

It is understood that, in so far as any point is not covered by any of the provisions of the preceding article, the existing principles and rules of international law shall remain in force.

#### ARTICLE 19

Nothing in the present convention shall affect the provisions of any treaty, convention or agreement in force between any of the high contracting parties relating to nationality or matters connected therewith.

#### ARTICLE 20

Any high contracting party may, when signing or ratifying the present convention or acceding thereto, append an express reservation excluding any one or more of the provisions of articles 1 to 17 and 21.

The provisions thus excluded cannot be applied against the contracting party who has made the reservation nor relied on by that party against any other contracting party.

#### ARTICLE 21

If there should arise between the high contracting parties a dispute of any kind relating to the interpretation or application of the present convention, and if such dispute cannot be satisfactorily settled by diplomacy, it shall be settled in accordance with any applicable agreements in force between the parties providing for the settlement of international disputes.

In case there is no such agreement in force between the parties, the dispute shall be referred to arbitration or judicial settlement, in accordance with the constitutional procedure of each of the parties to the dispute. In the absence of agreement on the choice of another tribunal, the dispute shall be referred to the Permanent Court of International Justice, if all the parties to the dispute are parties to the Protocol of the 16th December, 1920, relating to the statute of that court, and if any of the parties to the dispute is not a party to the Protocol of the 16th December, 1920, the dispute shall be referred to an arbitral tribunal constituted in accordance with the Hague Convention of the 18th October, 1907, for the Pacific Settlement of International Disputes.

#### ARTICLE 22

The present convention shall remain open until the 31st December, 1930, for signature on behalf of any member of the League of Nations or of any non-member State invited to the First Codification Conference or to which the Council of the League of Nations has communicated a copy of the convention for this purpose.

#### ARTICLE 23

The present convention is subject to ratification. Ratifications shall be deposited with the secretariat of the League of Nations.

The Secretary-General shall give notice of the deposit of each ratification to the members of the League of Nations and to the non-member States mentioned in article 22, indicating the date of its deposit.

#### ARTICLE 24

As from the 1st January, 1931, any member of the League of Nations and any non-member State mentioned in article 22 on whose behalf the convention has not been signed before that date may accede thereto.

Accession shall be effected by an instrument deposited with the secretariat of the League of Nations. The Secretary-General of the League of Nations shall give notice of each accession to the members of the League of Nations and to the non-member States mentioned in article 22, indicating the date of the deposit of the instrument.