

Article 31

Settlement of Disputes

(1) Disputes arising between Parties, or between Parties and the Organization, relating to rights and obligations under this Convention should be settled by negotiation between the parties concerned. If within one year of the time any party has requested settlement, a settlement has not been reached and if the parties to the dispute have not agreed to submit it to the International Court of Justice or to some other procedure for settling disputes, the dispute may, if the parties to the dispute consent, be submitted to arbitration in accordance with the Annex to this Convention. Any decision of an arbitral tribunal in a dispute between Parties, or between Parties and the Organization, shall not prevent or affect a decision of the Assembly pursuant to Article 30(1), that the Convention shall cease to be in force for a Party.

(2) Unless otherwise mutually agreed, disputes arising between the Organization and one or more Parties under agreements concluded between them, if not settled by negotiation within one year of the time any party has requested settlement, shall, at the request of any party to the dispute, be submitted to arbitration in accordance with the Annex to this Convention.

(3) Disputes arising between one or more Parties and one or more Signatories in their capacity as such, relating to rights and obligations under this Convention or the Operating Agreement may be submitted to arbitration in accordance with the Annex to this Convention if the Party or Parties and the Signatory or Signatories involved agree to such arbitration.

(4) This Article shall continue to apply to a Party or Signatory which ceases to be a Party or Signatory, in respect of disputes relating to rights and obligations arising from its having been a Party or Signatory.

Article 32

Signature and Ratification

(1) This Convention shall remain open for signature in London until entry into force and shall thereafter remain open for accession. All States may become Parties to the 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.

(2) Ratification, acceptance, approval or accession shall be effected by the deposit of the appropriate instrument with the Depositary.

(3) On becoming a Party to this Convention, or at any time thereafter, a State may declare, by written notification to the Depositary, to which Registers of ships operating under its authority, and to which land earth stations under its jurisdiction, the Convention shall apply.