

ARTICLE 17

Signature, Ratification, Acceptance, Approval and Accession

- (1) This Convention shall be open for signature by any State at the Headquarters of the Organization from 1 February 2002 to 31 December 2002 and shall thereafter remain open for accession by any State.
- (2) States may become Parties to this Convention by:
 - (a) signature not subject to ratification, acceptance, or approval; or
 - (b) signature subject to ratification, acceptance, or approval, followed by ratification, acceptance, or approval; or
 - (c) accession.
- (3) Ratification, acceptance, approval, or accession shall be effected by the deposit of an instrument to that effect with the Secretary-General.
- (4) If a State comprises two or more territorial units in which different systems of law are applicable in relation to matters dealt with in this Convention, it may at the time of signature, ratification, acceptance, approval, or accession declare that this Convention shall extend to all its territorial units or only to one or more of them and may modify this declaration by submitting another declaration at any time.
- (5) Any such declaration shall be notified to the Secretary-General and shall state expressly the territorial units to which this Convention applies.

ARTICLE 18

Entry into force

- (1) This Convention shall enter into force twelve months after the date on which not less than twenty-five States, the combined merchant fleets of which constitute not less than twenty-five percent of the gross tonnage of the world's merchant shipping, have either signed it without reservation as to ratification, acceptance or approval, or have deposited the requisite instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession in accordance with article 17.