3 A Party may declare at the time of signature of this Protocol or when depositing its instrument of ratification, acceptance, or approval that its central authority must be a signatory to or otherwise concur in the agreement establishing the team.

4 Those competent and participating authorities shall communicate directly, except that Parties may mutually determine other appropriate channels of communication where exceptional circumstances require more central coordination.

5 Where investigative measures need to be taken in the territory of one of the Parties concerned, participating authorities from that Party may request their own authorities to take those measures without the other Parties having to submit a request for mutual assistance. Those measures shall be carried out by that Party's authorities in its territory under the conditions that apply under domestic law in a national investigation.

6 Use of information or evidence provided by the participating authorities of one Party to participating authorities of other Parties concerned may be refused or restricted in the manner set forth in the agreement described in paragraphs 1 and 2. If that agreement does not set forth terms for refusing or restricting use, the Parties may use the information or evidence provided:

a for the purposes for which the agreement has been entered into;

b for detecting, investigating and prosecuting criminal offences other than those for which the agreement was entered into, subject to the prior consent of the authorities providing the information or evidence. However, consent shall not be required where fundamental legal principles of the Party using the information or evidence require that it disclose the information or evidence to protect the rights of an accused person in criminal proceedings. In that case, those authorities shall notify the authorities that provided the information or evidence without undue delay; or

c to prevent an emergency. In that case, the participating authorities that received the information or evidence shall notify without undue delay the participating authorities that provided the information or evidence, unless mutually determined otherwise.

7 In the absence of an agreement described in paragraphs 1 and 2, joint investigations may be undertaken under mutually agreed terms on a case-by-case basis. This paragraph applies whether or not there is a mutual assistance treaty or arrangement on the basis of uniform or reciprocal legislation in force between the Parties concerned.

Chapter III – Conditions and safeguards

Article 13 – Conditions and safeguards

In accordance with Article 15 of the Convention, each Party shall ensure that the establishment, implementation and application of the powers and procedures provided for in this Protocol are subject to conditions and safeguards provided for under its domestic law, which shall provide for the adequate protection of human rights and liberties.

Article 14 – Protection of personal data

1 Scope

a Except as otherwise provided in paragraphs 1.b and c, each Party shall process the personal data that it receives under this Protocol in accordance with paragraphs 2 to 15 of this article.

b If, at the time of receipt of personal data under this Protocol, both the transferring Party and the receiving Party are mutually bound by an international agreement establishing a comprehensive framework between those Parties for the protection of personal data, which is applicable to the transfer of personal data for the purpose of the prevention, detection, investigation and prosecution of criminal offences, and which provides that the processing of personal data under that agreement complies with the requirements of the data protection legislation of the Parties concerned, the terms of such agreement shall apply, for the measures falling within the scope of such agreement, to personal data received under this Protocol in lieu of paragraphs 2 to 15, unless otherwise agreed between the Parties concerned.

c If the transferring Party and the receiving Party are not mutually bound under an agreement described in paragraph 1.b, they may mutually determine that the transfer of personal data under this Protocol may take place on the basis of other agreements or arrangements between the Parties concerned in lieu of paragraphs 2 to 15.

d Each Party shall consider that the processing of personal data pursuant to paragraphs 1.a and 1.b meets the requirements of its personal data protection legal framework for international transfers of personal data, and no further authorisation for transfer shall be required under that legal framework. A Party may only refuse or prevent data transfers to another Party under this Protocol for reasons of data protection under the conditions set out in paragraph 15 when paragraph 1.a applies; or under the terms of an agreement or arrangement referred to in paragraphs 1.b or c, when one of those paragraphs applies.

e Nothing in this article shall prevent a Party from applying stronger safeguards to the processing by its own authorities of personal data received under this Protocol.

2 Purpose and use

a The Party that has received personal data shall process them for the purposes described in Article 2. It shall not further process the personal data for an incompatible purpose, and it shall not further process the data when this is not permitted under its domestic legal framework. This article shall not prejudice the ability of the transferring Party to impose additional conditions pursuant to this Protocol in a specific case, however, such conditions shall not include generic data protection conditions.

b The receiving Party shall ensure under its domestic legal framework that personal data sought and processed are relevant to and not excessive in relation to the purposes of such processing.