

**Chair's Draft Text Proposal –13 August 2025 as at 2:50pm**

Dear Colleagues,

I am pleased to present my draft text proposal, developed with valuable contributions from the Co-Chairs of the Contact Groups and the Co-Chair's facilitators, whose dedication and efforts I sincerely thank. My commitment to incorporating as many of those inputs as possible into the document delayed my ability to deliver it earlier and to share it with the regional groups before plenary, as I originally intended.

This iteration reflects my vision of a balanced outcome, carefully considering the red lines, sensitivities, aspirations, and goals expressed by different delegations, always aiming to serve the common good while respecting the needs and interests of each State.

I encourage all delegations to view the draft text proposal as a whole, not just as a series of articles to analyze separately, but as a thoughtfully balanced framework that connects a wide range of positions into mutual understandings. The draft text proposal does not judge the issues it covers; instead, it aims to represent them fairly and accurately.

Looking ahead to the revised iteration, I will continue to promote focused dialogue and exchanges among members, aiming to refine further and strengthen the balance embodied in this draft.

The world looks to us to deliver an effective solution that can evolve over time to address plastic pollution through joint and cooperative action among all States.

I rely on your ongoing engagement, constructive spirit, and shared commitment as we work together toward this historic goal.

Yours,

Luis Vayas Valdivieso  
Chair of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on Plastic Pollution

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The Parties to this Convention,

*Recalling* Resolution 5/14 adopted by the United Nations Environment Assembly on 2 March 2022 to convene an intergovernmental negotiating committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment,

*Noting with concern* that the high and rapidly increasing levels of plastic pollution, including in the marine environment, represent a serious environmental and human health problem, negatively impacting the environmental, social and economic dimensions of sustainable development,

*Acknowledging* the important role played by plastics in human society, and stressing the importance of establishing effective mechanisms throughout the plastic life cycle to promote plastic circularity and prevent leakage of plastics in the environment,

*Reaffirming* the importance of promoting sustainable production and consumption of plastics through, among other things, product design and environmentally sound waste management, including through resource efficiency and circular economy approaches,

*Recognizing* the significant contribution made by all workers in the plastics sector, especially those that are in informal and cooperative settings and small and medium-sized enterprises, including waste pickers, to the collection, sorting and recycling of plastics in many countries,

*Underlining* the importance of science-based decision-making and the contributions of scientific, economic, social, and technical information, for the implementation of measures to reduce plastic pollution and to improve the understanding of the full life cycle of plastics and of the global impact of plastic pollution and measures to address them,

*Recalling* the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the UN Declaration on the Right to Development, the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the UN Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other Peoples Working in Rural Areas, and General Assembly Resolution 76/300 on the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment,

*Emphasizing* that nothing in this Convention is intended to affect the rights and obligations of any Party deriving from any existing international agreement,

*Understanding* that the above recital is not intended to create a hierarchy between this Convention and other international instruments,

Have agreed as follows:

## **ARTICLE 1**

### **OBJECTIVE**

The objective of this Convention is to protect the environment and human health from effects of plastic pollution, including in the marine environment.

## **ARTICLE 2**

### **PRINCIPLES AND APPROACHES**

1. In their actions to achieve the objective of this Convention, the Parties shall be guided, inter alia, by the following principles and approaches:

- (a) The principles contained in the Charter of the United Nations including the equal rights and self-determination of peoples, the sovereign equality and independence of all States, non-interference in domestic affairs, and universal respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all;
- (b) The principles contained in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, adopted in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in 1992, including common but differentiated responsibilities, sustainable development, the precautionary approach, the sovereign right of states to exploit their own resources pursuant to their own environmental and developmental policies, the polluter pays principle, and the responsibility to ensure that activities within their jurisdiction or control do not cause damage to the environment of other States or of areas beyond national jurisdiction;

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- (c) Measures taken to combat plastic pollution should not be applied in a manner which would constitute a means of arbitrary or unjustifiable discrimination between countries where the same conditions prevail, or a disguised restriction on international trade;
  - (d) The special circumstances of small island developing States, and of least developed countries, and the disproportionate impacts of plastic pollution on small island developing States;
  - (e) The use of the best available science and scientific information;
  - (f) The specific needs of developing country Parties arising from the adverse effects of plastic pollution and the impact of the implementation of response measures, including with respect to funding and the transfer of technology.

### **ARTICLE 3**

#### **DEFINITIONS**

For the purposes of this Convention:

- (a) “Party” means a State or regional economic integration organization that has consented to be bound by this Convention and for which the Convention is in force;
- (b) “Regional economic integration organization” means an organization constituted by sovereign States of a given region to which its member States have transferred competence in respect of matters governed by this Convention, and which has been duly authorized, in accordance with its internal procedures, to sign, ratify, accept, approve or accede to this Convention.

### **ARTICLE 4**

#### **PLASTIC PRODUCTS**

1. Each Party should take measures, as appropriate, and in accordance with its national circumstances and capabilities, to manage, reduce, or not allow, the manufacture, export or import of plastic products that meet one or more of the following criteria:
  - (a) Have a high likelihood of entering the environment and for which existing waste management systems do not prevent such likelihood;
  - (b) Are difficult to or not capable of being reused, recycled, composted, or redesigned to achieve reusability, durability, repairability and refurbishability;
  - (c) Disrupt or inhibit the circular economy on a large scale; or
  - (d) Contain intentionally added microplastics.
2. Each Party shall endeavour to ensure availability of information on plastic products which are subject to measures under paragraph 1 of this Article, on an online platform to be maintained by the secretariat.
3. Any Party may submit to the Conference of the Parties a proposal for introducing measures under the Convention with respect to a plastic product or products. The proposal shall include information on:
  - (a) use, release and leakages, recycling, and waste disposal of the plastic product or products;
  - (b) the risks posed by the plastic product or products to ecosystems and human health;
  - (c) the control measures implemented by the Party on the plastic product or products;
  - (d) availability of economically and socially feasible substitutes and alternatives for the plastic product or products; and
  - (e) other information for supporting the necessity of measures under the Convention.
4. The Conference of the Parties shall consider the proposals submitted in accordance with paragraph 3 of this Article, taking into account scientific and other advice as appropriate, and decide on any measures under the Convention with respect to the plastic product or products concerned.
6. The Conference of the Parties may develop guidance to assist Parties in the implementation of the measures to be taken to implement this Article.
7. Each Party shall report in accordance with Article 14 on measures taken to implement this Article.

## **ARTICLE 5**

### **PLASTIC PRODUCT DESIGN**

1. Each Party [shall][should], taking into account its national circumstances and capabilities, take appropriate measures to:
  - (a) improve plastic product design, in pursuit of circularity, including but not limited to resource efficiency and circular economy approaches, in order to:
  - (b) enhance the safety, durability, reusability, refillability, repairability and recyclability of plastic products;
  - (c) minimize releases and leakages of plastic waste and plastic products to the environment, including microplastics;
  - (d) improve the availability of relevant information on materials and additives in plastic products to promote safety, circularity and environmentally safe management of plastic waste;
  - (e) Foster research, innovation, development in plastic product design and use of alternatives and non plastic substitutes, where appropriate, including products, technologies and services in pursuit of circularity, including but not limited to resource efficiency and circular economy approaches.
2. The Conference of the Parties shall establish a process and schedule of work for the development of guidance or guidelines, as appropriate, to assist Parties in their implementation of this Article. The Conference of the Parties shall adopt and review such guidance and update it, as appropriate, at regular timeframes.
3. In implementing paragraph 1 of this Article, Parties should take into account relevant international standards and guidelines, where appropriate.
4. Each Party shall report in accordance with Article 14 on measures taken to implement paragraph 1 of this Article.

## **ARTICLE 6**

### **RELEASES AND LEAKAGES**

1. Each Party shall endeavour, taking into account its national circumstances and capabilities, to take measures to assess, prevent, reduce and, where possible, eliminate releases and leakages of plastics, where such releases and leakages contribute to plastic pollution, into the environment.
2. Parties should, as appropriate, cooperate in undertaking research to advance the prevention of releases and leakages of plastics into the environment.

## **ARTICLE 7**

### **PLASTIC WASTE MANAGEMENT**

1. Each Party shall take measures to ensure that plastic waste is managed in an environmentally sound manner, taking into account relevant guidelines on the environmentally sound management of plastic waste developed under the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal.
2. In circumstances where the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal does not apply, a Party shall take measures to allow transboundary movement of plastic waste only after taking into account relevant international rules, standards, guidelines and any guidance referred to in paragraph 4 of this Article.
3. Each Party should take measures to promote, within its national jurisdiction, the development of extended producer responsibility approaches and product circularity, and, as appropriate, other economic instruments serving the same purpose, taking into account the different roles of relevant stakeholders.
4. The Conference of the Parties, to support the implementation of this Article, may establish programmes of work and develop guidance, including to improve implementation of this Article.

## **ARTICLE 8**

### **EXISTING AND LEGACY PLASTIC POLLUTION**

1. Each Party should:

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- (a) Take measures to identify and evaluate the locations or accumulation zones most significantly affected by existing and legacy plastic pollution within its national jurisdiction;
  - (b) Cooperate, as appropriate, with other Parties, relevant international or regional organizations or other stakeholders to identify and evaluate the locations or accumulation zones most significantly affected by existing and legacy plastic pollution in areas beyond national jurisdiction;
  - (c) Take appropriate remediation measures, with respect to existing and legacy plastic pollution in such identified affected locations or accumulation zones, subject to and in accordance with any guidance developed under paragraph 2 of this Article.

2. The Conference of the Parties may adopt guidance and establish a relevant mechanism to facilitate the implementation of this Article.

## **ARTICLE 9**

### **JUST TRANSITION**

1. In implementing this Convention, each Party should, as appropriate and taking into account national circumstances and capabilities, promote and facilitate a just transition, in particular for those disproportionately impacted, with a view to promoting decent work, opportunities and livelihoods and enhancing social protection.
2. In taking measures to implement paragraph 1 of this Article, each Party should take into account, as appropriate, the situation of and engage workers in the formal and informal sectors, including workers in the plastic industry, waste pickers, artisanal and small-scale fishers, and those whose livelihoods depend on small-scale and artisanal fisheries, as well as disproportionately affected communities and groups.
3. Parties shall cooperate, as appropriate, in implementing this Article, including through knowledge exchange, capacity-building.

## **ARTICLE 10**

### **FINANCIAL RESOURCES AND MECHANISM**

1. Each Party shall provide, within its capabilities, resources for those national activities that are intended to achieve the objectives of this Convention, taking into account national policies, priorities, plans, and programmes. Such resources may include domestic funding through relevant policies, development strategies and national budgets, and bilateral and multilateral funding, as well as private sector investment and contributions, as appropriate.
2. The extent to which developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition will effectively implement their obligations under this Convention will depend upon the availability and accessibility of financial resources, capacity-building, technical assistance, technology transfer and international cooperation provided in accordance with this Convention.
3. The provision of support in line with the obligations set out in this Convention should take into account the specific needs and circumstances of developing country Parties, in particular least developed countries and small island developing States, and Parties with economies in transition.
4. Developed country Parties and Parties with financial capacity to do so should provide financial resources to support developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition to fulfil their obligations under this Convention. Financial resources shall be grant-based and concessional in nature and consistent with the needs, circumstances and priorities of each Party receiving such support.
5. To increase support for the implementation of this Convention, Parties shall encourage regular contributions from other sources, including other Parties, multilateral organizations, agencies and funds.
6. Parties should also promote an enabling environment for private finance and encourage public-private financing partnerships, with the aim of generating complementary and additional finance flows towards the achievement of the objective of the Convention.
7. A mechanism for the provision of adequate, accessible, new, predictable, and timely financial resources is hereby established. The mechanism shall include:
  - (a) The Global Environment Facility Trust Fund; and
  - (b) A new dedicated multilateral fund established under this Convention;with distinct functions to be defined for each entity by the Conference of the Parties.

8. The mechanism shall provide financial resources on a grant or concessional basis to meet the agreed incremental costs in support of the implementation of this Convention.
9. Parties, within their respective capabilities, are invited to contribute to the mechanism. The Mechanism shall encourage the provision of resources from other sources, including the private sector, and shall seek to leverage such resources for the activities it supports.
10. For the purposes of this Convention, the above-mentioned entities shall operate under the guidance of and be accountable to the Conference of the Parties.
11. The Conference of the Parties and the entities comprising the mechanism shall agree upon, at the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties, arrangements to give effect to the above paragraphs of this Article.
12. The Conference of the Parties shall review, no later than its third meeting, and thereafter on a periodic basis, the effectiveness and adequacy of the mechanism and take appropriate measures in that regard.

## **ARTICLE 11**

### **CAPACITY BUILDING, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER, INCLUDING INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION**

1. Parties are encouraged to cooperate to fulfil the objectives of this Convention. Developed country Parties should provide effective, timely and appropriate capacity building, technical assistance and technology transfer to assist developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition in implementing their obligations under this Convention.
2. Capacity building, technical assistance and technology transfer under this Article may be delivered through regional, subregional and national arrangements, as well as through multilateral, bilateral and partnership approaches.
3. Parties are encouraged to cooperate to promote and facilitate, in collaboration with the private sector and other relevant stakeholders, as appropriate, the development, transfer, diffusion, and access to up-to-date, environmentally sound, safe, and affordable technologies relevant to addressing plastic pollution in an environmentally sound manner.
4. Parties are encouraged to cooperate and coordinate, as appropriate, with relevant multilateral environmental agreements, intergovernmental organizations, scientific bodies, the private sector, and other stakeholders to facilitate the delivery of capacity building, technical assistance, and technology transfer to developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition. Such cooperation should support the effective implementation of this Convention and the achievement of its objective, while avoiding duplication of efforts.
5. The Conference of the Parties, at its first meeting, shall make recommendations on how capacity building, technical assistance and technology transfer could be further enhanced under this Article.

## **ARTICLE 12**

### **IMPLEMENTATION AND COMPLIANCE**

1. A mechanism, including a committee, is hereby established to facilitate the implementation of, and promote compliance with, the provisions of this Convention. The committee shall function in a manner that is transparent, facilitative, non-punitive, non-adversarial and expert-based.
2. The committee may consider issues on the basis of:
  - (a) Written submissions from any Party with respect to its own compliance;
  - (b) Requests from the Conference of the Parties;
  - (c) Information provided by the Secretariat with respect to national reports under Article 14.
3. The committee referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article shall examine both individual and systemic implementation and compliance issues.
4. The committee shall operate under the modalities and procedures adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its first meeting. The committee shall develop its rules of procedure, which shall be subject to approval by the Conference of the Parties.
5. The committee shall report periodically to the Conference of the Parties and make recommendations, as appropriate.

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## **ARTICLE 13**

### **NATIONAL PLANS**

1. A Party [shall][should] develop a national plan based on its national needs, circumstances and capabilities, containing measures it intends to take to implement this Convention. The plan should be transmitted to the Conference of the Parties through the Secretariat.
2. A Party may at any time adjust its national plan in order to enhance its level of ambition based on its national circumstances and capabilities.
3. In implementing paragraphs 1 and 2 of this Article, Parties should consult relevant national stakeholders to facilitate in the development, implementation, review and updating of their national plans.
4. Parties are encouraged to collaborate and coordinate on the development and implementation of sub-regional and regional plans to facilitate the implementation of this Convention, as appropriate.
5. The Secretariat shall make national plans submitted by Parties pursuant to this Article publicly available.
6. The Conference of the Parties shall, at its first meeting, adopt guidance on the implementation of this Article.

## **ARTICLE 14**

### **REPORTING**

1. Each Party shall report to the Conference of the Parties on the measures taken to implement the provisions of this Convention and on the effectiveness of such measures and the possible challenges in meeting the objective of the Convention.
2. Each Party shall submit to the Conference of the Parties its first report pursuant to paragraph 1 of this Article through the secretariat. The secretariat shall keep under review and regularly communicate to the Conference of the Parties the status of submissions of reports under this Article.
3. The Conference of the Parties shall, at its first meeting, adopt the format and periodicity for the national reporting referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article.
4. The Secretariat shall make national reports submitted by the Parties under this Article publicly available and regularly communicate to the Conference of the Parties on the status of submission of national reports.

## **ARTICLE 15**

### **EFFECTIVENESS EVALUATION**

1. The Conference of the Parties shall regularly evaluate the effectiveness of the Convention. The first evaluation shall be undertaken no later than six years after the date of entry into force of the Convention and thereafter at intervals to be decided by the Conference of the Parties.
2. The evaluation shall be conducted on the basis of available scientific, environmental, technical, financial and socio-economic information, which may include:
  - (a) The national reports referred to in Article 14;
  - (b) Information and recommendations provided by the committee referred to in Article 12;
  - (c) Other information the Conference of the Parties deems relevant, including the information referred to in Article 16.
3. The Conference of the Parties shall, at its first meeting, adopt the modalities for the evaluation referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article.

## **ARTICLE 16**

### **INFORMATION EXCHANGE**

1. All Parties are encouraged to facilitate the exchange of information in support of the objective of the Convention.
2. All Parties are encouraged to designate a national focal point for the exchange and communication of information under this Convention.

3. In exchanging the information referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article, all Parties are encouraged to utilize, as appropriate, an online clearinghouse to be maintained by the Secretariat.
4. All Parties are encouraged to learn from and build on existing processes, initiatives and networks to share knowledge and highlight successes, including examples of replication and scale-up of sustainable solutions.

## **ARTICLE 17**

### **PUBLIC INFORMATION, AWARENESS, EDUCATION AND RESEARCH**

1. Parties shall promote and facilitate access to information, public awareness, education and research related to plastic pollution and its effects relevant to the implementation of this Convention and shall promote, as appropriate, such efforts at the national, regional and international levels and cooperate, as appropriate, with relevant local and subnational governments, as well as intergovernmental and nongovernmental organizations.
2. Each Party shall promote and facilitate measures to raise awareness, improve understanding, and share information on voluntary and mutually agreed terms on the effects of plastic pollution, including by promoting public participation and public access to information.
3. Parties are encouraged, based on their national circumstances and capabilities, to advance scientific and technological research, development, innovation and cooperation, to address plastic pollution.
4. Parties shall, as appropriate, cooperate to strengthen, particularly in developing countries and countries with economies in transition, institutional, scientific and technical capacities, including through regional health networks to collect, analyse, and disseminate scientific data related to plastic pollution and its potential health implications in alignment with international standards and the best available science. Parties shall address these challenges by mobilizing finance, technologies and innovations, as well as capacity building.

## **ARTICLE 18**

### **CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES**

1. A Conference of the Parties is hereby established.
2. The first meeting of the Conference of the Parties shall be convened no later than one year after the date of entry into force of this Convention. Thereafter, ordinary meetings of the Conference of the Parties shall be held every two years unless the Conference of the Parties decides otherwise.
3. Extraordinary meetings of the Conference of the Parties shall be held at such other times as may be deemed necessary by the Conference of the Parties, or at the written request of any Party, provided that, within six months of the request being communicated to the Parties by the Secretariat, it is supported by at least one third of the Parties.
4. The Conference of the Parties shall by consensus agree upon and adopt at its first meeting rules of procedure and financial rules for itself and any of its subsidiary bodies, as well as financial provisions governing the functioning of the Secretariat.
5. The Conference of the Parties shall keep the implementation of the Convention under continuous review. It shall perform the functions assigned to it by this Convention and, to that end, shall:
  - (a) Establish such subsidiary bodies as it considers necessary for the implementation of the Convention;
  - (b) Cooperate, where appropriate, with competent international organizations and intergovernmental and non-governmental bodies;
  - (c) Adopt decisions related to the implementation of the Convention;
  - (d) Undertake other functions identified in this Convention or as may be required for its implementation.
6. The United Nations, its specialized agencies and related organizations, as well as any State not a Party to this Convention, may be represented at meetings of the Conference of the Parties as observers. Any body or agency, whether national or international, governmental or nongovernmental, that is qualified in matters covered by this Convention and has informed the Secretariat of its wish to be represented at a meeting of the Conference of the Parties as an observer may be admitted unless at least one third of the Parties present at the meeting object. The admission and participation of observers shall be subject to the rules of procedure adopted by the Conference of the Parties.



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## **ARTICLE 19**

### **SUBSIDIARY BODIES**

The Conference of the Parties shall, at its first meeting, establish a subsidiary body or bodies to provide scientific and technical information, assessments and advice, to support informed decision-making by the Conference of the Parties and to assist it in the assessment and review of the effective implementation of the Convention.

## **ARTICLE 20**

### **SECRETARIAT**

1. A Secretariat is hereby established.
2. The functions of the Secretariat shall be to:
  - (a) Prepare and arrange for meetings of the Conference of the Parties, and its subsidiary bodies, and provide them with services as required;
  - (b) Facilitate, upon request, assistance to Parties to support their implementation of this Convention;
  - (c) Prepare and make available to the Parties such reports as may be requested by the Conference of the Parties;
  - (d) Coordinate its activities, as appropriate, with the secretariats of other relevant international bodies and instruments;
  - (e) Enter, under the overall guidance of the Conference of the Parties, into such administrative and contractual arrangements as may be required for the effective discharge of its functions;
  - (f) Perform the other secretariat functions specified in this Convention and such other functions as may be determined by the Conference of the Parties.

## **ARTICLE 21**

### **SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES**

1. Parties shall cooperate in order to prevent disputes and shall seek to settle any dispute between them concerning the interpretation or application of this Convention through negotiation or other peaceful means of their own choice.
2. When ratifying, accepting, approving or acceding to this Convention, or at any time thereafter, a Party that is not a regional economic integration organization may declare in a written instrument submitted to the Depositary that, with regard to any dispute concerning the interpretation or application of this Convention, it recognizes one or both of the following means of dispute settlement as compulsory in relation to any Party accepting the same obligation:
  - (a) Arbitration in accordance with procedures to be adopted by the Conference of the Parties;
  - (b) Submission of the dispute to the International Court of Justice.
3. A Party that is a regional economic integration organization may make a declaration with like effect in relation to arbitration in accordance with the procedure referred to in paragraph 2(a) of this Article.
4. A declaration made pursuant to paragraph 2 or 3 of this Article shall remain in force until it expires in accordance with its terms or until three months after written notice of its revocation has been deposited with the Depositary.
5. The expiry of a declaration, a notice of revocation or a new declaration shall in no way affect proceedings pending before an arbitral tribunal or the International Court of Justice, unless the parties to the dispute otherwise agree.
6. If the parties to a dispute have not accepted the same means of dispute settlement pursuant to paragraph 2 or 3 of this Article, and if they have not been able to settle their dispute through the means mentioned in paragraph 1 of this Article within twelve months following notification by one party to another that a dispute exists between them, the dispute shall be submitted to a conciliation commission at the request of any party to the dispute. The conciliation commission shall render a report with recommendations. Additional procedures relating to the conciliation commission shall be included in a decision to be adopted by the Conference of the Parties no later than at its second meeting.

## **ARTICLE 22**

### **AMENDMENTS TO THE CONVENTION**

1. Amendments to this Convention may be proposed by any Party.
2. Amendments to this Convention shall be adopted at a meeting of the Conference of the Parties. The text of any proposed amendment shall be communicated to the Parties by the Secretariat at least six months before the meeting at which it is proposed for adoption. The Secretariat shall also communicate the proposed amendment to the signatories to this Convention and, for information, to the Depositary.
3. The Parties shall make every effort to reach agreement on any proposed amendment to this Convention by consensus. If all efforts at consensus have been exhausted, and no agreement reached, the amendment shall as a last resort be adopted by a three-fourths majority vote of the Parties present and voting at the meeting.
4. An adopted amendment shall be communicated by the Depositary to all Parties for ratification, acceptance or approval.
5. Ratification, acceptance or approval of an amendment shall be notified to the Depositary in writing. An amendment adopted in accordance with paragraph 3 of this Article shall enter into force for the Parties having consented to be bound by it on the ninetieth day after the date of deposit of instruments of ratification, acceptance or approval by at least three-fourths of the Parties that were Parties at the time at which the amendment was adopted. Thereafter, the amendment shall enter into force for any other Party on the ninetieth day after the date on which that Party deposits its instrument of ratification, acceptance or approval of the amendment.

## **ARTICLE 23**

### **ADOPTION AND AMENDMENT OF ANNEXES**

1. Annexes to this Convention shall form an integral part thereof and, unless expressly provided otherwise, a reference to this Convention constitutes at the same time a reference to any annexes thereto.
2. Any annexes adopted after the entry into force of this Convention shall be restricted to procedural, scientific, technical or administrative matters.
3. The following procedure shall apply to the proposal, adoption and entry into force of annexes to this Convention:
  - (a) Annexes shall be proposed and adopted according to the procedure laid down in paragraphs 1 to 3 of Article 22;
  - (b) Any Party that is unable to accept an annex, except for Parties that have made declarations with regard to any annex in accordance with paragraph 4 of Article 26 shall so notify the Depositary, in writing, within one year from the date of communication by the Depositary of the adoption of such annex. The Depositary shall without delay notify all Parties of any such notification received. A Party may at any time notify the Depositary, in writing, that it withdraws a previous notification of non-acceptance in respect of an annex, and the annex shall thereupon enter into force for that Party subject to subparagraph (c) below;
  - (c) On the expiry of one year from the date of the communication by the Depositary of the adoption of an annex, the annex shall enter into force for all Parties that have not submitted a notification of non-acceptance in accordance with the provisions of subparagraph (b) above.
4. The proposal, adoption and entry into force of amendments to annexes to this Convention shall be subject to the same procedures as for the proposal, adoption and entry into force of annexes to the Convention, except that an amendment to an annex shall not enter into force with regard to any Party that has made a declaration with regard to amendment of annexes in accordance with paragraph 4 of Article 26, in which case any such amendment shall enter into force for such a Party on the ninetieth day after the date it has deposited with the Depositary its instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession with respect to such amendment. If an annex or amendment to an annex is related to an amendment to this Convention the annex or amendment shall not enter into force until such time as the amendment to the Convention enters into force.

## **ARTICLE 24**

### **RIGHT TO VOTE**

1. Each Party to this Convention shall have one vote, except as provided for in paragraph 2 in this Article.
2. A regional economic integration organization, on matters within its competence, shall exercise its right to vote with a number of votes equal to the number of its member States [accredited and present at the time of the vote] that

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are Parties to this Convention. Such an organization shall not exercise its right to vote if any of its member States exercises its right to vote, and vice versa.

## **ARTICLE 25**

### **SIGNATURE**

This Convention shall be opened for signature at [city], [country], by all States and regional economic integration organizations on [--], and thereafter at the United Nations Headquarters in New York from [--] to [--].

## **ARTICLE 26**

### **RATIFICATION, ACCEPTANCE, APPROVAL OR ACCESSION**

1. This Convention shall be subject to ratification, acceptance or approval by States and by regional economic integration organizations. It shall be open for accession by States and by regional economic integration organizations from the day after the date on which the Convention is closed for signature. Instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession shall be deposited with the Depositary.
2. Any regional economic integration organization that becomes a Party to this Convention without any of its member States being a Party shall be bound by all the obligations under the Convention. In the case of such organizations, one or more of whose member States is a Party to this Convention, the organization and its member States shall decide on their respective responsibilities for the performance of their obligations under the Convention. In such cases, the organization and the member States shall not be entitled to exercise rights under the Convention concurrently.
3. In its instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, a regional economic integration organization shall declare the extent of its competence in respect of the matters governed by this Convention. Any such organization shall also inform the Depositary, who shall in turn inform the Parties, of any relevant modification of the extent of its competence.
4. In its instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, any Party may declare that, with regard to it, any annex and amendment to an annex shall enter into force only upon the deposit of its instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession with respect thereto.

## **ARTICLE 27**

### **ENTRY INTO FORCE**

1. This Convention shall enter into force on the [90<sup>th</sup>] [120<sup>th</sup>] day after the date of deposit of the [50<sup>th</sup>][60<sup>th</sup>][97<sup>th</sup>] instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession.
2. For each State or regional economic integration organization that ratifies, accepts or approves this Convention or accedes thereto after the deposit of the [50<sup>th</sup>][60<sup>th</sup>][97<sup>th</sup>] instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, the Convention shall enter into force on the [90<sup>th</sup>] [120<sup>th</sup>] day after the date of deposit by such State or regional economic integration organizations of its instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession.
3. For the purposes of paragraphs 1 and 2 of this Article, any instrument deposited by a regional economic integration organizations shall not be counted as additional to those deposited by member States of that organization.

## **ARTICLE 28**

### **RESERVATIONS**

No reservations may be made to this Convention.

## **ARTICLE 29**

### **WITHDRAWAL**

1. At any time after three years from the date on which this Convention has entered into force for a Party, that Party may withdraw from the Convention by giving written notification to the Depositary.
2. Any such withdrawal shall take effect upon expiry of one year from the date of receipt by the Depositary of the notification of withdrawal, or on such later date as may be specified in the notification of withdrawal.

**ARTICLE 30**

**DEPOSITARY**

The Secretary-General of the United Nations shall be the Depositary of this Convention.

**ARTICLE 31**

**AUTHENTIC TEXTS**

The original of this Convention, of which the Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish texts are equally authentic, shall be deposited with the Depositary.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the undersigned, being duly authorized to that effect, have signed this Convention.

Done at [--] on this day of [--]