

ANNEX 8D

EDUCATION SERVICES CO-OPERATION

1. The Parties recognise that education services play an important role in facilitating trade and investment, enhancing growth and prosperity, and deepening mutual understanding and institutional and people-to-people links among the Parties.

2. The Parties shall encourage co-operation on education services in areas of mutual interest, as appropriate and in accordance with each Party's laws and regulations, including in the following areas:

- (a) the development of qualification systems and quality assurance processes;
- (b) the recognition of qualifications;
- (c) digital education, blended learning and other diverse forms of education delivery;
- (d) greater and more accessible student mobility by establishing mechanisms and procedures supporting the recognition and transfer of academic credits; or
- (e) any other area of co-operation in education that may be mutually determined by the Parties.

3. Subject to mutual agreement and in accordance with each Party's laws and regulations, the Parties shall encourage, as appropriate, co-operation between their respective government agencies, educational institutions, organisations and other entities, and the conclusion of arrangements between such bodies to co-operate in the areas referred to in Paragraph 2. This co-operation may be achieved through:

- (a) the development of collaborative training, research and development initiatives, technology transfer and joint ventures between appropriate entities;
- (b) the creation of adult education and lifelong learning opportunities to meet the emerging learning needs of adult learners that can be jointly delivered by educational institutions;
- (c) the implementation of capacity-building programmes, networking and linkages initiatives, and policy-development activities that will facilitate the establishment of transnational higher education (“TNHE”) and TNHE quality assurance to deliver quality programmes by institutions;
- (d) the exchange of teaching staff, administrators, researchers and students by educational institutions;
- (e) academic credit transfer and the recognition of academic and vocational education and training qualifications between educational and training institutions;
- (f) strengthening networks and co-operation for internships in companies or workplaces in a Party that are accessible to the students of other Parties;
- (g) building an ecosystem for the use of open online courses, online and distance learning resources and micro-credentials;
- (h) the development of information sharing mechanisms between national information centres and government entities, including through multilateral and regional fora, as appropriate, to facilitate qualifications recognition; or

- (i) the promotion of exchanges of information on:
 - (i) scholarships, awards, fellowships and other study opportunities in each Party;
 - (ii) education systems and standards, including quality assurance arrangements;
 - (iii) the recognition of qualifications by multilateral and regional fora; or
 - (iv) any other form of exchanges of information that may be mutually determined by the relevant Parties.

4. Co-operation carried out pursuant to this Annex shall be subject to the availability of funds and resources of the relevant Parties and shall be funded as mutually determined by them.