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Group of Negotiations on Services

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Working Group on Professional Services

COMMUNICATION FROM THE UNITED STATES

Annex on Legal Services

The following communication is circulated at the request of the Delegation of the United States to the members of the Group of Negotiations on Services.

Definitions:

"Domestic law services" shall mean the provision of legal services relating to the laws of the host country.

"Foreign legal advisor services" shall mean the provision of legal services relating to laws other than those of the host country (i.e. foreign and international law).

Whenever a Party undertakes market access and/or national treatment commitments relating to legal services, under Articles [] of the Framework Agreement, such commitments shall be subject to the following:

1. Parties shall allow nationals and firms from other Parties to provide foreign legal advisor services, through any mode of delivery, without having to meet the licensing requirements established for providers of domestic law services. Parties may require that foreign legal advisors satisfy other reasonable requirements necessary to establish the advisors' licensure by the regulatory authorities in their home country for the practice of the law of their home country.

2. Parties shall permit foreign legal advisors either to affiliate with or to employ domestic law service providers as part of the same enterprise. Regulatory authorities shall be permitted to establish reasonable requirements necessary to ensure that foreign legal advisors are not providing services related to domestic law.

3. Parties shall permit foreign providers of legal services, in identifying their enterprise and advertising their services, to make primary use of the name with which those firms are associated in their domestic market.

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