

3. Consultations concerning the safety standards and requirements maintained and administered by the aeronautical authorities of the other Contracting Party relating to aeronautical facilities, aircrew, aircraft, and operation of the designated airlines shall be held within fifteen (15) days of receipt of a request from either Contracting Party. If, after fifteen (15) days from the date of the request for consultations, the aeronautical authorities of one Contracting Party find that the aeronautical authorities of the other Contracting Party do not effectively maintain and administer safety standards and requirements in these areas that are at least equal to the minimum standards which may be established pursuant to the Convention, the aeronautical authorities of the other Contracting Party shall be notified of such findings and the steps considered necessary to conform with these minimum standards. Failure to take appropriate corrective action within a reasonable time shall constitute grounds for withholding, revoking, suspending or imposing conditions on the authorizations of the airline or airlines designated by the other Contracting Party.

4. When immediate action is essential to the safety of airline operations, the aeronautical authorities of one Contracting Party may withhold, revoke, suspend or impose conditions on the authorizations of the airline or airlines designated by the other Contracting Party.

ARTICLE IX

Aviation Security

1. Consistent with their rights and obligations under international law, the Contracting Parties reaffirm that their obligation to each other to protect the security of civil aviation against acts of unlawful interference forms an integral part of this Agreement.

2. Without limiting the generality of their rights and obligations under international law, the Contracting Parties shall in particular act in conformity with the provisions of the Convention on Offences and Certain Other Acts Committed on Board Aircraft, signed at Tokyo on September 14, 1963, the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Seizure of Aircraft, signed at The Hague on December 16, 1970, the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts Against the Safety of Civil Aviation, signed at Montreal on September 23, 1971, and the Protocol for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts of Violence at Airports Serving International Civil Aviation, signed at Montreal on 24 February 1988 and any other multilateral agreement governing aviation security binding upon both Contracting Parties.

3. The Contracting Parties shall provide upon request all necessary assistance to each other to prevent acts of unlawful seizure of civil aircraft and other unlawful acts against the safety of such aircraft, their passengers and crew, airports and air navigation facilities, and any other threat to the security of civil aviation.