

ARTICLE XII

Exemption from the Obligation to Provide Assistance

1. Where the Customs Administration whose assistance is requested is of the view that compliance with a request is likely to be detrimental to its national sovereignty or security, public policy or other important interests of its country, it may decline to provide assistance in whole or in part, or may stipulate that its provision of assistance shall be dependent upon the fulfillment of certain conditions or requirements.

2. Where a request is made for assistance that the requesting Customs Administration itself would be unable to provide, the requesting Customs Administration shall draw attention to this fact in its request. Compliance with such a request shall be within the discretion of the Customs Administration whose assistance is requested.

ARTICLE XIII

Costs

The assisting Customs Administration shall be reimbursed for expenditures incurred in responding to a request under this Agreement, for witnesses, the fees of experts and the cost of obtaining the services of interpreters and translators who are not Government employees.