

- (b) adequate controls are provided under any other enactment; or
- (c) the person meets such other requirements as the Minister may prescribe.

25. (1) The Director shall —

- (a) maintain a register containing prescribed particulars of issued waste management facility licences which are in force;
- (b) secure that the register is open for inspection at its principal office by members of the public free of charge at all reasonable hours; and
- (c) afford a member of the public reasonable facilities for obtaining from him on payment of reasonable charges copies of entries in the register.

Public Register
of issued waste
management
facility licences

26. The Minister may by Order direct the closure of any waste management facility on the grounds of risk of pollution of the environment or harm to human, animal or plant life.

Closure of
facility by order
of Minister

27. Any person aggrieved by a decision under this Part may, within thirty days of such decision, appeal against such decision to the Minister or to the court on a matter of law.

Appeals

28. (1) Any person who contravenes any of the provision of this Part shall be guilty of an offence and liable to a fine not exceeding P8 000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding seven years.

Offence and
penalty

(2) It shall be a defence for a person charged with an offence under this Part to prove that he —

- (a) took care to inform himself from persons who were in a position to provide information and to verify such information, as to whether the management of waste to which the charge relates would be in contravention of this Part;
- (b) acted under instructions from his employer and did not know that the keeping, treating or disposal of waste was in contravention of this Part;
- (c) took all such steps as were reasonably open to him to ensure that the conditions of the waste management facility licence were complied with; or
- (d) performed the acts specified in the charge in an emergency in order to avoid danger to the public and that as soon as practicable they were reported to the local authority.

PART VII*Powers and Duties of Local Authorities (ss 29-33)*Collection of
waste

29. (1) A local authority shall, at a prescribed fee, arrange for the collection and disposal of all household waste in its area except waste which is situated at a place which in the opinion of the local authority is isolated, inaccessible or which is produced in such small quantities that the cost of collecting it would be high, or that the person who controls the waste is capable of collecting it.

(2) A person who arranges with the local authority for the collection of waste other than household waste shall pay a prescribed fee to the local authority for the collection and disposal of that waste.

(3) A local authority shall make such arrangements, without charge, for the emptying of privies serving one or more private dwellings in its area as it considers appropriate.

(4) Anything collected under arrangements made by a local authority under this section shall belong to the local authority.

Receptacles for
house hold
waste

30. (1) In pursuance of the requirement for a local authority to arrange for the collection of household waste in its area, under section 29, the local authority may, by a notice served on the occupier of the premises, require him to place the waste for collection in receptacles which shall be of a kind and number as may be specified in the notice.

(2) The kind and number of receptacles under subsection (1) to be used shall be such as are reasonable having regard to the locality and the type of waste concerned.

(3) A local authority may, at the request of any person, supply him, at a prescribed fee, with receptacles for collection of commercial or industrial waste.

Disposal of
waste

31. (1) Each local authority shall deliver for disposal all waste which is collected by it to a licensed waste management facility with the exception of any household waste which the local authority may decide to retain for recycling.

(2) A local authority shall, in accordance with its local waste management plan —

(a) ensure that adequate arrangements are made within its area for the management of all the controlled waste expected to arise within that area;

- (b) inspect land on which waste has been deposited to detect whether the state of such land is in a condition to cause pollution of the environment or harm to human, animal or plant life and to take steps as appear to it reasonable to avoid pollution of the environment and harm to human, animal or plant life.

32. (1) If any controlled waste is deposited on any land or area of a local authority contrary to the provisions of this Act, the local authority may serve a notice on the occupier of the land requiring him to —

Removal of
waste

- (a) remove the waste from the land within a period specified in the notice, which shall not be less than twenty one days beginning with the date of service of the notice;
- (b) take, within a stated period, such steps as are specified with a view to eliminating or reducing the consequences of the deposit of the waste; or
- (c) remove the waste as mentioned in paragraph (a) and to take such steps as are mentioned in paragraph (b) within such a period as aforesaid.

(2) If a person on whom a notice is served in pursuance of subsection (1) fails to comply with the notice, he shall be guilty of an offence and be liable to a fine not exceeding P500, and a further fine not exceeding P100 for every day during which the offence continues;

(3) A local authority may remove any type of waste that has been deposited on any land or take other steps if it appears to the local authority that —

- (a) in order to remove or prevent pollution of the environment or danger to human, animal or plant life it is necessary to remove the waste forthwith or to take such other steps with a view to eliminating or reducing the consequences of the deposit of it;
- (b) there is no occupier of the land in question; or
- (c) the occupier of the land neither made nor knowingly permitted the deposit of the waste.

(4) Where the local authority exercises power conferred on it by subsection (3), in respect of any land, it shall be entitled to recover the cost of doing so and of disposing of any waste removed in the exercise of the power —

- (a) in a case falling within paragraph (a) of that subsection, from the occupier of the land unless he proves that he neither made nor caused nor knowingly permitted the deposit in question;
- (b) in any other case, from the person who deposited or caused or knowingly permitted the deposit of any of the waste in question on the land, except such of the cost as the occupier or other person shows was incurred unnecessarily.

(5) Any waste removed by a local authority in pursuance of this section shall belong to the local authority and may be dealt with accordingly.

(6) Each local authority shall, at every quarter, submit to the Department a report of the waste collected in accordance with the provisions of this Part and such report shall include details of —

- (a) the persons from whom the waste has been collected;
- (b) the nature and type of waste;
- (c) the percentage of the waste that is recyclable; and
- (d) the amounts realised from the collection of the waste in relation to the costs.

Power to
recycle waste

33. A local authority may make arrangements with any waste management industry in the private sector to —

- (a) recycle waste;
- (b) use waste for the purpose of producing from it heat or electricity or both; or
- (c) collect and dispose of controlled waste or to either collect or dispose of such waste.

PART VIII

Litter (ss 34-38)

Prohibition to
litter

34. (1) A person shall not deposit in any place anything which may contribute to the defacement of any place by litter, except as authorised by law or done with the consent of the owner or occupier of that place.

(2) Subsection (1) applies to any public place and includes the following —

- (a) any highway or road; or
- (b) any place within the jurisdiction of a local council.

(3) Any person who contravenes this section commits an offence and is liable to a fine not exceeding P300 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding two months or to both.

Abatement of
litter

35. A local authority may, with a purpose of promoting the abatement of litter, take such steps as it thinks appropriate.

Dumping of
litter

36. The Minister may make regulations with respect to the dumping of litter and in particular provide for —

- (a) the nature, design, number, provision and placing of containers and notices with respect to the dumping of litter;
- (b) the cleaning, clearing away and removal of litter and the emptying and maintenance of containers for the dumping of litter;
- (c) the facilities or methods of preventing the accumulation of litter; or
- (d) any other matter which he deems necessary or desirable to control and prevent the dumping of litter.

37. (1) For the purposes of this Act all local authorities are hereby designated principal litter authorities.

Principal litter
authority

(2) A principal litter authority shall undertake the cleaning of public roads and streets as identified by the Director, and the amenities of its area in the interests of public health.

(3) In determining the standard required for the cleaning of public roads and streets regard shall be had to the character and use of the land thereof and the measures practicable in the circumstances.

(4) A principal litter authority may, for the purpose of preventing accumulation of litter or refuse around any public place or road, issue notices imposing requirements on occupiers of premises in relation to such litter or refuse in accordance with this section.

38. (1) Where an authorised officer of a local authority or a police officer finds a person whom he has reason to believe has committed an offence under this section, he may give that person a notice offering him the opportunity of discharging any liability for that offence by payment of a prescribed penalty.

Notices for
depositing litter

(2) Where a person is given a notice under this section in respect of an offence believed to have been committed —

- (a) no proceedings shall be instituted for that offence before the expiration of fourteen days following the date of the notice; and
- (b) he shall not be convicted of that offence if he pays the fixed penalty before the expiration of fourteen days.

(3) A notice under this section shall give such particulars of the circumstances alleged to constitute the offence as are necessary for giving reasonable information of the offence and shall state —

- (a) the period during which, by virtue of subsection (2) proceedings will not be taken for the offence;
- (b) the amount of the fixed penalty; and
- (c) the person to whom and the address at which the fixed penalty may be paid.

(4) The form of notices under this section shall be such as the Minister may by regulations prescribe.

PART IX

Enforcement Powers (ss 39-44)

Power to obtain
information

39. (1) The Director shall have power to obtain, from any person, such information including books, records, returns, reports and any other document, as the Director deems necessary to enable him to carry out his functions under this Act.

(2) If so requested by the Director, a person shall provide such information as the Director may require and the Director may make copies of such information or take extracts therefrom.

(3) A person who gives information under this section, shall not give information which is false or misleading.

(4) Any information furnished, document or data produced under this section shall not be admissible in evidence against the person who provided it in any proceedings, other than for proceedings under section 42 which may be instituted against him.

(5) Any person who contravenes subsection (2) or (3) shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable to a fine not exceeding P500 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding four months.

Power of search
and seizure

40. (1) Subject to subsection (2) an authorised officer may enter any premises for the purpose of conducting a search and may seize any item during the course of an investigation in connection with the keeping, treating and disposal of waste.

(2) No authorised officer shall enter, conduct a search or seize any item in terms of subsection (1) unless such authorised officer has obtained —

(a) the consent in writing of the owner or of the person in charge of the premises; or

(b) a search warrant.

(3) An authorised officer shall carry at all times and, upon demand, present an identity card issued under section five.

(4) Any person who obstructs or interferes with any person in the performance of his functions under this section shall be guilty of an offence and liable to a fine not exceeding P500 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding four months or both.

Right of entry

41. (1) An authorised officer or any authorised officer of a local authority may enter upon any land, if it is considered that there is an immediate risk of serious pollution of the environment or harm to

human, animal or plant life, and take with him such assistance and equipment as may be considered necessary for the purpose of carrying out any powers, duties or functions under this Act.

(2) Any person authorised under subsection (1) shall, on demand by the occupier of the land, produce an identity card.

42 Where any damage is caused by poisonous, noxious or polluting waste which has been deposited on any land, any person who deposited it, or caused or permitted it to be deposited is liable for the damage to the land except where the damage —

Civil liability

strict liability

- (a) was due wholly to the fault of the person who suffered it; or
- (b) was suffered by a person who voluntarily accepted the risk thereof.

43. (1) Where a court is satisfied from information placed before it that circumstances relating to a particular matter, which matter is a subject of an investigation under this Act, render that matter urgent in that irreparable damage would be caused to animal, plant or human life by poisonous, noxious or polluting waste deposited on any land, if the matter were to be dealt with by the court at the proceedings in due course, the court may issue a provisional order —

Urgent provisional orders

- (a) prohibiting any person from depositing controlled waste on any land;
- (b) prohibiting any person from keeping, treating and disposing of hazardous waste without separating it from other types of waste;
- (c) ordering a person to remove any type of waste from any land;
- (d) preventing any potential environmental hazard; or
- (e) authorising the Department to take any action specified in the order.

(2) A provisional order issued under subsection (1) —

- (a) may be amended or withdrawn by the court on application by the Director or by a person affected by such order;
- (b) shall remain in force for such period or extended period as the court may from time to time determine;
- (c) shall, unless withdrawn or lapsed, remain in force until the proceedings are finalised.

(3) A provisional order issued under subsection (1) and any amendment, withdrawal or extension thereof shall, where the court so directs, be published in the *Gazette* and in such other media as the court may deem appropriate.

General penalty

44. Save where otherwise specifically provided for, any person who is guilty of depositing waste on land which gives rise to the pollution of the environment or harm to human, animal or plant life, shall upon conviction, be liable to a fine not exceeding P14 000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 10 years, or to both.

23/5/00
K. M. D. / 4

PART X*Application of the Basel Convention (s 45)*Application of
Basel
Convention to
regulations

45. (1) The Basel Convention, set out in the Schedule, including any amendments, appendices and resolutions thereto, shall apply in regulating the trans-boundary movement of waste.

(2) Regulations may be made to —

- (a) make such provision as appears necessary or expedient for the carrying out of and giving effect to the Basel Convention; and
- (b) impose fees and provide for the recovery of any expenditure incurred in giving effect to the Basel Convention.

(3) Where the Minister considers it in the public interest to do so, and in particular where he considers it necessary or expedient to do so in order to facilitate compliance by Botswana with the Basel Convention, he may give directions, either generally or in a particular case, to all or any public officer, or to such person holding a licence granted under the provisions of this Act, as to the carrying out of their powers, functions or conditions of their licence, and any person to whom such directions are given shall comply therewith.

(4) Where the Minister deems it necessary so to do, he may cause any directive made under subsection (3) to be published by notice in the *Gazette*.

(5) Any person required to and who fails to comply with any directive made under subsection (3) shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable to a fine not exceeding P1 400 or to imprisonment for a period not exceeding 12 months, or to both.

PART XI*General (ss 46-55)*

Public records

46. (1) The Director shall maintain records of the —

- (a) registration of waste carriers and producers;
- (b) existing waste disposal sites;
- (c) licensing of waste management facilities;
- (d) applications for licensing of waste carriers and waste management facilities;

- (e) revocation or suspension of issued licences under this Act;
- (f) appeals that relate to the decisions made under this Act;
- (g) certificates of completion or training on competence in waste management; and
- (h) convictions of licensees under this Act.

(2) Records maintained under subsection (1) shall be open to inspection by members of the public during normal Government office hours and members of the public may, at their expense, be permitted to take copies thereof.

(3) The Director may, with the approval of the Minister, on the request by any person, exclude information contained under subsection (1) on the grounds of national security.

47. A local authority shall, as respects land in its area subject to contamination, maintain a register in the prescribed form which shall be open for public inspection.

Public register

48. (1) Except with the Director's consent in writing, no person shall disturb —

Interference with waste

- (a) anything deposited at a place prescribed for the deposit of waste by the Director or local authority; or
- (b) anything deposited in a receptacle for waste whether for public or private use.

(2) Any person who contravenes subsection (1) shall be guilty of an offence and liable to a fine not exceeding P500.

49. Hazardous or clinical waste, of a kind as may be specified by Order, shall be —

Hazardous and clinical waste

- (a) collected, disposed of or treated in such manner as the Minister may prescribe;
- (b) packed and clearly marked and labelled as may be prescribed; or
- (c) conveyed by road, rail or over water, on motor vehicles or vessels whose design construction shall be subject to the prescribed standards.

50. The Minister may prescribe adequate classification, safe packaging and clear labelling of all controlled waste transported by road, rail, air or over water.

Classification packaging and labelling

51. (1) Each local authority and any person who produces, carries, keeps, treats, or disposes of controlled waste shall take all measures applicable to him in the circumstances to prevent the escape of the

Duty of care in respect of waste

waste from his control and to prevent contravention of any of the provision of this Act.

(2) Each person dealing with waste in terms of subsection (1) shall, at the point of consigning the waste to some other person, ensure that the person to whom the waste is being consigned is licensed to deal with waste in terms of this Act.

(3) Any person to whom waste has been consigned in terms of subsection (2) shall take all measures applicable to him to prevent the escape of the waste from his control and prevent the contravention of any of the provisions of this Act.

(4) Any person who contravenes this section shall be guilty of an offence and be liable to a fine of P1 000 and a further P500 for each day the contravention continues.

Body corporate
liability

52. Where an offence under this Act which has been committed by a body corporate is proved to have been committed with the consent or connivance of, or to be attributable to any neglect on the part of a director, manager, secretary or other similar officer of the body corporate, or any person who was purporting to act in such capacity, he, as well as the body corporate, shall be guilty of an offence and be liable in terms of this Act.

Inspection of
land

53. (1) Where, on an inspection by an authorised officer, it appears to the authorised officer that the condition of any particular land is such that pollution of the environment or harm to human, animal or plant life is likely to be caused, it shall be the duty of the Director to direct the local authority in whose area the land is situated to do such works and take such steps, whether on the land affected or on adjacent land as appears to the Director to be reasonable to avoid such pollution or harm.

(2) Where it appears to the Director that the condition of the land is such that pollution of public water is likely to be caused due to the concentration or accumulation in and emission or discharge from the land of noxious liquids caused by deposits of controlled waste on the land, it shall be the duty of the Director to consult the Department of Water Affairs on the steps considered necessary to take, to minimise or prevent pollution or harm to human, animal or plant life.

(3) The Minister may, by Order, require general or specific measures to be taken to prevent the pollution of public water.

Confidentiality
of information

54. (1) Subject to the provisions of this Act, no person shall, directly or indirectly, disclose to unauthorised persons confidential information he may acquire in the course of his duty as an officer, agent or other employee of the Department.

(2) The duty of confidentiality imposed on the officer, agent or other employee under subsection (1) shall not apply where civil or criminal proceedings arise involving the Department.

(3) Any person who contravenes this section shall be guilty of an offence and liable to a fine not exceeding P4 000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 3 years or to both.

55. (1) The Minister may, after consulting the Minister responsible for Health, make regulations prescribing anything which under this Act is to be prescribed or which, in his opinion, is necessary or convenient to be prescribed for the better carrying out of the objects and purposes of this Act, or to give force and effect to its provisions.

Power to make
regulations

(2) Without prejudice to the generality of subsection (1), Regulations may provide for the —

- (a) classification of waste;
- (b) recruitment, training and competence assessment of waste management officers;
- (c) registration of carriers;
- (d) registration of waste disposal sites;
- (e) registration of specified waste producers;
- (f) licensing of waste carriers;
- (g) licensing of waste management facilities;
- (h) seizure of carrier vehicles failing to comply with requirements of the Act;
- (i) trans-boundary movement of waste;
- (j) hazardous or clinical waste;
- (k) deposits on beverage containers and packaging;
- (l) landfill licensing;
- (m) duty of care of persons dealing with controlled waste;
- (n) collection, disposal and treatment of controlled waste;
- (o) recycling of waste;
- (p) powers and duties of local authorities in respect to waste;
- (q) packaging and labelling of waste;
- (r) litter prevention;
- (s) restriction or prohibition of waste management operations in or near a river, lake, pond or underground water;

- (l) submission of annual returns by the holders of any category of licence issued under the Act.
- (u) inspection of waste disposal sites, waste management facilities and vehicles licensed to carry waste; and
- (v) such other matters as may be necessary for the control of waste.

SCHEDULE
BASEL CONVENTION ON THE CONTROL OF
TRANS-BOUNDARY MOVEMENTS OF HAZARDOUS
WASTES AND THEIR DISPOSAL

(Section 45)

PREAMBLE

The Parties to this Convention,

Aware of the risk of damage to human health and the environment caused by hazardous wastes and other wastes and the transboundary movement thereof,

Mindful of the growing threat to human health and the environment posed by the increased generation and complexity, and transboundary movement of hazardous wastes and other wastes,

Mindful also that the most effective way of protecting human health and the environment from the dangers posed by such wastes is the reduction of their generation to a minimum in terms of quantity and/or hazard potential,

Convinced that States should take necessary measures to ensure that the management of hazardous wastes and other wastes including their transboundary movement and disposal is consistent with the protection of human health and the environment whatever the place of disposal,

Noting that States should ensure that the generator should carry out duties with regards to the transport and disposal of hazardous wastes and other wastes in a manner that is consistent with the protection of the environment, whatever the place of disposal,

Fully recognising that any State has the sovereign right to ban the entry or disposal of foreign hazardous wastes and other wastes in its territory,

Recognizing also the increasing desire for the prohibition of transboundary movements of hazardous wastes and their disposal in other States, especially developing countries,

Convinced that hazardous wastes and other wastes should, as far as is compatible with environmentally sound and efficient management, be disposed of in the State where they were generated,

Aware also that transboundary movements of such wastes from the State of their generation to any other State should be permitted only when conducted under conditions which do not endanger human health and the environment, and under conditions in conformity with the provisions of this Convention,

Considering that enhanced control of transboundary movement of hazardous wastes and other wastes will act as an incentive for their environmentally sound management and for the reduction of the volume of such transboundary movement,

Convinced that States should take measures for the proper exchange of information on and control of the transboundary movement of hazardous wastes and other wastes from and to those States,

Noting that a number of international and regional agreements have addressed the issue of protection and preservation of the environment with regard to the transit of dangerous goods,

Taking into account the Declaration of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment (Stockholm, 1972), the Cairo Guidelines and Principles for the Environmentally Sound Management of Hazardous Wastes adopted by the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNHIP) by decision 14/30 of 17 June 1987, the Recommendations of the United Nations Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods (formulated in 1957 and updated biennially), relevant recommendations, declarations, instruments and regulations adopted within the United Nations system and the work and studies done within other international and regional organisations,

Mindful of the spirit, principles, aims and functions of the World Charter for Nature adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations at its thirty-seventh session (1982) as the rule of ethics in respect of the protection of the human environment and the conservation of natural resources,

Affirming that States are responsible for the fulfilment of their international obligations concerning the protection of human health and protection and preservation of the environment, and are liable in accordance with international law,

Recognizing that in the case of a material breach of the provisions of this Convention or any protocol thereto the relevant international law of treaties shall apply,

Aware of the need to continue the development and implementation of environmentally sound low-waste technologies, recycling options, good house-keeping and management systems with a view to reducing to a minimum the generation of hazardous wastes and other wastes,

Aware also of the growing international concern about the need for stringent control of transboundary movement of hazardous wastes and other wastes, and of the need as far as possible to reduce such movement to a minimum,

Concerned about the problem of illegal transboundary traffic in hazardous wastes and other wastes,

Taking into account also the limited capabilities of the developing countries to manage hazardous wastes and other wastes,

Recognizing the need to promote the transfer of technology for the sound management of hazardous wastes and other wastes produced locally, particularly to the developing countries in accordance with the spirit of the Cairo Guidelines and decision 14/16 of the Governing Council of UNEP on Promotion of the transfer of environmental protection technology,

Recognizing also that hazardous wastes and other wastes should be transported in accordance with relevant international conventions and recommendations,

Convinced also that the transboundary movement of hazardous wastes and other wastes should be permitted only when the transport and the ultimate disposal of such wastes is environmentally sound, and

Determined to protect, by strict control, human health and the environment against the adverse effects which may result from the generation and management of hazardous wastes and other wastes,

HAVE AGREED AS FOLLOWS:

ARTICLE 1

Scope of the Convention

1. The following wastes that are subject to transboundary movement shall be "hazardous wastes" for the purposes of this Convention:
 - (a) Wastes that belong to any category contained in Annex I, unless they do not possess any of the characteristics contained in Annex III; and
 - (b) Wastes that are not covered under paragraph (a) but are defined as, or are considered to be hazardous wastes by the domestic legislation of the Party of export, import or transit.
2. Wastes that belong to any category contained in Annex II that are subject to transboundary movement shall be "other wastes" for the purposes of this Convention.
3. Wastes which, as a result of being radioactive, are subject to other international control systems, including international instruments, applying specifically to radioactive materials, are excluded from the scope of this Convention.
4. Wastes which derive from the normal operations of a ship, the discharge of which is covered by another international instrument, are excluded from the scope of this Convention.

ARTICLE 2

Definitions

For the purposes of this Convention:

1. "Wastes" are substances or objects which are disposed of or are intended to be disposed of or are required to be disposed of by the provisions of national law;
2. "Management" means the collection, transport and disposal of hazardous wastes or other wastes, including after-care of disposal sites;
3. "Transboundary movement" means any movement of hazardous wastes or other wastes from an area under the national jurisdiction of one State to or through an area under the national jurisdiction of another State or to or through an area not under the national jurisdiction of any State, provided at least two States are involved in the movement;
4. "Disposal" means any operation specified in Annex IV to this Convention;
5. "Approved site or facility" means a site or facility for the disposal of hazardous wastes or other wastes which is authorized or permitted to operate for this purpose by a relevant authority of the State where the site or facility is located;
6. "Competent authority" means one governmental authority designated by a Party to be responsible, within such geographical areas as the Party may think fit for receiving the notification of a transboundary movement of hazardous wastes or other wastes, and any information related to it, and for responding to such a notification, as provided in Article 6;
7. "Focal point" means the entity of a Party referred to in Article 5 responsible for receiving and submitting information as provided for in Articles 13 and 16;
8. "Environmentally sound management of hazardous wastes or other wastes" means taking all practicable steps to ensure that hazardous wastes or other wastes are managed in a manner which will protect human health and the environment against the adverse effects which may result from such wastes;
9. "Area under the national jurisdiction of a State" means any land, marine area or air space within which a State exercises administrative and regulatory responsibility in accordance with international law in regard to the protection of human health or the environment;
10. "State of export" means a Party from which a transboundary movement of hazardous wastes or other wastes is planned to be initiated or is initiated;
11. "State of import" means a Party to which a transboundary movement of hazardous wastes or other wastes is planned or takes place for the purpose of disposal therein or for the purpose of loading prior to disposal in an area not under the national jurisdiction of any State;

12. "State of transit" means any State, other than the State of export or import, through which a movement of hazardous wastes or other wastes is planned or takes place;
13. "States concerned" means Parties which are States of export or import, or transit States, whether or not Parties;
14. "Person" means any natural or legal person;
15. "Exporter" means any person under the jurisdiction of the State of export who arranges for hazardous wastes or other wastes to be exported;
16. "Importer" means any person under the jurisdiction of the State of import who arranges for hazardous wastes or other wastes to be imported;
17. "Carrier" means any person who carries out the transport of hazardous wastes or other wastes;
18. "Generator" means any person whose activity produces hazardous wastes or other wastes or, if that person is not known, the person who is in possession and/or control of those wastes;
19. "Disposer" means any person to whom hazardous wastes or other wastes are shipped and who carries out the disposal of such wastes;
20. "Political and/or economic integration organisation" means an organisation constituted by sovereign States 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, formally confirm or accede to it;
21. "Illegal traffic" means any transboundary movement of hazardous wastes or other wastes as specified in Article 9.

ARTICLE 3

National Definitions of Hazardous Wastes

1. Each Party shall, within six months of becoming a Party to this Convention, inform the Secretariat of the Convention of the wastes, other than those listed in Annexes I and II, considered or defined as hazardous under its national legislation and of any requirements concerning transboundary movement procedures applicable to such wastes.
2. Each Party shall subsequently inform the Secretariat of any significant changes to the information it has provided pursuant to paragraph 1.
3. The Secretariat shall forthwith inform all Parties of the information it has received pursuant to paragraphs 1 and 2.
4. Parties shall be responsible for making the information transmitted to them by the Secretariat under paragraph 3 available to their exporters.

ARTICLE 4

General Obligations

1. (a) Parties exercising their right to prohibit the import of hazardous wastes or other wastes for disposal shall inform the other Parties of their decision pursuant to Article 13.
- (b) Parties shall prohibit or shall not permit the export of hazardous wastes and other wastes to the Parties which have prohibited the import of such wastes, when notified pursuant to subparagraph (a) above.
- (c) Parties shall prohibit or shall not permit the export of hazardous wastes and other wastes if the State of import does not consent in writing to the specific import, in the case where that State of import has not prohibited the import of such wastes.
2. Each Party shall take the appropriate measures to:
 - (a) Ensure that the generation of hazardous wastes and other wastes within it is reduced to a minimum, taking into account social, technological and economic aspects;
 - (b) Ensure the availability of adequate disposal facilities, for the environmentally sound management of hazardous wastes and other wastes, that shall be located, to the extent possible, within it, whatever the place of their disposal;
 - (c) Ensure that persons involved in the management of hazardous wastes or other wastes within it take such steps as are necessary to prevent pollution due to hazardous wastes and other wastes arising from such management and, if such pollution occurs, to minimize the consequences thereof for human health and the environment;
 - (d) Ensure that the transboundary movement of hazardous wastes and other wastes is reduced to the minimum consistent with the environmentally sound and efficient management of such wastes, and is conducted in a manner which will protect human health and the environment against the adverse effects which may result from such movement;
 - (e) Not allow the export of hazardous wastes or other wastes to a State or group of States belonging to an economic and/or political integration organisation that are Parties, particularly developing countries, which have prohibited by their legislation all imports, or if it has reason to believe that the wastes in question will not be managed in an environmentally sound manner, according to criteria to be decided on by the Parties at their first meeting.
 - (f) Require that information about a proposed transboundary movement of hazardous wastes and other wastes be provided to the States concerned, according to Annex V A, to state clearly the effects of the proposed movement on human health and the environment;

- (g) Prevent the import of hazardous wastes and other wastes if it has reason to believe that the wastes in question will not be managed in an environmentally sound manner;
 - (h) Co-operate in activities with other Parties and interested organisations, directly and through the Secretariat, including the dissemination of information on the transboundary movement of hazardous wastes and other wastes, in order to improve the environmentally sound management of such wastes and to achieve the prevention of illegal traffic.
- 3. The Parties consider that illegal traffic in hazardous wastes or other wastes is criminal.
- 4. Each Party shall take appropriate legal, administrative and other measures to implement and enforce the provisions of this Convention, including measures to prevent and punish conduct in contravention of the Convention.
- 5. A Party shall not permit hazardous wastes or other wastes to be exported to a non Party or to be imported from a non-Party.
- 6. The Parties agree not to allow the export of hazardous wastes or other wastes for disposal within the area south of 60° South latitude, whether or not such wastes are subject to transboundary movement.
- 7. Furthermore, each Party shall:
 - (a) Prohibit all persons under its national jurisdiction from transporting or disposing of hazardous wastes or other wastes unless such persons are authorized or allowed to perform such types of operations;
 - (b) Require that hazardous wastes and other wastes that are to be the subject of a transboundary movement be packaged, labelled, and transported in conformity with generally accepted and recognised international rules and standards in the field of packaging, labelling, and transport, and that due account is taken of relevant internationally recognised practices;
 - (c) Require that hazardous wastes and other wastes be accompanied by a movement document from the point at which a transboundary movement commences to the point of disposal.
- 8. Each Party shall require that hazardous wastes or other wastes, to be exported, are managed in an environmentally sound manner in the State of import or elsewhere. Technical guidelines for the environmentally sound management of wastes subject to this Convention shall be decided by the Parties at their first meeting.
- 9. Parties shall take the appropriate measures to ensure that the transboundary movement of hazardous wastes and other wastes only be allowed if:
 - (a) The State of export does not have the technical capacity and the necessary facilities, capacity or suitable disposal sites in order to dispose of the wastes in question in an environmentally sound and efficient manner; or

- (b) The wastes in question are required as a raw material for recycling or recovery industries in the State of import; or
 - (c) The transboundary movement in question is in accordance with other criteria to be decided by the Parties, provided those criteria do not differ from the objectives of this convention.
10. The obligation under this Convention of States in which hazardous wastes and other wastes are generated to require that those wastes are managed in an environmentally sound manner may not under any circumstances be transferred to the States of import or transit.
 11. Nothing in this Convention shall prevent a Party from imposing additional requirements that are consistent with the provisions of this Convention, and are in accordance with the rules of international law, in order to better protect human health and the environment.
 12. Nothing in this Convention shall affect in any way the sovereignty of States over their territorial sea established in accordance with international law, and the sovereign rights and the jurisdiction which States have in their exclusive economic zones and their Continental shelves in accordance with international law, and the exercise by ships and aircraft of all States of navigational rights and freedoms as provided for in international law and as reflected in relevant international instruments.
 13. Parties shall undertake to review periodically the possibilities for the reduction of the amount and/or the pollution potential of hazardous wastes and other wastes which are exported to other States, in particular to developing countries.

ARTICLE 5

Designation of Competent Authorities and Focal Point

To facilitate the implementation of this Convention, the Parties shall:

1. Designate or establish one or more competent authorities and one focal point. One competent authority shall be designated to receive the notification in case of a State of transit.
2. Inform the Secretariat, within three months of the date of the entry into force of this Convention for them, which agencies they have designated as their focal point and their competent authorities.
3. Inform the Secretariat, within one month of the date of decision, of any changes regarding the designation made by them under paragraph 2 above.

ARTICLE 6

Transboundary Movement between Parties

1. The State of export shall notify, or shall require the generator or exporter to notify, in writing, through the channel of the competent authority of the State of export, the competent authority of the States concerned of any proposed transboundary movement of hazardous wastes or other wastes. Such notification shall contain the declarations and information specified in Annex VA, written in a language acceptable to the State of import. Only one notification needs to be sent to each State concerned.
2. The State of import shall respond to the notifier in writing, consenting to the movement with or without conditions, denying permission for the movement, or requesting additional information. A copy of the final response of the State of import shall be sent to the competent authorities of the States concerned which are Parties.
3. The State of export shall not allow the generator or exporter to commence the transboundary movement until it has received written confirmation that:
 - (a) The notifier has received the written consent of the State of import; and
 - (b) The notifier has received from the State of import confirmation of the existence of a contract between the exporter and the disposer specifying environmentally sound management of the wastes in question.
4. Each State of transit which is a Party shall promptly acknowledge to the notifier receipt of the notification. It may subsequently respond to the notifier in writing, within 60 days, consenting to the movement with or without conditions, denying permission for the movement, or requesting additional information. The State of export shall not allow the transboundary movement to commence until it has received the written consent of the State of transit. However, if at any time a Party decides not to require prior written consent, either generally or under specific conditions, for transit transboundary movements of hazardous wastes or other wastes, or modifies its requirements in this respect, it shall forthwith inform the other Parties of its decision pursuant to Article 13. In this latter case, if no response is received by the State of export within 60 days of the receipt of a given notification by the State of transit, the State of export may allow the export to proceed through the State of transit.
5. In the case of a transboundary movement of wastes where the wastes are legally defined as or considered to be hazardous wastes only:
 - (a) By the State of export, the requirements of paragraph 9 of this Article that apply to the importer or disposer and the State of import shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to the exporter and State of export, respectively;

- (b) By the State of import, or by the States of import and transit which are Parties, the requirements of paragraphs 1, 3, 4 and 6 of this Article that apply to the exporter and State of export shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to the importer or disposer and State of import, respectively; or
 - (c) By any State of transit which is a Party, the provisions of paragraph 4 shall apply to such State.
6. The State of export may, subject to the written consent of the States concerned, allow the generator or the exporter to use a general notification where hazardous wastes or other wastes having the same physical and chemical characteristics are shipped regularly to the same disposer via the same customs office of exit of the State of export via the same customs office of entry of the State of import, and, in the case of transit, via the same customs office of entry and exit of the State or States of transit.
 7. The States concerned may make their written consent to the use of the general notification referred to in paragraph 6 subject to the supply of certain information, such as the exact quantities or periodical lists of hazardous wastes or other wastes to be shipped.
 8. The general notification and written consent referred to in paragraphs 6 and 7 may cover multiple shipments of hazardous wastes or other wastes during a maximum period of 12 months.
 9. The Parties shall require that each person who takes charge of a transboundary movement of hazardous wastes or other wastes sign the movement document either upon delivery or receipt of the wastes in question. They shall also require that the disposer inform both the exporter and the competent authority of the State of export of receipt by the disposer of the wastes in question and, in due course, of the completion of disposal as specified in the notification. If no such information is received within the State of export, the competent authority of the State of export or the exporter shall so notify the State of import.
 10. The notification and response required by this Article shall be transmitted to the competent authority of the Parties concerned or to such governmental authority as may be appropriate in the case of non-Parties.
 11. Any transboundary movement of hazardous wastes or other wastes shall be covered by insurance, bond or other guarantee as may be required by the State of import or any State of transit which is a Party.

ARTICLE 7

Transboundary Movement from a Party through States which are not Parties

Paragraph 2 of Article 6 of the Convention shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to transboundary movement of hazardous wastes or other wastes from a Party through a State or States which are not Parties.

ARTICLE 8*Duty to Re-import*

When a transboundary movement of hazardous wastes or other wastes to which the consent of the States concerned has been given, subject to the provisions of this Convention, cannot be completed in accordance with the terms of the contract, the State of export shall ensure that the wastes in question are taken back into the State of export, by the exporter, if alternative arrangements cannot be made for their disposal in an environmentally sound manner, within 90 days from the time that the importing State informed the State of export and the Secretariat, or such other period of time as the States concerned agree. To this end, the State of export and any Party of transit shall not oppose, hinder or prevent the return of those wastes to the State of export.

ARTICLE 9*Illegal Traffic*

1. For the purpose of this Convention, any transboundary movement of hazardous wastes or other wastes:
 - (a) without notification pursuant to the provisions of this Convention to all States concerned; or
 - (b) without the consent pursuant to the provisions of this Convention of a State concerned; or
 - (c) with consent obtained from States concerned through falsification, misrepresentation or fraud; or
 - (d) that does not conform in a material way with the documents; or
 - (e) that results in deliberate disposal (e.g. dumping) of hazardous wastes or other wastes in contravention of this Convention and of general principles of international law, shall be deemed to be illegal traffic.
2. In case of a transboundary movement of hazardous wastes or other wastes deemed to be illegal traffic as the result of conduct on the part of the exporter or generator, the State of export shall ensure that the wastes in question are:
 - (a) taken back by the exporter or the generator or, if necessary, by itself into the State of export, or, if impracticable,
 - (b) are otherwise disposed of in accordance with the provisions of this Convention, within 30 days from the time the State of export has been informed about the illegal traffic or such other period of time as States concerned may agree. To this end the Parties concerned shall not oppose, hinder or prevent the return of those wastes to the State of export.

3. In the case of a transboundary movement of hazardous wastes or other wastes deemed to be illegal traffic as the result of conduct on the part of the importer or disposer, the State of import shall ensure that the wastes in question are disposed of in an environmentally sound manner by the importer or disposer or, if necessary, by itself within 30 days from the time the illegal traffic has come to the attention of the State of import or such other period of time as the States concerned may agree. To this end, the Parties concerned shall co-operate, as necessary, in the disposal of the wastes in an environmentally sound manner.
4. In cases where the responsibility for the illegal traffic cannot be assigned either to the exporter or generator or to the importer or disposer, the Parties concerned or other Parties, as appropriate, shall ensure, through co-operation, that the wastes in question are disposed of as soon as possible in an environmentally sound manner either in the State of export or the State of import or elsewhere as appropriate.
5. Each Party shall introduce appropriate national/domestic legislation to prevent and punish illegal traffic. The Parties shall co-operate with a view to achieving the objects of this Article.

ARTICLE 10

International Co-operation

1. The Parties shall co-operate with each other in order to improve and achieve environmentally sound management of hazardous wastes and other wastes.
2. To this end, the Parties shall:
 - (a) Upon request, make available information, whether on a bilateral or multilateral basis, with a view to promoting the environmentally sound management of hazardous wastes and other wastes, including harmonization of technical standards and practices for the adequate management of hazardous wastes and other wastes;
 - (b) Co-operate in monitoring the effects of the management of hazardous wastes on human health and the environment;
 - (c) Co-operate, subject to their national laws, regulations and policies, in the development and implementation of new environmentally sound low-waste technologies and the improvement of existing technologies with a view to eliminating, as far as practicable, the generation of hazardous wastes and other wastes and achieving more effective and efficient methods of ensuring their management in an environmentally sound manner, including the study of the economic, social and environmental effects of the adoption of such new or improved technologies;

- (d) Co-operate actively, subject to their national laws, regulations and policies, in the transfer of technology and management systems related to the environmentally sound management of hazardous wastes and other wastes. They shall also co-operate in developing the technical capacity among Parties, especially those which may need and request technical assistance in this field;
 - (e) Co-operate in developing appropriate technical guidelines and/or codes of practice.
3. The Parties shall employ appropriate means to co-operate in order to assist developing countries in the implementation of subparagraphs a, b, c and d of paragraph 2 of Article 4.
 4. Taking into account the needs of developing countries, co-operation between Parties and the competent international organisations is encouraged to promote, *inter alia*, public awareness, the development of sound management of hazardous wastes and other wastes and the adoption of new low-waste technologies.

ARTICLE 11

Bilateral, Multilateral and Regional Agreements

1. Notwithstanding the provisions of Article 4 paragraph 5, Parties may enter into bilateral, multilateral, or regional agreements or arrangements regarding transboundary movement of hazardous wastes or other wastes with Parties or non-Parties provided that such agreements or arrangements do not derogate from the environmentally sound management of hazardous wastes and other wastes as required by this Convention. These agreements or arrangements shall stipulate provisions which are not less environmentally sound than those provided for by this Convention in particular taking into account the interests of developing countries.
2. Parties shall notify the Secretariat of any bilateral, multilateral or regional agreements or arrangements referred to in paragraph 1 and those which they have entered into prior to the entry into force of this Convention for them, for the purpose of controlling transboundary movements of hazardous wastes and other wastes which take place entirely among the Parties to such agreements. The provisions of this Convention shall not affect transboundary movements which take place pursuant to such agreements provided that such agreements are compatible with the environmentally sound management of hazardous wastes and other wastes as required by this Convention.

ARTICLE 12

Consultations on Liability

The Parties shall co-operate with a view to adopting, as soon as practicable, a protocol setting out appropriate rules and procedures in the field of liability and compensation for damage resulting from the transboundary movement and disposal of hazardous wastes and other wastes.

ARTICLE 13

Transmission of Information

1. The Parties shall, whenever it comes to their knowledge, ensure that, in the case of an accident occurring during the transboundary movement of hazardous wastes or other wastes or their disposal, which are likely to present risks to human health and the environment in other States, those states are immediately informed.
2. The Parties shall inform each other, through the Secretariat, of:
 - (a) Changes regarding the designation of competent authorities and/or focal points, pursuant to Article 5;
 - (b) Changes in their national definition of hazardous wastes, pursuant to and, as soon as possible;
 - (c) Decisions made by them not to consent totally or partially to the import of hazardous wastes or other wastes for disposal within the area under their national jurisdiction;
 - (d) Decisions taken by them to limit or ban the export of hazardous wastes or other wastes;
 - (e) Any other information required pursuant to paragraph 4 of this Article.
3. The Parties, consistent with national laws and regulations, shall transmit, through the Secretariat, to the Conference of the Parties established under Article 15, before the end of each calendar year, a report on the previous calendar year, containing the following information:
 - (a) Competent authorities and focal points that have been designated by them pursuant to Article 5;
 - (b) Information regarding transboundary movements of hazardous wastes or other wastes in which they have been involved, including:
 - (i) The amount of hazardous wastes and other wastes exported, their category, characteristics, destination, any transit country and disposal method as stated on the response to notification;
 - (ii) The amount of hazardous wastes and other wastes imported, their category, characteristics, origin, and disposal methods;

- (iii) Disposals which did not proceed as intended;
 - (iv) Efforts to achieve a reduction of the amount of hazardous wastes or other wastes subject to transboundary movement;
 - (c) Information on the measures adopted by them in implementation of this Convention;
 - (d) Information on available qualified statistics which have been compiled by them on the effects on human health and the environment of the generation, transportation and disposal of hazardous wastes or other wastes;
 - (e) Information concerning bilateral, multilateral and regional agreements and arrangements entered into pursuant to Article 11 of this Convention;
 - (f) Information on accidents occurring during the transboundary movement and disposal of hazardous wastes and other wastes and on the measures undertaken to deal with them;
 - (g) Information on disposal options operated within the area of their national jurisdiction;
 - (h) Information on measures undertaken for development of technologies for the reduction and/or elimination of production of hazardous wastes and other wastes; and
 - (i) Such other matters as the Conference of the Parties shall deem relevant.
4. The Parties, consistent with national laws and regulations, shall ensure that copies of each notification concerning any given transboundary movement of hazardous wastes or other wastes, and the response to it, are sent to the Secretariat when a Party considers that its environment may be affected by that transboundary movement has requested that this should be done.

ARTICLE 14

Financial Aspects

1. The Parties agree that, according to the specific needs of different regions and subregions, regional or sub-regional centres for training and technology transfers regarding the management of hazardous wastes and other wastes and the minimization of their generation should be established. The Parties shall decide on the establishment of appropriate funding mechanisms of a voluntary nature.
2. The Parties shall consider the establishment of a revolving fund to assist on an interim basis in case of emergency situations to minimize damage from accidents arising from transboundary movements of hazardous wastes and other wastes or during the disposal of those wastes.

ARTICLE 15

Conference of the Parties

1. A Conference of the Parties is hereby established. The first meeting of the Conference of the Parties shall be convened by the Executive Director of UNEP not later than one year after the entry into force of this Convention. Thereafter, ordinary meetings of the Conference of the Parties shall be held at regular intervals to be determined by the Conference at its first meeting.
2. Extraordinary meetings of the Conference of the Parties shall be held at such other times as may be deemed necessary by the Conference, or at the written request of any Party, provided that, within six months of the request being communicated to them by the Secretariat, it is supported by at least one third of the Parties.
3. The Conference of the Parties shall by consensus agree upon and adopt rules of procedure for itself and for any subsidiary body it may establish, as well as financial rules to determine in particular the financial participation of the Parties under this Convention.
4. The Parties at their first meeting shall consider any additional measures needed to assist them in fulfilling their responsibilities with respect to the protection and the preservation of the marine environment in the context of this Convention.
5. The Conference of the Parties shall keep under continuous review and evaluation the effective implementation of this Convention, and, in addition, shall:
 - (a) Promote the harmonization of appropriate policies, strategies and measures for minimising harm to human health and the environment by hazardous wastes and other wastes;
 - (b) Consider and adopt, as required, amendments to this Convention and its annexes, taking into consideration, *inter alia*, available scientific, technical, economic and environmental information;
 - (c) Consider and undertake any additional action that may be required for the achievement of the purposes of this Convention in the light of experience gained in its operation and in the operation of the agreements and arrangements envisaged in Article 11;
 - (d) Consider and adopt protocols as required; and
 - (e) Establish such subsidiary bodies as are deemed necessary for the implementation of this Convention.

6. The United Nations, its specialized agencies, as well as any State not Party to this Convention, may be represented as observers at meetings of the Conference of the Parties. Any other body or agency, whether national or international, governmental or nongovernmental, qualified in fields relating to hazardous wastes or other wastes which has informed the Secretariat of its wish to be represented as an observer at a meeting of the Conference of Parties, may be admitted unless at least one third of the Parties present object. The admission and participation of observers shall be subject to the rules of procedure adopted by the Conference of the Parties.
7. The Conference of the Parties shall undertake three years after the entry into force of this Convention, and at least every six years thereafter, an evaluation of its effectiveness and, if deemed necessary, to consider the adoption of a complete or partial ban of transboundary movements of hazardous wastes and other wastes in light of the latest scientific, environmental, technical and economic information.

ARTICLE 16

Secretariat

1. The functions of the Secretariat shall be:

- (a) To arrange for and service meetings provided for in Articles 15 and 17;
- (b) To prepare and transmit reports based upon information received in accordance with Articles 3, 4, 6, 11 and 13 as well as upon information derived from meetings of subsidiary bodies established under Article 15 as well as upon, as appropriate, information provided by relevant intergovernmental and non governmental entities;
- (c) To prepare reports on its activities carried out in implementation of its functions under this Convention and present them to the Conference of the Parties;
- (d) To ensure the necessary co-ordination with relevant international bodies, and in particular to enter into such administrative and contractual arrangements as may be required for the effective discharge of its function;
- (e) To communicate with Focal Points and Competent Authorities established by the Parties in accordance with Article 5 of this Convention;
- (f) To compile information concerning authorized national sites and facilities of Parties available for the disposal of their hazardous wastes and other wastes and to circulate this information among Parties;
- (g) To receive and convey information from and to Parties on:
 - sources of technical assistance and training;
 - available technical and scientific know-how;

- sources of advice and expertise; and
- availability of resources

with a view to assisting them, upon request, in such areas as:

- the handling of the notification system of this Convention;
- the management of hazardous wastes and other wastes;
- environmentally sound technologies relating to hazardous wastes and other wastes, such as low- and non-waste technology;
- the assessment of disposal capabilities and sites;
- the monitoring of hazardous wastes and other wastes; and
- emergency responses;

- (h) To provide Parties, upon request, with information on consultants or consulting firms having the necessary technical competence in the field, which can assist them to examine a notification for a transboundary movement, the concurrence of a shipment of hazardous wastes or other wastes with the relevant notification, and/or the fact that the proposed disposal facilities for hazardous wastes or other wastes are environmentally sound, when they have reason to believe that the wastes in question will not be managed in an environmentally sound manner. Any such examination would not be at the expense of the Secretariat;
 - (i) To assist Parties upon request in their identification of cases of illegal traffic and to circulate immediately to the Parties concerned any information it has received regarding illegal traffic;
 - (j) To co-operate with Parties and with relevant and competent international organisations and agencies in the provision of experts and equipment for the purpose of rapid assistance to States in the event of an emergency situation; and
 - (k) To perform such other functions relevant to the purposes of this Convention as may be determined by the Conference of the Parties.
2. The Secretariat functions will be carried out on an interim basis by UNEP until the completion of the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties held pursuant to Article 15.
 3. At its first meeting, the Conference of the Parties shall designate the Secretariat from among those existing competent intergovernmental organisations which have signified their willingness to carry out the Secretariat functions under this Convention. At this meeting, the Conference of the Parties shall also evaluate the implementation by the interim Secretariat of the functions assigned to it, in particular under paragraph 1 above, and decide upon the structures appropriate for those functions.

ARTICLE 17

Amendment of the Convention

1. Any Party may propose amendments to this Convention and any Party to a protocol may propose amendments to that protocol. Such amendments shall take due account, *inter alia*, of relevant scientific and technical considerations.
2. Amendments to this Convention shall be adopted at a meeting of the Conference of the Parties. Amendments to any protocol shall be adopted at a meeting of the Parties to the protocol in question. The text of any proposed amendment to this Convention or to any protocol, except as may otherwise be provided in such protocol, 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 proposed amendments to the Signatories to this Convention for information.
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 of the Parties present and voting at the meeting, and shall be submitted by the Depositary to all Parties for ratification, approval, formal confirmation or acceptance.
4. The procedure mentioned in paragraph 3 above shall apply to amendments to any protocol, except that a two-thirds majority of the Parties to that protocol present and voting at the meeting shall suffice for their adoption.
5. Instruments of ratification, approval, formal confirmation or acceptance of amendments shall be deposited with the Depositary. Amendments adopted in accordance with paragraphs 3 or 4 above shall enter into force between Parties having accepted them on the ninetieth day after the receipt by the Depositary of their instrument of ratification, approval, formal confirmation or acceptance by at least three-fourths of the Parties who accepted them or by at least two thirds of the Parties to the protocol concerned who accepted them, except as may otherwise be provided in such protocol. The amendments shall enter into force for any other Party on the ninetieth day after that Party deposits its instrument of ratification, approval, formal confirmation or acceptance of the amendments.
6. For the purpose of this Article, "Parties present and voting" means Parties present and casting an affirmative or negative vote.

ARTICLE 18*Adoption and Amendment of Annexes*

1. The annexes to this Convention or to any protocol shall form an integral part of this Convention or of such protocol, as the case may be and, unless expressly provided otherwise a reference to this Convention or its protocols constitutes at the same time a reference to any annexes thereto. Such annexes shall be restricted to scientific, technical and administrative matters.
2. Except as may be otherwise provided in any protocol with respect to its annexes, the following procedure shall apply to the proposal, adoption and entry into force of additional annexes to this Convention or of annexes to a protocol:
 - (a) Annexes to this Convention and its protocols shall be proposed and adopted according to the procedure laid down in Article 17, paragraphs 2, 3 and 4;
 - (b) Any Party that is unable to accept an additional annex to this Convention or an annex to any protocol to which it is party shall so notify the Depositary, in writing, within six months from the date of the communication of the adoption by the Depositary. The Depositary shall without delay notify all Parties of any such notification received. A Party may at any time substitute an acceptance for a previous declaration of objection and the annexes shall thereupon enter into force for that Party;
 - (c) On the expiry of six months from the date of the circulation of the communication by the Depositary, the annex shall become effective for all Parties to this Convention or to any protocol concerned, which have not submitted a notification in accordance with the provision of subparagraph (b) above.
3. The proposal, adoption and entry into force of amendments to annexes to this Convention or to any protocol shall be subject to the same procedure as for the proposal, adoption and entry into force of annexes to the Convention or annexes to a protocol. Annexes and amendments thereto shall take due account, *inter alia*, of relevant scientific and technical considerations.
4. If an additional annex or an amendment to an annex involves an amendment to this convention or to any protocol, the additional annex or amended annex shall not enter into force until such time the amendment to this Convention or to the protocol enters into force.

ARTICLE 19*Verification*

Any Party which has reason to believe that another Party is acting or has acted in breach of its obligations under this Convention may inform the Secretariat thereof, and in such an event, shall simultaneously and immediately inform, directly or through the Secretariat, the Party against whom the allegations are made. All relevant information should be submitted by the Secretariat to the Parties.

ARTICLE 20*Settlement of Disputes*

1. In case of a dispute between Parties as to the interpretation or application of, or compliance with, this Convention or any protocol thereto, they shall seek a settlement of the dispute through negotiation or any other peaceful means of their own choice.
2. If the Parties concerned cannot settle their dispute through the means mentioned in the preceding paragraph, the dispute, if the Parties to the dispute agree, shall be submitted to the international Court of Justice or to arbitration under the conditions set out in Annex VI on Arbitration. However, failure to reach common agreement on submission of the dispute to the International Court of Justice or to arbitration shall not absolve the Parties from the responsibility of continuing to seek to resolve it by the means referred to in paragraph 1.
3. When ratifying, accepting, approving, formally confirming or acceding to this Convention, or at any time thereafter, a State or political and/or economic integration organisation may declare that it recognises as compulsory *ipso facto* and without special agreement, in relation to any Party accepting the same obligation:
 - (a) submission of the dispute to the International Court of Justice; and/or
 - (b) arbitration in accordance with the procedures set out in Annex VI.

Such declaration shall be notified in writing to the Secretariat which shall communicate it to the Parties.

ARTICLE 21*Signature*

This Convention shall be open for signature by States, by Namibia, represented by the United Nations Council for Namibia, and by political and/or economic integration organisations, in Basel on 22 March 1989, at the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland in Berne from 23 March 1989 to 30 June 1989 and at United Nations Headquarters in New York from 1 July 1989 to 22 March 1990.

ARTICLE 22*Ratification, Acceptance, Formal Confirmation or Approval*

1. This Convention shall be subject to ratification, acceptance or approval by States and by Namibia, represented by the United Nations Council for Namibia, and to formal confirmation or approval by political and/or economic integration organisations. Instruments of ratification, acceptance, formal confirmation, or approval shall be deposited with the Depositary.

2. Any organisation referred to in paragraph 1 above which 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 organisations, one or more of whose member States is a Party to the Convention, the organisation and its member States shall decide on their respective responsibilities for the performance of their obligations under the Convention. In such cases, the organisation and the member States shall not be entitled to exercise rights under the Convention concurrently.
3. In their instruments of formal confirmation or approval, the organisations referred to in paragraph 1 above shall declare the extent of their competence with respect to the matters governed by the Convention. These organisations shall also inform the Depositary, who will inform the Parties of any substantial modification in the extent of their competence.

ARTICLE 23*Accession*

1. This Convention shall be open for accession by States, by Namibia, represented by the United Nations Council for Namibia, and by political and/or economic integration organisations from the day after the date on which the Convention is closed for signature. The instruments of accession shall be deposited with the Depositary.
2. In their instruments of accession, the organisations referred to in paragraph 1 above shall declare the extent of their competence with respect to the matters governed by the Convention. These organisations shall also inform the Depositary of any substantial modification in the extent of their competence.
3. The provisions of Article 22, paragraph 2, shall apply to political and/or economic integration organisations which accede to this Convention.

ARTICLE 24*Right to Vote*

1. Except as provided for in paragraph 2 below, each Contracting Party to this Convention shall have one vote.
2. Political and/or economic integration organisations, in matters within their competence, in accordance with Article 22, paragraph 3, and Article 23, paragraph 2, shall exercise their right to vote with a number of votes equal to the number of their member States which are Parties to the Convention or the relevant protocol. Such organisations shall not exercise their right to Vote if their member States exercise theirs, and vice versa.