

COMESA TREATY

CHAPTER FOURTEEN: CO-OPERATION IN HEALTH MATTERS

ARTICLE 110

Scope of Co-operation

1. The Member States agree to undertake concerted measures to co-operate in health through:
 - (a) the control of pandemics or epidemics, communicable and vector borne diseases that might endanger the health and welfare of citizens of the Common Market;
 - (b) the facilitation of movement of pharmaceuticals within the Common Market and control of their quality;
 - (c) joint action in the prevention of drug trafficking;
 - (d) the training of manpower to deliver effective health care; and
 - (e) the exchange of research, development and information on health issues.
2. For the purposes of paragraph 1 of this Article, the Member States undertake to:
 - (a) devise and implement systems to ensure that pharmaceuticals entering the Common Market from third countries, produced in the Common Market or moving within the Common Market conform to internationally acceptable standards in terms of quality and therapeutic value;
 - (b) evolve mechanisms for joint action in combating outbreak of epidemics such as aids, cholera, malaria, hepatitis and yellow fever as well as co-operation in facilitating mass immunization and other public health community campaigns;
 - (c) designate national hospitals to be Common Market referral hospitals;
 - (d) develop a national drug policy which would include establishing quality control capacities, national formularies and good procurement practices;
 - (e) harmonise drug registration procedures so as to achieve good control of pharmaceutical standards without impeding or obstructing the movement of pharmaceuticals within the Common Market;
 - (f) accord each other mutual recognition of drugs registered in the Common Market;
 - (g) encourage research and development on drugs and medicinal plants;
 - (h) co-operate, within the framework of co-operation in industrial development, in the local production of pharmaceutical products;
 - (i) apply the World Health Organisation Certification on the quality of pharmaceutical products dealt with in international trade; and
 - (j) establish an audit team to assist local pharmaceutical industries to produce high quality products that are safe, effective and free from harmful side effects and to assist the Member States in controlling the standards of pharmaceuticals manufactured within their territories in conformity with the WHO Certification.

CHAPTER 18: CO-OPERATION IN AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

ARTICLE 129

Objectives of Co-operation in Agricultural Development

The overall objectives of co-operation in the agricultural sector are the achievement of regional food security and rational agricultural production within the Common Market. To this end, the Member States undertake to adopt a scheme for the rationalisation of agricultural production with a view to promoting complementarity and specialisation in and sustainability of national agricultural programmes in order to ensure:

- (a) a common agricultural policy;
- (b) regional food sufficiency;
- (c) an increase in the productivity of crops, livestock, fisheries and forestry for domestic consumption, exports within and outside the Common Market and as inputs to agro-based industries; and
- (d) replacement of imports on a regional basis;

ARTICLE 130

Co-operation in Agricultural Development

The Member States undertake to co-operate in specific fields of agriculture, including:

- (a) the harmonisation of agricultural policies of the Member States with a view to having a common agricultural policy;
- (b) research, extension and the exchange of technical information and experience;
- (c) agro-meteorology and climatology;
- (d) the production and supply of food-stuffs;
- (e) the coordination of the export and import of agricultural commodities;
- (f) the coordination of bulk purchases of imports of essential agricultural inputs;
- (g) the control of animal and plant diseases and pests;
- (h) the development and utilisation of land and water resources, particularly shared river and lake basins;
- (i) the exploitation and surveillance of the exclusive economic zones with regards to marine fisheries development; and
- (j) the marketing and stabilization of prices of agricultural commodities bearing in mind internal agricultural and exchange rate policies in individual member countries.

ARTICLE 131

Co-operation in the Supply of Staple Foods

1. The Member States undertake to:

- (a) ensure the adequate supply and availability of food by the promotion of agricultural development that would lead to the production of surpluses in food, the establishment of adequate storage facilities and strategic grain reserves;
- (b) promote co-operation in the production of foodstuffs which are rich in protein such as meat, fish, dairy products and legumes;
- (c) ensure the prevention of pre- and post-harvest losses;
- (d) establish a Common Market Early Warning System to assess and supply information regarding the food security position within the Member States and the Common Market; and
- (e) conclude such agreements amongst themselves as would facilitate the realisation of food security in the Common Market.

2. The Member States agree to provide the infrastructure and investment required to implement the undertakings in paragraph 1 of this Article.

ARTICLE 135

Co-operation in Drought and Desertification Management

The Member States shall:

- (a) agree on appropriate policies on the utilisation of fragile lands in order to prevent land degradation;
- (b) institute appropriate measures to contain the effects of droughts by developing irrigation programmes, improved techniques in dryland farming and the use of drought-tolerant crops; and
- (c) co-operate in the exchange of information and expertise regarding drought and desertification managements.