

(ii) two such persons nominated by the consuming countries; and
(iii) a chairman selected unanimously by the four persons nominated under (i) and (ii) or, if they fail to agree, by the Chairman of the international Tin Council.

(b) Nationals of participating countries shall be eligible to serve on the advisory panel and persons appointed to the advisory panel shall act in their personal capacities and without instructions from any Government.

(c) The expenses of the advisory panel shall be paid by the Council.

5. The opinion of the advisory panel and the reasons therefor shall be submitted to the Council which, after considering all the relevant information, shall decide the dispute.

6. No participating country shall be found to have committed a breach of this Agreement except by a majority of the votes held by producing countries and a majority of the votes held by consuming countries. Any finding that a participating country is in breach of this Agreement shall specify the nature of the breach and the extent of such breach.

7. If the Council finds that a participating country has committed a breach of this Agreement it may, by a majority of the votes held by producing countries and a majority of the votes held by consuming countries, deprive the country concerned of its voting rights or of any other rights of which the country concerned can be deprived under the provisions of this Agreement in relation to the subject matter of the dispute or complaint, until it fulfils its obligations.

ARTICLE XVIII

Amendments and Suspension

1. The Council may, by a two-thirds majority of the votes held by producing countries and a two-thirds majority of the votes held by consuming countries, recommend to contracting Governments amendments to this Agreement. The Council shall, in its recommendation, fix the time within which each contracting Government shall notify the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland whether or not it ratifies or accepts the recommended amendment, either on its own behalf or on behalf of any dependent territory or territories separately participating in this Agreement.

2. If, within the time fixed under paragraph 1 of this Article, an amendment is ratified or accepted by or on behalf of all participating countries it shall take effect immediately on the receipt by the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland of the last ratification or acceptance.

3. If, within the time fixed under paragraph 1 of this Article, an amendment is not ratified or accepted by or on behalf of the Governments holding all of the votes of producing countries and by or on behalf of the Governments holding two-thirds of the votes of consuming countries, it shall not take effect.