

2. The Central Authorities may agree, in exceptional circumstances, to provide assistance pursuant to this Treaty in respect of illegal acts that do not constitute an offence within the definition of offence in Article I.

ARTICLE IV

OBLIGATION TO REQUEST ASSISTANCE

1. A Party seeking to obtain documents, records or other articles known to be located in the territory of the other Party shall request assistance pursuant to the provisions of this Treaty, except as otherwise agreed pursuant to Article III(1).

2. Where denial of a request or delay in its execution may jeopardize successful completion of an investigation or prosecution, the Parties shall promptly consult, at the instance of either Party, to consider alternative means of assistance.

3. Unless the Parties otherwise agree, the consultations shall be considered terminated 30 days after they have been requested, and the Parties' obligations under this Article shall then be deemed to have been fulfilled.

ARTICLE V

LIMITATIONS ON COMPLIANCE

1. The Requested State may deny assistance to the extent that
(a) the request is not made in conformity with the provisions of this Treaty; or
(b) execution of the request is contrary to its public interest, as determined by its Central Authority.

2. The Requested State may postpone assistance if execution of the request would interfere with an ongoing investigation or prosecution in the Requested State.

3. Before denying or postponing assistance pursuant to this Article, the Requested State, through its Central Authority,
(a) shall promptly inform the Requesting State of the reason for considering denial or postponement; and
(b) shall consult with the Requesting State to determine whether assistance may be given subject to such terms and conditions as the Requested State deems necessary.