

## ARTICLE XVI

### SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES

1. Disputes which may arise concerning the application or the interpretation of this Convention shall be settled in accordance with the relevant provisions of this Convention and in conformity with the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations.
2. When a dispute arises between two or more Parties relating to the interpretation or application of this Convention, the Parties concerned shall consult together with a view to the expeditious settlement of the dispute by negotiation or by other peaceful means of the Parties' choice, including recourse to appropriate organs of the Convention and/or, by mutual consent, referral to the International Court of Justice in conformity with the Statute of the Court. The States Parties involved shall keep the Executive Council informed of actions being taken.
3. The Executive Council [may] [shall] contribute to the settlement of a dispute by whatever means it deems appropriate, including offering its good offices [, calling upon the States Parties to a dispute to start the settlement process of their choice and recommending a time-limit for any agreed procedure].
4. The Conference of the States Parties shall consider questions related to disputes raised by States Parties or brought to its attention by the Executive Council. The Conference of the States Parties shall, as it finds necessary, establish and/or entrust organs with tasks related to the settlement of these disputes in conformity with Article VIII, paragraph 16 (h). <sup>1/</sup>
5. The Conference of the States Parties and the Executive Council are separately empowered, subject to authorization from the General Assembly of the United Nations, to request the International Court of Justice to give an advisory opinion on any legal question arising within the scope of the activities of the Organization.
6. This Article is without prejudice to Article IX or to the provisions on Measures to redress a situation and to ensure compliance, including sanctions.

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<sup>1/</sup> It is understood that the competence of existing international administrative tribunals (United Nations Administrative Tribunal or International Labour Organisation Administrative Tribunal) for staff disputes might be recognized, subject to the rules of relevant organizations, through an appropriate resolution of the Conference of the States Parties.