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THE STATES PARTIES,

MINDFUL of the critical importance of eliminating threats and conduct that undermine the security of Member States;

RECOGNISING the complexity of security in the Region, heightened by its geographical dispersion and the porosity of shorelines open to an extensive maritime space;

CONSCIOUS that no single Member State can ensure its own security against the traditional and non-traditional security threats facing the Region;

RECOGNISING ALSO that the main challenge in ensuring the security of the Region is capacity and that co-operation across national borders is imperative in ensuring security of the Region;

RE-AFFIRMING their commitment, through continued mutual co-operation and collaboration, to fight effectively against all forms of activities likely to compromise the security of the Region or of any State Party;

AWARE of the importance of the Regional Security System in ensuring the stability and well-being of the Region; and

DESIROUS OF increasing their co-operation to the fullest extent in the fight against all forms of security threats to the Region, and thereby enhancing their effectiveness in ensuring their own security, in a manner consistent with the principles of sovereign equality and territorial integrity of States including non-intervention in the domestic affairs of other States,

HAVE AGREED as follows:

ARTICLE I
DEFINITIONS

1. In this Agreement -

"airspace of a State Party" means the airspace over the territory (continental and insular) and waters of that State Party;
"CARICOM" means the Caribbean Community;

"Caribbean Community" means the Caribbean Community including the CARICOM Single Market and Economy established by the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas, signed at Nassau, The Bahamas on 5 July 2001;

"competent authority" means the person or entity authorised in the circumstances to act on behalf of a State Party;

"international waters" means all parts of the sea not included in the territorial sea, internal waters and archipelagic waters of any State;

"Member State" means a Member State of the Caribbean Community within the meaning of Article 1 of the Revised Treaty;

"Region" means the area within the territory, waters or airspace of each of the States Parties pursuant to domestic law and any applicable agreement entered into by such State Party or the principles of international law;

"Regional Security System" means the organisation established by the Treaty signed at St Georges, Grenada on 5 March 1996;

"Secretary General" means the Secretary General of the Caribbean Community;

"Security Force aircraft" means an aircraft designated by a State Party to engage in law enforcement operations or activities in support of law enforcement operations, pursuant to this Agreement, and which is clearly marked and identifiable as being on government service and authorised to that effect;

"Security Force Officials" means, in relation to a State Party, uniformed or otherwise clearly identifiable members of the Security Forces and civilian personnel, designated and duly authorised by the competent authority of the State Party to that effect;

"Security Force vessel" means a warship and other ship designated by a State Party to engage in law enforcement operations or activities in support of law enforcement operations, pursuant to this Agreement, and which is clearly marked and identifiable as being on government service and authorised to that effect;

"suspect aircraft" means an aircraft used for commercial or private purposes in
respect of which there are reasonable grounds to suspect that it is engaged in any activity likely to compromise the security of the Region or of any State Party;

"suspect vessel" means a vessel used for commercial or private purposes in respect of which there are reasonable grounds to suspect that it is engaged in any activity likely to compromise the security of the Region or of any State Party and includes a vessel without nationality and a vessel assimilated to a ship without nationality;

"Treaty on Security Assistance" means the Treaty on Security Assistance Among CARICOM Member States which entered into force on 6th July 2006; and

"waters of a State Party" means the territorial sea and, where applicable, the archipelagic waters of that Party, but does not include the internal waters of a State Party.

2. An activity is likely to compromise the security of a State Party or the Region if it involves -

(a) illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances, arms and ammunition or persons;

(b) an act of terrorism;

(c) a threat to national security;

(d) smuggling;

(e) illegal immigration;

(f) serious or potentially serious pollution of the environment;

(g) injury or potential injury to off-shore installations; or

(h) piracy, hijacking and other serious crimes.

ARTICLE II
OBJECTIVE

1. The objectives of this Agreement are to:

(a) promote cooperation among the States Parties to enable them to conduct such law enforcement operations as may be necessary to
address more effectively their own security as well as the security of the Region, consistent with their available law enforcement resources and related priorities, and in conformity with international law and applicable agreements; and

(b) maintain and develop the individual and collective capacity of States Parties through mutual assistance and self help.

2. For the purposes of paragraph 1, law enforcement operations may relate to, *inter alia* -

(a) the prevention, interdiction and investigation of illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances, arms and ammunition and persons;

(b) combating terrorism and other threats to national security;

(c) the prevention of smuggling;

(d) threats to security as a result of natural and other disasters;

(e) immigration and pollution control;

(f) the protection of off-shore installations; and

(g) the prevention of piracy, hijacking and other serious crimes.

ARTICLE III

SCOPE OF AGREEMENT

1. Without prejudice to existing and future arrangements for ensuring the security of the Region, the States Parties shall safeguard the security of the Region and by extension their own security, by ensuring that –

(a) suspect vessels and suspect aircraft are detected, identified, continuously monitored; and

(b) where evidence of involvement in any activity likely to compromise the security of the Region or of any State Party is found, that suspect vessels and suspect aircraft are detained for appropriate law enforcement action by the responsible law enforcement
2. Law enforcement operations to address any activity likely to compromise the security of the Region or of any State Party pursuant to this Agreement shall be carried out only against suspect vessels and suspect aircraft.

3. Except as expressly provided herein, this Agreement does not -

(a) apply to or limit boardings of vessels, conducted in accordance with international law, by officials of any State Party, whether based, inter alia, on the right of visit, the rendering of assistance to persons, vessels, and property in distress or peril, the consent of the vessel master, or an authorisation from the flag State; or

(b) modify the general international law with respect to the use of force against civil aircraft in flight as reflected in the International Convention on Civil Aviation, adopted at Chicago, December 7, 1944.

4. The States Parties shall carry out their obligations and responsibilities under this Agreement in a manner consistent with the principles of sovereign equality and territorial integrity of States and that of non-intervention in the domestic affairs of other States.

ARTICLE IV
OPERATIONS IN THE TERRITORY, AIRSPACE AND WATERS OF A STATE PARTY

Operations in the territory, airspace or waters of a State Party to address any activity likely to compromise the security of that State Party are the responsibility of, and subject to the sovereign authority of that State Party.

ARTICLE V
NATIONALITY OF VESSELS AND AIRCRAFT

1. For the purpose of this Agreement, a vessel or aircraft has the nationality of the State whose flag it is entitled to fly or in which the vessel or aircraft is registered, in accordance with domestic laws and regulations.

2. Requests for verification of nationality of vessels claiming registration in, or entitlement to fly the flag of one of the States Parties, shall be processed through the competent authority of the claimed flag State Party.
3. A request may be conveyed orally but shall later be confirmed by written communication, containing, if applicable -

(a) the name and registration number of the vessel;
(b) homeport;
(c) port of origin and destination;
(d) the geographic position of the vessel;
(e) grounds for suspicion; and
(f) any other identifying information.

4. Requests for verification of nationality shall be answered expeditiously and all efforts shall be made to provide such answer as soon as possible, but in any event within two (2) hours after receipt of the request.

5. If the claimed flag State Party refutes the claim of nationality made by the suspect vessel, then the State Party that requested verification may assimilate the suspect vessel to a ship without nationality in accordance with international law.

ARTICLE VI
DESIGNATION OF SECURITY FORCE OFFICIALS

1. Each State Party shall –

(a) designate Security Force Officials for the purposes of this Agreement; and

(b) advise the Secretary General of each such designation and the Secretary General shall notify each State Party accordingly.

2. Nothing in paragraph 1 prevents the designation of security force officials of a regional security force established pursuant to an Agreement involving two or more States Parties but not including any State that is not a Member State.

3. Security Force Officials of a State Party shall where appropriate have authority to –

(a) patrol the waters and airspace of another State Party in accordance with Article VII;

(b) conduct law enforcement operations in the waters or airspace of another State Party in accordance with Article VIII;
(c) embark the Security Force vessels and aircraft of another State Party;

(d) enforce the laws of that State Party in that State or seaward of its territorial sea in the exercise of the right of hot pursuit or otherwise in accordance with international law;

(e) authorise the Security Force vessels on which they are embarked entry into and navigation within the waters of that State Party;

(f) authorise Security Force Officials of the Security Force vessels on which they are embarked to assist in the enforcement of the laws of that State Party to address any activity likely to compromise the security of the Region or of any State Party; and

(g) advise and assist Security Force Officials of other States Parties in the conduct of boardings of suspect vessels to enforce the laws of the other States Parties to address any activity likely to compromise the security of the Region or of any State Party.

4. Subject to paragraph 5, where Security Force Officials are embarked on the Security Force vessel of another State Party, and the law enforcement action being carried out is pursuant to the authority of the Security Force Officials, any search or seizure of property, any detention of a person, and any use of force pursuant to this Agreement, whether or not involving weapons, shall, consistent with Articles XIII and XIV, be carried out by those Security Force Officials.

5. Crew members of another State Party’s Security Force vessel or Security Force aircraft, including the vessels and aircraft of third States as agreed upon by the States Parties concerned, may assist in any law enforcement action referred to in paragraph 4 if –

(a) expressly requested to do so by the Security Force Officials and only to the extent and in the manner requested; and

(c) the action is consistent with the applicable laws and procedures of both States Parties.
ARTICLE VII
ROUTINE SECURITY PATROLS

1. This Agreement constitutes permission by each State Party for the Security Force vessels and Security Force aircraft of any other State Party, on giving notice, to patrol its waters and airspace in furtherance of this Agreement.

2. A Security Force vessel or Security Force aircraft of a State Party is permitted to patrol the waters and airspace of another State Party in furtherance of this Agreement only where the Security Force vessel or Security Force aircraft, as the case may be, is under the command and control of the competent authority of the first-mentioned State Party.

3. Notwithstanding paragraph 1, a State Party reserves the right to refuse entry into its waters and airspace.

4. During the course of routine patrol pursuant to paragraph 1 -

   (a) a Security Force aircraft of a State Party shall in addition to its national marking, also display the CARICOM Standard;

   (b) a Security Force vessel of a State Party shall in addition to its national flag also fly the CARICOM Flag;

   (c) a Security Force aircraft of the Regional Security System, shall in addition to the marking of the System, also display the CARICOM Standard; and

   (d) a Security Force vessel of the Regional Security System shall fly the CARICOM flag.

ARTICLE VIII
OPERATIONS IN WATERS OF A STATE PARTY

1. This Agreement constitutes permission by each State Party for any other State Party to conduct law enforcement operations in the waters of the first-mentioned State Party to address any activity likely to compromise the security of the Region or of any State Party where –

   (a) on notification of the proposed operation, permission is granted; or
2. Notwithstanding paragraph 1, during the course of a routine patrol of the waters of a State Party pursuant to paragraph 1 of Article VII, the Security Force Officials engaged in the patrol may, in the waters of the State Party, conduct such law enforcement operations as may be necessary to address any activity likely to compromise the security of the Region or of any State Party, where -

(a) a suspect vessel, detected in international waters, enters the waters of the State Party and –

(i) no Security Force Official of that State Party is embarked in the Security Force vessel of the State Party engaged in the patrol;

(ii) no Security Force vessel of that State Party is in the immediate vicinity to investigate; and

(iii) notice is given to the competent authority of that State Party and no objection is made by that competent authority; or

(b) a suspect vessel is detected within the waters of the State Party and –

(i) no Security Force Official of that State Party is embarked in the Security Force vessel of the State Party engaged in the patrol;

(ii) no Security Force vessel of that State Party is in the immediate vicinity to investigate; and

(iii) notice is given to the competent authority of that State Party and no objection is made by that competent authority.

3. Where the conditions set out in paragraph 2 (a) or (b) have been met, a Security Force vessel of a State Party may follow a suspect vessel into or enter, as the case may be, the waters of another State Party, in order to investigate, board and search the vessel, and, if the evidence of any activity likely to compromise the security of the Region or of any State Party is found, detain the vessel, cargo, and persons on board pending expeditious instructions from the competent authority of the State Party in whose waters the vessel entered or is detected.
4. A State Party shall, without delay, provide prior notice to the competent authority of action to be taken under paragraph 3.

5. Notwithstanding foregoing paragraphs of this Article, a State Party reserves the right to refuse the exercise of any power pursuant to paragraph 2.

ARTICLE IX
OPERATIONS IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS

1. Where the Security Force Officials of a State Party ("the requesting State Party") encounter a suspect vessel claiming nationality of another State Party ("the requested State Party") located seaward of any State's territorial sea, the requesting State Party may request the competent authority of the requested State Party to -

   (a) verify the claim of nationality by the suspect vessel; and

   (b) where such claim is verified, to -

      (i) authorise the boarding and search of the suspect vessel, cargo and the persons found on board by Security Force Officials of the requesting State Party; and

      (ii) if evidence of any activity likely to compromise the security of the Region or of any State Party is found, authorise the Security Force Officials of the requesting State Party to detain the vessel, cargo and persons on board pending instructions from the competent authority of the requested State Party as to the exercise of jurisdiction in accordance with Article XI.

2. Where nationality is verified, the requested State Party may -

   (a) decide to conduct the boarding and search with its own Security Force Officials;

   (b) authorise the boarding and search by the Security Force Officials of the requesting State Party;

   (c) decide to conduct the boarding and search together with the requesting Party; or
(d) deny permission to board and search.

3. If the nationality is not verified within two (2) hours, the requested State Party may, notwithstanding, authorise Security Force Officials of the requesting State Party to board and search the vessel.

4. Where there is no response from the requested State Party within two (2) hours of its receipt of the request –

(a) the requested State Party shall be deemed to have refuted the claim of the suspect vessel to nationality; and

(b) the requesting State Party shall be deemed to have been authorised to board the suspect vessel for the purpose of inspecting the vessel’s documents, questioning the persons on board, and searching the vessel to determine if it is engaged in any activity likely to compromise the security of the Region or of any State Party.

5. Where evidence of any activity likely to compromise the security of the Region or of any State Party is found, the Security Force Officials of the first Party may detain the vessel, cargo, and persons on board pending expeditious disposition instructions from the other State Party.

6. Notwithstanding the foregoing paragraphs of this Article, this Agreement authorises the Security Force Officials of a State Party ("the first State Party") to board a suspect vessel claiming nationality in another State Party for the purpose of locating and examining the vessel’s documentation where that vessel is –

(a) not flying the flag of that other State Party;

(b) not displaying any marks of its registration or nationality; and

(c) claiming to have no documentation on board the vessel.

7. Where pursuant to action under paragraph 6 -

(a) documentation or other physical evidence of nationality is located, the foregoing paragraphs of this Article apply;

(b) no documentation or other physical evidence of nationality is available, the other State Party shall not object to the first State Party assimilating the vessel to a ship without nationality in accordance with international law.
8. The authorisation to board, search and detain includes the authority to use force in accordance with Article XIV.

9. The Security Force vessels of a State Party operating pursuant to this Article shall, during such operations, also fly the CARICOM flag.

ARTICLE X

AIRSPACE OPERATIONS AND PROCEDURES

1. Subject to the right to expressly object at any time, this Agreement constitutes permission by a State Party for the Security Force aircraft of any other State Party to operate within the airspace of the first-mentioned State Party.

2. Subject to standard operational protocols that may be elaborated by the States Parties, a State Party shall, in the interest of flight safety, observe the procedures set out in paragraphs 3 to 6 for facilitating flights within the airspace of another State Party by its Security Force aircraft.

3. In the case of planned bilateral or multilateral operations duly agreed by the States Parties concerned, the State Party seeking to overfly shall provide adequate and timely notification to the appropriate aviation authority of the other State Party of planned flights by its aircraft in the airspace of that other State Party.

4. In the case of unplanned operations, which may include the pursuit of suspect aircraft into the airspace of another State Party pursuant to this Agreement, the aviation or other competent authorities of the States Parties concerned shall exchange information concerning the appropriate communications channels and other information pertinent to flight safety.

5. A Security Force aircraft engaged in operations pursuant to this Agreement shall comply with -

(a) such air navigation and flight safety rules as may be required by the aviation authorities of a State Party; and

(b) any written operating procedures developed for flight operations within its airspace under this Agreement.
6. A Security Force aircraft of another State Party may relay the orders of the aviation or other competent authorities of a State Party to suspect aircraft to land in the territory of that State Party.

ARTICLE XI

JURISDICTION OVER DETAINED VESSELS

1. Subject to paragraph 2, in all cases arising in the waters of a State Party or concerning a flag vessel of a State Party located seaward of any State's territorial sea, that State Party shall have the primary right to exercise jurisdiction over a detained vessel, cargo and/or persons on board (including seizure, forfeiture, arrest, and prosecution).

2. Notwithstanding paragraph 1, the State Party with the right to exercise primary jurisdiction may, subject to its laws, waive its primary right to exercise jurisdiction and authorise the enforcement of another State Party's law against the vessel, cargo and/or persons on board.

3. In cases arising in the contiguous zone claimed by a State Party, the State Party which conducts the boarding and search shall have the right to exercise jurisdiction, except in cases involving suspect vessels fleeing from the waters of that State Party or suspect vessels claiming the nationality of that State Party.

4. Instructions as to the exercise of jurisdiction pursuant to the foregoing paragraphs of this Article shall be given without delay.

5. Where permitted by its laws, waiver of jurisdiction may be granted verbally, but as soon as possible it shall be recorded in a written note from the competent authority and be processed, without prejudice to the immediate exercise of jurisdiction over the suspect vessel by the other State Party.

ARTICLE XII

EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION AND NOTIFICATION OF RESULTS OF ACTIONS OF THE SECURITY FORCES

1. The competent authorities of States Parties shall, through such regional entity as may be agreed by the States Parties, exchange operational information on the detection and location of a suspect vessel or suspect aircraft and shall maintain communication with each other as necessary to give effect to this Agreement.
2. The Security Force Officials of a State Party which has conducted a boarding and search pursuant to this Agreement shall promptly notify the competent authority of the other State Party of the results thereof.

3. Each State Party shall, in a timely manner and in accordance with its laws, report to other relevant States Parties, actions and processes resulting from its application of this Agreement on the status of all relevant investigations, prosecutions and judicial proceedings.

ARTICLE XIII

AUTHORITY AND CONDUCT OF SECURITY FORCE OFFICIALS

1. Each State Party shall take such measures as may be necessary under its law to ensure that Security Force Officials of other States Parties, when conducting law enforcement operations in its water under this Agreement, are deemed to have like powers to those of its Security Force Officials.

2. Each State Party shall take appropriate measures to ensure that its Security Force Officials, and the Security Force Officials of another State Party acting on its behalf, are empowered to exercise the authority of Security Force Officials as conferred by this Agreement.

3. Each State Party shall ensure that its Security Force Officials, when conducting boardings and searches pursuant to this Agreement, act in accordance with applicable national laws and policies of the other State Party, international law and accepted international practices.

4. Security Force Officials shall carry out boardings and searches pursuant to this Agreement, and may be assisted by crew members from such vessels and aircraft, including the vessels and aircraft of third States as agreed.

5. Security Force Officials carrying out boarding and search pursuant to this Agreement may operate from -

   (a) Security Force vessels or Security Force aircraft of the States Parties; or

   (b) vessels or aircraft of third States which are under the command and control of the Security Force Officials.

6. Security Force Officials carrying out boarding and search pursuant to this Agreement may carry arms.
7. When conducting a boarding and search, Security Force Officials shall observe norms of courtesy, respect and consideration for the persons on board the suspect vessel and shall not –

(a) endanger the safety of life at sea or the security of the suspect vessel and its cargo; or

(b) prejudice the commercial and legal interests of the flag State or any other interested State.

8. While conducting air intercept activities pursuant to this Agreement, Security Force Officials shall not endanger the lives of persons on board and the safety of civil aircraft in flight.

ARTICLE XIV
USE OF FORCE

1. The use of force pursuant to this Agreement shall in all cases be –

(a) in strict accordance with the applicable laws and policies; and

(b) the minimum reasonably necessary under the circumstances.

2. Notwithstanding paragraph 1, a State Party shall not use force against civil aircraft in flight.

3. Nothing in this Agreement shall impair the exercise of the inherent right of self-defence by Security Force or other officials of a State Party.

ARTICLE XV
EXCHANGE AND KNOWLEDGE OF LAWS AND POLICIES OF STATES PARTIES

1. To facilitate implementation of this Agreement, each State Party shall ensure that the other States Parties are fully informed of its applicable laws and policies, particularly those pertaining to the use of force.

2. Each Party shall ensure that all of its Security Force Officials are made aware of the applicable laws and policies in accordance with this Agreement.
ARTICLE XVI

POINTS OF CONTACT

1. In designating the competent authorities and Security Force Officials that exercise responsibilities under this Agreement, each State Party shall identify points of contact for the purposes of, *inter alia*, disposition and jurisdiction instructions, notifications, and requests.

2. Each State Party shall inform the Secretary General of the points of contact and of any changes thereto.

3. The Secretary General shall promptly inform each State Party of the information received pursuant to paragraph 2.

4. States Parties shall ensure that the points of contact have the capability to receive, process and respond to requests and reports at any time.

ARTICLE XVII

DISPOSITION OF SEIZED PROPERTY

1. Assets seized pursuant to this Agreement in consequence of operations undertaken on board vessels –

   (a) subject to the jurisdiction of a State Party, or

   (b) in the territory or waters of a State Party,

shall be disposed of in accordance with the laws of that State Party.

2. Assets seized pursuant to this Agreement seaward of the territorial sea of a State shall be disposed of –

   (a) in accordance with such formula to be agreed by the States Parties; and

   (b) in the absence of such formula, in accordance with the laws of the seizing State Party.

ARTICLE XVIII

CLAIMS

1. Except as otherwise agreed, a State Party shall -
(a) not institute any legal proceedings against another State Party or its Security Force Officials or other legal entities acting on its behalf;

(b) deal with legal proceedings and claims brought by third Parties against another State Party or its Security Force Officials or other legal entities acting on its behalf; and

(c) compensate a State Party conducting operations or its Security Force Officials or other legal entities acting on its behalf,

in respect of death or injury to any such Security Force Official, damage to or loss of equipment or property, or damage to the environment arising within the territory or other area under its jurisdiction or control in the course of the conduct of operations pursuant to this Agreement.

2. If any loss, damage, injury or death is suffered as a result of any –

(a) action taken by the Security Force Officials of a State Party in contravention of this Agreement; or

(b) improper or unreasonable action taken by a State Party pursuant this Agreement,

the States Parties concerned shall, without prejudice to any other legal rights which may be available, consult at the request of either State Party to resolve the matter and decide any questions relating to compensation or payment.

ARTICLE XIX

TAX EXEMPTION

The movement of Security Force vessels and Security Force aircraft of a State Party in the waters or airspace of another State Party, and the payment for the use by them of public ports, harbours and airfields shall not be subject to any local taxes, fees or other charges, provided that reasonable amounts shall be paid for services and materials requested and received in connection with the use of local ports, harbours and airfields.

ARTICLE XX

EFFECT ON RIGHTS, PRIVILEGES AND LEGAL POSITIONS

Nothing in this Agreement -
(a) is intended to alter the rights and privileges of any individual in any administrative or judicial proceeding;

(b) alters the immunities to which vessels and aircraft are entitled under international law; or

(c) shall -

(i) prejudice the position of a State Party with regard to international law;

(ii) affect the territorial or maritime boundaries or claims to territory or maritime boundaries of a State Party, as between them or with third States; or

(iii) constitute a precedent from which rights can be derived.

ARTICLE XXI

COOPERATION AND ASSISTANCE

1. The competent authority of a State Party may request, and the competent authority of the other Party may authorise, Security Force Officials to provide technical assistance, such as specialised assistance in the conduct of search of suspect vessels, for the boarding and search of suspect vessels located in the territory or waters of the requesting Party.

2. Nothing in this Agreement precludes –

(a) a State Party from authorising another State Party to –

(i) address any activity likely to compromise the security of the Region or of any State Party in its territory, waters or airspace;

(ii) take action involving suspect vessels or aircraft claiming its nationality; or

(iii) provide other forms of cooperation to address any activity likely to compromise the security of the Region or of any State Party; or
(b) the members of the Regional Security System from furthering the objectives of this Agreement through that System.

3. Nothing in this Agreement precludes a State Party from requesting the assistance of a third State in acquiring and developing sufficient technical and material resources to carry out the object and purpose of this Agreement.

ARTICLE XXII

IMPLEMENTATION

1. Each State Party shall take all necessary measures, including legislative and administrative measures, to ensure the effective implementation of this Agreement.

2. States Parties may conclude bilateral and multilateral agreements with one another on the matters contemplated by this Agreement for the purposes of supplementing or strengthening its provisions or facilitating the application of the principles embodied in it.

ARTICLE XXIII

DISPUTES AND CONSULTATIONS

1. Where a dispute arises between two or more States Parties from the interpretation, application or implementation of this Agreement, the States Parties shall consult with a view to the settlement of the dispute by negotiation, inquiry, mediation, conciliation, recourse to any competent regional judicial body or other peaceful means of their choice.

2. The States Parties agree to consult as necessary to evaluate the implementation of this Agreement and to consider enhancing its effectiveness.

3. The evaluation referred to in paragraph 2 shall be carried out at least once every two years.

4. In case a difficulty arises concerning the operation of this Agreement, a State Party may request consultations with the other State Party concerned to resolve the matter.
ARTICLE XXIV
RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER AGREEMENTS

1. Nothing in this Agreement shall alter or affect in any way the rights and obligations of a State Party which arise from agreements in force between it and any other State Party on the same subject.

2. This Agreement does not affect and shall not be construed as affecting the rights and obligations under the Charter of the United Nations or the responsibility of the United Nations for the maintenance of international peace and security.

ARTICLE XXV
DEPOSITARY

This Agreement, any amendment thereof, instruments of accession and ratification shall be deposited with the Secretary General (the depositary) who shall forward certified true copies thereof to all States Parties.

ARTICLE XXVI
SIGNATURE AND RATIFICATION

1. This Agreement shall be open for signature by all Member States.

2. This Agreement shall be subject to ratification by the signatory States in accordance with their respective constitutional procedures.

ARTICLE XXVII
ENTRY INTO FORCE

This Agreement shall enter into force 60 days after the deposit of the third instrument of ratification.

ARTICLE XXVIII
AMENDMENT

1. This Agreement may be amended by the States Parties.
2. Every amendment shall be subject to ratification by the States Parties and shall enter into force 30 days after the deposit of the last instrument of ratification.

ARTICLE XXIX
ACCESSION

1. After the entry into force of this Agreement, a Member State may accede to this Agreement.

2. Instruments of Accession shall be deposited with the Depositary who shall forward copies of the instruments to each State Party notifying them of the dates of deposit of the instruments.

3. Instruments of Accession shall take effect 30 days following the deposit of the instrument of accession with the Depositary.

ARTICLE XXX
RESERVATION

1. Subject to paragraph 2, a Member State may, at the time of signature or when depositing its instrument of ratification or accession, declare any reservation to this Agreement of which it avails itself.

2. A reservation which is incompatible with the object and purpose of this Agreement shall not be permitted.

3. The Depositary shall circulate to the States Parties the text of any reservations made by a State.

4. Subject to paragraph 5, a State Party which has made a reservation in respect of a provision of this Agreement may not claim the application of that provision by any other State Party.

5. Where a reservation made by a State Party in respect of a provision of this Agreement is partial or conditional, that State Party may claim the application of the provision in so far as it has itself accepted it.

6. A State Party which has made a reservation under paragraph 1 may wholly or partly withdraw it by means of a notification addressed to the Depositary.
7. The withdrawal shall take effect on the date of receipt of such notification by the Secretary General.

8. The Depositary shall promptly inform each State Party of every notification received pursuant to paragraph 6.

ARTICLE XXXI
WITHDRAWAL

1. A State Party may withdraw from this Agreement at any time by written notification to the Depositary.

2. The Depositary who shall promptly notify the other State Parties of the receipt of the notification.

3. The withdrawal shall take effect 90 days after the date of receipt of the notification by the Depositary, unless the State Party notifies the Depositary in writing of the cancellation of its notice of withdrawal before the effective date of the withdrawal.

4. This Agreement shall continue to apply after withdrawal of a State Party with respect to any administrative or judicial proceedings regarding actions that occurred during the time the Agreement was in force.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the under-mentioned representatives duly authorised in that behalf have executed this Agreement for their respective Governments.

Signed at Antigua this day of July 2008 for and on behalf of Antigua and Barbuda.

Signed at this day of 2008 for and on behalf of The Bahamas.

Signed at this day of 2008 for and on behalf of Barbados.

Signed at this day of 2008 for and on behalf of Belize.
Signed at ______________________ this day of ______________________ 2008 for and on behalf of the Commonwealth of Dominica

Signed at ______________________ this day of ______________________ 2008 for and on behalf of Grenada

Signed at ______________________ this day of ______________________ 2008 for and on behalf of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana

Signed at ______________________ this day of ______________________ 2008 for and on behalf of Haiti

Signed at ______________________ this day of ______________________ 2008 for and on behalf of Jamaica

Signed at ______________________ this day of ______________________ 2008 for and on behalf of Montserrat

Signed at ______________________ this day of ______________________ 2008 for and on behalf of the Federation of St. Kitts and Nevis

Signed at ______________________ this day of ______________________ 2008 for and on behalf of Saint Lucia

Signed at Antigua this day of 4th July 2008 for and on behalf of St. Vincent and the Grenadines

Signed at Antigua this day of 4th July 2008 for and on behalf of the Republic of Suriname

Signed at Antigua this day of 4th July 2008 for and on behalf of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

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