2. Notwithstanding Articles 3 and 4, a Contracting Party may require an investor of another Contracting Party, in its territory, to provide information concerning its investments solely for informational or statistical purposes. The former Contracting Party shall protect such information that is confidential from any disclosure that would prejudice the competitive position of the investor of the latter Contracting Party or its investments. Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed so as to prevent a Contracting Party from otherwise obtaining or disclosing information in connection with the equitable and good faith application of its law.

Article 17
Settlement of Disputes among Contracting Parties

1. Any Contracting Party may request in writing consultations with another Contracting Party to resolve any dispute relating to the interpretation or application of this Agreement. The former Contracting Party (hereinafter referred to in this Article as "the complaining Party") shall at the time of the request deliver to the third Contracting Party a copy of that request. Where the third Contracting Party considers that it has a substantial interest in the dispute, it shall be entitled to participate in such consultations.

2. (a) Where the consultations referred to in paragraph 1 do not satisfactorily resolve the dispute within six months after the date of receipt of the request referred to in that paragraph, the complaining Party or the Contracting Party to which such request was addressed (hereinafter collectively referred to in this Article as "the disputing Parties") may, upon written request to the other disputing Party, submit the dispute to an arbitral tribunal.

(b) The disputing Party that submits the dispute to an arbitral tribunal under subparagraph (a) shall deliver to the third Contracting Party a copy of the request for arbitration under that subparagraph.

(c) The third Contracting Party may make submissions to the arbitral tribunal referred to in subparagraph (a) on a question of the interpretation of this Agreement, upon written notice to the disputing Parties.

(d) Where the third Contracting Party considers that it has a substantial interest in the dispute, it shall be entitled to participate in the arbitration proceedings by joining either of the disputing Parties on delivery of a written notice of its intention to participate to the disputing Parties and to the arbitral tribunal referred to in subparagraph (a). Such written notice shall be delivered to the disputing Parties at the earliest possible time and in any event no later than seven days after the date of delivery of the copy of the request under subparagraph (b).

3. Unless otherwise provided for in this Article, or in the absence of an agreement by the disputing Parties to the contrary, the UNCITRAL Arbitration Rules shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to the proceedings of the arbitral tribunal. However, these rules may be modified by the disputing Parties or modified by the arbitrators appointed pursuant to paragraph 4, provided that none of the disputing Parties objects to the modification. The arbitral tribunal may, for its part, determine its own rules and procedures.

4. Within sixty days from the date of receipt of the request under subparagraph 2(a), each disputing Party shall appoint an arbitrator. The two arbitrators shall, in consultation with the disputing Parties, select a third arbitrator as the chairperson, who shall be a national of a non-Contracting Party. The UNCITRAL Arbitration Rules applicable to appointing members of three-member panels shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to other matters relating to the appointment of the arbitrators of the arbitral tribunal provided that the appointing authority referenced in those rules shall be the President of the International Court of Justice. If the President is a national of any Contracting Party or otherwise prevented from discharging the said function, the Vice-President shall be invited to make the appointment. If the Vice-President also is a national of any Contracting Party or otherwise prevented from discharging the said function, the member of the International Court of Justice next in seniority who is not a national of any Contracting Party shall be invited to make the appointment.