Article 23
Submission of
Applications, Appeals and Declarations

1. When a written application for benefits, an appeal or any other declaration under the legislation of a Contracting State is submitted to a competent authority or competent institution of the other Contracting State which is competent to receive similar applications, appeals or declarations under the legislation of that other Contracting State, that application for benefits, appeal or declaration shall be deemed to be submitted on the same date to the competent authority or competent institution of the first Contracting State and shall be dealt with, according to the procedure and legislation of the first Contracting State.

2. The competent authority or competent institution of a Contracting State shall send the application for benefits, appeal or any other declaration submitted in accordance with paragraph 1 of this Article to the competent authority or competent institution of the other Contracting State without delay.

Article 24
Resolution of Disagreement

Any disagreement regarding the interpretation or application of this Agreement shall be resolved by consultation between the Contracting States.

Article 25
Joint Committee

The Contracting States may establish a Joint Committee composed of representatives of the competent authorities and competent institutions of both Contracting States. This Joint Committee shall be responsible for monitoring the application of this Agreement. This Joint Committee shall meet when necessary either in Japan or India upon request by either Contracting State.

Article 26
Headings

The headings of Parts, Chapters and Articles of this Agreement are inserted for convenience of reference only and shall not affect the interpretation of this Agreement.

PART V
TRANSITIONAL AND FINAL PROVISIONS

Article 27
Events and Determinations prior
to the Entry into Force

1. This Agreement shall not establish any entitlement to benefits for any period prior to its entry into force.

2. In the implementation of this Agreement, periods of coverage completed before its entry into force as well as other legally relevant events occurring before its entry into force shall also be taken into account.

3. In applying paragraph 1 of Article 7, in the case of a person who has been working in the territory of a Contracting State prior to the entry into force of this Agreement, the periods of detachment referred to in paragraph 1 of Article 7 shall be considered to begin on the date of entry into force of this Agreement.

4. Determinations concerning entitlement to benefits made before the entry into force of this Agreement shall not affect any rights to be established by virtue of this Agreement.

5. The application of this Agreement shall not, for a beneficiary, result in any reduction in the amount of benefits to which entitlement was established before the entry into force of this Agreement.

6. This Agreement shall not apply to rights settled by a lump-sum payment or a refund of contributions.

Article 28
Entry into Force

This Agreement shall enter into force on the first day of the third month following the month in which the Contracting States shall have completed an exchange of diplomatic notes informing each other that their respective constitutional requirements necessary for the entry into force of this Agreement have been fulfilled.