COUNTRY PROFILE

TAKING OF EVIDENCE BY VIDEO-LINK UNDER THE HAGUE CONVENTION OF 18 MARCH 1970 ON THE TAKING OF EVIDENCE ABROAD IN CIVIL OR COMMERCIAL MATTERS

STATE NAME: Republic of Korea

PROFILE UPDATED ON (DATE): 2017

PART I: STATE

1. Contact details The contact details provided in this section <u>will be published</u> on the Hague Conference website	
CHAPTER I (LETTERS OF REQUEST)	
As with any other Letter of Request under Chapter I of the Evidence Convention, the requesting authority should contact the Central Authority(ies) of the requested State when seeking to obtain evidence by means of a Letter of Request, whether using video-link or not.	
a) Are the contact details of the Central Authority(ies) designated by Your State up- to-date on the <u>Evidence Section</u> of the Hague Conference website?	Yes. No. Please provide the contact details on a separate Word or PDF document for uploading on the Evidence Section of the Hague Conference website.
b) Would Your State be in favour of specifying a person or department within the Central Authority(ies) who would assist in processing Letters of Request where the use of video-links has expressly been requested (e.g., to arrange the video-link or provide technical assistance)?	Yes. If Your State has already done so, please specify the contact details: Contact Person: Director of International Affairs Telephone: +822-3480-1734 Email: international@scourt.go.kr Language: Korean(by phone), Korean or English(by e-mail) No. Please explain why: Comments:
c) What arrangements are there for ensuring that there is a contact person with whom the requesting authority can liaise and who is available on the day of the hearing to operate the video-link facilities (e.g. is there a booking system)?	Every high and district court designated officers in charge of the operating video-link facilities.

CHAPTER II (TAKING OF EVIDENCE BY DIPLOMATIC OFFICERS, CONSULAR AGENTS AND COMMISSIONERS)

Permission by a designated authority may be required to apply certain provisions under Chapter II. To know if such a permission is required for a particular State, see the practical information chart (accessible from the <u>Authorities</u> page) AND / OR the declarations (accessible from the <u>Status Table</u> page) of the relevant State available on the <u>Evidence Section</u> of the Hague Conference website.

If permission is not required, applicants should contact the diplomatic and consular mission (Arts 15/16) or the commissioner (Art. 17) to explore whether or not evidence may be obtained by video-link under this Chapter.

If permission is required, applicants should contact the authority that was designated to grant permission AND the relevant diplomatic and consular mission or commissioner, to explore, where necessary, whether or not evidence may be obtained by video-link under this Chapter.

d) Would Your State be in favour of specifying an entity or authority, in addition to the relevant authority / diplomatic or consular agent / commissioner, that would assist in processing applications where the use of video-links has expressly been requested (e.g., to arrange the video-link or provide technical assistance)?	 Yes. If Your State has already done so, please specify the contact details: No. Please explain why: Republic of Korea excluded the application of the Art. 16. Comments:
e) What arrangements are there for ensuring that there is a contact person with whom the Court of Origin can liaise and who is available on the day of the hearing to operate the video-link facilities (e.g. is there a booking system)?	

PART II: RELEVANT LEGISLATION AND COURT SYSTEM

Legal basis	
a) Does Your State, in the application of Article 27 (i.e. internal law or practice), allow for a foreign Court to directly take evidence by video-link?	☐ Yes. Please specify: No. Please specify: Comments:
b) Please indicate the legal basis or applicable protocols (<i>i.e.</i> , relevant laws, regulations, practice, etc.) for the use of video-links in the taking of evidence in Your State, either under the Convention or independent of the Convention (see, <i>e.g.</i> Art. 27 (b) and (c)): Please also attach a copy of, or provide a link to, the relevant provisions, where possible in English or French.	The Civil Procedure Act, The Enforcement Rule of the Civil Procedure Act Under the Art. 327-2, Art. 339-3, Art. 340, Art. 341® of the Civil Procedure Act and the Art. 95- 2, Art. 103-2 of the Enforcement Rule of the Civil Procedure Act which are revised in 2016, the witness examination or the expert testimony can be taken by the way of the video links if a court deems it proper for the remotely located witness/expert or the vulnerable witness. ACT ON SPECIAL CASES CONCERNING VIDEO TRIALS. The text translated in english is available online at: http://elaw.klri.re.kr/]
c) Does Your State have any agreements with other Contracting States that derogate from the Convention when taking evidence by video-link (see Art. 28 and Art. 32)?	Yes. Please attach a copy of, or provide a link to, the relevant provisions, where possible in English or French: Article 24(Taking of Evidence by Video Link) of the Treaty on judicial assistance in civil and commercial matters between the republic of Korea and Australia (See the annex) No. Comments:
Court system	
d) Please indicate which courts permit, or have the facilities for, the taking of evidence by video-link. If possible, indicate where relevant information on videoconferencing facilities in courts can be found online:	 □ All courts. ■ All courts of a specific type / level. Please specify: All courts except municipal courts(Si/Gun Court) □ Only specific courts. Please specify which courts, or provide a link to/attach a full list: □ None. Comments:

PART III: TECHNICAL AND SECURITY ASPECTS (APPLICABLE TO BOTH CHAPTERS)

a) Does Your State use licensed software (which ensures support for technical and security matters) for the taking of evidence by videolink?	Yes. Please specify: Vidyo Conference No. Comments:
b) What are the specifications of the video-link technology in use in Your State, including, if any, the minimum standards or mechanisms used to secure the communications and any recordings made? States are encouraged to provide as much information as possible when responding to this question. As such, it may be useful to consider liaising with the relevant IT experts.	Codec (i.e., manufacturer, model, transmission speed, bandwidth): Vidyo, H.264 SVC, 1000base-T, 1FHD Video and audio standards (e.g. Standard Definition, High Definition, etc.): Video: H.264 SVC, Audio: SPEEX Wideband Audio, up to 32 Khz sampling rate Type of network (e.g., ISDN, IP, etc.): IP, ISDN, ADSL Type of encryption for signals in secure transmissions: AES 128bit, SSL, FIPS140-2, TLS Split screen capability: Eight division Document cameras: Software style, codec: H.264 SVC Multipoint connections: 100 people Additional specifications or capabilities: WebRTC, FECC, Linux OS Protocols or other practices: H.264 SVC, HTTP, HTTPS, LDAPS, RMCP, EMCP, SCIP, SOAP Comments:
c) Can evidence be taken via commercial providers (e.g., Skype TM)?	Yes. Please specify: Cisco, Polycom, LifeSize, Radvision No. Comments:
d) Does Your State have a procedure for testing connections and the quality of transmissions before the hearing?	Yes. Please specify: No. Comments:
e) Does Your State have any requirements as to the hearing room, <i>e.g.</i> , should be located in a court, should have a camera view of the whole room or a view of all the parties, etc.?	Yes. Please specify: We have remote witness rooms for

video links which are established in the Court
building. For now the witness has to be examined
in the hearing room. But for the expert testimony
the video link facilities of a view of all the parties
outside of the Court building can be used in an
appropriate situation.
□ No.
Comments:

PART IV: USE OF VIDEO-LINKS UNDER BOTH CHAPTERS – LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

Restrictions		
a) Must a court order directing the use of video- links first be obtained from the requesting State (Chapter I) / State of Origin (Chapter II)?	Yes. Please specify: No. Comments:	
b) Are there any restrictions on what type/s of evidence can be taken by video-link or how it is to be taken?	Yes. Please specify: The witness examination and the expert testimony No. Comments:	
c) Are there any specific restrictions on how evidence gathered via video-link can be handled and distributed, or do the usual rules for evidence obtained in person apply?	Yes, there are specific restrictions. Please specify:No, the normal rules for evidence apply. Comments:	
d) Are there any restrictions on the type of person who may be examined by video-link?	Yes. Please specify: Yes. Witnesses and experts. No. Comments:	
e) Is it necessary to seek the consent of the parties to use video-link to take evidence?	 ☐ Yes. Please specify the conditions under which parties may refuse the use of video-link: ☐ No. Comments: Courts will hear the opinion of the parties but are not bound by the opinions. 	
f) Are there any restrictions on the location where the person should be examined (e.g. in a courtroom, on the premises of an Embassy or diplomatic mission)?	Yes. Please specify: We have remote witness rooms for video links which are established in the Court building. For now the witness has to be examined in the hearing room. But for the expert testimony the video link facilities of a view of all the parties	

PART IV - LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS (BOTH CHAPTERS)

	outside of the Court building can be used in an
	appropriate situation.
	□ No.
	Comments:
g) Can a witness / expert be compelled to use video-links to give evidence?	Yes. If so, please specify what coercive measures may be used: A court shall, by its ruling, impose on the witness an administrative fine by the Article 311 of the Civil Procedure Act. A court may order a compulsory appearance of the witness who has failed to appear without any justifiable reasons by the Article 312 of the Civil Procedure Act.
	□ No. Please explain:
	Comments:
h) Please briefly outline the procedure/s, under Chapter I and Chapter II, for actually notifying or summoning the witness / expert to give evidence by video-link, including any references to relevant laws, regulations or practice. Please also include, where applicable, the differences between notifying or summoning	Chapter I: Chapter II: Comments:
a willing witness / expert and notifying or summoning a witness / expert that is to be compelled.	
i) The law of which State governs the use of privileges?Please tick all that apply.See Articles 11 and 21(e) of the Convention	Chapter I: The law of the Requesting State. The law of the Requested State. The law of another State. Please specify:
	Chapter II: The law of the State of Origin. The law of the State of Execution. The law of another State. Please specify: Comments:

PART V: USE OF VIDEO-LINKS UNDER <u>CHAPTER I</u> (LETTERS OF REQUEST) – LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

Legal obstacles		
a) Does Your State consider that there are legal obstacles to using video-link to assist in the taking of evidence under Chapter I of the Convention?	☐ Yes. Please specify: No.	
The Special Commission has noted that the use of video-link and similar technologies is consistent with the current framework of the Convention (see C&R No 55 of the 2009 SC and C&R No 20 of the 2014 SC).	Comments:	
Direct and indirect taking of evidence		
b) Under Chapter I of the Convention, does Your STATE allow for the direct taking of evidence by judicial personnel of the <i>requesting</i> State (<i>i.e.</i> , the State in which the proceedings are	☐ Yes. No.	
pending)?	Comments: Judicial personnel of the requesting State may participate in the process.	
c) Under which provisions of Chapter I of the Convention is indirect taking of evidence by video-link possible in Your State?	 □ Art. 9(1) – The judicial authority of the requested State obtains evidence (e.g., a witness / expert examination) which is located in a (distant) location within its own State. ■ Art. 9(2) - As a special method or procedure. Please also outline whether any specific conditions must be satisfied: See also questions on presence. Comments: 	
Legal safeguards for witness / expert		
d) What are the legal safeguards in place for witnesses / experts in YOUR STATE when evidence is taken by video-link under Chapter I (e.g. protective measures for the witness / expert, provision of interpretation, right to legal counsel, etc.)?	Interpretation can be provided if it is necessary.	
Presence		
e) Are the rules for the presence of the parties and their representatives when physically in a single location the same for when evidence is taken via video-link?	Yes. If so, please specify if they are allowed to actively participate:	
See Article 7 of the Convention	No.	
	Comments:	

PART V - LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS (CHAPTER I)

f) Under Chapter I of the Convention, does Your STATE allow for the cross-examination of a witness / expert by video-link by the representatives located in the <i>requesting</i> State (i.e., the State in which the proceedings are pending)?	✓ Yes.☐ No. Comments:
g) Does Your State allow for the presence of the judicial personnel of the requesting State via video-link?	Yes. If so, please specify if they are allowed to actively participate:
See Article 8 of the Convention Please note that a declaration may be made under this provision.	□ No.
	Comments:

PART VI: USE OF VIDEO-LINKS UNDER <u>CHAPTER II</u> (BY DIPLOMATIC OFFICERS, CONSULAR AGENTS AND COMMISSIONERS) – LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

The questions in this Part are only for States that have not wholly excluded the application of Chapter II		
Please note that Chapter II may be subject to a reservation in whole or in part under Article 33. Check the reservations that Your State has made under this Chapter in the status table, available on the <u>Evidence Section</u> of the Hague Conference website.		
Legal obstacles and legal framework		
a) Does Your State consider there to be any legal obstacles to the taking of evidence by video-link under Chapter II of the Convention?	☐ Yes. Please specify: ☐ No.	
The Special Commission has noted that the use of video-link and similar technologies is consistent with the current framework of the Convention (C&R No 55 of the 2009 SC and C&R No 20 of the 2014 SC).	Comments:	
b) Under which provisions of Chapter II of the Convention is taking of evidence by video-link possible in Your State?	☐ Art. 15 ☐ Art. 16 ☐ Art. 17 Comments:	
c) Is prior permission from Your State required when taking evidence under Chapter II of the Convention on the territory of Your State?	Yes. Please outline the procedure for seeking such permission, including any specific conditions that must be satisfied: No. Comments:	
d) Please indicate who administers the oath or affirmation and how perjury and contempt are dealt with when evidence is taken under Chapter II of the Convention on the territory of Your State.	Administration of the oath or affirmation: Dealing with perjury and contempt:	
Direct and indirect taking of evidence		
e) Diplomatic and consular agents are usually located in the State where the witness / expert resides. It may be, however, that a witness / expert is located in a neighbouring country or in a place distant from the Embassy or Consulate. In these circumstances, does Your State consider it possible to use video-link to obtain evidence under Chapter II of the Convention?	☐ Yes. Please specify: ☐ No. Comments:	

PART VI - LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS (CHAPTER II)

Legal safeguards for witness / expert	
f) What are the legal safeguards in place for witnesses / experts in Your State when evidence is taken by video-link under Chapter II (e.g. protective measures for the witness / expert, provision of interpretation, right to legal counsel, etc.)?	
Presence	
g) Under the law of Your State, who may be present via video-link when evidence is taken by diplomatic and consular agents? Please tick all that apply.	☐ The parties. ☐ The parties' representatives. ☐ Judicial personnel. ☐ Someone else. Please specify:
	Comments:
h) Under the law of Your State, who may be present via video-link when evidence is taken by commissioners ? Please tick all that apply.	☐ The parties. ☐ The parties' representatives. ☐ Judicial personnel. ☐ Someone else. Please specify:
	Comments:
Applicable law	Comments:
i) The law of which State governs the administration of an oath or affirmation when evidence is taken by video-link under Chapter II?	☐ The law of the State of Origin ☐ The law of the State of Execution ☐ It depends on whether evidence is taken by a consular or diplomatic agent or a commissioner. Please specify:
i) The law of which State governs the administration of an oath or affirmation when evidence is taken by video-link under	The law of the State of Origin The law of the State of Execution It depends on whether evidence is taken by a consular or diplomatic agent or a commissioner.
i) The law of which State governs the administration of an oath or affirmation when evidence is taken by video-link under	☐ The law of the State of Origin ☐ The law of the State of Execution ☐ It depends on whether evidence is taken by a consular or diplomatic agent or a commissioner. Please specify:

PART VII PRACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS

COMMON TO BOTH CHAPTERS		
Notice		
a) What does YOUR STATE consider to be the minimum amount of time required between the request and the actual hearing in order to make the arrangements to take evidence by video-link?	Chapter I: 1 month Chapter II:	
Interpretation services		
b) Who is responsible, under Chapter I and Chapter II, for the use of interpretation services and who arranges these services in YOUR STATE when video-link is used?	Chapter I: Each court can arrange the interpretation services. Chapter II:	
c) Are professional accredited interpreters required in Your State, and where can relevant contact details be found?	Yes. Please specify: Every court has its own list of accredited interpreters. No. Comments:	
d) Under the law of Your State, is interpretation to be <i>simultaneous</i> or <i>consecutive</i> when a witness / expert is examined via video-link?	Consecutive	
e) Where may the interpreter be located when a witness / expert is examined via video-link? Please check all that apply.	☐ In the room with the witness / expert. ☐ In the room with those conducting the examination. ☐ Elsewhere in the requesting State (Chapter I) / State of Origin (Chapter II). ☐ Elsewhere in the requested State (Chapter I) / State of Execution (Chapter II). ☐ In a third State. ☐ Other. ☐ Please specify: Comments: The provisions concerning expert witness applies to the interpreters (Art. 143 of the Civil Procedure Act) and interpretation service also can be given by the video links.	
Reporting and recording	_	
f) Is a written report of the video-link hearing or testimony prepared?	Yes. Please specify by whom: A brief report of the Clerk (the protocol by the junior administrative officer) Please also outline the specific rules or regulations, if any, that are applicable to the handling/storage/distribution of the report: Interested parties can request the protocol (reading or copying).	

PART VII - PRACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS (BOTH CHAPTERS)

	Protocol shall, if requested by an interested party, be read to him/her or be made available for his/her perusal No. Comments:
g) Are facilities and equipment made available in order to record the hearing or testimony?	 Yes, with audio and video. Yes, only with video. Yes, only with audio. No, but the recording of hearings/testimonies is permitted. If a recording is produced, please also outline the specific rules or regulations, if any, that are applicable to the handling/storage/distribution of the recording: No, because the recording of hearings/testimonies is not permitted under internal law. Comments:
Documents and exhibits	
h) What arrangements are to be made for showing or referring to documents or exhibits when taking evidence by video-link?	Electronic Data Processing System which means eletronic equipment of a system with data processing capability used to make, submit, serve or manage electronic documents necessary for the procedures under the Act on the Use, etc. of Electonic Documents in Civil Litigations Act. Fax and Email can be used to show or refer the documents.

PRACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS UNDER CHAPTER I		
Practical obstacles		
i) Does Your State consider that there are practical obstacles to using video-link to assist in the taking of evidence under Chapter I of the Convention?	☐ Yes. Please specify: No. Comments:	
Identification of all relevant actors		
j) What is the procedure for verifying the identity of the parties, the witness / expert, and all relevant actors in Your State when video-link is used under Chapter I?	Showing ID Card or any other ways that the judge deems appropriate.	
Standard Forms		
k) Do the authorities of Your STATE use a standardised request form under Chapter I that makes specific reference to the use of video-links? The use of the Model Form of the Evidence Convention is recommended when taking evidence under Chapter I.	 Yes. Please specify: The standardised form used makes no reference to video-link. No standardised form is used. 	
While the Model Form has no explicit reference to the use of video-link, a request to this effect may be included in item 13 of the Form.	Comments:	
I) Does Your State require the inclusion of any particular practical or technical information from the requesting State in the request in order to conduct / arrange a witness / expert examination by video-link under Chapter I? (e.g. contact details for IT support, technical specifications, etc)	☐ Yes. Please specify: No. Comments:	
Costs		
m) Are there any costs associated with the taking of evidence via video-link under Chapter I in Your State?	Yes. Please provide an approximate estimate of these costs and / or specify the criteria used to determine these costs: Costs for the internet or telephone No. Comments:	

PART VII - PRACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS (CHAPTER I)

n) Who is responsible for bearing the costs occasioned by the use of video-link under Chapter I in Your State? See Art. 14(2) of the Evidence Convention	 □ The moving party (requesting the use of video-link). □ The requesting authority (in the requesting State). □ The requested authority (in the requested State). □ Other. Please specify: Comments:
o) How are these costs generally expected to be paid and/or reimbursed?	☐ Payment in cash ☐ Payment by (credit) card ☐ Electronic/wire transfer ☐ Other. Please specify: Comments:
p) Who pays for the interpretation services under Chapter I in YOUR STATE when video-link is used and how are these costs to be paid and/or reimbursed?	The requested state pays for the interpretation services and it can be reimbursed by the requesting authority under the Convention Art. 14.

PRACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS UNDER CHAPTER II		
Only for States that have not excluded in whole the application of Chapter II		
Practical obstacles		
q) Does Your State consider that there are practical obstacles to using video-link to assist in the taking of evidence under Chapter II of the Convention?	☐ Yes. Please specify: ☐ No. Comments:	
Identification of all relevant actors		
r) What is the procedure for verifying the identity of the parties, the witness / expert, and all relevant actors in Your STATE when video-link is used under Chapter II?		
Standard Forms		
s) Do the authorities of Your State use a standardised request form under Chapter II that makes specific reference to the use of video-links? Although the use of the Model Form of the Evidence Convention is recommended when taking evidence under Chapter I, it may also be used, with the necessary amendments when applying for permission to take evidence under Chapter II. While the Model Form has no explicit reference to the use of video-link, a request to this effect may be included in item 13 of the Form.	 ☐ Yes. Please specify: ☐ The standardised form used makes no reference to video-link. ☐ No standardised form is used. Comments:	
Assistance and facilities		
t) Are the Embassies and Consulates of Your State (acting as the State of Execution) able to assist applicants in arranging a video-link?	Yes. Please specify how, e.g., via a booking system: No. Please specify who else would assist, if anyone:	
	Comments:	
u) Is it possible to hold a video-link session requested under the Convention at the premises of the Embassies or Consulates of Your State abroad?	☐ Yes. Please specify: ☐ No. Comments:	
v) Does Your State require the inclusion of any particular practical or technical information from the State of Origin in the request in order to conduct / arrange a witness or expert examination by video-link under Chapter II? (e.g. the use of interpreters, stenographers, or recording devices)	☐ Yes. Please specify: ☐ No. Comments:	

PART VII - PRACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS (CHAPTER II)

Costs	
w) Are there any costs associated with the taking of evidence via video-link under Chapter II in Your State?	Yes. Please provide an approximate estimate of these costs and / or specify the criteria used to determine these costs:
	□ No.
	Comments:
x) Who is responsible for bearing the costs occasioned by the use of video-link under Chapter II in Your State?	 ☐ The moving party (requesting the use of video-link). ☐ The State of Origin ☐ The Diplomatic mission or Consulate in the State of Execution. ☐ The commissioner ☐ Other. Please specify: Comments:
y) How are these costs generally expected to be paid and/or reimbursed?	Payment in cash Payment by (credit) card Electronic/wire transfer Other. Please specify: Comments:
z) Who pays for the interpretation services under Chapter II in YOUR STATE when videolink is used and how are these costs to be paid and/or reimbursed?	

TREATY ON JUDICIAL ASSISTANCE IN CIVIL AND COMMERCIAL MATTERS BETWEEN THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA AND AUSTRALIA

Article 24

Taking of Evidence by Video Link

- 1.A court of a Contracting Party, with prior authorization of the Central Authority of the other Contracting Party, may take testimony from a person who is in the territory of the other Contracting Party by video link.
- 2.A request for prior authorization shall be made by a Central Authority of the Contracting Party where the court is situated to a Central Authority of the other Contracting Party.
- 3.A request for prior authorization of a Central Authority shall include the following information
- (a) the title, address and other contact details of the requesting court including telephone number, facsimile number and e-mail address if any;
- (b) the names and addresses of the parties to the proceedings and their representatives, if any;
- (c)the name, address, and other contact details of the person to be examined including telephone number, facsimile number and e-mail address if any;
- (d)the nature of the proceedings, and where appropriate, the amount in dispute;
- (e)a statement of the subject matter about which the person is to be examined in chief.
- 4.(a) The Central Authority of the requested Contracting Party shall, before deciding whether to give the authorization, contact directly or through a court the person to give testimony to confirm that he or she voluntarily agrees to give testimony by video link.
- (b) The Central Authority of the requested Contracting Party shall, after giving the authorization, inform the person of the time and place to appear for giving testimony.
- 5. Where testimony is taken by video link under Paragraph 1:
- (a)no measures of compulsion shall be applied to make the person appear or give testimony;
- (b) a judge of the court taking the testimony shall have power to administer an oath or take an affirmation unless the person objects to it;

PART VII - PRACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS (CHAPTER II)

- (c) the law of the requested Contracting Party shall apply to the taking of testimony by video link. However, the taking of testimony may be conducted in the manner permitted by the law of the requesting Contracting Party, unless such manner is incompatible with the law of the requested Contracting Party;
- (d)a person requested to give testimony may invoke the privileges and duties to refuse to give testimony under Article 21.
- 6.(a) The Central Authority of the requested Contracting Party may refuse to give the prior authorization when it considers the taking of evidence by video link in a particular case would be contrary to its public policy or prejudicial to its sovereignty or security.
- (b) The requested Contracting Party may not refuse to give prior authorization solely on the ground that, under its internal law, it claims exclusive jurisdiction over the subject matter of the action or that its internal law would not permit the action upon which the application is based.
- (c)If the Central Authority of the requested Contracing Party refuses to give the prior authorization, the Central Authority shall immediately inform the Central Authority of the requesting Contracting Party of the reason or reasons for its refusal.