

CHAPTER EIGHTEEN
ADMINISTRATION OF THE AGREEMENT

ARTICLE 18.1: CONTACT POINTS

1. Each Party shall designate a contact point or points to facilitate communications between the Parties on any matter covered by this Agreement.
2. On request of the other Party, a Party's contact point shall identify the office or official responsible for the matter and assist, as necessary, in facilitating communications with the other Party.

ARTICLE 18.2: JOINT COMMITTEE

1. The Parties hereby establish a Joint Committee to supervise the implementation of this Agreement and to review the trade relationship between the Parties.
 - (a) The Joint Committee shall comprise government officials of each Party and shall be chaired by (i) the United States Trade Representative and (ii) Bahrain's Minister of Finance and National Economy, or their designees.
 - (b) The Joint Committee may establish and delegate responsibilities to *ad hoc* and standing subcommittees or working groups and seek the advice of non-governmental persons.
2. The Joint Committee shall:
 - (a) review the general functioning of this Agreement;
 - (b) review and consider specific matters related to the operation and implementation of this Agreement in the light of its objectives;
 - (c) facilitate the avoidance and settlement of disputes arising under this Agreement, including through consultations pursuant to Chapter Nineteen (Dispute Settlement);
 - (d) consider and adopt any amendment or other modification to this Agreement, subject to completion of necessary approval procedures by each Party;
 - (e) consider ways to further enhance trade relations between the Parties and to promote the objectives of this Agreement, including through cooperation and assistance; and
 - (f) take such other action as the Parties may agree.
3. The Joint Committee may establish its own rules of procedure.
4. Unless the Parties agree otherwise, the Joint Committee shall convene
 - (a) in regular session every year, with such sessions to be held alternately in the territory of each Party; and
 - (b) in special session within 30 days of the request of a Party, with such special sessions to be held in the territory of the other Party or at such location as the Parties may agree.

5. The Parties recognize the importance of transparency and openness in implementing this Agreement, including considering the views of interested parties and other members of the public.

6. Each Party shall treat any confidential information exchanged in relation to a meeting of the Joint Committee on the same basis as the Party providing the information.