



PEACE TREATY
INITIATIVE

Draft Articles of the *Convention on Conflict Prevention and Resolution*

January 2023

These draft articles for the *Convention on Conflict Prevention and Resolution* were developed in the context of the [Peace Treaty Initiative](#): a global undertaking to establish the first-ever multilateral treaty to promote, incentivize, support and facilitate negotiation and mediation as a preferred means for the prevention and resolution of non-international armed conflicts.

The draft articles build on years of legal research and diplomatic and expert interviews and convenings, culminating in an indicative text which from April 2021 to December 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.

The draft articles draw on hundreds of substantive contributions made during the global consultation process, including via legal commentaries, memoranda, expert workshops, seminars, colloquia, and public events. February 2023 marks the start of the second phase of the global consultation process and will be accompanied by additional engagement activities.

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PREAMBLE

The Parties to this Convention,

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

Conscious of the severe damage to societies, economies and the natural environment that armed conflicts cause,

Acknowledging that women, girls and minority groups, among others, are disproportionately victimized in situations of armed conflict, and that their diverse interests, needs and views should be taken into account in every effort to respond to conflict,

Reaffirming that a central objective of international law is to promote and facilitate the peaceful settlement of disputes through appropriate principles, rules and mechanisms, as reflected, inter alia, in Articles 2(3) and 33 of the Charter of the United Nations,

Recalling UN Security Council resolution 2171 (2014), which “Recognizes that mediation is an important means for the pacific settlement of disputes, including wherever possible preventively and before disputes evolve into violence”,

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

Cognizant 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,

Aware that arbitral awards and judicial decisions rendered in adversarial proceedings can create conditions conducive to dialogue, negotiation and mediation in conflict settings,

Convinced of the need for an international legal framework that provides more effective incentives, guidance and direction to promote the use of dialogue, negotiation and mediation for the prevention and resolution of non-international armed conflicts,

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

Recognizing that successful conflict prevention and resolution requires that negotiators and mediators should possess sufficient latitude to cultivate the relationships and assume the risks needed to make agreements possible, and that international law should facilitate the conditions for doing so,

Reaffirming the vital role of women in the prevention and resolution of armed conflicts and reiterating the call to increase the equal, full and meaningful 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 know-how of many States, multilateral institutions, private organizations, community-level groups, tradition-based institutions and Indigenous Peoples in promoting and supporting official and unofficial dialogue, negotiation and mediation processes,

Reaffirming the principle of self-determination of peoples, as well as the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all States within their internationally recognized borders,

Have agreed as follows:

PART 1 – OPENING CLAUSES

Article 1

Objectives

1. This Convention establishes a system aimed at promoting, enabling, incentivizing, supporting and facilitating negotiation and mediation as a preferred means for the prevention and resolution of non-international armed conflicts.
2. The objectives of this system include (i) to integrate, normalize and mainstream negotiation and mediation in national institutions, laws, policies and practices; (ii) to make negotiation and mediation a more attractive, efficient and structured option; (iii) to provide negotiation and mediation processes with streamlined access to appropriate technical and financial support; and (iv) to facilitate principled and sustainable outcomes for negotiation and mediation processes.

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 and conduct of the process and the terms of any settlement.
2. *Local ownership*: To the greatest extent possible, negotiation and mediation processes shall be led by local actors and informed by local conditions.
3. *Voluntariness*: Negotiation and mediation shall not be imposed on any State Party.

Article 3

Definitions

For the purposes of this Convention:

1. “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.

2. “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 groups with diverse political, social, religious or economic aims.
3. “Negotiation” means a process whereby two or more parties attempt to reach an amicable settlement of their dispute through direct dialogue.
4. “Negotiator” means a representative of a party to a dispute that is the subject of negotiation.
5. “Mediation” means a process whereby two or more parties who seek to reach an amicable settlement of their dispute are assisted by a mutually accepted mediator.
6. “Mediator” means an impartial third party with the accepted mandate to facilitate and guide a mediation process 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 or conciliators.
7. “Accompaniment” means a non-mediation 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.
8. “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.
9. “Admitted Situation” means an actual or potential non-international armed conflict that an affected State Party voluntarily refers to the Conference of States Parties as a situation occurring on its territory that it wishes to have addressed under the terms of this Convention, and that is so accepted by the Conference of States Parties.
10. “Final accord” means a signed agreement or combination of agreements between the parties to an actual or potential non-international armed conflict and declared by them as being final, irrespective of any further agreements the parties may reach.
11. “Presumption of conformity” is a rule of legal construction conferring a positive presumption in favor of the international legality of a final accord reached in an Admitted Situation and in accordance with the principles of this Convention.
12. “Atrocity crime” means genocide, war crimes, or crimes against humanity, as defined in the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.
13. “Vacated Situation” means the discontinuance or revocation of an Admitted Situation under the terms of this Convention.

PART 2 – RIGHTS, OBLIGATIONS AND MUTUAL COOPERATION

Article 4

Rights

1. A State Party may request the Conference of States Parties to have a situation of actual or potential non-international armed conflict on its territory treated as an Admitted Situation.
2. Upon becoming an Admitted Situation, the benefits provided in 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 immediately apply.

Article 5

Obligations

1. Each State Party shall give priority to negotiation and mediation as tools for preventing or resolving any actual or potential non-international armed conflict.
2. Each State Party shall take all appropriate 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 with cross-governmental coordination responsibilities for negotiation and mediation;
 - (c) Work with other States Parties to prevent, de-escalate and resolve non-international armed conflicts;
 - (d) Support this Convention, including by availing political, diplomatic, financial and other resources for its implementation;
 - (e) Cooperate in good faith in any negotiation or mediation in which it is involved; and
 - (f) Give effect under domestic law to the articles of this Convention.
3. As regards actual or potential non-international armed conflicts, each State Party shall at the national, regional and international levels, as appropriate, promote:
 - (a) Principles and practices of effective negotiation and mediation;
 - (b) Public participation, including by non-governmental organizations, in the development of effective negotiation and mediation;
 - (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 general 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 on the territory of a State Party, and regardless of whether negotiation and mediation efforts are already underway, that State Party may direct a request to the Conference of States Parties for the situation to become an Admitted Situation. Prior to making the request, the State Party may undertake exploratory communications with the Conference of States Parties in accordance with 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 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, including 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 a positive confirmation by the Conference of States Parties in accordance with rules of procedure adopted under Article 14 of this Convention; or (ii) upon the expiry of 60 days after submission of the request and in the absence of a rejection under paragraph 6 of this Article. At the discretion of the Conference of States Parties, an Admitted Situation may be granted retroactive effect to the date of submission of the request or any later date.

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, the Conference of States Parties 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 and submit new facts or evidence addressing the reasons given by the Conference of States Parties for declining the request.

8. A State Party which is adversely affected by a situation or threat of non-international armed conflict occurring on the territory of another State Party may not initiate a request under paragraph 1 but may express its views to the Conference of States Parties in accordance with 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 a situation request under this Article.

Article 8

Assistance for Admitted Situations

1. The parties to the negotiation or mediation in an Admitted Situation may avail themselves of the Convention Support Unit, the Accompaniment Index and the Financial Instrument in accordance with the terms mutually agreed with the Secretariat.

2. The assistance provided in Admitted Situations under paragraph 1 is without prejudice to (i) supplementary actions or mechanisms, including as regards sanctions relief, that the parties to a specific Admitted Situation may propose for consideration by the Conference of States Parties; or (ii) additional general benefits that the Conference of States Parties may establish under Article 14 in support of Admitted Situations.

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

2. The mediators accepted by the parties in an Admitted Situation shall enjoy the privileges and immunities afforded under section 22 of the [Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations](#), mutatis mutandis. The parties shall jointly communicate in writing the names of such mediators to the Secretariat.
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. 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.
6. For purposes of this Article, references to archives, documents and papers in the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations shall include information 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 adaptations as the parties may determine:

1. Development of a substantive agenda
2. Statement of process goals and intentions
3. Timelines
4. Rules on:
 - a. Size, composition and functions of the delegations, taking account, inter alia, of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) 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 interim ceasefire or humanitarian corridor
5. Public input mechanisms, and national and community-level outreach

6. Confidence-building measures
7. Verification, monitoring and implementation mechanisms

Article 12

Outcome stabilization for Admitted Situations

1. The outcome of the negotiation or mediation in an Admitted Situation, as reflected in a final accord, shall enjoy a presumption of conformity.
2. A 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 final accord: (i) are incompatible with the objectives of this Convention; or (ii) do not respond adequately to 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 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 relating to the effective implementation of the final accord.

Article 13

Vacating Admitted Situations

1. A State Party with an Admitted Situation may request the Conference of States Parties to discontinue the Admitted Situation. The request shall be in writing and shall provide an explanation and any supporting evidence and documentation.
2. Upon receiving a request under paragraph 1, the Conference of States Parties shall inform the non-state armed group or other entity directly involved in the Admitted Situation and shall request observations.
3. The Conference of States Parties shall complete its consideration of a request under paragraph 1 within 60 days of the date of the request, and may engage the State Party to address any concerns raised about the Admitted Situation, with a view to sustaining the Admitted

Situation status. In any event, the conversion of the Admitted Situation to a Vacated Situation pursuant to a request under paragraph 1 shall proceed in accordance with rules of procedure adopted under Article 14 of this Convention.

4. Where a State Party manifestly abuses or disregards the terms of an Admitted Situation, the Conference of States Parties may, by a two-thirds majority vote of those present and voting, revoke the Admitted Situation status and, in such event, inform the State Party. Upon revocation, the Admitted Situation shall become a Vacated Situation.

5. The discontinuance or revocation of an Admitted Situation under paragraphs 3 or 4 is without prejudice to any privileges and immunities accorded under Article 10 of this Convention.

6. The discontinuance of an Admitted Situation under paragraph 3 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) Assess, on the basis of all information made available to it, the implementation of this Convention by the States Parties and the overall effects of the measures taken;
 - (d) Make recommendations and adopt resolutions on any matters necessary for the optimal implementation of this Convention;
 - (e) Ensure adequate financial resources for the Financial Instrument;
 - (f) Establish such subsidiary bodies as are deemed necessary for the optimal implementation of this Convention;
 - (g) Review reports submitted by its subsidiary bodies;
 - (h) Adopt financial and procedural rules for itself and for any subsidiary bodies; and

(i) 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 its own rules of procedure as well as those of the subsidiary bodies established by this Convention. Such procedures shall include, inter alia, the establishment of an Executive Committee (i) to manage and make recommendations regarding Admitted Situations, and (ii) to expedite decision making in general, including through the integration of advanced technologies and the creation of procedures for the adoption of particular decisions not otherwise specified in this Convention.

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 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 submitted to the Conference of States Parties;

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

(d) Coordinate, as appropriate, with the secretariats of other relevant international and regional bodies and agencies in order to optimize institutional complementarities;

(e) 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;

(f) Oversee the administration of the Convention Support Unit and the Accompaniment Index;

- (g) Cooperate actively with civil society; and
- (h) Perform the other Secretariat functions specified in this Convention and in any of its protocols, and carry out such other functions as may be determined by the Conference of States Parties.

Article 16

Convention Support Unit

1. An independent, multidisciplinary Convention Support Unit shall be established by the Conference of States Parties within 120 days of the establishment of the Secretariat. The Unit shall provide, upon request by the Conference of States Parties or by a party to an Admitted Situation, timely information and practical advice and clarifications on technical matters that relate, directly and indirectly, to the effective application of this Convention.
2. The Convention Support Unit shall comprise up to 15 independent experts of high moral character, impartiality and integrity, who shall be competent in relevant fields of expertise and elected by the Conference of States Parties through a competitive process. The election shall be by secret ballot on the basis of 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 Support Unit shall: (i) provide advisory and technical support to States Parties, as well as 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.
4. The Conference of States Parties shall further elaborate and stipulate the functions and terms of reference of the Convention Support Unit, including the duration of expert appointments and the integration of advanced data and technology tools.

Article 17

Accompaniment Index

1. An Accompaniment Index is hereby established. The purpose of the Accompaniment Index 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 Index at any time, and may likewise withdraw at any time.
3. A State Party registered in the Accompaniment Index may exercise an accompaniment role in a specific Admitted Situation when there is (i) an expression of interest by the parties to the specific Admitted Situation, and (ii) an agreement between them and the State Party registered in the Accompaniment Index 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 Index, including the process and criteria of any registration option created for multilateral institutions, private organizations or other actors.

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 or concessional basis in support of Admitted Situations. Financial resources may be specifically directed at incentivizing or facilitating confidence-building measures, the reaching of final accords, and the implementation of such accords. 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 particular funding decisions; and (iii) periodic financial reports by the Secretariat.

5. At its first session, the Conference of States Parties shall adopt 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 armed groups

1. A non-state armed group may unilaterally issue a written declaration in which it expresses its will to enter negotiations and its pledge to abide by such parts of this Convention as are relevant to a situation of non-international armed conflict in which it is directly involved. 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 the non-state armed group or the conflict.

Article 20

Interpretation and application

1. In any dispute between two or more States Parties concerning the interpretation or application of this Convention, the States Parties concerned shall seek a settlement of the dispute through peaceful means. In doing so (i) they shall have regard to Article 2 of this Convention and Article 31 of the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties; and (ii) they may consult the Convention Support Unit. Any dispute that is not settled through negotiations within three months of their commencement may be referred by the States Parties to the International Court of Justice.
2. When ratifying, accepting, approving or acceding to this Convention, or at any time thereafter, a State Party may declare in a written instrument submitted to the Depositary that, in respect of any dispute not resolved in accordance with paragraph 1, it accepts, as compulsory, ad hoc arbitration in accordance with procedures to be adopted by the Conference of States Parties in an annex on arbitration.
3. A declaration made under paragraph 2 shall remain in force in accordance with its terms or until three months after written notice of its revocation has been communicated to the Depositary.
4. The provisions of this Article shall apply to any related legal instrument that the Conference of States Parties may adopt, unless the instrument provides otherwise.

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 specialized 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 deposited with the Depositary.

Article 26

Reservations

No reservations may be made to this Convention.

Article 27

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 twentieth 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.

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 Depository, 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 Depository.

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

DONE at xx this xx.