3. Nothing in this Agreement shall be regarded as altering the rights enjoyed and obligations undertaken by a Contracting Party as a party to the Articles of Agreement of the International Monetary Fund.

Article 24
Intellectual Property Rights

1. The Contracting Parties aiming at further promoting investment activities shall grant and ensure the adequate and effective protection of intellectual property rights, and promote efficiency and transparency in intellectual property protection system, in accordance with the TRIPS Agreement and other international agreements to which the Contracting Parties are parties.

2. Nothing in this Agreement shall affect the rights and obligations of the Contracting Parties under multilateral agreements in respect of protection of intellectual property rights to which the Contracting Parties are parties.

3. Nothing in this Agreement shall be construed so as to oblige either Contracting Party to extend to investors of the other Contracting Party and to their investments treatment accorded to investors of a non-Contracting Party and to their investments by virtue of a multilateral agreement in respect of protection of intellectual property rights, to which the former Contracting Party is a party.

Article 25
Taxation

1. Nothing in this Agreement shall apply to taxation measures except as expressly provided for in paragraphs 3 and 4 of this Article.

2. Nothing in this Agreement shall affect the rights and obligations of either Contracting Party under tax convention. In the event of any inconsistency between this Agreement and any such convention, that convention shall prevail to the extent of the inconsistency.

3. Article 16 shall apply to all taxation measures, except that a disputing investor that asserts that a taxation measure involves an expropriation may submit an investment dispute to arbitration under Article 21 only if:

(a) the disputing investor has first referred to the competent authorities of both Contracting Parties in writing the issue of whether that taxation measure involves an expropriation; and

(b) within one hundred and eighty (180) days after the date of such referral, the competent authorities of both Contracting Parties fail to agree that the taxation measure is not an expropriation.

Note: For the purposes of this Article, the term "competent authorities" means:

(i) with respect to Japan, the Minister of Finance or his or her authorized representatives, who shall consider the issue in consultation with the Minister for Foreign Affairs or his or her authorized representatives; and

(ii) with respect to the Oriental Republic of Uruguay, the Minister of Economy and Finance or his or her authorized representatives.

4. Article 21 shall apply to disputes regarding taxation measures to the extent covered by paragraph 3.

Article 26
Joint Committee

1. The Contracting Parties shall establish a Joint Committee (hereinafter referred to as "the Committee") with a view to accomplishing the objectives of this Agreement. The functions of the Committee shall be:

(a) to discuss and review the implementation and operation of this Agreement;

(b) to review the non-conforming measures maintained, amended or modified pursuant to paragraph 1 of Article 10 for the purpose of contributing to the reduction or elimination of such non-conforming measures;

(c) to exchange information on and to discuss investment-related matters within the scope of this Agreement, which relate to improvement of investment environment; and

(d) to discuss any other investment-related matters concerning this Agreement.

2. The Committee may, as necessary, make appropriate recommendations by consensus to the Contracting Parties for the more effective functioning or the attainment of the objectives of this Agreement.