

ARTICLE XVII

- (a) When instruments of ratification have been deposited by seven of the signatory Governments, the present Convention shall come into force between them.
- (b) For each signatory Government ratifying thereafter the present Convention shall come into force upon deposit of its instrument of ratification.

ARTICLE XVIII

- (a) The Government of any State which is not a signatory to the present Convention may accede thereto as from 1st April, 1951.
- (b) Instruments of accession shall be deposited with the Belgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which shall notify all signatory and acceding Governments and the Secretary General of each such deposit.
- (c) The present Convention shall come into force for any acceding Government on the deposit of its instrument of accession, but not before it comes into force in accordance with paragraph (a) of Article XVII.

ARTICLE XIX

The present Convention is of unlimited duration, but at any time after the expiry of five years from its entry into force under paragraph (a) of Article XVII, any Contracting Party may withdraw therefrom. Withdrawal shall take effect one year after the date of receipt by the Belgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the notification of withdrawal. The Belgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs shall notify each withdrawal to all signatory and acceding Governments and to the Secretary General.

ARTICLE XX

- (a) The Council may recommend amendments to the present Convention to the Contracting Parties.
- (b) Any Contracting Party accepting an amendment shall notify the Belgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs in writing of its acceptance and the Belgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs shall notify all signatory and acceding Governments and the Secretary General of the receipt of the notice of acceptance.
- (c) An amendment shall come into force three months after receipt by the Belgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs of notice of acceptance by the Contracting Parties. When any amendment has been accepted by all the Contracting Parties the Belgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs shall notify all signatory and acceding Governments and the Secretary General of such acceptance and of the date on which the amendment will come into force.
- (d) After an amendment has come into force, no Government may ratify or accede to the present Convention unless it also accepts the amendment.