

3. 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.

4. 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.

5. The amendment shall be deemed to have been accepted unless one fifth or five-of the Contracting Parties, whichever number is less, have notified the Secretary-General of the United Nations, within a period of 12 months from the date on which the proposed amendment has been communicated by the Secretary-General of the United Nations to the Contracting Parties, that they object to the proposal. A proposed amendment which is not accepted shall be of no effect whatever.

6. If an amendment is accepted, it shall enter into force, for all Contracting Parties which did not object to the proposed amendment, three months after the expiry of the period of twelve 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. At the time of adoption of an amendment, the Committee may also provide that, during a transitional period, the existing Annexes shall remain in force, wholly or in part, concurrently with such amendment.

7. The Secretary-General of the United Nations shall notify the date of the entry into force of the amendment to the Contracting Parties and inform the States referred to in article 18 which are not Contracting Parties.

Article 23

Denunciation

Any Contracting Party may denounce the present Convention by effecting the deposit of an instrument with the Secretary-General of the United Nations. The denunciation shall take effect one year from the date of such deposit with the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

Article 24

Termination

The present Convention shall cease to be in force if the number of Contracting Parties is less than five for any period of twelve consecutive months.

Article 25

Settlement of disputes

1. Any dispute between two or more Contracting Parties concerning the interpretation or application of the present Convention which cannot be settled by negotiation or other means of settlement shall, at the request of one of them, be referred to an arbitration tribunal composed as follows: each party to the dispute shall appoint an arbitrator and these two arbitrators shall appoint a third arbitrator, who shall be Chairman. If three months after receipt of a request, one of the parties has failed to appoint an arbitrator or if the arbitrators have failed to elect the chairman, any of the parties may request the Secretary-General of the United Nations to appoint an arbitrator or the chairman of the arbitration tribunal.

2. The decision of the arbitration tribunal established under the provisions of paragraph 1 shall be binding on the parties to the dispute.

3. The arbitration tribunal shall determine its own rules of procedure.

4. Decisions of the arbitration tribunal, both as to its procedure and its place of meeting and as to any controversy laid before it, shall be taken by majority vote.

5. Any controversy which may arise between the parties to the dispute as regards the interpretation and execution of the award may be submitted by any of the parties for judgement to the arbitration tribunal which made the award.

Article 26

Reservations

1. Reservations to the present Convention shall be permitted, excepting those relating to the provisions of articles 1—8, 12—17, 20, 25 and of the present article, and those relating to the provisions contained in the Annexes, on condition that such reservations are communicated in writing and, if communicated before the deposit of the instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, are confirmed in that instrument. The Secretary-General of the United Nations shall communicate such reservations to all States referred to in article 18.

2. Any reservation, made in accordance with paragraph 1:

(a) modifies for the Contracting Party which made the reservation the provisions of the present Convention to which the reservation relates, to the extent of the reservation; and

(b) modifies those provisions to the same extent for the other Contracting Parties in their relations with the Contracting Party which entered the reservation.

3. Any Contracting Party which has communicated a reservation under paragraph 1 may withdraw it at any time by notification to the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

Article 27

Notification

In addition to the notifications and communications provided for in articles 21, 22 and 26, the Secretary-General of the United Nations shall notify all the States referred to in article 18 of the following:

(a) signatures, ratifications, acceptances, approvals and accessions under article 18;

(b) the dates of entry into force of the present Convention in accordance with article 19;

(c) the date of entry into force of amendments to the present Convention in accordance with articles 21 and 22;

(d) denunciations under article 23;

(e) the termination of the present Convention under article 24.

Article 28

Authentic texts

The original of the present Convention, of which the Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish text are equally authentic, shall be deposited with the Secretary-General of