

ARTICLE 14**Exchange of Information and Mutual Assistance**

1. The competent authorities and competent institutions shall:
 - (a) notify each other of laws affecting the application of this Agreement that amend, supplement or replace the social security laws of their respective Parties promptly after the former laws are made;
 - (b) unless prohibited by law, communicate to each other any information necessary for the application of this Agreement or of the respective social security laws of the Parties concerning all matters arising under this Agreement or under those laws;
 - (c) lend their good offices and furnish assistance to one another with regard to the determination or payment of any benefit under this Agreement or any other entitlement under the respective social security laws as if the matter involved the application of their own laws; and
 - (d) at the request of one to the other, assist each other in relation to the implementation of agreements on social security entered into by either of the Parties with third States, to the extent and in the circumstances specified in administrative arrangements made in accordance with Article 15.
2. The assistance referred to in paragraph 1 shall be provided free of charge, subject to any arrangement reached between the competent authorities and/or competent institutions for the reimbursement of certain types of expenses.
3. Any information about a person which is transmitted in accordance with this Agreement to a competent authority or competent institution shall be protected in the same manner as information obtained under the social security laws of that Party and shall be disclosed only in the manner permitted by the laws of that Party.
4. In no case shall the provisions of paragraphs 1 and 3 be construed so as to impose on the competent authority or competent institution of a Party the obligation:
 - (a) to carry out administrative measures at variance with the laws or the administrative practice of that or the other Party; or
 - (b) to supply particulars which are not obtainable under the laws or in the normal course of the administrative practice of that or the other Party.

ARTICLE 15**Administrative Arrangements**

The competent authorities of the Parties shall make whatever administrative arrangements are necessary from time to time to implement this Agreement.