

2. If one or more of the Contracting Parties do not ratify one or other of the Acts signed by them, these Acts are none the less binding on the States which have ratified them.
3. These Acts come into force simultaneously and have the same duration.
4. From the date fixed for the entry into force of the Acts adopted by a Congress, all the Acts of the preceding Congress are repealed.

#### ARTICLE 16.

##### *Extraordinary Congresses.*

1. When a request to that effect is made or approved by at least two-thirds of the contracting countries, an Extraordinary Congress is held, after arrangement with the International Bureau.
2. The regulations laid down by Articles 14 and 15 apply equally to the delegations, to the deliberations and to the Acts of Extraordinary Congresses.

#### ARTICLE 17.

##### *Standing Orders of Congresses.*

Each Congress draws up the standing orders for its work and deliberations.

#### ARTICLE 18.

##### *Executive and Liaison Commission.*

##### *Composition. Functions. Working.*

1. In the interval between Congresses, an Executive and Liaison Commission ensures the continuity of the work of the Universal Postal Union, in accordance with the provisions of the Convention and the Agreements.
2. The seat of the Commission is at Berne; in principle, the meetings of the Commission are held there.
3. The Commission is composed of nineteen members who exercise their functions during the interval between two successive Congresses.
4. The countries members of the Commission are appointed by Congress. At least half of the members must be replaced on the occasion of each Congress; no country may be chosen by three successive Congresses. The Director of the International Bureau exercises the functions of Secretary General of the Commission.
5. The representative of each of the countries members of the Commission is nominated by the postal Administration of the country concerned. The representatives of countries members of the Commission must be qualified officials of the postal Administration.
6. At its first meeting, which is convened by the President of the previous Congress, the Commission elects from amongst its members, a President and four Vice-Presidents and draws up the Standing Orders for its work and deliberations.
7. The duties of the members of the Commission are gratuitous. The working expenses of the Commission are borne by the Universal Postal Union. The representatives of overseas countries may obtain repayment of the cost of a return ticket by air or by sea.
8. The expenses mentioned in § 7 may not exceed 100,000 francs a year; they are added to those which the International Bureau is authorised to incur under the provisions of Article 27 of the Convention.