2. The property and assets of the Office, within the scope of the official activities of the Office, shall be immune from search, seizure, confiscation, sequestration, expropriation and any other form of interference, whether administrative, judicial or legislative, except with the consent of, and under the conditions agreed to by, the Director General.

3. The provisions of paragraphs 1 and 2 above shall not apply:

(a) in the case of an enforcement of an arbitration award made under the private arbitration referred to in paragraph 1 of Article 14;

(b) in the case of civil proceedings brought by a third party in respect of damage caused by a motor vehicle belonging to or operated on behalf of the Office, or in the case of a motor traffic offence involving such a vehicle.

Article 7

1. Within the scope of the official activities of the Office, the Office and its property, assets and income shall be:

(a) exempt from all direct taxes except those which are, in fact, no more than charges for public services;

(b) exempt from customs duties and prohibitions and restrictions on imports and exports in respect of articles imported or exported by the Office. It is understood, however, that articles imported under such exemption will not be sold in Japan except under conditions agreed with the Government;

(c) exempt from customs duties and prohibitions and restrictions on imports and exports in respect of its publications.

2. The Office will not claim exemption from excise duties and from taxes on the sale of movable and immovable property which form part of the price to be paid. However, when the Office is making important purchases of property for the official activities of the Office on which such duties and taxes have been charged or are chargeable, the Government will, whenever possible, make appropriate administrative arrangements for the remission or return of the amount of duty or tax.

Article 8

The Office may receive, acquire, hold and dispose of freely any kind of funds, gold, currencies or securities.

Article 9

1. All official communications directed to the Office, or to any of the officials of the Office, and all official outward communications of the Office, by whatever means or in whatever form transmitted, shall be immune from censorship and from any other form of interception or interference with their confidentiality. Should there be reasonable cause to believe that apparently official communications contain unlawful or dangerous materials, they may be opened by the Japanese authorities in the presence of any of the officials of the Office, provided, however, that no such officials need be present if those materials appear to present an immediate physical danger.

2. In respect of its official communications, the Office shall, in the territory of Japan, enjoy treatment not less favorable than that accorded by the Government to any other international organization in the matter of priorities, rates and taxes for post and telecommunications, in so far as may be compatible with any international conventions, regulations and arrangements to which Japan is a party.

Article 10

1. The officials of the Office shall enjoy the following:

(a) immunity from every form of legal process in respect of words spoken or written and all acts done by them in their official capacity except in the case of a motor traffic offence committed by any of the officials of the Office or in the case of damage caused by a motor vehicle belonging to, driven by or operated on behalf of any of the officials of the Office, such immunity to continue notwithstanding that the persons concerned may have ceased to be officials of the Office;

(b) exemption from taxation on the salaries and emoluments paid to them by the OIE;

(c) exemption with respect to themselves and their dependants from immigration restrictions and charges for visas;