article 6**

**Conflict of Provisions**

In the event of a conflict between this Annex and the Agreement, the latter shall prevail.

**Article 7**

**Dispute Settlement**

Where any parties to the Agreement fail to agree on the implementation of any of the provisions of this Annex and a dispute arises, the matter shall be addressed in accordance with Article 30 of the Agreement.

**Article 8**

**Amendment**

This Annex may be amended in accordance with Article 37 of the Agreement.

**Appendix 1**

**TARIFF SCHEDULES AGREED BY THE TRIPARTITE MEMBER/PARTNER STATES IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 9(3) OF THE AGREEMENT**

1. The term interim refers to the period prior to the adoption of agreed tariff schedules in accordance with Article 5 of this Annex. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)