

TREATY BETWEEN
JAPAN AND THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION
ON MUTUAL LEGAL ASSISTANCE
IN CRIMINAL MATTERS

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Japan and the Russian Federation (hereinafter referred to as the "Parties"),

Desiring to establish more effective cooperation between both States in the field of mutual legal assistance in criminal matters,

Desiring that such cooperation will contribute to combating crime in both States,

Have agreed as follows:

Article 1

1. Each Party shall, upon request by the other Party, provide mutual legal assistance in connection with investigations, prosecutions and other proceedings in criminal matters (hereinafter referred to as "assistance") in accordance with the provisions of this Treaty.

2. Assistance shall include the following:

(1) taking testimony, statements or items, including through the execution of search and seizure;

(2) examining persons, items or places;

(3) locating or identifying persons, items or places;

(4) providing items in the possession of the legislative, executive, judicial or other national authorities of the requested Party as well as the local authorities thereof;

(5) informing a person of an invitation to appear in the requesting Party or serving a document requiring a person to appear in the requesting Party;

(6) temporary transfer of a person who is being detained or is serving a sentence in the territory of the requested Party for giving testimony or for other purposes indicated in the request;

(7) serving documents related to criminal proceedings other than those provided for in sub-paragraph (5);

(8) assisting in proceedings related to confiscation and immobilization of proceeds or instrumentalities of criminal offences; and

(9) any other assistance that is not contrary to the laws of the requested Party and agreed upon between the Central Authorities of the Parties.

3. The term "items" as used in this Treaty means documents, records and other articles of evidence.

4. Nothing in this Treaty shall be construed so as to entitle the competent authorities of either Party to undertake in the territory of the other Party functions which exclusively fall within the authorities of that other Party under the laws of the other Party.

5. This Treaty is intended solely for assistance between the Parties. The provisions of this Treaty shall not give rise to any rights or affect the pre-existing rights on the part of any natural or legal person to obtain evidence or to have evidence excluded, or to impede the execution of a request for assistance.

Article 2

1. Each Party shall designate the Central Authorities that are to perform the functions provided for in this Treaty. For Japan, the Central Authorities shall be the Minister of Justice and the National Public Safety Commission and persons designated by them. For the Russian Federation, the Central Authorities shall be the Ministry of Justice of the Russian Federation and the General Prosecutor's Office of the Russian Federation. The Parties shall notify each other of the functions of their Central Authorities in writing through diplomatic channels.

2. In case of changes of the Central Authorities or their functions of either Party, the other Party shall promptly be notified thereof through diplomatic channels.

3. Requests for assistance under this Treaty shall be made by the Central Authority of the requesting Party to the Central Authority of the requested Party. If a received request comes within the functions of another Central Authority of the requested Party, the said request shall promptly be forwarded to that Central Authority, and the Central Authority of the requesting Party shall be notified thereof.

4. The Central Authorities of the Parties shall communicate directly with one another for the purposes of this Treaty.

Article 3

1. The Central Authority of the requested Party may refuse assistance if the requested Party considers that:

(1) the request relates to a political offence. For the purposes of this Treaty, none of the offences set forth in international agreements in force in the Parties shall be considered as political offences when such international agreements provide that the offences shall not be regarded as political offences;

(2) the execution of the request would impair its security or other essential interests;

(3) the request does not conform to the requirements of this Treaty;

(4) there are well-founded reasons to suppose that the request for assistance has been made with a view to prosecuting or punishing a person by reason of race, religion, nationality, ethnic origin, political opinions or sex, or that such person's position may be prejudiced for any of those reasons; or

(5) the conduct that is the subject of the investigation, prosecution or other proceeding in the requesting Party would not constitute a criminal offence under the laws of the requested Party.

2. Before refusing assistance pursuant to paragraph 1, the Central Authority of the requested Party shall consult with the Central Authority of the requesting Party to consider whether assistance can be provided subject to such conditions as the requested Party may deem necessary. If the requesting Party accepts such conditions, the requesting Party shall comply with them.

3. If assistance is refused, the Central Authority of the requested Party shall inform the Central Authority of the requesting Party of the reasons for the refusal.

Article 4

1. The Central Authority of the requesting Party shall make a request for assistance in writing. However, the Central Authority of the requesting Party may make a request by any other reliable means of communication if the Central Authority of the requested Party considers it appropriate to receive a request by that means. In such cases, the request shall without delay be confirmed in writing. A request shall be accompanied by a translation into the language of the requested Party or, in case of urgency, into the English language unless otherwise agreed between the Central Authorities of the Parties.

2. A request shall include the following:

(1) the name and address of the authority conducting the investigation, prosecution or other proceeding;

(2) the facts pertaining to the subject of the investigation, prosecution or other proceeding, including, to the extent possible, the location of the place in which the offence occurred, the address of the defendant or suspect and the address of the victim; the nature and the stage of the investigation, prosecution or other proceeding;

(3) a description of the purpose and nature of the assistance requested; and

(4) the texts of the relevant laws of the requesting Party.

3. To the extent necessary and possible, a request shall also include the following:

(1) information on the identity and whereabouts of any person from whom testimony, statements or items are sought;

(2) a description of the manner in which testimony, statements or items are to be taken or recorded;

(3) a list of questions to be asked of the person from whom testimony, statements or items are sought;

(4) a precise description of persons or places to be searched and of items to be sought;

(5) information regarding persons, items or places to be examined;

(6) a description of the manner in which an examination of persons, items or places is to be conducted and recorded, including the format of any written record to be made concerning the examination;

(7) information regarding persons, items or places to be located or identified;

(8) information on the identity and location of a person to be served, that person's relation to the proceedings, and the manner in which service is to be made;

(9) a description of any particular procedure to be followed in executing the request;

(10) information on the allowances and expenses to which a person whose appearance is sought before the appropriate authority in the requesting Party will be entitled;

(11) an explanation of the necessity for confidentiality concerning the request; and

(12) any other information that should be brought to the attention of the requested Party to facilitate the execution of the request.

4. If the requested Party considers that the information contained in a request for assistance is not sufficient to enable the execution of the request, the Central Authority of the requested Party may request that additional information be provided.

Article 5

1. The requested Party shall promptly execute a request in accordance with the relevant provisions of this Treaty. A Central Authority of the requested Party having received a request shall, if necessary, promptly forward the request to another competent authority in order to do so. The competent authorities of the requested Party shall take every possible measure in their power to ensure the execution of a request.

2. A request shall be executed in the manner or procedure provided for by the laws of the requested Party. The manner or particular procedure described in a request referred to in paragraph 3(2), 3(6) or 3(9) of Article 4 shall be followed to the extent it is not prohibited by the laws of the requested Party, and where it is practically possible.

3. If the execution of a request is deemed to interfere with an ongoing investigation, prosecution or other proceeding in the requested Party, the Central Authority of the requested Party may postpone the execution or make the execution subject to conditions deemed necessary after consultations between the Central Authorities of the Parties. If the requesting Party accepts such conditions, the requesting Party shall comply with them.

4. The requested Party shall make its best efforts to keep confidential the fact that a request has been made, the contents of a request, the outcome of the execution of a request and other relevant information concerning the execution of a request if such confidentiality is requested by the Central Authority of the requesting Party. If a request cannot be executed without disclosure of such information, the Central Authority of the requested Party shall so inform the Central Authority of the requesting Party, which shall then determine whether the request should nevertheless be executed.

5. The Central Authority of the requested Party shall respond to reasonable inquiries by the Central Authority of the requesting Party concerning the status of the execution of a request.

6. At the request of the Central Authority of the requesting Party, the Central Authority of the requested Party shall provide, if possible, in advance the information on the date and place of the execution of a request.

7. The Central Authority of the requested Party shall promptly inform the Central Authority of the requesting Party of the result of the execution of a request, and shall provide the Central Authority of the requesting Party with the testimony, statements or items obtained as a result. If a request cannot be executed in whole or in part, the Central Authority of the requested Party shall inform the Central Authority of the requesting Party of the reasons therefor.

Article 6

1. Unless otherwise agreed between the Central Authorities of the Parties, the requested Party shall pay all costs related to the execution of a request, except for the fees of an expert witness, the costs of translation, interpretation and transcription, and the allowances and expenses related to travel of persons pursuant to Articles 13 and 14. Such fees, costs, allowances and expenses shall be paid by the requesting Party.

2. If it becomes apparent that expenses of an extraordinary nature are required to execute a request, the Central Authorities of the Parties shall consult to determine the conditions under which the request will be executed.

Article 7

1. The requesting Party shall not use any testimony, statements or items provided under this Treaty other than in the investigation, prosecution or other proceeding described in a request without prior consent of the Central Authority of the requested Party.

2. The Central Authority of the requested Party may request that testimony, statements or items provided under this Treaty be kept confidential or be used only subject to other conditions it may specify. If the requesting Party agrees to such confidentiality or accepts such conditions, it shall comply with them.

Article 8

1. The Central Authority of the requested Party may request that the requesting Party transport and maintain items provided under this Treaty in accordance with the conditions specified by the Central Authority of the requested Party, including the conditions deemed necessary to protect third-party interests in the items to be transferred.

2. The Central Authority of the requested Party may request that the requesting Party return any items provided under this Treaty in accordance with the conditions specified by the Central Authority of the requested Party, after such items have been used for the purpose described in a request.

3. The requesting Party shall comply with a request made pursuant to paragraph 1 or 2. When such a request has been made, the requesting Party shall not examine the items without the prior consent of the Central Authority of the requested Party if the examination impairs or could impair the item.

Article 9

1. The requested Party shall take testimony, statements or items in accordance with the laws of the requested Party. In taking testimony, statements or items, the requested Party shall employ compulsory measures, including search and seizure, if such measures are necessary and the request includes information justifying those measures under the laws of the requested Party.

2. The requested Party shall make its best efforts to make possible the presence of such persons as specified in a request for taking testimony, statements or items during the execution of the request, and to allow such persons to question the person from whom testimony, statements or items are sought. In the event that such direct questioning is not permitted, such persons specified in the request shall be allowed to submit questions to be posed to the person from whom testimony, statements or items are sought.

3. If a person, from whom testimony, statements or items are sought pursuant to this Article, asserts a claim of immunity, incapacity or privilege under the laws of the requesting Party, testimony, statements or items shall nevertheless be taken. In cases where testimony, statements or items are taken in accordance with this paragraph, they shall be provided, together with the claim, to the Central Authority of the requesting Party for resolution of the claim by the competent authorities of the requesting Party.

Article 10

1. The requested Party shall examine persons, items or places in accordance with the laws of the requested Party. The requested Party shall employ compulsory measures in order to do so, if such measures are necessary and the request includes information justifying those measures under the laws of the requested Party.

2. The requested Party shall make its best efforts to make possible the presence of such persons as specified in a request for examining persons, items or places during the execution of the request.

Article 11

The requested Party shall make its best efforts to locate or identify persons, items or places.

Article 12

1. The requested Party shall provide the requesting Party with items that are in the possession of the legislative, executive, judicial or other national authorities of the requested Party as well as the local authorities thereof and are available to the general public.

2. The requested Party shall make its best efforts to provide the requesting Party with items that are in the possession of the legislative, executive, judicial or other national authorities of the requested Party as well as the local authorities thereof and are not available to the general public, to the same extent and under the same conditions as such items would be available to its investigative and prosecuting authorities.

Article 13

1. The requested Party shall inform a person in the requested Party of an invitation to appear before the appropriate authority in the requesting Party. The requested Party shall effect service of a document requiring the appearance of a person before the appropriate authority in the requesting Party.

2. The Central Authority of the requesting Party shall inform the Central Authority of the requested Party of the extent to which the allowances and expenses for the appearance under paragraph 1 will be paid by the requesting Party. The Central Authority of the requested Party shall, upon request, promptly inform the Central Authority of the requesting Party of the response of the person whose appearance is sought.

3. Where a request concerns service of a judicial document requiring the appearance of a person before the appropriate authority in the requesting Party, the request shall be received by the requested Party not less than 50 days before the scheduled appearance date. In urgent cases, the requested Party may waive this requirement. In informing of the result of the execution of such a request in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 7 of Article 5, the Central Authority of the requested Party shall inform the Central Authority of the requesting Party in writing of the fact that the service was effected, as well as the date, place and manner of the service.

4. A person who appears before the appropriate authority in the requesting Party under this Article shall not be subject to detention or any restriction of personal liberty in its territory by reason of any conduct or conviction that precedes the departure from the requested Party of the person, nor shall the person be obliged to give evidence in any criminal proceeding or to assist in any proceeding other than the proceeding which is specified in the request. If the above safe conduct cannot be provided, the Central Authority of the requesting Party shall so specify in the request in order for the person to be informed accordingly and be able to make a decision whether to appear before the said authority.

5. The safe conduct provided in accordance with paragraph 4 to the person who appears before the appropriate authority in the requesting Party under this Article shall cease when:

- (1) 15 days have passed after the person was notified in writing by the appropriate authority that the appearance of the person is no longer necessary;
- (2) the person, having left the requesting Party, voluntarily returns to it; or
- (3) the person fails to appear before the appropriate authority on the scheduled appearance date due to the reasons other than those arising out of the circumstances beyond the control of that person.

6. When the notification is made pursuant to paragraph 5(1), or when the safe conduct provided for in paragraph 4 ceases pursuant to paragraph 5(2) or 5(3), the Central Authority of the requesting Party shall so inform the Central Authority of the requested Party without delay.

7. A person who does not appear before the appropriate authority in the requesting Party under this Article shall not, by reason thereof, be liable to any penalty or be subjected to any compulsory measure in the requesting Party, notwithstanding any contrary statement in the request or a document related to the appearance of the person.

Article 14

1. A person who is being detained or is serving a sentence in the territory of the requested Party and whose presence in the territory of the requesting Party is necessary for testimony or other purposes indicated in the request shall be transferred for those purposes to the requesting Party, if the person consents in writing and if the Central Authorities of the Parties agree, when permitted under the laws of the requested Party.

2. The procedure and the terms of transfer and return of a person who is being detained or is serving a sentence in the territory of the requested Party shall be agreed between the Central Authorities of the Parties. The requesting Party shall keep the person transferred pursuant to paragraph 1 in the custody of the requesting Party, unless permitted by the requested Party to do otherwise. The requesting Party shall return the person transferred to the requested Party, as agreed beforehand, or as otherwise agreed between the Central Authorities of the Parties. The person transferred shall receive credit for service of the sentence imposed in the requested Party for the time served in the custody of the requesting Party.

3. The person transferred to the requesting Party pursuant to this Article shall enjoy the safe conduct provided for in Article 13 in the territory of the requesting Party until the return to the territory of the requested Party, unless the person consents and the Central Authorities of the Parties agree otherwise.

4. A person who does not consent to be transferred pursuant to this Article shall not, by reason thereof, be liable to any penalty or be subjected to any compulsory measure in the requesting Party, notwithstanding any contrary statement in the request.

Article 15

1. The requested Party shall effect service of documents related to criminal proceedings, other than those provided for in paragraph 1 of Article 13, that are transmitted to it for this purpose by the requesting Party.

2. The Central Authority of the requested Party shall inform the Central Authority of the requesting Party in writing of the result of the execution of the request under this Article in the manner provided in paragraph 3 of Article 13.

Article 16

1. The requested Party shall assist, to the extent permitted by its laws, in proceedings related to the confiscation of the proceeds or instrumentalities of criminal offences. Such assistance may include action to temporarily immobilize the proceeds or instrumentalities pending further proceedings.

2. The requested Party that has custody over proceeds or instrumentalities of criminal offences as a result of the assistance under paragraph 1 may transfer such proceeds or instrumentalities, in whole or in part, to the requesting Party, to the extent permitted by the laws of the requested Party and upon such conditions as it deems appropriate.

Article 17

Documents transmitted by either Party pursuant to this Treaty which are attested by the seal of a competent authority or the Central Authority of that Party shall be accepted by the other Party without legalization or any other form of certification. At the request of the requesting Party, the documents transmitted pursuant to this Treaty may be certified by the requested Party in another form indicated in the request to the extent not contrary to the laws of the requested Party.

Article 18

Nothing in this Treaty shall prevent either Party from requesting assistance from or providing assistance to the other Party in accordance with other applicable international agreements, or pursuant to its applicable laws.

Article 19

1. The Central Authorities of the Parties shall hold consultations for the purpose of facilitating speedy and effective assistance under this Treaty, and may decide on such measures as may be necessary for this purpose.
2. The Parties shall, if necessary, hold consultations on any matter that may arise in the interpretation or implementation of this Treaty.

Article 20

1. This Treaty shall be subject to ratification.
2. This Treaty shall enter into force on the ninetieth day after the date of the exchange of the instruments of ratification.
3. This Treaty shall apply to any request for assistance presented on or after the date upon which this Treaty enters into force, whether the acts relevant to the request were committed before, on or after that date.
4. Either Party may at any time notify the other Party in writing, through diplomatic channels, of its intention to terminate this Treaty. This Treaty shall terminate 180 days after the date of receipt by the other Party of the notice of termination.
5. Termination of this Treaty shall not be used as a reason for not executing the requests for assistance made prior to the date of the termination of this Treaty.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned, being duly authorized, have signed this Treaty.

DONE at Tokyo, this twelfth day of May, 2009, in duplicate, in the Japanese, Russian and English languages, all texts being equally authentic. In case of any divergence of interpretation, the English text shall prevail.

FOR JAPAN:

中曾根弘文

FOR THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION:

А. Коновалов