

Procedure after receiving the request (if without MLAT/MLAA)

A request for assistance is received by the Minister for Foreign Affairs via diplomatic channel*. The Minister for Foreign Affairs, if the requesting State has guaranteed reciprocity, shall forward the request to the Minister of Justice with his/her opinion attached.

* We welcome to have an advance consultation on the request letter.

The Minister of Justice, when none of the legal restrictions on assistance applies and deems it appropriate to honor the request;

- forwards the request letter to the respective executing agencies (Public Prosecutors Office, National Public Safety Commission (police), Japan Coast Guard or other)

or

- forwards the request letter to the current custodian of a document pertaining to the trial, criminal litigation documents (in case of the request for the provision of such document).

The recipient of the request letter, then takes necessary measures to collect and transfer the evidence to the Minister of Justice.

The Minister of Justice forwards the received evidence/documents to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, who then forwards the evidence/documents to the requesting state via diplomatic channel.