

C) CHANGES TO THE ENTRY INTO FORCE PROVISION

Russia has proposed a change to the Convention Article 5 which sets out the conditions for Entry into Force (EIF) of the Convention. The original Convention entered into force 6 months after the deposit of the twentieth instrument of ratification. Russia has proposed that the Convention (and thus changes to the Convention and Protocol) enter into force 3 months after the deposit of the sixth instrument of ratification.

As discussed above, once 20 States have ratified the new EIF provision, it would be in effect for all parties with respect to future changes.

However, unless the existing EIF provisions were changed separately and before the other proposed changes to the Convention and Protocols, the new EIF provision (6 States and three months) would only be applicable to future amendments. Therefore, any changes made at this Review Conference would still not enter into force until 6 months after the 20 States had ratified the amending instrument.

CANADIAN POSITION:

There is no benefit in changing the EIF provisions for this particular Review Conference but it may be useful for future amendments to the Convention and Protocols. The Canadian delegation should support the proposed change.

POSITIONS OF OTHER MAJOR PLAYERS/GROUPS ON THE ISSUE:

The ICRC supports this proposal but the views of other States are unknown.

LIKELY AREAS OF COMPROMISE:

Unknown.