

# Appendix: Proposed Convention Against Sexual Exploitation

Draft of January 1994

The States Parties to the Present Convention,  
*Considering that*, in accordance with the principles proclaimed in the Charter of the United Nations, recognition of the equal and unalienable rights of all members of the human family without distinction as to sex is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world,  
*Recognizing* that those rights derive from the inherent dignity of the human person,  
*Considering* the obligation of States under the Charter, in particular Article 55, to promote universal respect for, and observance of, human rights and fundamental freedoms,  
*Having regard* to Article 3 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and Articles 6 and 9 of the International Covenant on Civil

and Political Rights, both of which affirm the right of all persons to life, liberty and the security of persons,

*Having regard* to Article 4 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and Article 8 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, both of which prohibit slavery and the slave trade in all its forms,

*Having regard* to Article 5 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and Article 7 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights both of which recognize the right of all persons to be free from cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment,

*Noting that* the Universal Declaration of Human Rights affirms the principle of the inadmissibility of discrimination and proclaims that all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights and that everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth therein without discrimination of any kind, including distinction based on sex,

*Noting that* States Parties to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights undertake to secure the equal rights of women and men to enjoy all economic, social, cultural, civil and political rights,

*Having regard* to the 1949 Convention for the Suppression of Traffic in Persons and the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others which states that prostitution and the accompanying evil of the traffic in persons for the purpose of prostitution are incompatible with the dignity and worth of the human person and endanger the welfare of the individual, the family, and the community,

*Recognizing that* the Convention Against Torture prohibits cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment or punishment,

*Having regard* also to the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women which obligates States Parties to take all appropriate measures, including legislation, to suppress all forms of traffic in women and exploitation of traffic in women,

*Having regard* also to the Convention on the Rights of the Child which obligates States Parties to protect the child from all forms of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse and obligates the States Parties to take all appropriate national, bilateral and multilateral measures to prevent (a) the inducement or coercion of a child to engage in any unlawful sexual activity, (b) the exploitative use of children in prostitution or other unlawful sexual practices and (c) the exploitative use of children in pornographic performances and materials,

*Noting that* the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination condemns any attempt to justify or promote racial hatred in any form,

*Noting that* the General Assembly, in the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, reaffirmed the principles and standards set forth in the basic instruments regarding the international protection of human rights,

*Concerned* that women's human rights are seriously threatened by the massive and growing sexual exploitation of women,

*Recognizing that* sexuality is integral to the human being and that women have the right to sexual integrity and autonomy,

*Recognizing further that* sexual exploitation, including prostitution, abrogates these rights and subordinates women as a group, and therefore violates human dignity and the right of equality,

*Concerned* that sexual exploitation inflicts grave harm and often takes the extreme forms of sexual slavery, torture, mutilation and death,

*Concerned* that sexual violence and prostitution are not inevitable but are forms of sexual exploitation,

*Recognizing that* the sexual exploitation of any woman is the sexual degradation of all women, deprives women of freedom of movement, and threatens women's safety and security, thus creating the conditions of sexual terrorism,

*Concerned* that human sexual exploitation, including prostitu-

tion, has increasingly become an integral part of national practices which have deprived women of their human rights,

*Recognizing* the need for a new convention that will affirm and expand the definitions of sexual exploitation which includes violence against women and prostitution as a violation of women's human rights,

*Considering* that there is no convention presently in existence which addresses sexual exploitation of adults,

*Desiring* to make more effective the struggle against sexual exploitation,

*Have agreed* as follows:

### *Part I: General Provisions*

#### *Article 1. Definition of Sexual Exploitation*

Sexual exploitation is a practice by which person(s) achieve sexual gratification, or financial gain, or advancement, through the abuse of a person's sexuality by abrogating that person's human right to dignity, equality, autonomy, and physical and mental well-being.

#### *Article 2*

Sexual exploitation takes the form of, but is not limited to:

a) The denial of life through female infanticide and the murder of women by reason of their gender, including wife and widow murder.

b) Subjection to cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment through the following: battering, pornography, prostitution, genital mutilation, female seclusion, dowry and bride price, forced sterilization and forced child-bearing, sexual harassment, rape, incest, sexual abuse, and trafficking.

c) Subjection to sexual abuse and torture, overt or covert, including sadistic, mutilating practices.

- d) Temporary marriage or marriage of convenience for the purpose of sexual exploitation.
- e) Sex predetermination.

### *Article 3*

The following shall apply throughout this Convention:

- a) Rape is sexual intercourse/sexual assault of any part of the body of a female of any age, by any means.
- b) Sexual harassment is the imposition of any unwelcome sexual acts, gestures, speech or materials.
- c) Prostitution is the use of a woman's body as a commodity to be bought, sold, exchanged, not always for money, and includes casual prostitution, street prostitution, prostitution sanctioned by socio-cultural practices, brothels, military prostitution, development prostitution, pornography, sex tourism, and mail-order-bride markets.
- d) Everything that is herein said about the sexual exploitation of women applies to men and boys in situations of sexual exploitation.

## *Part II: Sexual Exploitation*

### *Article 4*

States Parties condemn sexual exploitation of women and children in all of its forms and agree to formulate policies and practices affecting society to insure freedom from sexual exploitation by protecting control of one's body, sexual integrity, and sexual autonomy.

- a) States Parties recognize that some groups of women are rendered particularly vulnerable to sexual exploitation, such as minority and indigenous women, women subjected to racial discrimination, rural women and women in the migrating process,



ethnically and socially marginalized women, women workers particularly in free trade zones, women in the sex entertainment industry, female children, elderly women, women with disabilities that are physical and mental, including learning disabilities and mental retardation, and disabilities caused by substance abuse.

b) States Parties recognize that women are rendered particularly vulnerable to sexual exploitation in the following situations: armed conflict, natural catastrophe, poverty, incarceration, including that of political prisoners and females in immigration and juvenile detention centers, institutional care, certain family contexts, including that of child sexual abuse, domestic violence, forced and child marriages, homelessness, and refugee status.

### *Article 5*

States Parties shall punish perpetrators of sexual exploitation and redress the harm done to victims by developing penal, civil, labor and administrative sanctions. Victims shall be provided with assistance to prosecute their perpetrators. In the formulation and/or application of statutory, common, and customary law:

a) A woman's prior sexual history, including history in prostitution, cannot be used against her in any legal action.

b) Honor shall not be used to justify or defend against any act of sexual exploitation or violence against women.

c) It is an aggravating circumstance and not a defense of sexual exploitation that the perpetrator is the husband, father, other relative, or employer of the victim.

d) A woman's status as an illegal immigrant or stateless person shall not be used against her.

### *Article 6*

States Parties reject any policy or law that legitimates prostitution of any person, female or male, adult or child; that legalizes

or regulates prostitution in any way including as a profession, occupation, or as entertainment; and agree to adopt appropriate legislation that recognizes prostitution as an acute form of sexual exploitation, including the following:

a) Punishment of any person who procures, entices, or leads away by any means for the purposes of prostitution, another person, even with the consent of that person; exploits the prostitution of another person, even with the consent of that person; keeps or manages, or knowingly finances or takes part in the financing of a brothel; knowingly rents or lets a building or other place for the purpose of the prostitution of others.

b) Penalization of the customers, recognizing them as perpetrators to be criminalized while rejecting any form of penalization of the prostitute.

c) Where criminal sanctions exist against victims of sexual exploitation, States Parties shall repeal such sanctions.

d) Holding liable the producers, sellers, and distributors of pornography, recognizing that the pornography industry enlarges the demand for, promotes, and is actively engaged in sexual exploitation.

### *Part III: Global Situations of Sexual Exploitation*

#### *Article 7*

States Parties agree:

a) To reject State economic development policies and practices which channel women into conditions of sexual exploitation.

b) To insure that State policies and practices provide for the full economic development of women through their integration in dignified paid labor at a decent standard of living from which they have been deprived.

c) To adopt legislative and other measures to prohibit sex

tourism and to penalize those who organize tourism for the purpose of sexual exploitation, penalizing the organization of it as a practice of procuring and promoting prostitution. Such measures shall be adopted and implemented in both the countries from which the customers come and the countries to which they go.

d) To provide educational programs to change social and cultural patterns that promote the sexual exploitation of women.

### Article 8

States Parties agree:

a) To adopt measures to prevent and prohibit the trafficking in women for the purpose of sexual exploitation, in particular, prostitution.

b) To enact such regulations as are necessary for the protection of immigrant and emigrant women and children, both at the place of arrival and departure, and while en route.

c) To arrange for appropriate publicity warning the public of the dangers of the traffic in women and children.

d) To ensure supervision of railway stations, airports, seaports and en route, and of other public places, in order to prevent international traffic in women and children for the purpose of prostitution.

e) To ensure that the appropriate authorities are informed of the arrival of persons who appear, *prima facie*, to be principals and accomplices in or victims of such traffic.

### Article 9

States Parties recognize that there are certain types of work in the immigration process, such as domestic labor and entertainment, that are conducive to sexual exploitation and may lead to prostitution and shall take all appropriate measures to provide adequate protection to such victims of sexual exploitation including:



- a) Refuge, refugee status and protection, and repatriation of those who desire to be repatriated, whether victims of sexual exploitation have entered a country legally or illegally.
- b) Protection to insure that valid written contracts of employment are entered into, monitoring of the provisions of the contract, and protection of the migrant worker from sexual exploitation and abuse in the host country.
- c) The right to retain one's own passport and travel documents so that no person can be sold into prostitution or subjected to sexual favours by any other person.
- d) The right to shelter, medical care, counselling and other support services.
- e) The right of migrant women to be protected under existing labor laws of the recipient countries.

#### *Article 10*

States Parties shall insure that:

- a) All employers who sexually exploit or abuse migrant workers are held criminally and civilly liable.
- b) Persons or enterprises will be prohibited from and punished for promoting, profiting from, or engaging in any business involving the matching of women in marriage to foreign nationals, for example, mail-order-bride selling and pseudo-marriages.
- c) Under no circumstances can States construe this article to prevent women from migrating or travelling abroad.
- d) Their military, enforcement, and related civilian personnel, whether on or off base in foreign territory or in their own countries, shall be held legally liable and punished for engaging in prostitution of women and children.
- e) Their representatives, diplomatic officials, and related personnel shall be held criminally and civilly liable for sexual exploi-

*Article 11*

States Parties shall adopt special provisions to prevent the sexual exploitation of women during all wartime conditions, including those of ethnic and communal conflict, civil war, riots, and foreign intervention, and to protect women and children from sexual exploitation in refugee camps and evacuation centers. States Parties recognize the necessity for a special team of observers composed of a majority of women to monitor violations of human rights in the area of sexual exploitation and trafficking.

*Part IV: Support Services**Article 12*

States Parties agree to take appropriate measures to provide:

- a) Restitution to victims of sexual exploitation, and to insure that, notwithstanding the victims' immigration status, their reports of sexual exploitation receive a fair hearing.
- b) Women with educational programs and work in order to increase women's economic opportunities and enhance women's worth and status, thereby diminishing the necessity for women to turn to prostitution, notwithstanding the victims' immigration status.

*Article 13*

States Parties shall create and establish services for victims of sexual exploitation, including prostitution, such as shelters and other social services, and shall fund specialized health services and centers for prostitution alternatives that are voluntary and confidential and would provide the following:

- a) Prevention, treatment of, and testing for STDs and HIV.
- b) Substance-abuse rehabilitation programs.

- c) Training of medical staff to recognize sexual exploitation, including rape and prostitution, to give appropriate treatment, and to make referrals to appropriate services as well as to gather medical evidence for prosecution of crimes of sexual exploitation.
- d) Free and elective counselling and education services.
- e) Child care facilities and housing assistance.
- f) Income support.
- g) Preferential access to credit and loans to begin small-scale business.
- h) Non-sexist skills-training programs.

### *Part V: Procedural Measures*

#### *Article 14*

State Parties undertake to make the principles and provisions of the Convention widely known by appropriate and active means to adults and children alike.

#### *Article 15*

a) For the purpose of examining the progress made by States Parties in achieving the realization of the obligations undertaken in the present Convention, there shall be established a Committee on the Elimination of Sexual Exploitation which shall carry out the functions herein provided. The Committee shall consist of ten persons, consideration being given to equitable distribution of representatives from those countries from which and into which the women are trafficked into sexual exploitation. The members of the Committee shall be elected by States Parties from among their nationals and shall serve in their personal capacity, consideration also being given to equitable geographical distribution, as well as to the principal legal systems.

b) The members of the Committee shall be elected by secret

ballot from a list of persons nominated by States Parties. Each State Party may nominate one person from among its nationals.

c) Elections of the members of the Committee shall be held at biennial meetings of States Parties convened by the Secretary-General of the United Nations. At those meetings, for which two-thirds of the States Parties shall constitute a quorum, the persons elected to the Committee shall be those who obtain the largest number of votes and an absolute majority of the votes of the representatives of States Parties present and voting.

d) The initial election shall be held no later than six months after the date of the entry into force of this Convention. At least four months before the date of each election, the Secretary-General of the United Nations shall address a letter to the States Parties inviting them to submit their nominations within three months. The Secretary-General shall prepare a list in alphabetical order of all persons thus nominated, indicating the States Parties which have nominated them, and shall submit it to the States Parties.

e) The members of the Committee shall be elected for a term of four years. They shall be eligible for re-election if renominated. However, the term of five of the members elected at the first election shall expire at the end of two years; immediately after the first election the names of these five members shall be chosen by lot by the chairperson of the meeting referred to in paragraph c of this article.

f) If a member of the Committee dies or resigns or for any other cause can no longer perform her Committee duties, the State Party which nominated her shall appoint another expert from among its nationals to serve for the remainder of her term, subject to the approval of the majority of the States Parties. The approval shall be considered given unless half or more of the States Parties respond negatively within six weeks after having been informed by the Secretary-General of the United Nations of the proposed appointment.

g) States Parties shall be responsible for the expenses of the members of the Committee while they are in performance of Committee duties.

#### *Article 16*

a) The Committee shall elect its officers for a term of two years. They may be re-elected.

b) The Committee shall establish its own rules of procedure, but these rules shall provide, *inter alia*, that:

1) Six members shall constitute a quorum;

2) Decisions of the Committee shall be made by a majority vote of the members present.

c) The Secretary-General of the United Nations shall provide the necessary staff and facilities for the effective performance of the functions of the Committee under this Convention.

d) The Secretary-General of the United Nations shall convene the initial meeting of the Committee. After its initial meeting, the Committee shall meet at such times as shall be provided in its rules of procedure.

e) The States Parties shall be responsible for expenses incurred in connection with the holding of meetings of the States Parties and of the Committee, including reimbursement to the United Nations for any expenses, such as the cost of staff and facilities, incurred by the United Nations pursuant to paragraph c of this article.

#### *Article 17*

a) The States Parties shall submit to the Committee, through the Secretary-General of the United Nations, reports on the measures they have taken to give effect to their undertakings under this Convention, within one year after the entry into force of the Convention for the State Party concerned. Thereafter the States



Parties shall submit supplementary reports every four years on any new measures taken and such other reports as the Committee may request from States Parties, NGOs and other concerned parties.

b) The Secretary-General of the United Nations shall transmit the reports to all States Parties.

c) Each report shall be considered by the Committee which may make such general comments on the report as it may consider appropriate and shall forward these to the State Party concerned and concerned NGOs. That State Party and concerned NGOs may respond with any observations to the Committee.

d) The Committee may, at its discretion, include any comments made by it in accordance with paragraph c of this article, together with the observations thereon received from the State Party and any other concerned party, in its annual report made in accordance with this article. If so requested by the State Party concerned, the Committee also may include a copy of the report submitted under paragraph a of this article.

### *Article 18*

a) If the Committee receives reliable information which appears to it to contain well-founded indications that sexual exploitation as defined above is being practiced in the territory of a State Party, the Committee shall invite that State Party to co-operate in the examination of the information and to this end to submit observations with regard to the information concerned.

b) Taking into account any observations which may have been submitted by the State Party concerned, as well as any other relevant information available to it, the Committee may, if it decides that this is warranted, designate one or more of its members to make a confidential inquiry and to report to the Committee urgently.

c) If an inquiry is made in accordance with paragraph b of this article, the Committee shall seek the co-operation of the State

Party and any NGOS concerned. In agreement with that State Party, such an inquiry may include a visit to its territory.

d) After examining the findings of its member or members submitted in accordance with paragraph b of this article, the Committee shall transmit these finding to the State Party and any concerned party together with any comments or suggestions which seem appropriate in view of the situation.

e) All the proceedings of the Committee referred to in paragraphs a–d of this article shall be confidential, and at all stages of the proceedings the co-operation of the State Party shall be sought. After such proceedings have been completed with regard to an inquiry made in accordance with paragraph b, the Committee may, after consultations with the State Party concerned, decide to include a summary account of the results of the proceedings in its annual report made in accordance with article 17. The report of such proceedings should be considered public documents.

### *Article 19*

a) A State Party to this Convention may at any time declare under this article that it recognizes the competence of the Committee to receive and consider communications to the effect that a State Party claims that another State Party is not fulfilling its obligations under this Convention. Such communications may be received and considered according to the procedures laid down in this article only if submitted by a State Party which has made a declaration recognizing in regard to itself the competence of the Committee. No communication shall be dealt with by the Committee under this article if it concerns a State Party which has not made such a declaration. Communications received under this article shall be dealt with in accordance with the following procedure:

1) If a State Party considers that another State Party is not giving effect to the provisions of this Convention, it may, by written communication, bring the matter to the attention of that

State Party. Within three months after the receipt of the communication, the receiving State shall afford the State which sent the communication an explanation or any other statement in writing clarifying the matter, which should include, to the extent possible and pertinent, reference to domestic procedures and remedies taken, pending or available in the matter;

2) If the matter is not adjusted to the satisfaction of both States Parties concerned, within six months after the receipt by the receiving State of the initial communication, either State shall have the right to refer the matter to the Committee, by notice given to the Committee and to the other State;

3) The Committee shall deal with a matter referred to it under this article only after it has ascertained that all domestic remedies have been invoked and exhausted in the matter, in conformity with the generally recognized principles of international law. This shall not be the rule where the application of the remedies is unreasonably prolonged or is unlikely to bring effective relief to the person who is the victim of the violation of this Convention;

4) The Committee shall hold closed meetings when examining communications under this article;

5) Subject to the provisions of subparagraph 3, the Committee shall make available its good offices to the States Parties concerned with a view to an equitable solution of the matter on the basis of respect for the obligations provided for in this Convention. For this purpose, the Committee may, when appropriate, set up an *ad hoc* conciliation commission;

6) In any matter referred to it under this article, the Committee may call upon the States Parties concerned, referred to in subparagraph 2, to supply any relevant information;

7) The States Parties concerned, referred to in subparagraph 2, shall have the right to be represented when the matter is being considered by the Committee and to make submissions orally and/or in writing;

8) The Committee shall, within twelve months after the date of receipt of notice under subparagraph 2, submit a report:

- (i) If a solution within the terms of subparagraph 1 is reached, the Committee shall confine its report to a brief statement of the facts and of the solution reached;
- (ii) If a solution within the terms of subparagraph 1 is not reached, the Committee shall confine its report to a brief statement of the facts; the written submissions and record of the oral submissions made by the States Parties concerned shall be attached to the report.

In every matter, the report shall be communicated to the States Parties concerned;

b) The provisions of this article shall come into force when five States Parties to this Convention have made declarations under paragraph a of this article. Such declarations shall be deposited by the States Parties with the Secretary-General of the United Nations, who shall transmit copies thereof to the other States Parties. A declaration may be withdrawn at any time by notification to the Secretary-General. Such a withdrawal shall not prejudice the consideration of any matter which is the subject of a communication already transmitted under this article; no further communication by any State Party shall be received under this article after the notification of withdrawal of the declaration has been received by the Secretary-General, unless the State Party concerned has made a new declaration.

### *Article 20*

a) A State Party to this Convention may at any time declare under this article that it recognizes the competence of the Committee to receive and consider communications from or on behalf of individuals subject to its jurisdiction who claim to be victims of a violation by a State Party of provisions of the Convention. No communication shall be received by the Committee if it concerns a State Party which has not made such a declaration.

b) The Committee shall consider inadmissible any communication under this article which is anonymous or which it considers



to be an abuse of the right of submission of such communications or to be incompatible with the provisions of this Convention.

c) Subject to the provisions of paragraph b, the Committee shall bring any communications submitted to it under this article to the attention of the State Party to this Convention which has made a declaration under paragraph a and is alleged to be violating any provisions of the Convention. Within six months, the receiving State shall submit to the Committee written explanations or statements clarifying the matter and the remedy, if any, that may have been taken by that State.

d) The Committee shall consider communications received under this article in the light of all information made available to it by or on behalf of the individual and by the State Party concerned.

e) The Committee shall not consider any communications from an individual under this article unless it has ascertained that:

1) The same matter has not been, and is not being, examined under another procedure of international investigation or settlement;

2) The individual has exhausted all available domestic remedies; this shall not be the rule where the application of the remedies is unreasonably prolonged or is unlikely to bring effective relief to the person who is the victim of the violation of this Convention.

f) The Committee shall hold closed meetings when examining communications under this article.

g) The Committee shall forward its views to the State Party concerned and to the individual.

h) The provisions of this article shall come into force when five States Parties to this Convention have made declarations under paragraph a of this article. Such declarations shall be deposited by the States Parties with the Secretary-General of the United Nations, who shall transmit copies thereof to the other States Parties. A declaration may be withdrawn at any time by notification to the Secretary-General. Such a withdrawal shall not preju-



dice the consideration of any matter which is the subject of a communication already transmitted under this article; no further communication by or on behalf of an individual shall be received under this article after the notification of withdrawal of the declaration has been received by the Secretary-General, unless the State Party has made a new declaration.

#### *Article 21*

The members of the Committee and of the ad hoc conciliation commissions which may be appointed under article 19, paragraph a (5), shall be entitled to the facilities, privileges and immunities of experts on mission for the United Nations as laid down in the relevant sections of the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations.

#### *Article 22*

The Committee shall submit an annual report on its activities under this Convention to the States Parties and to the General Assembly of the United Nations.

#### *Article 23*

- a) This Convention is open for signature by all States.
- b) This Convention is subject to ratification. Instruments of ratification shall be deposited with the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

#### *Article 24*

This Convention is open to accession by all States. Accession shall be effected by the deposit of an instrument of accession with the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

*Article 25*

a) This Convention shall enter into force on the thirtieth day after the date of the deposit with the Secretary-General of the United Nations of the twentieth instrument of ratification or accession.

b) For each State ratifying this Convention or acceding to it after the deposit of the twentieth instrument of ratification or accession, the Convention shall enter into force on the thirtieth day after the date of the deposit of its own instrument of ratification or accession.

*Article 26*

a) Each State may, at the time of signature or ratification of this Convention or accession thereto, declare that it does not recognize the competence of the Committee provided for in Article 15.

b) Any State Party having made a reservation in accordance with paragraph a of this article may, at any time, withdraw this reservation by notification to the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

*Article 27*

a) Any State Party to this Convention may propose an amendment and file it with the Secretary-General of the United Nations. The Secretary-General shall thereupon communicate the proposed amendment to the States Parties with a request that they notify him or her whether they favour a conference of States Parties for the purpose of considering and voting upon the proposal. In the event that within four months from the date of such communication at least one-third of the States Parties favours such a conference, the Secretary-General shall convene the conference under the auspices of the United Nations. Any amendment adopted by a

majority of the States Parties present and voting at the conference shall be submitted by the Secretary-General to all the States Parties for acceptance.

b) An amendment adopted in accordance with paragraph a of this article shall enter into force when two-thirds of the States Parties to this Convention have notified the Secretary-General of the United Nations that they have accepted it in accordance with their respective constitutional processes.

c) When amendments enter into force, they shall be binding on those States Parties which have accepted them, other States Parties still being bound by the provisions of this Convention and any earlier amendments which they have accepted.

#### *Article 28*

a) Any dispute between two or more States Parties concerning the interpretation or application of this Convention which cannot be settled through negotiation shall, at the request of one of them, be submitted to arbitration. If within six months from the date of the request for arbitration the Parties are unable to agree on the organization of the arbitration, any one of those Parties may refer the dispute to the International Court of Justice by request in conformity with the Statute of the Court.

b) Each State may, at the time of signature or ratification of this Convention or accession thereto, declare that it does not consider itself bound by paragraph a of this article. The other States Parties shall not be bound by paragraph a of this article with respect to any State Party having made such a reservation.

c) Any State Party having made a reservation in accordance with paragraph b of this article may at any time withdraw this reservation by notification to the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

*Article 29*

a) A State Party may denounce this Convention by written notification to the Secretary-General of the United Nations. Denunciation becomes effective one year after the date of receipt of the notification by the Secretary-General.

b) Such a denunciation shall not have the effect of releasing the State Party from its obligations under this Convention in regard to any act or omission which occurs prior to the date at which the denunciation becomes effective nor shall denunciation prejudice in any way the continued consideration of any matter which is already under consideration by the Committee prior to the date at which the denunciation becomes effective.

c) Following the date at which the denunciation of a State Party becomes effective, the Committee shall not commence consideration of any new matter regarding that State.

*Article 30*

The Secretary-General of the United Nations shall inform all States Members of the United Nations and all States which have signed this Convention or acceded to it of the following:

a) Signatures, ratifications, and accessions under Articles 23 and 24.

b) The date of entry into force of this Convention under Article 25 and the date of the entry into force of any amendments under Article 27.

c) Denunciations under Article 29.

*Article 31*

a) This Convention, of which the Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish texts are equally authentic, shall be deposited with the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

b) The Secretary-General of the United Nations shall transmit certified copies of this Convention to all States.