

Chapter VI
FINAL CLAUSES

Article 18

Signature, ratification, acceptance, approval and accession

1. The present Convention shall be open for signature until 15 January 1973 at the Office of the United Nations at Geneva and subsequently from 1 February 1973 until 31 December 1973 inclusive at the Headquarters of the United Nations at New York by all States Members of the United Nations or of any of the specialized agencies or of the International Atomic Energy Agency or parties to the Statute of the International Court of Justice, and by any other State invited by the General Assembly of the United Nations to become a Party to the present Convention.
2. The present Convention is subject to ratification, acceptance or approval by States which have signed it.
3. The present Convention shall remain open for accession by any State referred to in paragraph 1.
4. Instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession shall be deposited with the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

Article 19

Entry into force

1. The present Convention shall enter into force nine months from the date of the deposit of the fifth instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession.
2. For each State ratifying, accepting, approving or acceding to the present Convention after the deposit of the fifth instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, the present Convention shall enter into force six months after the date of the deposit by such State of its instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession.
3. Any instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession deposited after the entry into force of an amendment to the present Convention shall be deemed to apply to the Convention as amended.
4. Any such instrument deposited after an amendment has been accepted but before it has entered into force shall be deemed to apply to the Convention as amended on the date when the amendment enters into force.

Article 20

Termination of the operation of the Customs Convention on Containers (1956)

1. Upon its entry into force, the present Convention shall terminate and replace, in relations between the Parties to the present Convention, the Customs Convention on Containers, opened for signature at Geneva on 18 May 1956.
2. Notwithstanding the provisions of article 12, paragraphs 1, 2 and 4, containers approved under the provisions of the Customs Convention on Containers (1956) or under the agreements arising therefrom concluded under the auspices of the United Nations, shall be accepted by any Contracting Party for the transport of goods under Customs seal, provided that they continue to comply with the relevant conditions under which they were originally approved. For this purpose certificates of approval issued under the provisions of the Customs Convention on Containers (1956) could be replaced by an approval plate prior to the expiry of their validity.

Article 21

Procedures for amending the present Convention including its Annexes

1. Any Contracting Party may propose one or more amendments to the present Convention. The text of any proposed

amendment shall be notified to the Customs Co-operation Council which shall communicate it to all Contracting Parties and inform the States referred to in article 18 which are not Contracting Parties. The Customs Co-operation Council shall also, in accordance with the rules of procedure set out in Annex 7, convene an Administrative Committee.

2. Any amendment proposed in accordance with the preceding paragraph, or prepared during the meeting of the Committee, and adopted by a two-thirds majority of those present and voting in the Committee, shall be communicated to the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

3. The Secretary-General of the United Nations shall communicate the amendment to the Contracting Parties for their acceptance, and to the States referred to in article 18 which are not Contracting Parties for their information.

4. Any proposed amendment communicated in accordance with the preceding paragraph shall be deemed to be accepted if no Contracting Party expressed an objection within a period of 12 months following the date of communication of the proposed amendment by the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

5. The Secretary-General of the United Nations shall, as soon as possible, notify all Contracting Parties and the States referred to in article 18 which are not Contracting Parties whether an objection to the proposed amendment has been expressed. If an objection to the proposed amendment has been communicated to the Secretary-General of the United Nations the amendment shall be deemed not to have been accepted and shall be of no effect whatever. If no such objection has been communicated to the Secretary-General of the United Nations the amendment shall enter into force for all Contracting Parties three months after the expiry of the period of 12 months referred to in the preceding paragraph, or on such later date as may have been determined by the Administrative Committee at the time of its adoption.

6. Any Contracting Party may, by notification to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, request that a conference be convened for the purpose of reviewing the present Convention. The Secretary-General of the United Nations shall notify all Contracting Parties of the request and a revision conference shall be convened by the Secretary-General of the United Nations if, within a period of four months following the date of notification by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, not less than one-third of the Contracting Parties notify him of their concurrence with the request. Such conference shall also be convened by the Secretary-General of the United Nations upon notification of a request by the Administrative Committee. The Administrative Committee shall make such a request if agreed to by a majority of those present and voting in the Committee. If a conference is convened in accordance with this paragraph, the Secretary-General of the United Nations shall invite to it all States referred to in article 18.

Article 22

Special procedure for amending Annexes 1, 4, 5 and 6

1. Independently of the amendment procedure set out in article 21, Annexes 1, 4, 5 and 6 may be amended as provided for in this article and in accordance with the rules of procedure set out in Annex 7.

2. Any Contracting Party shall communicate proposed amendments to the Customs Co-operation Council. The Customs Co-operation Council shall bring them to the attention of the Contracting Parties and of the States referred to in article 18 which are not Contracting Parties, and shall convene the Administrative Committee.