

2. Any documents of an official nature required to be produced for the application of this Agreement shall be exempt from any authentication by diplomatic or consular authorities and similar formality.

ARTICLE 20

Language of Communication

For the application of this Agreement, the competent authorities and institutions of the Parties may communicate directly with one another in any official language of either Party.

ARTICLE 21

Submitting a Claim, Notice or Appeal

1. Claims, notices and appeals concerning eligibility for, or the amount of, a benefit under the legislation of a Party which should, for the purposes of that legislation, have been presented within a prescribed period to a competent authority or institution of that Party, but which are presented within the same period to an authority or institution of the other Party, shall be treated as if they had been presented to the competent authority or institution of the first Party. The date of presentation of claims, notices and appeals to the authority or institution of the other Party shall be deemed to be the date of their presentation to the competent authority or institution of the first Party.
2. Subject to the second sentence of this paragraph, a claim for a benefit under the legislation of a Party made after the date of entry into force of this Agreement shall be deemed to be a claim for the corresponding benefit under the legislation of the other Party, provided that the applicant at the time of application:
 - (a) requests that it be considered an application under the legislation of the other Party; or
 - (b) provides information indicating that creditable periods have been completed under the legislation of the other Party.

The preceding sentence shall not apply if the applicant requests that his or her claim to the benefit under the legislation of the other Party be delayed.

3. In any case to which paragraph 1 or 2 applies, the authority or institution to which the claim, notice or appeal has been submitted shall transmit it without delay to the authority or institution of the other Party.

ARTICLE 22

Payment of Benefits

1. The competent institution of a Party shall discharge its obligations under this Agreement in the currency of that Party.
2. The competent institutions of the Parties shall pay their benefits under this Agreement without any deduction for their administrative expenses.
3. Where a person who is in the territory of a Party is receiving a benefit under the legislation of the other Party, that benefit shall be paid by whatever method the competent institution of the latter Party deems appropriate.