

Note

The present text incorporates the original text of the *Convention on the Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization* adopted by the United Nations Maritime Conference in Geneva on 6 March 1948, as modified by amendments adopted by Assembly resolutions A.69(ES.II), A.70(IV), A.315(ES.V), A.358(IX)^{*}, A.400(X), A.450(XI), A.724(17), A.735(18)[†] and A.781(19). This edition incorporates changes to the Convention and Rules of Procedure of the Assembly up to December 2009.

The amendments entered into force on the following dates:

| | Date of entry into force |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| A.69(ES.II) of 15 September 1964 | 6 October 1967 |
| A.70(IV) of 28 September 1965 | 3 November 1968 |
| A.315(ES.V) of 17 October 1974 | 1 April 1978 |
| A.358(IX) of 14 November 1975 | 22 May 1982 [‡] |
| A.400(X) of 17 November 1977 | 10 November 1984 |
| A.450(XI) of 15 November 1979 | 10 November 1984 |
| A.724(17) of 7 November 1991 | 7 December 2008 |
| A.735(18) of 4 November 1993 | 9 November 1994 |
| A.781(19) of 13 November 1995 | 17 November 1997 |

Wherever in the texts the words “Chairman” or “Vice-Chairman/Chairmen” appear, this terminology shall be understood as extending to both men and women.

^{*} as corrected by resolution A.371(X) of 9 November 1977.

[†] 9 November 1994 in respect of Articles 16, 17 and 19(b).

[‡] 28 July 1982 in respect of Article 66.

CONVENTION ON THE INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ORGANIZATION*

The States Parties to the present Convention hereby establish the International Maritime Organization (hereinafter referred to as “the Organization”).

PART I Purposes of the Organization

Article 1

The purposes of the Organization are:

- (a) To provide machinery for co-operation among Governments in the field of governmental regulation and practices relating to technical matters of all kinds affecting shipping engaged in international trade; to encourage and facilitate the general adoption of the highest practicable standards in matters concerning the maritime safety, efficiency of navigation and prevention and control of marine pollution from ships; and to deal with administrative and legal matters related to the purposes set out in this Article;
- (b) To encourage the removal of discriminatory action and unnecessary restrictions by Governments affecting shipping engaged in international trade so as to promote the availability of shipping services to the commerce of the world without discrimination; assistance and encouragement given by a Government for the development of its national shipping and for purposes of security does not in itself constitute discrimination, provided that such assistance and encouragement is not based on measures designed to restrict the freedom of shipping of all flags to take part in international trade;
- (c) To provide for the consideration by the Organization of matters concerning unfair restrictive practices by shipping concerns in accordance with part II;

* See note opposite.

- (d) To provide for the consideration by the Organization of any matters concerning shipping and the effect of shipping on the marine environment that may be referred to it by any organ or specialized agency of the United Nations;
- (e) To provide for the exchange of information among Governments on matters under consideration by the Organization.

PART II Functions

Article 2

In order to achieve the purposes set out in part I, the Organization shall:

- (a) Subject to the provisions of Article 3, consider and make recommendations upon matters arising under Article 1(a), (b) and (c) that may be remitted to it by Members, by any organ or specialized agency of the United Nations or by any other intergovernmental organization or upon matters referred to it under Article 1(d);
- (b) Provide for the drafting of conventions, agreements, or other suitable instruments, and recommend these to Governments and to intergovernmental organizations, and convene such conferences as may be necessary;
- (c) Provide machinery for consultation among Members and the exchange of information among Governments;
- (d) Perform functions arising in connection with paragraphs (a), (b) and (c) of this Article, in particular those assigned to it by or under international instruments relating to maritime matters and the effect of shipping on the marine environment;
- (e) Facilitate as necessary, and in accordance with part X, technical co-operation within the scope of the Organization.

Article 3

In those matters which appear to the Organization capable of settlement through the normal processes of international shipping business the Organization shall so recommend. When, in the opinion of the Organization, any matter concerning unfair restrictive practices by shipping concerns is incapable of settlement through the normal processes of international

shipping business, or has in fact so proved, and provided it shall first have been the subject of direct negotiations between the Members concerned, the Organization shall, at the request of one of those Members, consider the matter.

PART III Membership

Article 4

Membership in the Organization shall be open to all States, subject to the provisions of part III.

Article 5

Members of the United Nations may become Members of the Organization by becoming Parties to the Convention in accordance with the provisions of Article 76.

Article 6

States not Members of the United Nations which have been invited to send representatives to the United Nations Maritime Conference convened in Geneva on 19 February 1948, may become Members by becoming Parties to the Convention in accordance with the provisions of Article 76.

Article 7

Any State not entitled to become a Member under Article 5 or 6 may apply through the Secretary-General of the Organization to become a Member and shall be admitted as a Member upon its becoming a Party to the Convention in accordance with the provisions of Article 76 provided that, upon the recommendation of the Council, its application has been approved by two thirds of the Members other than Associate Members.

Article 8

Any Territory or group of Territories to which the Convention has been made applicable under Article 77, by the Member having responsibility for its international relations or by the United Nations, may become an Associate Member of the Organization by notification in writing given by such Member or by the United Nations, as the case may be, to the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

Article 9

An Associate Member shall have the rights and obligations of a Member under the Convention except that it shall not have the right to vote or be eligible for membership on the Council and subject to this the word "Member" in the Convention shall be deemed to include Associate Member unless the context otherwise requires.

Article 10

No State or Territory may become or remain a Member of the Organization contrary to a resolution of the General Assembly of the United Nations.

PART IV Organs

Article 11

The Organization shall consist of an Assembly, a Council, a Maritime Safety Committee, a Legal Committee, a Marine Environment Protection Committee, a Technical Co-operation Committee, a Facilitation Committee and such subsidiary organs as the Organization may at any time consider necessary; and a Secretariat.

PART V The Assembly

Article 12

The Assembly shall consist of all the Members.

Article 13

Regular sessions of the Assembly shall take place once every two years. Extraordinary sessions shall be convened after a notice of sixty days whenever one third of the Members give notice to the Secretary-General that they desire a session to be arranged, or at any time if deemed necessary by the Council, after a notice of sixty days.

Article 14

A majority of the Members other than Associate Members shall constitute a quorum for the meetings of the Assembly.

Article 15

The functions of the Assembly shall be:

- (a) To elect at each regular session from among its Members, other than Associate Members, its President and two Vice-Presidents who shall hold office until the next regular session;
- (b) To determine its own Rules of Procedure except as otherwise provided in the Convention;
- (c) To establish any temporary or, upon recommendation of the Council, permanent subsidiary bodies it may consider to be necessary;
- (d) To elect the Members to be represented on the Council as provided in Article 17;
- (e) To receive and consider the reports of the Council, and to decide upon any question referred to it by the Council;
- (f) To approve the work programme of the Organization;
- (g) To vote the budget and determine the financial arrangements of the Organization, in accordance with part XIII;
- (h) To review the expenditures and approve the accounts of the Organization;
- (i) To perform the functions of the Organization, provided that in matters relating to Article 2(a) and (b), the Assembly shall refer such matters to the Council for formulation by it of any recommendations or instruments thereon; provided further that any recommendations or instruments submitted to the Assembly by the Council and not accepted by the Assembly shall be referred back to the Council for further consideration with such observations as the Assembly may make;
- (j) To recommend to Members for adoption, regulations and guidelines concerning maritime safety, the prevention and control of marine pollution from ships and other matters concerning the effect of shipping on the marine environment assigned to the Organization by or under international instruments, or amendments to such regulations and guidelines which have been referred to it;
- (k) To take such action as it may deem appropriate to promote technical co-operation in accordance with Article 2(e), taking into account the special needs of developing countries;

- (l) To take decisions in regard to convening any international conference or following any other appropriate procedure for the adoption of international conventions or of amendments to any international conventions which have been developed by the Maritime Safety Committee, the Legal Committee, the Marine Environment Protection Committee, the Technical Co-operation Committee, the Facilitation Committee or other organs of the Organization;
- (m) To refer to the Council for consideration or decision any matters within the scope of the Organization, except that the function of making recommendations under paragraph (j) of this Article shall not be delegated.

PART VI The Council

Article 16

The Council shall be composed of forty Members elected by the Assembly.

Article 17

In electing the Members of the Council, the Assembly shall observe the following criteria:

- (a) Ten shall be States with the largest interest in providing international shipping services;
- (b) Ten shall be other States with the largest interest in international seaborne trade;
- (c) Twenty shall be States not elected under (a) or (b) above which have special interests in maritime transport or navigation, and whose election to the Council will ensure the representation of all major geographic areas of the world.

Article 18

Members represented on the Council in accordance with Article 16 shall hold office until the end of the next regular session of the Assembly. Members shall be eligible for re-election.

Article 19

- (a) The Council shall elect its Chairman and adopt its own Rules of Procedure except as otherwise provided in the Convention.
- (b) Twenty-six Members of the Council shall constitute a quorum.
- (c) The Council shall meet upon one month's notice as often as may be necessary for the efficient discharge of its duties upon the summons of its Chairman or upon request by not less than four of its Members. It shall meet at such places as may be convenient.

Article 20

The Council shall invite any Member to participate, without vote, in its deliberations on any matter of particular concern to that Member.

Article 21

(a) The Council shall consider the draft work programme and budget estimates prepared by the Secretary-General in the light of the proposals of the Maritime Safety Committee, the Legal Committee, the Marine Environment Protection Committee, the Technical Co-operation Committee, the Facilitation Committee and other organs of the Organization and, taking these into account, shall establish and submit to the Assembly the work programme and budget of the Organization, having regard to the general interest and priorities of the Organization.

(b) The Council shall receive the reports, proposals and recommendations of the Maritime Safety Committee, the Legal Committee, the Marine Environment Protection Committee, the Technical Co-operation Committee, the Facilitation Committee and other organs of the Organization and shall transmit them to the Assembly and, when the Assembly is not in session, to the Members for information, together with the comments and recommendations of the Council.

(c) Matters within the scope of Articles 28, 33, 38, 43 and 48 shall be considered by the Council only after obtaining the views of the Maritime Safety Committee, the Legal Committee, the Marine Environment Protection Committee, the Technical Co-operation Committee or the Facilitation Committee, as may be appropriate.

Article 22

The Council, with the approval of the Assembly, shall appoint the Secretary-General. The Council shall also make provision for the appointment of such other personnel as may be necessary, and determine the terms and conditions of service of the Secretary-General and other personnel, which terms and conditions shall conform as far as possible with those of the United Nations and its specialized agencies.

Article 23

The Council shall make a report to the Assembly at each regular session on the work performed by the Organization since the previous regular session of the Assembly.

Article 24

The Council shall submit to the Assembly financial statements of the Organization, together with the Council's comments and recommendations.

Article 25

(a) The Council may enter into agreements or arrangements covering the relationship of the Organization with other organizations, as provided for in part XVI. Such agreements or arrangements shall be subject to approval by the Assembly.

(b) Having regard to the provisions of part XVI and to the relations maintained with other bodies by the respective Committees under Articles 28, 33, 38, 43 and 48, the Council shall, between sessions of the Assembly, be responsible for relations with other organizations.

Article 26

Between sessions of the Assembly, the Council shall perform all the functions of the Organization, except the function of making recommendations under Article 15(j). In particular, the Council shall co-ordinate the activities of the organs of the Organization and may make such adjustments in the work programme as are strictly necessary to ensure the efficient functioning of the Organization.

PART VII Maritime Safety Committee

Article 27

The Maritime Safety Committee shall consist of all the Members.

Article 28

(a) The Maritime Safety Committee shall consider any matter within the scope of the Organization concerned with aids to navigation, construction and equipment of vessels, manning from a safety standpoint, rules for the prevention of collisions, handling of dangerous cargoes, maritime safety procedures and requirements, hydrographic information, log-books and navigational records, marine casualty investigation, salvage and rescue, and any other matters directly affecting maritime safety.

(b) The Maritime Safety Committee shall provide machinery for performing any duties assigned to it by this Convention, the Assembly or the Council, or any duty within the scope of this Article which may be assigned to it by or under any other international instrument and accepted by the Organization.

(c) Having regard to the provisions of Article 25, the Maritime Safety Committee, upon request by the Assembly or the Council or, if it deems such action useful in the interests of its own work, shall maintain such close relationship with other bodies as may further the purposes of the Organization.

Article 29

The Maritime Safety Committee shall submit to the Council:

- (a) Proposals for safety regulations or for amendments to safety regulations which the Committee has developed;
- (b) Recommendations and guidelines which the Committee has developed;
- (c) A report on the work of the Committee since the previous session of the Council.

Article 30

The Maritime Safety Committee shall meet at least once a year. It shall elect its officers once a year and shall adopt its own Rules of Procedure.

Article 31

Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this Convention but subject to the provisions of Article 27, the Maritime Safety Committee when exercising the functions conferred upon it by or under any international convention or other instrument, shall conform to the relevant provisions of the convention or instrument in question, particularly as regards the rules governing the procedures to be followed.

PART VIII Legal Committee

Article 32

The Legal Committee shall consist of all the Members.

Article 33

(a) The Legal Committee shall consider any legal matters within the scope of the Organization.

(b) The Legal Committee shall take all necessary steps to perform any duties assigned to it by this Convention or by the Assembly or the Council, or any duty within the scope of this Article which may be assigned to it by or under any other international instrument and accepted by the Organization.

(c) Having regard to the provisions of Article 25, the Legal Committee, upon request by the Assembly or the Council or, if it deems such action useful in the interests of its own work, shall maintain such close relationship with other bodies as may further the purposes of the Organization.

Article 34

The Legal Committee shall submit to the Council:

- (a) Drafts of international conventions and of amendments to international conventions which the Committee has developed;
- (b) A report on the work of the Committee since the previous session of the Council.

Article 35

The Legal Committee shall meet at least once a year. It shall elect its officers once a year and shall adopt its own Rules of Procedure.

Article 36

Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this Convention, but subject to the provisions of Article 32, the Legal Committee, when exercising the functions conferred upon it by or under any international convention or other instrument, shall conform to the relevant provisions of the convention or instrument in question, particularly as regards the rules governing the procedures to be followed.

PART IX Marine Environment Protection Committee

Article 37

The Marine Environment Protection Committee shall consist of all the Members.

Article 38

The Marine Environment Protection Committee shall consider any matter within the scope of the Organization concerned with the prevention and control of marine pollution from ships and in particular shall:

- (a) Perform such functions as are or may be conferred upon the Organization by or under international conventions for the prevention and control of marine pollution from ships, particularly with respect to the adoption and amendment of regulations or other provisions, as provided for in such conventions;
- (b) Consider appropriate measures to facilitate the enforcement of the conventions referred to in paragraph (a) above;
- (c) Provide for the acquisition of scientific, technical and any other practical information on the prevention and control of marine pollution from ships for dissemination to States, in particular to developing countries and, where appropriate, make recommendations and develop guidelines;
- (d) Promote co-operation with regional organizations concerned with the prevention and control of marine pollution from ships, having regard to the provisions of Article 25;
- (e) Consider and take appropriate action with respect to any other matters falling within the scope of the Organization which would contribute to the prevention and control of marine pollution from ships including co-operation on environmental matters with other international organizations, having regard to the provisions of Article 25.

Article 39

The Marine Environment Protection Committee shall submit to the Council:

- (a) Proposals for regulations for the prevention and control of marine pollution from ships and for amendments to such regulations which the Committee has developed;
- (b) Recommendations and guidelines which the Committee has developed;
- (c) A report on the work of the Committee since the previous session of the Council.

Article 40

The Marine Environment Protection Committee shall meet at least once a year. It shall elect its officers once a year and shall adopt its own Rules of Procedure.

Article 41

Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this Convention, but subject to the provisions of Article 37, the Marine Environment Protection Committee, when exercising the functions conferred upon it by or under any international convention or other instrument, shall conform to the relevant provisions of the convention or instrument in question, particularly as regards the rules governing the procedures to be followed.

PART X Technical Co-operation Committee

Article 42

The Technical Co-operation Committee shall consist of all the Members.

Article 43

(a) The Technical Co-operation Committee shall consider, as appropriate, any matter within the scope of the Organization concerned with the implementation of technical co-operation projects funded by the relevant United Nations programme for which the Organization acts as the executing or co-operating agency or by funds-in-trust voluntarily provided to the Organization, and any other matters related to the Organization's activities in the technical co-operation field.

(b) The Technical Co-operation Committee shall keep under review the work of the Secretariat concerning technical co-operation.

(c) The Technical Co-operation Committee shall perform those functions assigned to it by this Convention or by the Assembly or the Council, or any duty within the scope of this Article which may be assigned to it by or under any other international instrument and accepted by the Organization.

(d) Having regard to the provisions of Article 25, the Technical Co-operation Committee, upon request by the Assembly and Council or, if it deems such action useful in the interests of its own work, shall maintain such close relationships with other bodies as may further the purposes of the Organization.

Article 44

The Technical Co-operation Committee shall submit to the Council:

- (a) Recommendations which the Committee has developed;
- (b) A report on the work of the Committee since the previous session of the Council.

Article 45

The Technical Co-operation Committee shall meet at least once a year. It shall elect its officers once a year and shall adopt its own Rules of Procedure.

Article 46

Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this Convention, but subject to the provisions of Article 42, the Technical Co-operation Committee, when exercising the functions conferred upon it by or under any international convention or other instrument, shall conform to the relevant provisions of the convention or instrument in question, particularly as regards the rules governing the procedures to be followed.

PART XI Facilitation Committee

Article 47

The Facilitation Committee shall consist of all the Members.

Article 48

The Facilitation Committee shall consider any matter within the scope of the Organization concerned with the facilitation of international maritime traffic and in particular shall:

- (a) Perform such functions as are or may be conferred upon the Organization by or under international conventions for the facilitation of international maritime traffic, particularly with respect to the adoption and amendment of measures or other provisions, as provided for in such conventions.
- (b) Having regard to the provisions of Article 25, the Facilitation Committee, upon request by the Assembly or the Council or if it deems such action useful in the interests of its own work, shall maintain such close relationship with other bodies as may further the purposes of the Organization.

Article 49

The Facilitation Committee shall submit to the Council:

- (a) Recommendations and guidelines which the Committee has developed.
- (b) A report on the work of the Committee since the previous session of the Council.

Article 50

The Facilitation Committee shall meet at least once a year. It shall elect its officers once a year and shall adopt its own Rules of Procedure.

Article 51

Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this Convention, but subject to the provisions of Article 47, the Facilitation Committee, when exercising the functions conferred upon it by or under any international convention or other instrument, shall conform to the relevant provisions of the convention or instrument in question, particularly as regards the rules governing the procedures to be followed.

PART XII The Secretariat

Article 52

The Secretariat shall comprise the Secretary-General and such other personnel as the Organization may require. The Secretary-General shall be the chief administrative officer of the Organization and shall, subject to the provisions of Article 22, appoint the above-mentioned personnel.

Article 53

The Secretariat shall maintain all such records as may be necessary for the efficient discharge of the functions of the Organization and shall prepare, collect and circulate the papers, documents, agenda, minutes and information that may be required for the work of the Organization.

Article 54

The Secretary-General shall prepare and submit to the Council the financial statements for each year and the budget estimates on a biennial basis, with the estimates for each year shown separately.

Article 55

The Secretary-General shall keep Members informed with respect to the activities of the Organization. Each Member may appoint one or more representatives for the purpose of communication with the Secretary-General.

Article 56

In the performance of their duties the Secretary-General and the staff shall not seek or receive instructions from any Government or from any authority external to the Organization. They shall refrain from any action which might reflect on their position as international officials. Each Member on its part undertakes to respect the exclusively international character of the responsibilities of the Secretary-General and the staff and not to seek to influence them in the discharge of their responsibilities.

Article 57

The Secretary-General shall assume any other functions which may be assigned to him by the Convention, the Assembly or the Council.

PART XIII Finances

Article 58

Each Member shall bear the salary, travel and other expenses of its own delegation to the meetings held by the Organization.

Article 59

The Council shall consider the financial statements and budget estimates prepared by the Secretary-General and submit them to the Assembly with its comments and recommendations.

Article 60

(a) Subject to any agreement between the Organization and the United Nations, the Assembly shall review and approve the budget estimates.

(b) The Assembly shall apportion the expenses among the Members in accordance with a scale to be fixed by it after consideration of the proposals of the Council thereon.

Article 61

Any Member which fails to discharge its financial obligation to the Organization within one year from the date on which it is due shall have no vote in the Assembly, the Council, the Maritime Safety Committee, the Legal Committee, the Marine Environment Protection Committee, the Technical Co-operation Committee or the Facilitation Committee unless the Assembly, at its discretion, waives this provision.

PART XIV Voting

Article 62

Except as otherwise provided in the Convention or in any international agreement which confers functions on the Assembly, the Council, the Maritime Safety Committee, the Legal Committee, the Marine Environment Protection Committee, the Technical Co-operation Committee or the Facilitation Committee, the following provisions shall apply to voting in these organs:

- (a) Each Member shall have one vote.

- (b) Decisions shall be by a majority vote of the Members present and voting and, for decisions where a two-thirds majority vote is required, by a two-thirds majority vote of those present.
- (c) For the purpose of the Convention, the phrase *Members present and voting* means Members present and casting an affirmative or negative vote. Members which abstain from voting shall be considered as not voting.

PART XV Headquarters of the Organization

Article 63

- (a) The Headquarters of the Organization shall be established in London.
- (b) The Assembly may by a two-thirds majority vote change the site of the Headquarters if necessary.
- (c) The Assembly may hold sessions in any place other than the Headquarters if the Council deems it necessary.

PART XVI Relationship with the United Nations and other organizations

Article 64

The Organization shall be brought into relationship with the United Nations in accordance with Article 57 of the Charter of the United Nations* as the

* Article 57 of the Charter of the United Nations reads as follows:

Article 57

1. The various specialized agencies, established by intergovernmental agreement and having wide international responsibilities, as defined in their basic instruments, in economic, social, cultural, educational, health, and related fields, shall be brought into relationship with the United Nations in accordance with the provisions of Article 63.
2. Such agencies thus brought into relationship with the United Nations are hereinafter referred to as specialized agencies.

specialized agency in the field of shipping and the effect of shipping on the marine environment. This relationship shall be effected through an agreement with the United Nations under Article 63 of the Charter of the United Nations,* which agreement shall be concluded as provided in Article 25.

Article 65

The Organization shall co-operate with any specialized agency of the United Nations in matters which may be the common concern of the Organization and of such specialized agency, and shall consider such matters and act with respect to them in accord with such specialized agency.

Article 66

The Organization may, on matters within its scope, co-operate with other intergovernmental organizations which are not specialized agencies of the United Nations, but whose interests and activities are related to the purposes of the Organization.

Article 67

The Organization may, on matters within its scope, make suitable arrangements for consultation and co-operation with non-governmental international organizations.

Article 68

Subject to approval by a two-thirds majority vote of the Assembly, the Organization may take over from any other international organizations, governmental or non-governmental, such functions, resources and obligations within the scope of the Organization as may be transferred to the Organization by international agreements or by mutually acceptable

* Article 63 of the Charter of the United Nations reads as follows:

Article 63

1. The Economic and Social Council may enter into agreements with any of the agencies referred to in Article 57, defining the terms on which the agency concerned shall be brought into relationship with the United Nations. Such agreements shall be subject to approval by the General Assembly.
2. It may co-ordinate the activities of the specialized agencies through consultation with and recommendations to such agencies and through recommendations to the General Assembly and to the Members of the United Nations.

arrangements entered into between competent authorities of the respective organizations. Similarly, the Organization may take over any administrative functions which are within its scope and which have been entrusted to a Government under the terms of any international instrument.

PART XVII Legal capacity, privileges and immunities

Article 69

The legal capacity, privileges and immunities to be accorded to, or in connection with, the Organization, shall be derived from and governed by the General Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the Specialized Agencies approved by the General Assembly of the United Nations on 21 November 1947, subject to such modifications as may be set forth in the final (or revised) text of the Annex approved by the Organization in accordance with sections 36 and 38 of the said General Convention.

Article 70

Pending its accession to the said General Convention in respect of the Organization, each Member undertakes to apply the provisions of appendix II to the present Convention.

PART XVIII Amendments

Article 71

Texts of proposed amendments to the Convention shall be communicated by the Secretary-General to Members at least six months in advance of their consideration by the Assembly. Amendments shall be adopted by a two-thirds majority vote of the Assembly. Twelve months after its acceptance by two thirds of the Members of the Organization, other than Associate Members, each amendment shall come into force for all Members. If within the first 60 days of this period of twelve months a Member gives notification of withdrawal from the Organization on account of an amendment the withdrawal shall, notwithstanding the provisions of Article 78 of the Convention, take effect on the date on which such amendment comes into force.

Article 72

Any amendment adopted under Article 71 shall be deposited with the Secretary-General of the United Nations, who will immediately forward a copy of the amendment to all Members.

Article 73

A declaration or acceptance under Article 71 shall be made by the communication of an instrument to the Secretary-General for deposit with the Secretary-General of the United Nations. The Secretary-General will notify Members of the receipt of any such instrument and of the date when the amendment enters into force.

PART XIX Interpretation

Article 74

Any question or dispute concerning the interpretation or application of the Convention shall be referred to the Assembly for settlement, or shall be settled in such other manner as the parties to the dispute may agree. Nothing in this Article shall preclude any organ of the Organization from settling any such question or dispute that may arise during the exercise of its functions.

Article 75

Any legal question which cannot be settled as provided in Article 74 shall be referred by the Organization to the International Court of Justice for an advisory opinion in accordance with Article 96 of the Charter of the United Nations.*

* Article 96 of the Charter of the United Nations reads as follows:

Article 96

1. The General Assembly or the Security Council may request the International Court of Justice to give an advisory opinion on any legal question.
2. Other organs of the United Nations and specialized agencies, which may at any time be so authorized by the General Assembly, may also request advisory opinions of the Court on legal questions arising within the scope of their activities.

PART XX Miscellaneous provisions

Article 76

Signature and acceptance

Subject to the provisions of part III the present Convention shall remain open for signature or acceptance and States may become Parties to the Convention by:

- (a) Signature without reservation as to acceptance;
- (b) Signature subject to acceptance followed by acceptance; or
- (c) Acceptance.

Acceptance shall be effected by the deposit of an instrument with the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

Article 77

Territories

(a) Members may make a declaration at any time that their participation in the Convention includes all or a group or a single one of the Territories for whose international relations they are responsible.

(b) The Convention does not apply to Territories for whose international relations Members are responsible unless a declaration to that effect has been made on their behalf under the provisions of paragraph (a) of this Article.

(c) A declaration made under paragraph (a) of this Article shall be communicated to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and a copy of it will be forwarded by him to all States invited to the United Nations Maritime Conference and to such other States as may have become Members.

(d) In cases where under a Trusteeship Agreement the United Nations is the administering authority, the United Nations may accept the Convention on behalf of one, several, or all of the Trust Territories in accordance with the procedure set forth in Article 76.

Article 78

Withdrawal

(a) Any Member may withdraw from the Organization by written notification given to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, who will

immediately inform the other Members and the Secretary-General of the Organization of such notification. Notification of withdrawal may be given at any time after the expiration of twelve months from the date on which the Convention has come into force. The withdrawal shall take effect upon the expiration of twelve months from the date on which such written notification is received by the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

(b) The application of the Convention to a Territory or group of Territories under Article 77 may at any time be terminated by written notification given to the Secretary-General of the United Nations by the Member responsible for its international relations or, in the case of a Trust Territory of which the United Nations is the administering authority, by the United Nations. The Secretary-General of the United Nations will immediately inform all Members and the Secretary-General of the Organization of such notification. The notification shall take effect upon the expiration of twelve months from the date on which it is received by the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

PART XXI Entry into force

Article 79

The present Convention shall enter into force on the date when 21 States, of which seven shall each have a total tonnage of not less than 1,000,000 gross tons of shipping, have become Parties to the Convention in accordance with Article 76.

Article 80

The Secretary-General of the United Nations will inform all States invited to the United Nations Maritime Conference and such other States as may have become Members, of the date when each State becomes Party to the Convention, and also of the date on which the Convention enters into force.

Article 81

The present Convention, of which the English, French and Spanish texts are equally authentic, shall be deposited with the Secretary-General of the United Nations, who will transmit certified copies thereof to each of the States invited to the United Nations Maritime Conference and to such other States as may have become Members.

Article 82

The United Nations is authorized to effect registration of the Convention as soon as it comes into force.*

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the undersigned[†] being duly authorized by their respective Governments for that purpose have signed the present Convention.[‡]

DONE in Geneva on 6 March 1948.

* The Convention entered into force on 17 March 1958.

† Signatures omitted.

‡ The delegates at the Conference placed their signatures after the English text only although it was understood that all three texts were equally authentic.

APPENDIX I*

* This appendix, relating to the composition of the Council, became obsolete with the amendment of Article 17 by Assembly resolution A.69(ES.II) of 15 September 1964, effective 6 October 1967.

APPENDIX II (Referred to in Article 70)

Legal capacity, privileges and immunities

The following provisions on legal capacity, privileges and immunities shall be applied by Members to, or in connection with, the Organization pending their accession to the General Convention on Privileges and Immunities of Specialized Agencies in respect of the Organization.

Section 1. The Organization shall enjoy in the territory of each of its Members such legal capacity as is necessary for the fulfilment of its purposes and the exercise of its functions.

Section 2. (a) The Organization shall enjoy in the territory of each of its Members such privileges and immunities as are necessary for the fulfilment of its purposes and the exercise of its functions.

(b) Representatives of Members including alternates and advisers, and officials and employees of the Organization shall similarly enjoy such privileges and immunities as are necessary for the independent exercise of their functions in connection with the Organization.

Section 3. In applying the provisions of sections 1 and 2 of this appendix, the Members shall take into account as far as possible the standard clauses of the General Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the Specialized Agencies.