

take proceedings against persons using A.T.A. carnets, for the recovery of the import duties and other sums payable and also for the imposition of any penalties to which such persons have rendered themselves liable. In such cases the associations shall lend their assistance to the Customs authorities.

#### ARTICLE 16

The Annex to the present Convention shall be construed to be an integral part of the Convention.

#### ARTICLE 17

The provisions of the present Convention set out the minimum facilities to be accorded and do not prevent the application of greater facilities which certain Contracting Parties grant or may grant in future by unilateral provisions or in virtue of bilateral and multilateral agreements.

### CHAPTER VII FINAL PROVISIONS

#### ARTICLE 18

1. The Contracting Parties shall meet together when necessary in order to consider the operation of the present Convention and, in particular, in order to consider measures to secure uniformity in the interpretation and application of the present Convention.

2. Such meetings shall be convened by the Secretary-General of the Council at the request of any Contracting Party. Unless the Contracting Parties otherwise decide, the meetings shall be held at the Headquarters of the Council.

3. The Contracting Parties shall lay down the rules of procedure for their meetings. Decisions of the Contracting Parties shall be taken by a majority of not less than two-thirds of the Contracting Parties present at the meeting and voting.

4. The Contracting Parties shall not take a decision on any matter unless more than half of them are present.

#### ARTICLE 19

1. Any dispute between Contracting Parties concerning the interpretation or application of the present Convention shall as far as possible be settled by negotiation between them.

2. Any dispute which is not settled by negotiation shall be referred by the Contracting Parties in dispute to the Contracting Parties, meeting in conformity with Article 18 of the present Convention, which shall thereupon consider the dispute and make recommendations for its settlement.

3. The Contracting Parties in dispute may agree in advance to accept the recommendations of the Contracting Parties as binding.

#### ARTICLE 20

1. Any State Member of the Council and any State Member of the United Nations or its specialized agencies may become a Contracting Party to the present Convention:

(a) by signing it without reservation of ratification;