

**CHAPTER TWELVE
FINANCIAL SERVICES**

ARTICLE 12.1: SCOPE AND COVERAGE

1. This Chapter applies to measures adopted or maintained by a Party relating to:
 - (a) financial institutions of the other Party;
 - (b) investors of the other Party, and investments of such investors, in financial institutions in the Party's territory; and
 - (c) cross-border trade in financial services.

2. Chapters Ten (Investment) and Eleven (Cross-Border Trade in Services) apply to measures described in Paragraph 1 only to the extent that such Chapters or Articles of such Chapters are incorporated into this Chapter.
 - (a) Articles 10.6 (Expropriation and Compensation), 10.7 (Transfers), 10.10 (Investment and Environment), 10.11 (Denial of Benefits), 10.13 (Special Formalities and Information Requirements), and 11.11 (Denial of Benefits) are hereby incorporated into and made a part of this Chapter.
 - (b) Section B of Chapter Ten (Investor-State Dispute Settlement) is hereby incorporated into and made a part of this Chapter solely for claims that a Party has breached Articles 10.6 (Expropriation and Compensation), 10.7 (Transfers), 10.11 (Denial of Benefits), or 10.13 (Special Formalities and Information Requirements), as incorporated into this Chapter.
 - (c) Article 11.10 (Transfers and Payments) is incorporated into and made a part of this Chapter to the extent that cross-border trade in financial services is subject to obligations pursuant to Article 12.5.

3. This Chapter does not apply to measures adopted or maintained by a Party relating to:
 - (a) activities or services forming part of a public retirement plan or statutory system of social security; or
 - (b) activities or services conducted for the account or with the guarantee or using the financial resources of the Party, including its public entities,

except that this Chapter shall apply if a Party allows any of the activities or services referred to in subparagraphs (a) or (b) to be conducted by its financial institutions in competition with a public entity or a financial institution.

ARTICLE 12.2: NATIONAL TREATMENT

1. Each Party shall accord to investors of the other Party treatment no less favorable than that it accords to its own investors, in like circumstances, with respect to the establishment, acquisition, expansion, management, conduct, operation, and sale or other disposition of financial institutions and investments in financial institutions in its territory.

2. Each Party shall accord to financial institutions of the other Party and to investments of investors of the other Party in financial institutions treatment no less favorable than that it accords to its own financial institutions, and to investments of its own investors in financial institutions, in like circumstances, with respect to the establishment, acquisition, expansion, management, conduct, operation, and sale or other disposition of financial institutions and investments.

3. For purposes of the national treatment obligations in Article 12.5.1, a Party shall accord to cross-border financial service suppliers of the other Party treatment no less favorable than that it accords to its own financial service suppliers, in like circumstances, with respect to the supply of the relevant service.

ARTICLE 12.3: MOST-FAVORED-NATION TREATMENT

1. Each Party shall accord to investors of the other Party, financial institutions of the other Party, investments of investors in financial institutions, and cross-border financial service suppliers of the other Party treatment no less favorable than that it accords to the investors, financial institutions, investments of investors in financial institutions, and cross-border financial service suppliers of a non-Party, in like circumstances.

2. A Party may recognize prudential measures of a non-Party in the application of measures covered by this Chapter. Such recognition may be:

- (a) accorded autonomously;
- (b) achieved through harmonization or other means; or
- (c) based upon an agreement or arrangement with the non-Party.

3. A Party according recognition of prudential measures under paragraph 2 shall provide adequate opportunity to the other Party to demonstrate that circumstances exist in which there are or would be equivalent regulation, oversight, implementation of regulation, and, if appropriate, procedures concerning the sharing of information between the Parties.

4. Where a Party accords recognition of prudential measures under paragraph 2(c) and the circumstances set out in paragraph 3 exist, the Party shall provide adequate opportunity to the other Party to negotiate accession to the agreement or arrangement, or to negotiate a comparable agreement or arrangement.

ARTICLE 12.4: MARKET ACCESS FOR FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

A Party shall not adopt or maintain, with respect to financial institutions of the other Party or investors of the other Party seeking to establish such institutions, either on the basis of a regional subdivision or on the basis of its entire territory, measures that:

- (a) impose limitations on:
 - (i) the number of financial institutions whether in the form of numerical quotas, monopolies, exclusive service suppliers, or the requirements of an economic needs test;
 - (ii) the total value of financial service transactions or assets in the form of numerical quotas or the requirement of an economic needs test;
 - (iii) the total number of financial service operations or on the total quantity of financial services output expressed in terms of designated numerical units in the form of quotas or the requirement of an economic needs test;¹ or
 - (iv) the total number of natural persons that may be employed in a particular financial service sector or that a financial institution may employ and who are necessary for, and directly related to, the supply of a specific financial service in the form of numerical quotas or the requirement of an economic needs test; or

¹ This clause does not cover measures of a Party which limit inputs for the supply of financial services.

- (b) restrict or require specific types of legal entity or joint venture through which a financial institution may supply a service.

ARTICLE 12.5: CROSS-BORDER TRADE

1. Each Party shall permit, under terms and conditions that accord national treatment, cross-border financial service suppliers of the other Party to supply the services specified in Annex 12.5.1.
2. Each Party shall permit persons located in its territory, and its nationals wherever located, to purchase financial services from cross-border financial service suppliers of the other Party located in the territory of the other Party. This obligation does not require a Party to permit such suppliers to do business or solicit in its territory. Each Party may define “doing business” and “solicitation” for purposes of this obligation, provided that those definitions are not inconsistent with paragraph 1.
3. Without prejudice to other means of prudential regulation of cross-border trade in financial services, a Party may require the registration of cross-border financial service suppliers of the other Party and of financial instruments.

ARTICLE 12.6: NEW FINANCIAL SERVICES²

Each Party shall permit a financial institution of the other Party to supply any new financial service that the Party would permit its own financial institutions, in like circumstances, to supply without additional legislative action by the Party. Notwithstanding Article 12.4(b), a Party may determine the institutional and juridical form through which the new financial service may be supplied and may require authorization for the supply of the service. Where a Party requires authorization to supply a new financial service, a decision shall be made within a reasonable time and the authorization may only be refused for prudential reasons.

ARTICLE 12.7: TREATMENT OF CERTAIN INFORMATION

Nothing in this Chapter requires a Party to furnish or allow access to:

- (a) information related to the financial affairs and accounts of individual customers of financial institutions or cross-border financial service suppliers; or
- (b) any confidential information the disclosure of which would impede law enforcement or otherwise be contrary to the public interest or prejudice legitimate commercial interests of particular enterprises.

ARTICLE 12.8: SENIOR MANAGEMENT AND BOARDS OF DIRECTORS

1. A Party may not require financial institutions of the other Party to engage individuals of any particular nationality as senior managerial or other essential personnel.
2. A Party may not require that more than a minority of the board of directors of a financial institution of the other Party be composed of nationals of the Party, persons residing in the territory of the Party, or a combination thereof.

² The Parties understand that nothing in Article 12.6 prevents a financial institution of a Party from applying to the other Party to consider authorizing the supply of a financial service that is supplied in neither Party's territory. Such application shall be subject to the law of the Party to which the application is made and, for greater certainty, shall not be subject to the obligations of Article 12.6.

ARTICLE 12.9: NON-CONFORMING MEASURES

1. Articles 12.2 through 12.5 and 12.8 do not apply to:
 - (a) any existing non-conforming measure that is maintained by a Party at
 - (i) the central level of government, as set out by that Party in Section A of its Schedule to Annex III,
 - (ii) a regional level of government, as set out by that Party in Section A of its Schedule to Annex III, or
 - (iii) a local level of government;
 - (b) the continuation or prompt renewal of any non-conforming measure referred to in subparagraph (a); or
 - (c) an amendment to any non-conforming measure referred to in subparagraph (a) to the extent that the amendment does not decrease the conformity of the measure, as it existed immediately before the amendment, with Articles 12.2, 12.3, 12.4, or 12.8.³
2. Articles 12.2 through 12.5 and 12.8 do not apply to any measure that a Party adopts or maintains with respect to sectors, subsectors, or activities, as set out by that Party in Section B of its Schedule to Annex III.

3. A non-conforming measure set out in a Party's Schedule to Annex I or II as not subject to Articles 10.3 (National Treatment), 10.4 (Most-Favored-Nation Treatment), 11.2 (National Treatment), or 11.3 (Most-Favored-Nation Treatment) shall be treated as a non-conforming measure not subject to Articles 12.2 or 12.3, as the case may be, to the extent that the measure, sector, subsector, or activity set out in the non-conforming measure is covered by this Chapter.

ARTICLE 12.10: EXCEPTIONS

1. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Chapter or Chapters Ten (Investment), Thirteen (Telecommunications), or Fourteen (Electronic Commerce), including specifically Article 13.16 (Relationship to Other Chapters), and Article 11.1.3 (Scope and Coverage) with respect to the supply of financial services in the territory of a Party by a covered investment, a Party shall not be prevented from adopting or maintaining measures for prudential reasons,⁴ including for the protection of investors, depositors, policy holders, or persons to whom a fiduciary duty is owed by a financial institution or cross-border financial service supplier, or to ensure the integrity and stability of the financial system. Where such measures do not conform with the provisions of this Agreement referred to in this paragraph, they shall not be used as a means of avoiding the Party's commitments or obligations under such provisions.
2. Nothing in this Chapter or Chapters Ten (Investment), Thirteen (Telecommunications), or Fourteen (Electronic Commerce), including specifically Article 13.16 (Relationship to Other Chapters), and Article 11.1.3 (Scope and Coverage) with respect to the supply of financial services in the territory of a Party by a covered investment, applies to non-discriminatory measures of general application taken by any public entity in pursuit of monetary and related credit policies or exchange rate policies.

³ For greater certainty, Article 12.5 does not apply to an amendment to any non-conforming measure referred to in subparagraph (a) to the extent that the amendment does not decrease the conformity of the measure, as it existed on the date of entry into force of the Agreement, with Article 12.5.

⁴ It is understood that the term **prudential reasons** includes the maintenance of the safety, soundness, integrity, or financial responsibility of individual financial institutions or cross-border financial service suppliers.

This paragraph shall not affect a Party's obligations under Article 10.8 (Performance Requirements) with respect to measures covered by Chapter Ten (Investment) or under Articles 10.7 (Transfers) or 11.10 (Transfers and Payments).

3. Notwithstanding Articles 10.7 (Transfers) and 11.10 (Transfers and Payments), as incorporated into this Chapter, a Party may prevent or limit transfers by a financial institution or cross-border financial service supplier to, or for the benefit of, an affiliate of or person related to such institution or supplier, through the equitable, non-discriminatory, and good faith application of measures relating to maintenance of the safety, soundness, integrity, or financial responsibility of financial institutions or cross-border financial service suppliers. This paragraph does not prejudice any other provision of this Agreement that permits a Party to restrict transfers.

4. For greater certainty, nothing in this Chapter shall be construed to prevent the adoption or enforcement by a Party of measures necessary to secure compliance with laws or regulations that are not inconsistent with this Chapter, including those relating to the prevention of deceptive and fraudulent practices or to deal with the effects of a default on financial services contracts, subject to the requirement that such measures are not applied in a manner which would constitute a means of arbitrary or unjustifiable discrimination between countries where like conditions prevail, or a disguised restriction on investment in financial institutions or cross-border trade in financial services.

ARTICLE 12.11: TRANSPARENCY AND ADMINISTRATION OF CERTAIN MEASURES

1. The Parties recognize that transparent regulations and policies governing the activities of financial institutions and cross-border financial service suppliers are important in facilitating their ability to gain access to and operate in each other's markets. Each Party commits to promote regulatory transparency in financial services.

2. Each Party shall ensure that all measures of general application to which this Chapter applies are administered in a reasonable, objective, and impartial manner.

3. In lieu of Article 18.1.2 (Publication), each Party shall, to the extent practicable:

- (a) publish in advance any regulations of general application relating to the subject matter of this Chapter that it proposes to adopt and the purpose of the regulation; and
- (b) provide interested persons and the other Party a reasonable opportunity to comment on such proposed regulations.

4. At the time it adopts final regulations, a Party should, to the extent practicable, address in writing substantive comments received from interested persons with respect to the proposed regulations.

5. To the extent practicable, each Party should allow reasonable time between publication of final regulations and their effective date.

6. Each Party shall ensure that the rules of general application adopted or maintained by self-regulatory organizations of the Party are promptly published or otherwise made available in such a manner as to enable interested persons to become acquainted with them.

7. Each Party shall maintain or establish appropriate mechanisms for responding to inquiries from interested persons regarding measures of general application covered by this Chapter.

8. Each Party's regulatory authorities shall make publicly available the requirements, including any documentation required, for completing applications relating to the supply of financial services.

9. On the request of an applicant, a Party's regulatory authority shall inform the applicant of the status of its application. If the authority requires additional information from the applicant, it shall notify the applicant without undue delay.

10. A Party's regulatory authority shall make an administrative decision on a completed application of an investor in a financial institution, a financial institution, or a cross-border financial service supplier of the other Party relating to the supply of a financial service within 120 days, and shall promptly notify the applicant of the decision. An application shall not be considered complete until all relevant hearings are held and all necessary information is received. Where it is not practicable for a decision to be made within 120 days, the regulatory authority shall notify the applicant without undue delay and shall endeavor to make the decision within a reasonable time thereafter.

11. On the request of an unsuccessful applicant, a regulatory authority that has denied an application shall, to the extent practicable, inform the applicant of the reasons for denial of the application.

ARTICLE 12.12: SELF-REGULATORY ORGANIZATIONS

Where a Party requires a financial institution or a cross-border financial service supplier of the other Party to be a member of, participate in, or have access to, a self-regulatory organization to provide a financial service in or into the territory of that Party, the Party shall ensure observance of the obligations of Articles 12.2 and 12.3 by such self-regulatory organization.

ARTICLE 12.13: PAYMENT AND CLEARING SYSTEMS

Under terms and conditions that accord national treatment, each Party shall grant financial institutions of the other Party established in its territory access to payment and clearing systems operated by public entities, and to official funding and refinancing facilities available in the normal course of ordinary business. This paragraph is not intended to confer access to the Party's lender of last resort facilities.

ARTICLE 12.14: EXPEDITED AVAILABILITY OF INSURANCE SERVICES

The Parties recognize the importance of maintaining and developing regulatory procedures to expedite the offering of insurance services by licensed suppliers.

ARTICLE 12.15: SPECIFIC COMMITMENTS

Annex 12.15 sets out certain specific commitments by each Party.

ARTICLE 12.16: FINANCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

1. The Parties hereby establish a Financial Services Committee. The principal representative of each Party shall be an official of the Party's authority responsible for financial services set out in Annex 12.16.1.
2. The Committee shall:
 - (a) supervise the implementation of this Chapter and its further elaboration;
 - (b) consider issues regarding financial services that are referred to it by a Party; and
 - (c) participate in the dispute settlement procedures in accordance with Article 12.19.
3. The Committee shall meet annually, or as otherwise agreed, to assess the functioning of this Agreement as it applies to financial services. The Committee shall

inform the Joint Committee established under Article 19.2 (Joint Committee) of the results of each meeting.

ARTICLE 12.17: CONSULTATIONS

1. A Party may request consultations with the other Party regarding any matter arising under this Agreement that affects financial services. The other Party shall give sympathetic consideration to the request. The Parties shall report the results of their consultations to the Committee.
2. Consultations under this Article shall include officials of the authorities specified in Annex 12.16.1.

ARTICLE 12.18: DISPUTE SETTLEMENT

1. Chapter 20 (Dispute Settlement) applies as modified by this Article to the settlement of disputes arising under this Chapter.
2. When a Party claims that a dispute arises under this Chapter, Article 20.7 (Establishment of Panel) shall apply, except that:
 - (a) where the Parties so agree, the panel shall be composed entirely of panelists meeting the qualifications in paragraph 3; and
 - (b) in any other case,
 - (i) each Party may select panelists meeting the qualifications set out in paragraph 3 or in Article 20.7.4 (Establishment of Panel), and
 - (ii) if the Party complained against invokes Article 12.10, the chair of the panel shall meet the qualifications set out in paragraph 3, unless the Parties agree otherwise.
3. Financial services panelists shall:
 - (a) have expertise or experience in financial services law or practice, which may include the regulation of financial institutions;
 - (b) be chosen strictly on the basis of objectivity, reliability, and sound judgment;
 - (c) be independent of, and not be affiliated with or take instructions from, a disputing Party; and
 - (d) comply with the code of conduct to be established by the Joint Committee.
4. Notwithstanding Article 20.11 (Non-Implementation), where a panel finds a measure to be inconsistent with this Agreement and the measure under dispute affects:
 - (a) only a sector other than the financial services sector, the complaining Party may not suspend benefits in the financial services sector; or
 - (b) the financial services sector and any other sector, the complaining Party may suspend benefits in the financial services sector that have an effect equivalent to the effect of the measure in the Party's financial services sector.

ARTICLE 12.19: INVESTMENT DISPUTES IN FINANCIAL SERVICES

1. Where an investor of a Party submits a claim to arbitration under Section B of Chapter Ten (Investor-State Dispute Settlement), and the respondent invokes Article 12.10 as a defense, the following provisions shall apply:

- (a) The respondent shall, within 120 days of the date the claim is submitted to arbitration under Section B of Chapter Ten (Investor-State Dispute Settlement), submit in writing to the Financial Services Committee a request for a joint determination on the issue of whether and to what extent Article 12.10 is a valid defense to the claim. The respondent shall promptly provide the tribunal, if constituted, a copy of such request. The arbitration may proceed with respect to the claim only as provided in subparagraph (d).
- (b) The Financial Services Committee shall attempt in good faith to make a determination as described in subparagraph (a). Any such determination shall be transmitted promptly to the disputing parties and, if constituted, to the tribunal. The determination shall be binding on the tribunal.
- (c) If the Financial Services Committee, within 60 days of the date by which it has received the respondent's written request for a determination under subparagraph (a), has not made a determination as described in that subparagraph, the tribunal shall decide the issue left unresolved by the Financial Services Committee. The provisions of Section B of Chapter Ten (Investor-State Dispute Settlement) shall apply, except as modified by this subparagraph.
 - (i) In the appointment of all arbitrators not yet appointed to the tribunal, each disputing party shall take appropriate steps to ensure that the tribunal has expertise or experience as described in Article 12.18.3(a). The expertise or experience of particular candidates with respect to financial services shall be taken into account to the greatest extent possible in the appointment of the presiding arbitrator.
 - (ii) If, prior to the submission of the request for a determination in conformance with subparagraph (a), the presiding arbitrator has been appointed pursuant to Article 10.18.3, such arbitrator shall be replaced upon the request of either disputing party and the tribunal shall be reconstituted consistent with subparagraph (c)(i). If, within 30 days of the date the arbitration proceedings are resumed under subparagraph (d), the disputing parties have not agreed on the appointment of a new presiding arbitrator, the Secretary-General, on the request of a disputing party, shall appoint the presiding arbitrator consistent with subparagraph (c)(i).
 - (iii) The Party of the claimant may make oral and written submissions to the tribunal regarding the issue of whether and to what extent Article 12.10 is a valid defense to the claim. Unless it makes such a submission, the Party of the claimant shall be presumed, for purposes of the arbitration, to take a position on Article 12.10 not inconsistent with that of the respondent.
- (d) The arbitration referred to in subparagraph (a) may proceed with respect to the claim:
 - (i) 10 days after the date the determination of the Financial Services Committee has been received by the disputing parties and, if constituted, the tribunal; or

- (ii) 10 days after the expiration of the 60-day period extended to the Financial Services Committee in subparagraph (c).

2. For purposes of this Article, the definitions of the following terms set out in Article 10.27 (Definitions) are incorporated, *mutatis mutandis*: disputing parties; disputing party; respondent; and Secretary-General.

ARTICLE 12.20: DEFINITIONS

For purposes of this Chapter:

claimant means an investor of a Party that is a party to an investment dispute with the other Party;

cross-border financial service supplier of a Party means a person of a Party that is engaged in the business of supplying a financial service within the territory of the Party and that seeks to supply or supplies a financial service through the cross-border supply of such services;

cross-border trade in financial services or **cross-border supply of financial services** means the supply of a financial service:

- (a) from the territory of one Party into the territory of the other Party,
- (b) in the territory of one Party by a person of that Party to a person of the other Party, or
- (c) by a national of one Party in the territory of the other Party,

but does not include the supply of a financial service in the territory of a Party by an investment in that territory;

financial institution means any financial intermediary or other enterprise that is authorized to do business and regulated or supervised as a financial institution under the law of the Party in whose territory it is located;

financial institution of the other Party means a financial institution, including a branch, located in the territory of a Party that is controlled by persons of the other Party;

financial service means any service of a financial nature. Financial services include all insurance and insurance-related services, and all banking and other financial services (excluding insurance), as well as services incidental or auxiliary to a service of a financial nature. Financial services include the following activities:

Insurance and insurance-related services

- a) Direct insurance (including co-insurance):
 - (i) life,
 - (ii) non-life;
- (b) Reinsurance and retrocession;
- (c) Insurance intermediation, such as brokerage and agency; and
- (d) Services auxiliary to insurance, such as consultancy, actuarial, risk assessment, and claim settlement services.

Banking and other financial services (excluding insurance)

- (e) Acceptance of deposits and other repayable funds from the public;
- (f) Lending of all types, including consumer credit, mortgage credit, factoring, and financing of commercial transactions;
- (g) Financial leasing;
- (h) All payment and money transmission services, including credit, charge and debit cards, travelers checks, and bankers drafts;
- (i) Guarantees and commitments;
- (j) Trading for own account or for account of customers, whether on an exchange, in an over-the-counter market, or otherwise, the following:
 - (i) money market instruments (including checks, bills, certificates of deposits);
 - (ii) foreign exchange;
 - (iii) derivative products including, but not limited to, futures and options;
 - (iv) exchange rate and interest rate instruments, including products such as swaps, forward rate agreements;
 - (v) transferable securities;
 - (vi) other negotiable instruments and financial assets, including bullion;
- (k) Participation in issues of all kinds of securities, including underwriting and placement as agent (whether publicly or privately) and provision of services related to such issues;
- (l) Money broking;
- (m) Asset management, such as cash or portfolio management, all forms of collective investment management, pension fund management, custodial, depository, and trust services;
- (n) Settlement and clearing services for financial assets, including securities, derivative products, and other negotiable instruments;
- (o) Provision and transfer of financial information, and financial data processing and related software by suppliers of other financial services; and
- (p) Advisory, intermediation, and other auxiliary financial services on all the activities listed in subparagraphs (e) through (o), including credit reference and analysis, investment and portfolio research and advice, advice on acquisitions and on corporate restructuring and strategy;

financial service supplier of a Party means a person of a Party that is engaged in the business of supplying a financial service within the territory of that Party;

investment means “investment” as defined in Article 10.27 (Definitions), except that, with respect to “loans” and “debt instruments” referred to in that Article:

- (a) a loan to or debt instrument issued by a financial institution is an investment only where it is treated as regulatory capital by the Party in whose territory the financial institution is located; and
- (b) a loan granted by or debt instrument owned by a financial institution, other than a loan to or debt instrument of a financial institution referred to in subparagraph (a), is not an investment;

for greater certainty, a loan granted by or debt instrument owned by a cross-border financial service supplier, other than a loan to or debt instrument issued by a financial institution, is an investment for purposes of Chapter Ten (Investment), if such loan or debt instrument meets the criteria for investments set out in Article 10.27 (Definitions);

investor of a Party means a Party or state enterprise thereof, or a person of a Party, that attempts to make, is making, or has made an investment in the territory of the other Party; provided, however, that a natural person who is a dual national shall be deemed to be exclusively a national of the State of his or her dominant and effective nationality;

new financial service means a financial service not supplied in the Party's territory that is supplied within the territory of the other Party, and includes any new form of delivery of a financial service or the sale of a financial product that is not sold in the Party's territory;

person of a Party means "person of a Party" as defined in Article 1.3 (Definitions) and, for greater certainty, does not include a branch of an enterprise of a non-Party;

public entity means a central bank or monetary authority of a Party, or any financial institution owned or controlled by a Party; and

self-regulatory organization means any non-governmental body, including any securities or futures exchange or market, clearing agency, or other organization or association, that exercises its own or delegated regulatory or supervisory authority over financial service suppliers or financial institutions.

Annex 12.5.1 Cross-Border Trade

Insurance and insurance-related services

1. Article 12.5.1 applies to the cross-border supply of or trade in financial services as defined in subparagraph (a) of the definition of cross-border supply of financial services in Article 12.20 with respect to:

- (a) insurance of risks relating to:
 - (i) maritime shipping and commercial aviation and space launching and freight (including satellites), with such insurance to cover any or all of the following: the goods being transported, the vehicle transporting the goods, and any liability arising therefrom; and
 - (ii) goods in international transit;
- (b) reinsurance and retrocession, services auxiliary to insurance as referred to in subparagraph (d) of the definition of financial service, and insurance intermediation such as brokerage and agency as referred to in subparagraph (c) of the definition of financial service.

2. Article 12.5.1 applies to the cross-border supply of or trade in financial services as defined in paragraph (c) of the definition of cross-border supply of financial services in Article 12.20 with respect to insurance services.

Banking and other financial services (excluding insurance)

Article 12.5.1 applies with respect to the provision and transfer of financial information and financial data processing and related software as referred to in subparagraph (o) of the definition of financial service, and advisory and other auxiliary services, excluding intermediation, relating to banking and other financial services as referred to in subparagraph (p) of the definition of financial service.

Annex 12.11
Transparency

Oman shall implement the obligations of paragraphs 3 and 4 of Article 12.11 no later than three years after the date of entry into force of this Agreement.

Annex 12.15 Specific Commitments

Portfolio Management

1. A Party shall allow a financial institution (other than a trust company) organized outside its territory to provide investment advice and portfolio management services, excluding (a) custodial services, (b) trustee services, and (c) execution services that are not related to managing a collective investment scheme, to a collective investment scheme located in the Party's territory. This commitment is subject to Article 12.1 and to Article 12.5.3.
2. For purposes of paragraph 1, collective investment scheme means:
 - (a) in Oman, companies operating in the area of securities and investment funds registered with the Capital Market Authority under Capital Market Law 80/98; and
 - (b) in the United States, an investment company registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission under the Investment Company Act of 1940.

Expedited Availability of Insurance

3. Oman requires prior product approval before the introduction of a new insurance product. Oman shall provide that once an enterprise seeking approval for such a product files all the required information with Oman's supervisory authority, the authority shall grant approval or issue disapproval in accordance with Oman's law for the sale of the new product within 30 days for non-life insurance products and 60 days for life insurance products. Oman does not maintain any limitations on the number or frequency of product introductions.

Branching

4. Oman shall not limit the number of branches that a financial institution of the United States may establish in any one location in Oman by conditioning the establishment of a new branch in that location on the establishment of a branch elsewhere in Oman.

Hiring

5. Subject to paragraph 6, Oman reserves the right to require that up to 80 percent of the employees of a financial institution of the United States be Omani nationals.
6. Oman shall grant a financial institution described in paragraph 5 a minimum of three years from the date it commences business to meet the requirement described in paragraph 5. During that three-year period, Oman shall not restrict the ability of such a financial institution to employ U.S. nationals.
7. For greater certainty, nothing in this Annex shall be construed to limit Oman's obligations under Article 12.8.

Annex 12.16.1
Financial Services Committee

Authorities Responsible for Financial Services

The authority of each Party responsible for financial services is:

- (a) for Oman, the Central Bank of Oman for banking and other financial institutions licensed by the Central Bank and the Capital Market Authority for insurance and other financial services; and
- (b) for the United States, the Department of the Treasury for banking and other financial services and the Office of the United States Trade Representative, in coordination with the Department of Commerce and other agencies, for insurance.