Article 2
Central Authorities

1. Each Party shall designate the Central Authority responsible for the administration and implementation of this Treaty, as provided for in this Treaty. For Japan, the Central Authority shall be the Minister of Justice or the National Public Safety Commission, or persons designated by them. For Canada, the Central Authority shall be the Minister of Justice of Canada or persons designated by that Minister.

2. Requests for assistance under this Treaty shall be made by the Central Authority of the requesting Party to the Central Authority of the requested Party.

3. The Central Authorities of the Parties shall communicate directly with one another for the purposes of this Treaty. Such communications may be conducted through reliable means of communication, including through electronic means.

Article 3
Grounds for refusal of assistance

1. The Central Authority of the requested Party may refuse assistance if the requested Party considers that:

(a) the request relates to a political offence;

(b) the execution of the request would impair its sovereignty, security, public order or other essential interests;

(c) the conduct that is the subject of the investigation, prosecution or other criminal proceeding in the requesting Party is punishable by a penalty under the laws of the requesting Party that would impair the essential interests of the requested Party. The requested Party may nevertheless provide the assistance sought if the Parties decide on the conditions under which the assistance may be provided and the requesting Party meets those conditions;

(d) the request does not conform to the requirements of this Treaty;

(e) there are well-founded reasons to believe that the request for assistance has been made with a view to prosecuting or punishing a person by reason of that person's race, religion, nationality, ethnic origin, political opinions, sex, sexual orientation, language, colour, age or mental or physical disability, or that the person's position may be prejudiced for any of those reasons; or

(f) the conduct that is the subject of the investigation, prosecution or other criminal proceeding in the requesting Party would not constitute a criminal offence under the laws of the requested Party, and the execution of the request would require a court order or other compulsory measures under the laws of the requested Party.

2. Before refusing assistance pursuant to paragraph 1, the Central Authority of the requested Party shall consult with the Central Authority of the requesting Party when the requested Party considers that assistance may be provided subject to certain conditions. If the requesting Party accepts such conditions, the requesting Party shall comply with them.

3. If assistance is refused, the Central Authority of the requested Party shall inform the Central Authority of the requesting Party of the reasons for the refusal.

Article 4
Form and content of requests for assistance

1. The Central Authority of the requesting Party shall make a request for assistance in writing. However, the Central Authority of the requesting Party may make a request by any other reliable means of communication, including by electronic means, if the Central Authority of the requested Party considers it appropriate to receive a request by those means. In such cases, the Central Authority of the requesting Party shall provide supplementary confirmation of the request in writing promptly thereafter, if the Central Authority of the requested Party so requires.