

**PART I**  
**GENERAL PROVISIONS**

**Article 1**

*Definitions*

1. For the purposes of this Agreement:

"benefit" means, as regards a Party, any cash payment, pension or allowance for which provision is made in the legislation of that Party and includes any supplements or increases applicable to such a benefit;

"competent authority" means, as regards Canada, the Minister or Ministers responsible for the application of the legislation of Canada; and, as regards Mexico, the Instituto Mexicano del Seguro Social (Mexican Social Security Institute);

"competent institution" means, as regards a Party, the competent authority of that Party;

"creditable period" means, as regards Canada, a period of contributions or residence used to acquire the right to a benefit under the legislation of that Party, and includes a period during which a disability pension is payable under the *Canada Pension Plan*; and, as regards Mexico, a period of contributions used to acquire the right to a benefit under the legislation of that Party;

"Government of Canada" means the Government in its capacity as representative of Her Majesty the Queen in right of Canada and represented by the Minister of Human Resources Development;

"legislation" means, as regards a Party, the laws and regulations specified in Article 2;

"Mexico" means the United Mexican States;