

ANNEX 17A

UNITED STATES – SINGAPORE LABOR COOPERATION MECHANISM

1. **Establishment of a Labor Cooperation Mechanism.** Recognizing that cooperation provides enhanced opportunities to improve labor standards, and to further advance common commitments, including the June 1998 ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work and its Follow-up, the Parties establish a Labor Cooperation Mechanism.
2.
 - (a) **Organization and Principal Functions.** The contact points established under Article 17.4.2 shall serve as the contact points for the Labor Cooperation Mechanism.
 - (b) Officials of the labor ministries and other appropriate agencies and ministries shall cooperate through the Labor Cooperation Mechanism to:
 - (i) establish priorities for cooperative activities on labor matters;
 - (ii) develop specific cooperative activities in accord with such priorities;
 - (iii) exchange information regarding labor law and practice in each Party;
 - (iv) exchange information on ways to improve labor law and practice, including best labor practices;
 - (v) advance understanding of, respect for, and effective implementation of the principles reflected in the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work and its Follow-up; and
 - (vi) develop recommendations for their respective governments for consideration by the Joint Committee.
3. **Cooperative Activities.** Cooperative activities to be undertaken by the Labor Cooperation Mechanism may include the following subjects:
 - (a) **fundamental rights and their effective application:** legislation, practice, and implementation related to the core elements of the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Rights at Work (freedom of association and the effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining, elimination of all forms of forced or compulsory labor, abolition of child labor including the worst forms of child labor in compliance with ILO Convention No. 182, and elimination of employment discrimination);
 - (b) **labor-management relations:** forms of cooperation and dispute resolution among workers, management and governments;

- (c) **working conditions:** occupational safety and health; prevention of and compensation for work-related injuries and illness; and employment conditions;
- (d) **unemployment assistance programs and other social safety net programs;**
- (e) **human resource development and life long learning;**
- (f) **labor statistics;** and
- (g) such other matters as the Parties may agree.

4. **Implementation of Cooperative Activities.**

- (a) Cooperative activities agreed upon under paragraph 3 may be implemented through:
 - (i) exchanges of delegations, professionals, and specialists, including study visits and other technical exchanges;
 - (ii) exchange of information, standards, regulations and procedures, and best practices, including publications and monographs;
 - (iii) organization of joint conferences, seminars, workshops, meetings, training sessions, and outreach and education programs;
 - (iv) development of collaborative projects or demonstrations;
 - (v) joint research projects, studies, and reports, including through engagement of independent experts with recognized expertise; and
 - (vi) other forms of technical exchange or cooperation that may be decided.
- (b) In identifying areas for cooperation and carrying out cooperative activities, the Parties shall consider views of their respective worker and employer representatives.