

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

1. Each State Party shall consult with relevant bodies¹ in its territory to seek to identify professional services where at least two of the State Parties are mutually interested in establishing a dialogue on issues that relate to the recognition of professional qualifications, licensing or registration.

2. If a professional service described in paragraph 1 is identified, each State Party shall encourage its relevant bodies to establish dialogues with the relevant bodies of the other State Parties, with a view to facilitating trade in professional services. The dialogues may consider, as appropriate:
 - (a) recognition of professional qualifications and facilitating licensing and registration procedures through mutual recognition agreements;
 - (b) autonomous recognition of the education or experience obtained by a candidate in the territory of another State Party, for the purposes of fulfilling some or all of the licensing or examination requirements of that profession;
 - (c) the development of mutually acceptable standards and criteria for authorisation, licensing or certification of professional service suppliers from the territory of the other State Party;
 - (d) temporary or project-specific licensing or registration based on a foreign service supplier's home license or recognised professional body membership, without the need for further written examination; or
 - (e) the form of association and procedures whereby a foreign-licensed service supplier may work in association with a professional service supplier of the State Party.

¹ For the purposes of this Annex, relevant bodies may include both governmental authorities and professional bodies.

3. If a Mutual Recognition Agreement has been entered into by a relevant body at the national level, each State Party shall work with the relevant body to encourage application and implementation of the Mutual Recognition Agreement throughout the territory of the State Party.
4. Any temporary or project-specific licensing or registration of the type referred to in subparagraph (d) of paragraph 2 should not operate to prevent a foreign supplier from gaining a local licence once that supplier satisfies the applicable local licensing requirements.
5. Each State Party shall encourage its relevant bodies to take into account agreements that relate to professional services in the development of agreements on the recognition of professional qualifications, licensing, and registration.
6. Further to any dialogue referred to in subparagraphs (a) to (e) of paragraph 2, each State Party shall encourage its respective relevant bodies to consider undertaking any related activity within a mutually agreed time.