

ARTICLE IXCONSULTATIONS, CO-OPERATION AND FACT-FINDING

1. States Parties shall consult and cooperate, directly among themselves, or through the Organization or other appropriate international procedures, including procedures within the framework of the United Nations and in accordance with its Charter, on any matter which may be raised relating to the object and purpose or the implementation of the provisions of this Convention.

2. **In the first instance**, States Parties shall make every possible effort to clarify and resolve, through exchange of information and consultations among them, any matter which may cause doubt about compliance with this Convention, or which gives rise to **a concerns** about a related matter which may be considered ambiguous. A State Party which receives a request from another State Party for clarification of any matter which the requesting State Party believes causes such **a doubts** or concerns shall provide the requesting State Party, not later than **seven ten** days after the request, with information sufficient to answer the doubts or concerns raised along with an explanation of how the information provided resolves the matter. Nothing in this Convention shall affect the right of any two or more States Parties to arrange by mutual consent for inspections or any other procedures among themselves to clarify and resolve any matter which may cause doubts about compliance or gives rise to **a concerns** about a related matter which may be considered ambiguous. Such arrangements shall not affect the rights and obligations of any State Party under other provisions of this Convention.

Procedure for requesting clarification

3. A State Party shall have the right to request the Executive Council to assist in clarifying any situation which may be considered ambiguous or which gives rise to **doubts a concern** about the **non-compliance** of another State Party with this Convention. The Executive Council shall provide appropriate information and data in its possession relevant to such **a concerns**.

4. A State Party shall have the right to request the Executive Council to obtain clarification from another State Party on any situation which may be considered ambiguous or which gives rise to **doubts a concern** about its **non-compliance** with this Convention. In such a case, the following shall apply:

(a) The Executive Council shall forward the request for clarification to the State Party concerned **through the Director General** not later than 24 hours after its receipt;

(b) The requested State Party shall provide the clarification to the Executive Council not later than **seven**