



PEACE TREATY INITIATIVE

Draft Articles of *The Convention for the Support, Protection and Acceleration of Conflict Prevention and Resolution*

June 2026

The enclosed Draft Articles of *The Convention for the Support, Protection and Acceleration of Conflict Prevention and Resolution* were developed in the context of the [Peace Treaty Initiative](#): a global undertaking to establish an incentives-based multilateral treaty to promote, support, facilitate, localize and expedite negotiation and mediation as a preferred means for the prevention and resolution of actual or potential non-international armed conflicts.

The Draft Articles build on more than five years of legal research and diplomatic and expert interviews and convenings, culminating in an indicative text which from 2021-2022 served as the centerpiece in the first phase of an inclusive global consultation process involving UN member states; multilateral organizations; negotiators, mediators and ex-combatants; and leading universities, law firms, think tanks and NGOs from around the world. This phase culminated in an updated text of the treaty that formed the basis of a second chapter of inclusive global consultation from 2023-2024.

In total, the global consultation process generated an immense range and volume of substantive contributions via legal commentaries, memoranda, and dozens of expert workshops, seminars, colloquia, and public events. The enclosed Draft Articles mark the conclusion of the global consultation process and the opening of a formal diplomatic negotiation phase.

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PREAMBLE

The Parties to this Convention,

Noting that the ideals of conflict prevention and resolution reflect universal goals of all States and peoples,

Cognizant of the increased complexity and speed of deterioration of armed conflicts and of the severe damage they cause to societies, economies and the natural environment,

Concerned that international law offers limited specific guidance, direction or incentives for the expeditious and effective initiation and conduct of dialogue, negotiation and mediation processes to prevent and resolve non-international armed conflicts,

Determined to give effect to the right to peace and to Articles 2(3) and 33 of the *Charter of the United Nations*, which encourage the peaceful settlement of disputes as a central purpose of international law,

Conscious of the role of international humanitarian law in regulating the conduct of armed hostilities, safeguarding protected persons (including civilians, prisoners of war, and wounded, sick and shipwrecked combatants) and stipulating a range of State obligations at the end of armed hostilities,

Recalling the responsibility of each State to protect populations from genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity, gross human rights violations, and criminal violence,

Mindful that arbitral awards and judicial decisions rendered may contribute to the improvement of conditions for negotiation, mediation and peaceful dispute settlement,

Acknowledging that women and minority groups, among others, are disproportionately victims in situations of armed conflict, and that their particular and diverse interests and needs should be taken into account in conflict prevention and resolution efforts,

Determined to motivate belligerent parties to seek dialogue, negotiation and mediation as a more habitually preferred means of avoiding the outbreak, continuation, escalation, spread or resurgence of non-international armed conflicts and of any related atrocity crimes,

Acknowledging that negotiators and mediators assume significant risks in pursuing negotiation and mediation efforts for the prevention and resolution of conflicts, and that international law should accord them the necessary room of maneuver and facilitate the conditions for their endeavors,

Reaffirming the value of increasing the participation, representation and involvement of women in conflict prevention and resolution efforts in line with UN Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) and related resolutions,

Recognizing the role of youth in advancing peace and security in line with UN Security Council resolution 2250 (2015) and related resolutions,

Conscious of the valuable experience and expertise of States, multilateral institutions, private organizations, community-level groups, tradition-based institutions and Indigenous Peoples in promoting and supporting official and unofficial processes of dialogue, negotiation and mediation,

Have agreed as follows:

PART 1 – OPENING CLAUSES

Article 1

Objectives

1. This Convention establishes a system under international law aimed at promoting, incentivizing, supporting, facilitating, localizing and expediting negotiation and mediation as a preferred means for the prevention and resolution of actual or potential non-international armed conflicts.
2. The objectives of this system include (i) to integrate, normalize and mainstream the use of negotiation and mediation in and by national institutions, laws, systems and policies; (ii) to make negotiation and mediation a more localized, flexible and efficient option; (iii) to provide adequate, streamlined and timely access to tailored technical and financial support for negotiation and mediation processes; and (iv) to facilitate expeditious, principled and realistic negotiation and mediation outcomes.

Article 2

Guiding principles

The following principles shall guide the implementation of this Convention:

1. *Flexibility*: The parties to a negotiation or mediation shall enjoy the widest latitude in determining the optimal design process and terms of any settlement.
2. *Local ownership*: Negotiation and mediation processes to the greatest extent possible shall be led by national or local actors and informed by their priorities.
3. *Voluntariness*: Negotiation and mediation shall not be imposed on any State Party.

Article 3

Definitions

For the purposes of this Convention:

“Non-international armed conflict” means any armed conflict that is not an international armed conflict in the terms of common Article 2 of the Geneva Conventions of 1949.

“Non-state armed group” means a dissident armed force or other organized armed group that is capable of carrying out military and other offensive operations against the State. For the purposes of this Convention, the term encompasses non-state armed groups with diverse political, social, religious or economic ideologies and goals.

“Negotiation” means a process whereby two or more parties attempt to reach an amicable settlement of their dispute through direct dialogue.

“Negotiator” means a representative of a party to a dispute that is the subject of a negotiation.

“Mediation” means a process whereby two or more parties seek to reach an amicable settlement of their dispute with the assistance of a mediator accepted by them.

“Mediator” means an impartial third party with the mandate to conduct a mediation between parties to a dispute but lacking the authority to impose a solution upon them. For the purposes of this Convention, the term encompasses such roles as may be played, *inter alia*, by facilitators and conciliators.

“Accompaniment” means a support role exercised by a third party within a negotiation or mediation and accepted by the parties to the dispute. For the purposes of this Convention, the term encompasses such support roles as may be played, *inter alia*, by guarantors or observers. The term excludes the role of a mediator.

“Confidence-building measure” means an action taken unilaterally or agreed jointly by the parties to a dispute, with a view to creating an atmosphere favorable to negotiation or mediation. Confidence-building measures may be undertaken before as well as during a negotiation or mediation.

“Admitted Situation” means an actual or potential non-international armed conflict that the Conference of States Parties accepts to be addressed under the terms of this Convention for the purpose of achieving its resolution.

“Fast-track process” means an Admitted Situation that is approved by the Conference of States Parties on the basis of its unusual urgency, reduced agenda and condensed format.

“Final accord” means an agreement or combination of agreements reached by the parties to an actual or potential non-international armed conflict and declared by them as final, irrespective of subsequent agreements the parties may reach.

“Presumption of conformity” means a rule of legal construction conferring a positive presumption in favor of the international legality of a signed final accord reached in an Admitted Situation.

“Atrocity crime” means genocide, war crimes, or crimes against humanity, as defined in the *Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court*.

“Vacated Situation” means the discontinuance of an Admitted Situation under the terms of this Convention.

PART 2 – RIGHTS, OBLIGATIONS AND COOPERATION

Article 4

Rights

1. A State Party may direct a request to the Conference of States Parties to have a situation of actual or potential non-international armed conflict in its territory treated as an Admitted Situation in conformity with the procedures set out in Part 3.
2. Upon becoming an Admitted Situation, the tailored benefits of this Convention, including privileges and immunities, the presumption of conformity for the outcome of the negotiation or mediation, and access to the support mechanisms set out in Part 4, shall apply.

Article 5

Obligations

1. Each State Party shall give preference to negotiation and mediation as tools for preventing or resolving any actual or potential non-international armed conflict.
2. Each State Party shall take legal, administrative and other measures to implement this Convention, including to:
 - (a) Formulate, promote, implement, and regularly update national policies and guidelines to prevent and resolve non-international armed conflicts;
 - (b) Establish a national focal point or internal senior lead for negotiation and mediation with cross-governmental coordination responsibilities;
 - (c) Work with other States Parties to prevent and de-escalate actual or potential non-international armed conflicts;
 - (d) Cooperate in good faith in any negotiation or mediation in which it is involved; and

(e) Give effect under domestic law to the articles of this Convention, including the privileges and immunities under Article 10 and the presumption of conformity under Article 12.

3. Each State Party shall at the national, regional and international levels, as appropriate, promote:

- (a) Principles and practices of effective and expeditious negotiation and mediation;
- (b) Public participation by non-governmental groups in the development of effective and expeditious negotiation and mediation processes;
- (c) Evidence-informed approaches and materials on negotiation and mediation;
- (d) Educational and training programs, including to strengthen the capacity of national institutions in negotiation and mediation; and
- (e) Exchanges or secondments of personnel to advance negotiation and mediation skills.

Article 6

Mutual cooperation

1. Each State Party shall communicate to the Conference of States Parties, through the Secretariat, the following: (i) a description of steps taken or envisaged by the State Party to implement and give domestic legal effect to the obligations under this Convention; and (ii) other information directly relevant to the achievement of the objectives of this Convention.

2. Each State Party shall make its initial communication within one year of the entry into force of this Convention for that State Party. The frequency and format of subsequent communications by all States Parties shall be determined by the Conference of States Parties.

3. The Secretariat shall protect the confidentiality of information designated by a State Party as confidential, in accordance with criteria to be established by the Conference of States Parties.

4. Subject to paragraph 3, and without prejudice to the prerogative of any State Party to make public its communication at any time, the Secretariat shall make any communication by a State Party under this Article publicly available at the time the communication is submitted to the Conference of States Parties.

PART 3 – SITUATION SUPPORT

Article 7

Situation requests

1. Where an actual or potential non-international armed conflict exists in the territory of a State Party, that State Party may direct a request to the Conference of States Parties via the Secretariat for the situation to become an Admitted Situation, including when negotiation and mediation efforts were already underway outside of the Convention. The State Party's request may be preceded by prior exploratory communications with the Secretariat in accordance with simplified rules of procedure adopted under Article 14 of this Convention.
2. A request made under paragraph 1 shall specify the relevant circumstances and be accompanied by such supporting documentation as is available to the State Party submitting the request. Whenever possible, the submission shall be accompanied by a separate communication by any non-state armed group or other entity directly involved in the actual or potential non-international armed conflict.
3. In accordance with simplified rules of procedure adopted under Article 14 of this Convention, the Conference of States Parties shall act expeditiously to complete its consideration of a request made under paragraph 1 and may seek additional information from (i) the State Party submitting the request; (ii) any non-state armed group or other entity directly involved in the actual or potential non-international armed conflict; and (iii) public sources.
4. Except for material obtained from public sources, the Conference of States Parties shall treat all communications received as confidential.
5. A request made under paragraph 1 shall become an Admitted Situation (i) upon positive confirmation by the Conference of States Parties in accordance with simplified rules of procedure adopted under Article 14 of this Convention; or (ii) upon the expiry of 60 days of receipt of the request and in the absence of a rejection under paragraph 6. At the discretion of the Conference of States Parties, an Admitted Situation may be given retroactive effect to the date of receipt of the request.
6. The Conference of States Parties may by a simple majority vote of those present and voting decide that there are compelling and substantial reasons to decline a request made under paragraph 1. In such circumstances, the Conference of States Parties shall transmit its reasoning in writing to the State Party. If appropriate, it shall also notify any non-state armed group or other entity directly involved in the situation.
7. When a request is declined under paragraph 6, the State Party may renew its request by submitting new facts or evidence addressing the reasons given by the Conference of States Parties for declining the request.

8. Where a situation of non-international armed conflict in the territory of a State Party has adverse impacts on the territory or interests of another State Party, the latter shall not have the right to initiate a request under paragraph 1 but shall have the opportunity to express its views to the Conference of States Parties in accordance with simplified rules of procedure adopted under Article 14 of this Convention.

9. A State that is not a State Party to this Convention shall not have the right to initiate or participate in a situation request.

Article 7 bis

Fast-track process requests

A State Party may in its request under Article 7 specify a preference for a fast-track process. In such instances, it shall state the reasons for the unusual urgency, reduced agenda and condensed format required for the negotiation or mediation.

Article 8

Assistance for Admitted Situations

The parties to the negotiation or mediation in an Admitted Situation may avail themselves of the Convention Advisory Group, the Accompaniment Registry and the Financial Instrument in accordance with the terms mutually agreed with the Secretariat. All such assistance is without prejudice to (i) additional general benefits that the Conference of States Parties may establish under Article 14 in support of Admitted Situations; (ii) additional case-specific benefits or mechanisms, including as regards sanctions, that the parties to the Admitted Situation may propose for consideration by the Conference of States Parties in support of a particular negotiation or mediation; or (iii) any assistance offered by other relevant international, regional or national institutions and agencies.

Article 9

Continuity clause

This Convention is without prejudice to the international human rights and humanitarian law obligations of the parties to the negotiation or mediation in an Admitted Situation, including the obligations related to access for humanitarian relief organizations and the protection of civilians and humanitarian relief personnel.

Article 10

Privileges and immunities in Admitted Situations

1. The mediators accepted by the parties in an Admitted Situation shall, while exercising their functions, enjoy the same privilege and immunities as are customarily accorded to representatives of diplomatic missions. The parties shall jointly communicate in writing the names of such mediators to the Secretariat.

2. The Secretariat may establish additional criteria and procedures for conferring equivalent privileges and immunities (i) to a negotiator that represents a State Party or a non-state armed group or other entity directly involved in an Admitted Situation, (ii) to a person assisting the mediator in an Admitted Situation, or (iii) to other qualified persons acting in support of an Admitted Situation.
3. Persons to whom privileges and immunities have been conferred under paragraphs 1 or 2 shall be presumed to be acting in compliance with any applicable prohibition against providing material support or resources to a non-state armed group.
4. The physical premises of the particular negotiation or mediation, wheresoever located, shall conform to the minimum requirements and conditions of a demilitarized zone as set out in international humanitarian law, and shall be inviolable. The property and assets of the parties to the negotiation or mediation shall be immune from physical or digital search, requisition, confiscation, expropriation and any other form of interference, whether by executive, administrative, military, police, judicial or legislative action.
5. For purposes of this Article, immunities and privileges shall be understood to extend to archives, documents and papers stored in any form, whether physical or digital.

Article 11

Process design benchmarks for Admitted Situations

The following baseline practices shall inform the design of the negotiation or mediation in an Admitted Situation, with such incremental and tailored adaptations as the parties to the Admitted Situation determine:

1. Development of a substantive agenda
2. Statement of process goals and intentions
3. Timelines
4. Any interim ceasefire
5. Rules on:
 - a. Size, composition and functions of the delegations, taking account, inter alia, of UN Security Council resolutions 1325 (2000) and 2250 (2015) and related resolutions
 - b. Meeting location(s), format(s) and frequency
 - c. Confidentiality guarantees
 - d. Any envisaged mediation, accompaniment or independent expert roles
 - e. Drafting protocols
 - f. Media relations
 - g. Any humanitarian corridor
6. Public input mechanisms and national and community-level outreach

7. Confidence-building measures
8. Verification and monitoring mechanisms

Article 11 *bis*

Fast-track process design benchmarks

Having regard to the unusual urgency, reduced agenda and condensed format of a fast-track process, the baseline practices of Article 11 shall inform the design of the negotiation or mediation, *mutatis mutandis*.

Article 12

Outcome stabilization for Admitted Situations

1. The outcome of the negotiation or mediation in an Admitted Situation, as reflected in a signed final accord, shall enjoy a presumption of conformity.
2. A signed final accord may be broad or narrow in scope. Indicative issues may include:
 - a. Permanent ceasefire
 - b. Disarmament, demobilization and reintegration
 - c. Political rehabilitation and participation
 - d. Internal displacement, housing, land and property issues
 - e. Social inclusion measures
 - f. Institutional and legal reforms
 - g. Transitional justice
3. With regard to atrocity crimes, the presumption of conformity shall not apply if, following a transparent and consultative procedure to be determined by the Conference of States Parties, two thirds of the States Parties present and voting declare that the terms of the signed final accord: (i) are incompatible with the objectives of this Convention; or (ii) neglect to incorporate targeted measures addressing the rights and needs of victims, including with respect to missing and disappeared persons. The consultative procedure established by the Conference of States Parties shall ensure a reasonable opportunity for the signatories of the final accord to be heard.
4. A signed final accord reached in an Admitted Situation shall be received, registered and held in perpetuity by the Depositary.
5. Upon registration pursuant to paragraph 4, the Admitted Situation shall be deemed concluded; but this shall not affect the performance by the Conference of States Parties of any assigned function or undertaking related to overseeing the effective implementation of the signed final accord.

Article 12 *bis*

Outcome stabilization for fast-track processes

Article 12 paragraph 3 shall apply to a fast-track process where the issue of atrocity crimes is explicitly encompassed in the reduced agenda and condensed format of the negotiation or mediation at the time it becomes an Admitted Situation under Article 7.

Article 13

Vacating of Admitted Situations

1. A State Party to an Admitted Situation may initiate a request in writing to the Conference of States Parties to vacate the Admitted Situation. The request shall give reasons and provide any supporting evidence and documentation. The request may be accompanied by a separate communication from the non-state armed group or other entity directly involved in the Admitted Situation.
2. Upon receiving a request under paragraph 1, the Conference of States Parties shall consider the matter and may engage the State Party, with a view to addressing any concerns that have been raised as regards the Admitted Situation. The process shall be completed within 60 days of the date of the request, and the conversion of the Admitted Situation to a Vacated Situation shall be decided in accordance with simplified rules of procedure adopted under Article 14 of this Convention.
3. In the event of manifest abuse by a State Party of the agreed terms of an Admitted Situation, the Conference of States Parties may, by a two-thirds majority vote of those present and voting, inform the State Party that the Admitted Situation will cease to be processed in the terms of this Convention. The notification shall have immediate effect and the Admitted Situation shall be converted to a Vacated Situation.
4. A Vacated Situation under paragraphs 2 or 3 is without prejudice to any privileges and immunities accorded under Article 10 of this Convention.
5. A Vacated Situation under paragraph 2 is without prejudice to any presumption of conformity accorded under Article 12 of this Convention.

PART 4 – ADMINISTRATION AND MECHANISMS

Article 14

Conference of States Parties

1. A Conference of States Parties is hereby established.
2. The Conference of States Parties is the supreme body of this Convention and is responsible for upholding the effective implementation and realization of its objectives.

3. Each State Party to this Convention shall have (i) one representative in the Conference of States Parties who may be accompanied by alternates and advisors, and (ii) one vote at the meetings of the Conference of States Parties.

4. The Conference of States Parties shall regularly review the implementation of this Convention, including any decisions and legal instruments adopted. In particular, the Conference of States Parties shall:

- (a) Periodically examine the institutional arrangements under this Convention, in the light of accumulated experience and the evolution of relevant technical knowledge;
- (b) Promote and facilitate the efficient exchange of information on measures adopted by States Parties under Articles 5 and 6;
- (c) Make recommendations and adopt resolutions on any matters necessary for the optimal implementation of this Convention, including the establishment of any subsidiary bodies;
- (d) Ensure adequate financial resources for the Financial Instrument and adopt financial and procedural rules for itself and for any subsidiary bodies; and
- (e) Exercise such other functions as required for the achievement of the objectives of this Convention.

5. At its first session, the Conference of States Parties shall, by a two-thirds majority vote of those present and voting, adopt simplified rules of procedure for itself and for any subsidiary bodies established by this Convention. Such procedures may include, inter alia, the establishment of an Executive Committee to expedite decisions, the holding of in-person and virtual meetings, and the integration of advanced technologies.

6. The first session of the Conference of States Parties shall be convened not later than one year after the date of entry into force of this Convention. Thereafter, there will be annual sessions unless the Conference of States Parties by a simple majority vote of those present and voting decides otherwise.

7. Extraordinary sessions of the Conference of States Parties shall be held at such other times as may be deemed necessary by the Conference of States Parties; or by the written request of any State Party, provided that, within six months of the request being communicated to the States Parties by the Secretariat, it is supported by the Conference of States Parties by a simple majority vote of those present and voting.

8. The criteria for admission and participation of experts and observers, including non-governmental organizations and qualified non-state armed groups, at meetings of the Conference of States Parties shall be set out in the simplified rules of procedure adopted by the Conference of States Parties.

Article 15

Secretariat

1. At its first session, the Conference of States Parties shall, by a two-thirds majority vote of those present and voting, establish a Secretariat. The Secretariat shall be a permanent, impartial and technical body based in (*host country*) and reporting to the Conference of States Parties.

2. The functions of the Secretariat shall be to:

(a) Make arrangements for sessions of the Conference of States Parties and provide it with services as required;

(b) Compile and transmit relevant documents and correspondence to the Conference of States Parties;

(c) Prepare reports on its activities and present them to the Conference of States Parties;

(d) Enter, under the overall guidance of the Conference of States Parties, such administrative and contractual arrangements as may be required for the effective discharge of its functions;

(e) Oversee the administration of the Convention Advisory Group and the Accompaniment Registry;

(f) Coordinate and cooperate, as appropriate, with the secretariats of other relevant international and regional bodies and agencies and with civil society to optimize institutional complementarities and reinforce the support offered through this Convention; and

(g) Perform the other Secretariat functions specified in this Convention and in any of its protocols and carry out such other functions as determined by the Conference of States Parties.

Article 16

Convention Advisory Group

1. A multidisciplinary Convention Advisory Group shall be established by the Conference of States Parties within 120 days of the establishment of the Secretariat. The Convention Advisory Group shall provide, upon request by the Conference of States Parties or by a party to an Admitted Situation, timely information and advice and clarifications on technical matters that relate to the effective application of this Convention.

2. The Convention Advisory Group shall comprise up to 10 recognized experts of high moral character, impartiality and integrity, who shall be competent in relevant fields and appointed by the Conference of States Parties through a competitive process. The election shall be made based on a shortlist of nominees compiled with the administrative support

of the Secretariat, having due regard to the importance, inter alia, of equitable geographical distribution among the appointed experts. At least half of the appointed experts shall be women.

3. The Convention Advisory Group shall: (i) provide advisory and technical support to States Parties and to the parties in any Admitted Situation regarding the implementation of this Convention, including any challenges of interpretation; (ii) prepare technical assessments on the effects of measures taken in the implementation of this Convention; (iii) respond to requests for information and advice from the Conference of States Parties and its subsidiary bodies on methodological and substantive questions; and (iv) exchange knowledge, as appropriate, with other relevant international and regional institutions and civil society.

4. The Conference of States Parties shall further elaborate and stipulate the functions and terms of reference of the Convention Advisory Group, including the duration of expert appointments and the integration of advanced data and technology tools.

Article 17

Accompaniment Registry

1. An Accompaniment Registry is hereby established. The purpose of the Accompaniment Registry is to allow States Parties the option to register their generalized willingness to serve in an accompaniment role in Admitted Situations.

2. States Parties may register in the Accompaniment Registry at any time and may likewise withdraw at any time.

3. A State Party registered in the Accompaniment Registry may exercise an accompaniment role in a specific Admitted Situation when there is (i) an expression of interest by the parties to the Admitted Situation, and (ii) an agreement between them and the State Party registered in the Accompaniment Registry on the terms and conditions of the proposed accompaniment role, including which individuals will be involved.

4. The Conference of States Parties shall further elaborate the functions and terms of reference of the Accompaniment Registry, including the process and criteria of inclusion of actors other than States Parties.

Article 18

Financial Instrument

1. A Financial Instrument is hereby established. The purpose of the Financial Instrument is to provide financial resources on a grant basis in support of Admitted Situations. Financial resources shall be allocated as a priority to the implementation of final accords reached in Admitted Situations. Financial resources may come from

multiple sources, including voluntary contributions, in accordance with criteria established by the Conference of States Parties.

2. The Financial Instrument shall operate under the oversight of the Conference of States Parties, which shall determine its policies, priorities and eligibility criteria.

3. The Secretariat shall be responsible for the administrative aspects of the Financial Instrument, including the preparation of periodic financial reports for the Conference of States Parties.

4. The Conference of States Parties shall determine the modalities for (i) appropriate financial support of Admitted Situations in conformity with the policies, priorities and eligibility criteria established by the Conference of States Parties; (ii) the review of specific funding decisions; and (iii) periodic financial reports by the Secretariat.

5. At its first session, the Conference of States Parties shall adopt simplified rules and criteria to implement the provisions of this Article. Within three years thereafter, the Conference of States Parties shall review the Financial Instrument and make any appropriate updates to optimize its operation.

PART 5 – FINAL CLAUSES

Article 19

Non-state declarations

1. A non-state armed group or other entity directly involved in an actual or potential non-international armed conflict in the territory of a State Party may, in writing, declare or confirm its willingness to enter negotiation or cooperate with mediation, and its pledge to abide by such parts of this Convention as are relevant to the situation. Such a declaration shall be transmitted to the Depositary.

2. A unilateral declaration made under paragraph 1 shall not alter or affect the legal status of (i) the non-state armed group or other entity making the declaration, or (ii) the conflict.

Article 20

Interpretation and application

1. Any dispute between two or more States Parties concerning the interpretation or application of this Convention which cannot be settled through negotiation shall, at the request of one of them, be submitted to arbitration. If within six months from the date of the request for arbitration the Parties are unable to agree on the organization of the arbitration, any one of those Parties may refer the dispute to the International Court of Justice by request in conformity with the Statute of the Court.

2. A State may, at the time of signature or ratification of this Convention or accession thereto, declare that it does not consider itself bound by paragraph 1 of this Article. The other States Parties shall not be bound by paragraph 1 of this Article with respect to any State Party having made such a declaration.

3. Any State Party having made a declaration in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 2 of this Article may at any time withdraw this declaration by notification to the Conference of States Parties.

Article 21

Amendments

1. Any State Party may propose amendments to this Convention and its annexes.

2. The text of any proposed amendment shall be communicated to the States Parties by the Secretariat at least six months before the meeting at which it is proposed for consideration. The Secretariat shall also communicate proposed amendments to the signatories of this Convention and, for information, to the Depositary.

3. States Parties shall make every effort to reach agreement by consensus on any proposed amendment to this Convention. If all efforts at consensus have been exhausted and no agreement has been reached, the amendment may be adopted by a two-thirds majority vote of the States Parties present and voting. The adopted amendment shall be communicated by the Secretariat to the Depositary, who shall circulate it to all States Parties.

4. Instruments of acceptance in respect of an amendment shall be delivered to the Depositary. An amendment adopted in accordance with paragraph 3 shall enter into force for those States Parties having accepted it on the ninetieth day after the date of receipt by the Depositary of an instrument of acceptance by at least two thirds of the States Parties to this Convention. The amendment shall enter into force for any other State Party on the ninetieth day after the date on which that State Party deposits with the Depositary its instrument of acceptance of the said amendment.

Article 22

Protocols

1. The Conference of States Parties may, at any ordinary session, adopt protocols to this Convention by a two-thirds majority vote of those present and voting.

2. The text of any proposed protocol shall be communicated to the States Parties by the Secretariat at least six months before the session.

3. The requirements for the entry into force of any protocol shall be established by that instrument.

4. Decisions under any protocol shall be taken only by the States Parties to the protocol concerned.

Article 23

Depositary

(*The host country or a designated institution*) shall be the Depositary of this Convention and of protocols adopted in accordance with Article 22.

Article 24

Signature

This Convention shall be open for signature by all States.

Article 25

Ratification, acceptance, approval and accession

This Convention is subject to ratification, acceptance, approval or accession by States. Instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession shall be placed with the Depositary.

Article 26

Entry into force

1. This Convention shall enter into force on the ninetieth day following the date of the deposit of the twentieth instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession with the Depositary.
2. For each State ratifying, accepting, approving or acceding to this Convention after the deposit of the twenty-first instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, this Convention shall enter into force on the first day of the month after the sixtieth day following the deposit by such State of its instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession.
3. This Convention may be applied provisionally pending its entry into force in accordance with Article 25 of the *Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties*.

Article 27

Reservations

No reservations may be made to this Convention.

Article 28

Withdrawals

1. At any time after three years from the date of entry into force of this Convention, a State Party may, by written notification addressed to the Depositary, withdraw from this Convention. The withdrawal shall take effect one year after the date of receipt of the notification, unless the notification specifies a later date.
2. Any State Party that withdraws from this Convention shall be considered as also having withdrawn from any Convention protocol.
3. A State shall not be discharged, by reason of its withdrawal, from the obligations arising under this Convention while it was a State Party, including any financial obligations that may have accrued.
4. A withdrawal under this Article is without prejudice to any presumption of conformity accorded under Article 12 of this Convention in relation to an Admitted Situation involving the State Party.

Article 29

Authentic texts

The original of this Convention, of which the Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish texts are equally authentic, shall be placed with the Depositary.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the undersigned, being duly authorized to that effect, have signed this Convention.

DONE at xx this xx.