

Each of the two Parties may appoint additional experts on the basis of their competence in matters submitted for deliberation by the Commission, including representatives from Canadian provinces and territories.

#### ARTICLE 2

Each Party shall designate a coordinator to ensure the liaison with the other Party.

#### ARTICLE 3

The Commission shall be of a consultative nature.

#### ARTICLE 4

The Commission shall be competent to:

- a) consider problems related to individual consular cases involving persons possessing the nationality of either Party with a view to facilitating their resolution, in accordance with the laws of each Party.

These cases shall include matters pertaining to personal status such as child custody, and those which require measures pertaining to the protection of a child's right, and of basic human rights in general.

For the purpose of this Agreement, consular cases of a humanitarian nature shall not include matters pertaining to visas or immigration, except as provided for in Article 4 c);

- b) ensure respect for the right of a child who is separated from one or both parents to maintain personal relations and direct contact with both parents on a regular basis, except if these relations or contact are contrary to the child's best interests, as provided for in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child;
- c) ensure respect for the rights of access of a parent who is not entitled to legal custody of the child, as provided for in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. The Commission could, in this context, support applications for visas and exit permits from a parent who does not have custody of a child;
- d) follow the progress of consular cases brought to its attention with a view to providing timely status reports to the concerned authorities of both Parties;
- e) promote awareness and cooperation between the concerned public authorities of both Parties with respect to consular cases brought to the attention of the Commission;
- f) receive and exchange information and documents related to consular cases brought to the attention of the Commission and facilitate the transmission of information and documents to the competent authorities of either Party as required.

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