

ment. Determination by the Maritime Safety Committee of the dates referred to in this paragraph shall be by a two-thirds majority of those present and voting, which majority shall include a two-thirds majority of the Contracting Parties present and voting.

4. On entry into force any amendment shall, for all Contracting Parties which have not objected to the amendment, replace and supersede any previous provision to which the amendment refers; an objection made by a Contracting Party shall not be binding on other Contracting Parties as to acceptance of containers to which the present Convention applies.

5. The Secretary-General shall inform all Contracting Parties and Members of the Organization of any request and communication under this article and the date on which any amendment enters into force.

6. Where a proposed amendment to the annexes has been considered but not adopted by the Maritime Safety Committee, any Contracting Party may request the convening of a Conference to which the States referred to in Article VII shall be invited. Upon receipt of notification of concurrence by at least one third of the other Contracting Parties such a Conference shall be convened by the Secretary-General to consider amendments to the annexes.

Article XI

Denunciation

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

2. A Contracting Party which has communicated an objection to an amendment to the annexes may denounce the present Convention and such denunciation shall take effect on the date of entry into force of such an amendment.

Article XII

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 XIII

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 the Chairman. If three months after receipt of a request one of the parties shall have failed to appoint an arbitrator or if the arbitrators shall have failed to elect the Chairman, any of the parties may request the Secretary-General to appoint an arbitrator or the Chairman of the arbitration tribunal.

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

3. The arbitration tribunal shall decide 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 either party for judgment to the arbitration tribunal which made the award.

Article XIV

Reservations

1. Reservations to the present Convention shall be permitted, excepting those relating to the provisions of Articles I—VI, XIII and of the present article and of those 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 shall communicate such reservations to all States referred to in Article VII.

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 formulated a reservation under paragraph 1 may withdraw it at any time by notification to the Secretary-General.

Article XV

Notification

In addition to the notifications and communications provided for in Articles IX, X and XIV, the Secretary-General shall notify all the States referred to in Article VII of the following:

(a) signatures, ratifications, acceptances, approvals and accessions, under Article VII;

(b) the dates of entry into force of the present Convention in accordance with Article VIII;

(c) the date of entry into force of amendments to the present Convention in accordance with Articles IX and X;

(d) denunciations under Article XI;

(e) the termination of the present Convention under Article XII.

Article XVI

Authentic texts

The original of the present Convention, of which the Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish texts are equally authentic, shall be deposited with the Secretary-General who shall communicate certified true copies to all States referred to in Article VII.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the undersigned Plenipotentiaries, being duly authorized thereto by their respective Governments, have signed the present Convention.

DONE at Geneva this second day of December, one thousand nine hundred and seventy two.