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CONVENTION ON THE PROHIBITION OF MILITARY OR ANY OTHER HOSTILE
USE OF ENVIRONMENTAL MODIFICATION TECHNIQUES

Report of the First Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Kedar Bhakta SHRESTHA (Nepal)

1. The item entitled "Convention on the prohibition of military or any other hostile use of environmental modification techniques: report of the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament" was included in the provisional agenda of the thirty-first session on the basis of General Assembly resolution 3475 (XXX) of 11 December 1975.
2. At its 4th plenary meeting, on 24 September 1976, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include the item in its agenda and to allocate it to the First Committee.
3. At its 2nd meeting, on 5 October, the First Committee decided to hold a combined general debate on the items allocated to it relating to disarmament, namely, items 34 to 50 and 116. The general debate on these items took place at the 20th to 39th meetings, from 1 to 19 November.
4. In connexion with item 45, the First Committee had before it the report of the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament. 1/
5. On 3 November, Argentina, Mexico, Panama and Peru submitted a draft resolution (A/C.1/31/L.4) which was subsequently also sponsored by Cyprus, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Grenada, Jamaica, Mauritius, Trinidad and Tobago and Venezuela. The draft resolution, which was introduced by the representative of Mexico at the 26th meeting, on 9 November, read as follows:

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-first Session, Supplement No. 27 (A/31/27).

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling its resolutions 3264 (XXIX) of 9 December 1974 and 3475 (XXX) of 11 December 1975,

"Reiterating its conviction that the conclusion of a convention on the prohibition of action to influence the environment and climate for military and other hostile purposes would contribute to the cause of strengthening peace and averting the threat of war,

"Convinced also that such a convention should not affect the use of environmental modification techniques for peaceful purposes, which should contribute to the preservation and improvement of the environment for the benefit of present and future generations,

"Taking into account the report of the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament as it relates to this question,

"Noting with satisfaction the progress achieved in the preparation of the text of a draft convention on the matter,

"1. Requests the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament, without prejudice to the priorities established in its programme of work, to continue negotiations on the text of a draft convention on the prohibition of military or any other hostile use of environmental modification techniques, bearing in mind the proposals and suggestions which have been submitted as well as the relevant discussion by the General Assembly, with a view to reaching agreement as early as possible on a text which would be widely acceptable to Members of the United Nations, and to submit a report on the results achieved to the General Assembly at its thirty-second session;

"2. Requests the Secretary-General to transmit to the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament all documents relating to the discussion of this question by the General Assembly at its thirty-first session;

"3. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its thirty-second session an item entitled 'Convention on the prohibition of military or any other hostile use of environmental modification techniques'."

6. On 4 November, Canada, Denmark, Finland, the German Democratic Republic, Hungary, Japan, Mongolia, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Zaire submitted a draft resolution (A/C.1/31/L.5). The draft resolution, which was introduced by the representative of Finland at the 24th meeting, on 5 November, read as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling its resolutions 3264 (XXIX) and 3475 (XXX),

"Determined to avert the potential dangers of military or any other hostile use of environmental modification techniques,

"Noting with satisfaction that the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament has completed and transmitted to the General Assembly, in the report of its 1976 session, the text of a draft Convention on the prohibition of military or any other hostile use of environmental modification techniques,

"Convinced that the Convention will contribute to the realization of the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

"1. Commends the Convention on the prohibition of military or any other hostile use of environmental modification techniques, the text of which is annexed to the report of the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament (A/31/27);

"2. Requests the Secretary-General, as depositary of the Convention, to open it for signature and ratification at the earliest possible date;

"3. Expresses its hope for the widest possible adherence to the Convention."

7. Subsequently draft resolution A/C.1/31/L.5 was reissued with the text of the draft Convention annexed to it (A/C.1/31/L.5/Rev.1*), Austria, Bulgaria, Iran, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America having joined the list of sponsors, later joined by Bolivia, Brazil, the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Czechoslovakia, Ethiopia, Guinea, India, Italy, Liberia, Mozambique and the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic.

8. On 29 November, Austria, Bolivia, Brazil, Bulgaria, the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Canada, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Ethiopia, Finland, the German Democratic Republic, Ghana, Guinea, Hungary, India, Iran, Italy, Japan, Liberia, Mongolia, Mozambique, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic and Zaire submitted a newly revised draft resolution with the draft Convention annexed to it (A/C.1/31/L.5/Rev.2 and Corr.1) which was introduced by the representative of Finland at the 50th meeting, on 2 December. The draft resolution read as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling its resolutions 3264 (XXIX) of 9 December 1974 and 3475 (XXX) of 11 December 1975,

"Recalling its resolution 1722 (XVI) of 20 December 1961, in which it recognized that all States have a deep interest in disarmament and arms control negotiations,

"Determined to avert the potential dangers of military or any other hostile use of environmental modification techniques,

/...

"Convinced that broad adherence to a convention on the prohibition of such action would contribute to the cause of strengthening peace and averting the threat of war,

"Noting with satisfaction that the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament has completed and transmitted to the General Assembly, in the report of its work in 1976, the text of a draft Convention on the prohibition of military or any other hostile use of environmental modification techniques,

"Anxious that during its 1977 session, the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament should concentrate on urgent negotiations on disarmament and arms limitation measures,

"Bearing in mind that draft agreements on disarmament and arms control measures submitted to the General Assembly by the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament should be the result of a process of effective negotiations and that such instruments should duly take into account the views and interests of all States so that they can be joined by the widest possible number of countries,

"Bearing in mind that article VIII of the draft Convention makes provision for a conference to review the operation of the Convention five years after its entry into force, with a view to ensuring that its purposes and provisions are being realized,

"Also bearing in mind all relevant documents and negotiating records of the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament on the discussion of the draft Convention,

"Convinced that the Convention should not affect the use of environmental modification techniques for peaceful purposes, which could contribute to the preservation and improvement of the environment for the benefit of present and future generations,

"Convinced that the Convention will contribute to the realization of the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

"1. Commends the Convention on the prohibition of military or any other hostile use of environmental modification techniques, the text of which is annexed to this resolution;

"2. Requests the Secretary-General, as depositary of the Convention, to open for signature and ratification at the earliest possible date;

"3. Expresses its hope for the widest possible adherence to the Convention;

"4. Calls upon the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament, without prejudice to the priorities established in its programme of work, to keep under review the problem of effectively averting the dangers of military or any other hostile use of environmental modification techniques;

"5. Requests that the Secretary-General transmit to the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament all documents relating to the discussion by the General Assembly at its thirty-first session of the question of prohibiting military or any other hostile use of environmental modification techniques."

9. At the 50th meeting, on 2 December, Nigeria proposed the following oral amendments to draft resolution A/C.1/31/L.5/Rev.2:

(a) The addition of a new preambular paragraph reading as follows:

"Noting further that the convention is intended to prohibit effectively military or any other hostile use of environmental modification techniques in order to eliminate the dangers to mankind from such use";

(b) The deletion of operative paragraph 1 and its replacement by the following text:

"1. Refers the convention on the prohibition of military or any other hostile use of environmental modification techniques, the text of which is annexed to this resolution, to all States for their consideration, signature and ratification".

These oral amendments were accepted by the co-sponsors of draft resolution A/C.1/31/L.5/Rev.2 at the same meeting.

10. On 2 December, Austria, Bolivia, Brazil, Bulgaria, the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Canada, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Ethiopia, Finland, the German Democratic Republic, Guinea, Hungary, India, Iran, Italy, Japan, Liberia, Mongolia, Mozambique, the Netherlands, Nigeria, Norway, Poland, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic and Zaire submitted a newly revised draft resolution (A/C.1/31/L.5/Rev.3) which was subsequently also sponsored by the Syrian Arab Republic, incorporating the amendments referred to in the previous paragraph.

11. On 2 December, the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.1/31/L.4 (see para. 5 above), joined by Haiti, submitted a revised draft resolution (A/C.1/31/L.4/Rev.1) which was introduced by the representative of Mexico at the 50th meeting, on 2 December. The draft resolution read as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling its resolutions 3264 (XXIX) of 9 December 1974 and 3475 (XXX) of 11 December 1975,

"Reiterating its conviction that the conclusion of a convention on the prohibition of action to influence the environment and climate for military and other hostile purposes would contribute to the cause of strengthening peace and averting the threat of war,

"Convinced also that such a convention should not affect the use of environmental modification techniques for peaceful purposes, which should contribute to the preservation and improvement of the environment for the benefit of present and future generations,

"Taking into account the report of the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament as it relates to this question,

"Noting with satisfaction the progress achieved in the preparation of the text of a draft convention on the matter,

"Being aware that Member States have not had time to give that text the consideration it deserves,

"1. Requests the Secretary-General to transmit to all States the text of the draft convention on the prohibition of military or any other hostile use of environmental modification techniques, contained in document A/31/27, as well as all other relevant documents relating to this question;

"2. Invites all Member States to communicate to the Secretary-General their views and suggestions on this question before 30 June 1977;

"3. Requests the Secretary-General to transmit to all Member States the replies submitted pursuant to paragraph 2 above;

"4. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its thirty-second session an item entitled 'Convention on the prohibition of military or any other hostile use of environmental modification techniques'."

12. At its 51st meeting, on 3 December, the Committee proceeded to vote on draft resolutions A/C.1/31/L.4/Rev.1 and A/C.1/31/L.5/Rev.3. The representative of India, seconded by the representative of Nigeria, moved that draft resolution A/C.1/31/L.5/Rev.3 be accorded priority over draft resolution A/C.1/31/L.4/Rev.1. The motion was adopted by a recorded vote of 59 to 31, with 30 abstentions. 2/
The voting was as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Austria, Bahrain, Belgium, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Canada, Central African Republic, Colombia, Congo, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Yemen, Denmark, Ethiopia, Finland, German Democratic Republic, Germany, Federal Republic of, Ghana, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, India, Iran, Italy, Ivory Coast, Japan, Jordan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Liberia, Luxembourg,

2/ After the vote, the representative of the Libyan Arab Republic indicated that her vote in favour of the motion had not been recorded.

Madagascar, Malawi, Mongolia, Mozambique, Nepal, Netherlands, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Poland, Portugal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Zaire.

Against: Argentina, Burundi, Chile, China, Costa Rica, Cyprus, Ecuador, France, Grenada, Iraq, Jamaica, Kenya, Kuwait, Malaysia, Mauritius, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Singapore, Surinam, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, Uganda, Uruguay, Venezuela.

Abstaining: Algeria, Australia, Bangladesh, Burma, Chad, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Fiji, Guyana, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, New Zealand, Niger, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Cameroon, United Republic of Tanzania, Upper Volta, Yugoslavia, Zambia.

13. At the same meeting, the Committee proceeded to vote on draft resolution A/C.1/31/L.5/Rev.3. The draft resolution was adopted by a recorded vote of 89 to 11, with 25 abstentions 3/ (see para. 15 below). The voting was as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burma, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Canada, Central African Republic, Colombia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Yemen, Denmark, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, Gabon, German Democratic Republic, Germany, Federal Republic of, Ghana, Greece, Guyana, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Republic, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mongolia, Morocco, Nepal, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Somalia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Upper Volta, Uruguay, Yugoslavia, Zaire.

Against: Burundi, Ecuador, Grenada, Kenya, Kuwait, Mauritius, Mexico, Panama, Peru, Trinidad and Tobago, Zambia.

3/ After the vote, the representative of Mozambique indicated that his vote in favour of the draft resolution had not been recorded.

Abstaining: Argentina, Chad, Chile, Congo, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, France, Iraq, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Malaysia, New Zealand, Pakistan, Paraguay, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Surinam, Togo, Uganda, United Republic of Cameroon, United Republic of Tanzania, Venezuela, Yemen.

14. At the same meeting, the delegations of Finland and India moved that the Committee take no further action on draft resolution A/C.1/31/L.4/Rev.1. The motion was adopted by the Committee by a recorded vote of 49 to 42, with 35 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Austria, Belgium, Bhutan, Bolivia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Canada, Central African Republic, Colombia, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Finland, German Democratic Republic, Germany, Federal Republic of, Ghana, Hungary, Iceland, India, Iran, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Mongolia, Mozambique, Nepal, Netherlands, Nigeria, Norway, Philippines, Poland, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Turkey, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Zaire.

Against: Algeria, Argentina, Benin, Burundi, Chile, China, Costa Rica, Cyprus, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, France, Grenada, Israel, Jamaica, Kenya, Kuwait, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Malta, Mauritania, Mexico, Morocco, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Romania, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Spain, Surinam, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Cameroon, United Republic of Tanzania, Upper Volta, Uruguay, Venezuela, Zambia.

Abstaining: Australia, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Botswana, Burma, Chad, Congo, Democratic Yemen, Egypt, El Salvador, Fiji, Gabon, Greece, Guyana, Indonesia, Iraq, Ireland, Ivory Coast, Libyan Arab Republic, Malawi, Mali, New Zealand, Niger, Oman, Pakistan, Portugal, Qatar, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Sweden, Tunisia, Yugoslavia.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE

15. The First Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Convention on the Prohibition of Military or Any
Other Hostile Use of Environmental Modification
Techniques

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 3264 (XXIX) of 9 December 1974 and 3475 (XXX) of 11 December 1975,

Recalling its resolution 1722 (XVI) of 20 December 1961, in which it recognized that all States have a deep interest in disarmament and arms control negotiations,

Determined to avert the potential dangers of military or any other hostile use of environmental modification techniques,

Convinced that broad adherence to a convention on the prohibition of such action would contribute to the cause of strengthening peace and averting the threat of war,

Noting with satisfaction that the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament has completed and transmitted to the General Assembly, in the report of its work in 1976, 4/ the text of a draft Convention on the Prohibition of Military or Any Other Hostile Use of Environmental Modification Techniques, 5/

Noting further that the Convention is intended to prohibit effectively military or any other hostile use of environmental modification techniques in order to eliminate the dangers to mankind from such use,

Bearing in mind that draft agreements on disarmament and arms control measures submitted to the General Assembly by the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament should be the result of a process of effective negotiations and that such instruments should duly take into account the views and interests of all States so that they can be joined by the widest possible number of countries,

Bearing in mind that article VIII of the Convention makes provision for a conference to review the operation of the Convention five years after its entry into force, with a view to ensuring that its purposes and provisions are being realized,

4/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-first Session, Supplement No. 27 (A/31/27).

5/ Ibid., annex I.

Also bearing in mind all relevant documents and negotiating records of the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament on the discussion of the draft Convention,

Convinced that the Convention should not affect the use of environmental modification techniques for peaceful purposes, which could contribute to the preservation and improvement of the environment for the benefit of present and future generations,

Convinced that the Convention will contribute to the realization of the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

Anxious that during its 1977 session the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament should concentrate on urgent negotiations on disarmament and arms limitation measures,

1. Refers the Convention on the Prohibition of Military or Any Other Hostile Use of Environmental Modification Techniques, the text of which is annexed to the present resolution, to all States for their consideration, signature and ratification;
2. Requests the Secretary-General, as depositary of the Convention, to open it for signature and ratification at the earliest possible date;
3. Expresses its hope for the widest possible adherence to the Convention;
4. Calls upon the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament, without prejudice to the priorities established in its programme of work, to keep under review the problem of effectively averting the dangers of military or any other hostile use of environmental modification techniques;
5. Requests the Secretary-General to transmit to the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament all documents relating to the discussion by the General Assembly at its thirty-first session of the question of the prohibition of military or any other hostile use of environmental modification techniques.

ANNEX

Convention on the Prohibition of Military or Any Other
Hostile Use of Environmental Modification Techniques

The States Parties to this Convention,

Guided by the interest of consolidating peace, and wishing to contribute to the cause of halting the arms race, and of bringing about general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control, and of saving mankind from the danger of using new means of warfare,

Determined to continue negotiations with a view to achieving effective progress towards further measures in the field of disarmament,

Recognizing that scientific and technical advances may open new possibilities with respect to modification of the environment,

Recalling the Declaration of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, a/ adopted at Stockholm on 16 June 1972,

Realizing that the use of environmental modification techniques for peaceful purposes could improve the interrelationship of man and nature and contribute to the preservation and improvement of the environment for the benefit of present and future generations,

Recognizing, however, that military or any other hostile use of such techniques could have effects extremely harmful to human welfare,

Desiring to prohibit effectively military or any other hostile use of environmental modification techniques in order to eliminate the dangers to mankind from such use, and affirming their willingness to work towards the achievement of this objective,

Desiring also to contribute to the strengthening of trust among nations and to the further improvement of the international situation in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

Have agreed as follows:

Article I

1. Each State Party to this Convention undertakes not to engage in military

a/ See Report of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.73.II.A.14), chap. I.

or any other hostile use of environmental modification techniques having widespread, long-lasting or severe effects as the means of destruction, damage or injury to any other State Party.

2. Each State Party to this Convention undertakes not to assist, encourage or induce any State, group of States or international organization to engage in activities contrary to the provisions of paragraph 1 of this article.

Article II

As used in article I, the term "environmental modification techniques" refers to any technique for changing - through the deliberate manipulation of natural processes - the dynamics, composition or structure of the earth, including its biota, lithosphere, hydrosphere, and atmosphere, or of outer space.

Article III

1. The provisions of this Convention shall not hinder the use of environmental modification techniques for peaceful purposes and shall be without prejudice to generally recognized principles and applicable rules of international law concerning such use.

2. The States Parties to this Convention undertake to facilitate, and have the right to participate in, the fullest possible exchange of scientific and technological information on the use of environmental modification techniques for peaceful purposes. States Parties in a position to do so shall contribute, alone or together with other States or international organizations, to international economic and scientific co-operation in the preservation, improvement, and peaceful utilization of the environment, with due consideration for the needs of the developing areas of the world.

Article IV

Each State Party to this Convention undertakes to take any measures it considers necessary in accordance with its constitutional processes to prohibit and prevent any activity in violation of the provisions of the Convention anywhere under its jurisdiction or control.

Article V

1. The States Parties to this Convention undertake to consult one another and to co-operate in solving any problems which may arise in relation to the objectives of, or in the application of the provisions of, the Convention. Consultation and co-operation pursuant to this article may also be undertaken through appropriate international procedures within the framework of the United Nations and in accordance with its Charter. These international procedures may include the services of appropriate international organizations, as well as of a consultative committee of experts as provided for in paragraph 2 of this article.

2. For the purposes set forth in paragraph 1 of this article, the Depositary shall, within one month of the receipt of a request from any State Party, convene a consultative committee of experts. Any State Party may appoint an expert to this committee whose functions and rules of procedure are set out in the annex, which constitutes an integral part of this Convention. The committee shall transmit to the Depositary a summary of its findings of fact, incorporating all views and information presented to the committee during its proceedings. The Depositary shall distribute the summary to all States Parties.

3. Any State Party to this Convention which has reasons to believe that any other State Party is acting in breach of obligations deriving from the provisions of the Convention may lodge a complaint with the Security Council of the United Nations. Such a complaint should include all relevant information as well as all possible evidence supporting its validity.

4. Each State Party to this Convention undertakes to co-operate in carrying out any investigation which the Security Council may initiate, in accordance with the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations, on the basis of the complaint received by the Council. The Security Council shall inform the States Parties to the Convention of the results of the investigation.

5. Each State Party to this Convention undertakes to provide or support assistance, in accordance with the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations, to any Party to the Convention which so requests, if the Security Council decides that such Party has been harmed or is likely to be harmed as a result of violation of the Convention.

Article VI

1. Any State Party may propose amendments to this Convention. The text of any proposed amendment shall be submitted to the Depositary, who shall promptly circulate it to all States Parties.

2. An amendment shall enter into force for all States Parties which have accepted it, upon the deposit with the Depositary of instruments of acceptance by a majority of States Parties. Thereafter it shall enter into force for any remaining State Party on the date of deposit of its instrument of acceptance.

Article VII

This Convention shall be of unlimited duration.

Article VIII

1. Five years after the entry into force of this Convention, a conference of the States Parties to the Convention shall be convened by the Depositary at Geneva. The conference shall review the operation of the Convention with a view to ensuring that its purposes and provisions are being realized, and shall in

particular examine the effectiveness of the provisions of article I, paragraph 1, in eliminating the dangers of military or any other hostile use of environmental modification techniques.

2. At intervals of not less than five years thereafter, a majority of the States Parties to this Convention may obtain, by submitting a proposal to this effect to the Depositary, the convening of a conference with the same objectives.

3. If no review conference has been convened pursuant to paragraph 2 of this article within 10 years following the conclusion of a previous review conference, the Depositary shall solicit the views of all States Parties to this Convention on the holding of such a conference. If one third or 10 of the States Parties, whichever number is less, respond affirmatively, the Depositary shall take immediate steps to convene the conference.

Article IX

1. This Convention shall be open to all States for signature. Any State which does not sign the Convention before its entry into force in accordance with paragraph 3 of this article may accede to it at any time.

2. This Convention shall be subject to ratification by signatory States. Instruments of ratification and instruments of accession shall be deposited with the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

3. This Convention shall enter into force upon the deposit with the Depositary of instruments of ratification by 20 Governments in accordance with paragraph 2 of this article.

4. For those States whose instruments of ratification or accession are deposited after the entry into force of this Convention, it shall enter into force on the date of the deposit of their instruments of ratification or accession.

5. The Depositary shall promptly inform all signatory and acceding States of the date of each signature, the date of deposit of each instrument of ratification or of accession and the date of the entry into force of this Convention and of any amendments thereto, as well as of the receipt of other notices.

6. This Convention shall be registered by the Depositary in accordance with Article 102 of the Charter of the United Nations.

Article X

This Convention, of which the Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, and Spanish texts are equally authentic, shall be deposited with the Secretary-General of the United Nations who shall send certified copies thereof to the Governments of the signatory and acceding States.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned, duly authorized thereto, have signed this Convention.

Done at On/...

Annex to the Convention

Consultative Committee of Experts

1. The Consultative Committee of Experts shall undertake to make appropriate findings of fact and provide expert views relevant to any problem raised pursuant to article V, paragraph 1, of this Convention by the State Party requesting the convening of the Committee.
2. The work of the Consultative Committee of Experts shall be organized in such a way as to permit it to perform the functions set forth in paragraph 1 of this annex. The Committee shall decide procedural questions relative to the organization of its work, where possible by consensus, but otherwise by a majority of those present and voting. There shall be no voting on matters of substance.
3. The Depositary or his representative shall serve as the Chairman of the Committee.
4. Each expert may be assisted at meetings by one or more advisers.
5. Each expert shall have the right, through the Chairman, to request from States, and from international organizations, such information and assistance as the expert considers desirable for the accomplishment of the Committee's work.
