

ARTICLE 17

INTERPRETATION

1. The Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish texts of this Constitution shall be regarded as equally authentic.

2. Subject to Article 96 of the Charter of the United Nations and of Chapter II of the Statute of the International Court of Justice, any question or dispute concerning the interpretation or application of this Constitution shall be referred to the International Court of Justice, unless the General Council or the parties to such dispute agree to another mode of settlement.

ARTICLE 18

ENTRY INTO FORCE

1. (a) States may become parties to this Constitution by:

- (i) signature without reservation as to approval;
- (ii) signature subject to approval followed by acceptance;
- (iii) acceptance.

(b) acceptance shall be effected by the deposit of a formal instrument with the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

2. This Constitution shall come into force when at least fifteen States, whose required contributions to Part I of the operational budget as set forth in Annex II of this Constitution amount to not less than seventy-five per cent of the total thereof, have become parties to it.

3. In accordance with Article 102 of the Charter of the United Nations, the Secretary-General of the United Nations will register this Constitution, when it has been signed, without reservation as to approval, on behalf of one State or upon deposit of the first instrument of acceptance.

4. The Secretary-General of the United Nations will inform States parties to this Constitution, of the date when it has come into force; he will also inform them of the dates when other States have become parties to this Constitution.

In FAITH WHEREOF the undersigned, duly authorized for that purpose, have signed this Constitution.

DONE at Flushing Meadow, New York, this fifteenth day of December, one thousand nine hundred and forty-six, in a single copy in the Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish languages. The original texts shall be deposited in the archives of the United Nations. The Secretary-General of the United Nations will send certified copies of the texts to each of the signatory Governments and, upon the coming into force of the Constitution and the election of a Director-General, to the Director-General of the Organization.

(Here follow the names of the Plenipotentiaries for Canada (subject to approval), the Dominican Republic (subject to its ratification by the Congress of the Dominican Republic), France (subject to approval), Guatemala (*ad referendum*), Honduras (*ad referendum*), Liberia (subject to ratification), the Philippine Republic (subject to approval), the United States of America (subject to approval).