

23 March 2009

English only

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**Committee on the Peaceful Uses  
of Outer Space**  
**Legal Subcommittee**  
**Forty-eighth session**  
23 March - 3 April 2009  
Item 5 of the agenda\*  
**Information on the activities of international  
intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations  
relating to space law**

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intergovernmental and non-governmental  
organizations  
relating to space law**

**Note by the Secretariat**

1. The General Assembly, in its resolution 63/90 of 5 December 2008, endorsed the recommendation of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space that the Legal Subcommittee should consider, as a regular item of its agenda, an item entitled "Information on the activities of international intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations relating to space law". The Secretariat included the information received by several international intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations in A/AC.105/C.2/L.275 and Add.1. The present document contains information about the International Mobile Satellite Organization (IMSO).

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\* A/AC.105/C.2/L.274.



## International Mobile Satellite Organization

1. The establishment of the International Mobile Satellite Organization (IMSO) was based on Convention on the International Maritime Satellite Organization (INMARSAT) under the auspices of the International Maritime Organization (IMO). The Convention entered into force on 16 July 1979.
2. The purpose of the Convention was to make provision for the space segment necessary for improved maritime communications and, in particular, for improved safety of life at sea communications and the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS). This purpose was later extended through amendments to the Convention to provide the space segment for land mobile and aeronautical communications, and the name of the organization was changed in 1994 to the International Mobile Satellite Organization (IMSO) to reflect the amended purpose.
3. In 1998, amendments to the Convention were adopted to transform the Organization's business into a privatised corporate structure, while retaining intergovernmental oversight of certain public service obligations and, in particular, the GMDSS. These amendments were implemented from 15 April 1999.
4. The intergovernmental organization resulting after privatization continues today with 93 Member States (**see Annex 1**), operating through the Assembly of Parties, its Advisory Committee (comprising a number of Member States appointed by the Assembly) and the Directorate, headed by the Director General who is the Chief Executive Officer and legal representative of the Organization.
5. After the adoption in December 2007 by the IMO Assembly of Resolution A.1001(25) on Criteria for the Provision of Mobile-Satellite Communication Systems in the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS), providing a clear regime for opening up provision of GMDSS services to any satellite operator whose system fits these Criteria, and the extension of IMSO responsibilities to oversee such new satellite operators providing services for the GMDSS, amendments to the Convention were adopted in 2006 with the aim of extending the oversight functions of IMSO to all providers in the future.
6. In 2006, IMO established the Long Range Identification and Tracking of ships system (LRIT) by adopting amendments to the Safety at Sea Convention (SOLAS) that entered into force on 1 January 2008, and invited IMSO to undertake intergovernmental audit and review of the LRIT infrastructure and to take action to ensure the timely implementation of the LRIT System. Consequently, IMO adopted Resolution MSC 275(85) dated 5 December 2008, formally appointing IMSO as the "LRIT Coordinator" to perform these functions.
7. The Twentieth Session of the IMSO Assembly, held in Malta from 29 September to 3 October 2008, considered that the amendments to the IMSO Convention adopted in 2006 should be improved and, acknowledging the desire of IMSO Member States to promote the growth of a pro-competitive market environment in the current and future provision of mobile satellite communications systems services for the GMDSS, affirmed that there is a need to ensure continuity in the provision of the GMDSS through intergovernmental oversight. The Assembly also affirmed the willingness of IMSO Member States that IMSO may assume the functions and duties of

the LRIT Coordinator in accordance with decisions of IMO subject to the terms of new amendments to the Convention.

8. Consequently, the Twentieth Session of the IMSO Assembly decided to terminate the decision taken at its Eighteenth Session to adopt the 2006 amendments, adopted the 2008 amendments to the IMSO Convention that fully incorporate the 2006 amendments, and also decided that the 2008 amendments should be applied provisionally from 6 October 2008, pending their formal entry into force in accordance with Article 18 of the IMSO Convention, noting that such provisional application would mean that Member States will conduct themselves, in their relationships with each other and the Organization, within the limits allowed by their national constitutions, laws and regulations, as if the amendments were in force with effect from such date. (The text of the amended IMSO Convention is attached in **Annex 2**).

## ANNEX 1

## LIST OF IMSO MEMBER STATES

| <b>Member State</b>                   | <b>Date of Signature</b> | <b>Date of Entry into Force</b> |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Algeria (signature)                   | 15 July 1979             | 16 July 1979                    |
| Argentina (accession)                 | 02 October 1979          | 02 October 1979                 |
| Australia (ratification)              | 16 March 1979            | 16 July 1979                    |
| Bahamas (accession)                   | 12 May 1994              | 12 May 1994                     |
| Bahrain, State of (accession)         | 8 January 1986 3/        | 08 January 1986                 |
| Bangladesh (accession)                | 17 September 1993        | 17 September 1993               |
| Belarus (acceptance)                  | 29 March 1979            | 16 July 1979                    |
| Belgium (ratification)                | 14 July 1979             | 16 July 1979                    |
| Bosnia and Herzegovina (accession)    | 17 April 1998            | 17 April 1998                   |
| Brazil (ratification)                 | 10 July 1979             | 16 July 1979                    |
| Brunei Darussalam (accession)         | 04 October 1993          | 04 October 1993                 |
| Bulgaria (approval)                   | 15 June 1979             | 16 July 1979                    |
| Cameroon (ratification)               | 23 October 1990          | 23 October 1990                 |
| Canada (signature)                    | 17 May 1979 3/           | 16 July 1979                    |
| Chile (ratification)                  | 26 February 1981         | 26 February 1981                |
| China (signature) 8/                  | 13 July 1979             | 16 July 1979                    |
| Colombia (accession)                  | 28 October 1987          | 28 October 1987                 |
| Comoros                               | 22 November 2000         | 22 November 2000                |
| Cook Islands * (accession)            | 31 October 2007          | 31 October 2007                 |
| Costa Rica (accession)                | 05 June 1995             | 05 June 1995                    |
| Croatia (accession)                   | 24 November 1992         | 24 November 1992                |
| Cuba (accession)                      | 25 July 1989             | 25 July 1989                    |
| Cyprus (accession)                    | 08 June 1992             | 08 June 1992                    |
| Czech Republic (accession) 7/         | 07 December 1988         | 07 December 1988                |
| Denmark (signature)                   | 10 May 1979              | 16 July 1979                    |
| Egypt (accession) 1/                  | 29 November 1977         | 16 July 1979                    |
| Finland (ratification)                | 12 July 1979             | 16 July 1979                    |
| France (ratification)                 | 18 October 1979          | 18 October 1979                 |
| Gabon (accession)                     | 28 December 1984         | 28 December 1984                |
| Germany 5/                            | 23 October 1979          | 23 October 1979                 |
| Ghana (accession)                     | 11 July 1995             | 11 July 1995                    |
| Greece (ratification)                 | 13 July 1979             | 16 July 1979                    |
| Hungary (accession)                   | 24 July 1997             | 24 July 1997                    |
| Iceland (accession)                   | 26 March 1991            | 26 March 1991                   |
| India (ratification)                  | 06 June 1978             | 16 July 1979                    |
| Indonesia, Republic of (accession) 1/ | 9 October 1986 3/        | 09 October 1986                 |
| Iran, Islamic Republic of (accession) | 12 October 1984 3/       | 12 October 1984                 |
| Iraq (ratification)                   | 21 July 1980 3/          | 21 July 1980                    |
| Israel (accession)                    | 13 October 1987          | 13 October 1987                 |
| Italy (ratification) 1/               | 10 July 1979             | 16 July 1979                    |
| Japan (acceptance)                    | 25 November 1977         | 16 July 1979                    |
| Kenya (accession)                     | 21 July 1998             | 21 July 1998                    |
| Korea, Republic of (accession)        | 16 September 1985<br>3/  | 16 September 1985               |
| Kuwait (ratification) 1/              | 25 February 1977         | 16 July 1979                    |
| Latvia (accession)                    | 22 March 1995            | 22 March 1995                   |
| Lebanon (accession)                   | 29 December 1994         | 29 December 1994                |

|                                       |                     |                   |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| Liberia (ratification)                | 14 November 1980 3/ | 14 November 1980  |
| Libya (accession)                     | 29 January 1999     | 29 January 1999   |
| Malaysia (accession)                  | 12 June 1986        | 12 June 1986      |
| Malta (accession)                     | 11 January 1991     | 11 January 1991   |
| Marshall Islands (accession)          | 12 May 1997         | 12 May 1997       |
| Mauritius (accession)                 | 07 December 1992    | 07 December 1992  |
| Mexico (accession)                    | 10 January 1994     | 10 January 1994   |
| Monaco (accession)                    | 01 October 1990     | 01 October 1990   |
| Montenegro                            | 03 June 2006        | 03 June 2006      |
| Morocco (accession)                   | 21 June 1999        | 21 June 1999      |
| Mozambique (accession)                | 18 April 1990       | 18 April 1990     |
| Netherlands (approval) 4/             | 15 June 1979        | 16 July 1979      |
| New Zealand (signature)               | 17 August 1977      | 16 July 1979      |
| Nigeria (accession)                   | 23 February 1988    | 23 February 1988  |
| Norway (ratification)                 | 10 October 1978     | 16 July 1979      |
| Oman (accession)                      | 30 December 1980    | 30 December 1980  |
| Pakistan (accession)                  | 6 February 1985 3/  | 06 February 1985  |
| Panama (accession)                    | 26 October 1987     | 26 October 1987   |
| Peru (accession)                      | 30 October 1987     | 30 October 1987   |
| Philippines (accession)               | 30 March 1981       | 30 March 1981     |
| Poland (ratification)                 | 03 July 1979        | 16 July 1979      |
| Portugal (signature)                  | 13 July 1979        | 16 July 1979      |
| Qatar (accession)                     | 12 March 1987       | 28 September 1987 |
| Romania (accession)                   | 27 September 1990   | 27 September 1990 |
| Russian Federation 6/                 | 13 March 1979       | 16 July 1979      |
| Saudi Arabia (accession)              | 5 October 1983 3/   | 05 October 1983   |
| Senegal (accession)                   | 16 June 1994        | 16 June 1994      |
| Serbia, Republic of 9/ (accession)    | 27 September 1990   | 27 September 1990 |
| Singapore (signature)                 | 29 June 1979        | 16 July 1979      |
| Slovak Republic (accession)           | 20 July 1993        | 29 July 1993      |
| South Africa, Republic of (accession) | 03 March 1994       | 03 March 1994     |
| Spain (ratification)                  | 05 September 1978   | 16 July 1979      |
| Sri Lanka (accession)                 | 15 December 1981 3/ | 15 December 1981  |
| Sweden (signature)                    | 19 June 1979        | 16 July 1979      |
| Switzerland (accession)               | 17 May 1989         | 17 May 1989       |
| Tanzania (accession)                  | 21 December 1998    | 21 December 1998  |
| Thailand (accession)                  | 14 December 1994    | 14 December 1994  |
| Kingdom of Tonga (accession)          | 18 September 2003   | 18 September 2003 |
| Tunisia (accession)                   | 09 May 1983         | 09 May 1983       |
| Turkey (ratification)                 | 16 November 1989    | 16 November 1989  |
| Ukraine (acceptance)                  | 29 March 1979       | 16 July 1979      |
| United Arab Emirates (accession) 1/   | 13 January 1983     | 13 January 1983   |
| United Kingdom (ratification) 2/      | 30 April 1979       | 16 July 1979      |
| United States (signature)             | 15 February 1979    | 16 July 1979      |
| Vanuatu * (accession)                 | 20 August 2008      | 20 August 2008    |
| Venezuela                             | 27 April 2005       | 27 April 2005     |
| Vietnam (accession)                   | 15 April 1998       | 15 April 1998     |

TOTAL 93

ANNEX 2

IMSO CONVENTION AMENDED  
AS ADOPTED BY THE TWENTIETH SESSION OF THE IMSO ASSEMBLY  
PROVISIONALLY APPLIED FROM 6 OCTOBER 2008

THE STATES PARTIES TO THIS CONVENTION:

CONSIDERING the principle set forth in Resolution 1721 (XVI) of the General Assembly of the United Nations that communication by means of satellites should be available to the nations of the world as soon as practicable on a global and non-discriminatory basis,

CONSIDERING ALSO the relevant provisions of the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, Including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies, concluded on 27 January 1967, and in particular Article 1, which states that outer space shall be used for the benefit and in the interests of all countries,

DETERMINED, to this end, to continue to make provision for the benefit of telecommunications users of all nations through the most advanced suitable space technology available, for the most efficient and economic facilities possible consistent with the most efficient and equitable use of the radio frequency spectrum and of satellite orbits,

BEARING IN MIND that the International Maritime Satellite Organization (INMARSAT) has, in accordance with its original purpose, established a global mobile satellite communications system for maritime communications, including distress and safety communications capabilities which are specified in the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1974, as amended from time to time, and the Radio Regulations specified in the Constitution and the Convention of the International Telecommunication Union, as amended from time to time, as meeting certain radiocommunications requirements of the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS),

RECALLING that INMARSAT has extended its original purpose by providing aeronautical and land mobile satellite communications, including aeronautical satellite communications for air traffic management and aircraft operational control (aeronautical safety services), and is also providing radiodetermination services,

RECALLING FURTHER that in December 1994 the Assembly decided to replace the name "International Maritime Satellite Organization (INMARSAT)" with "International Mobile Satellite Organization (Inmarsat)", and that, although these amendments did not enter formally into force, the name International Mobile Satellite Organization (Inmarsat) was used thereafter, including in the restructuring documentation,

RECOGNIZING that, in the restructuring of the International Mobile Satellite Organization, its assets, commercial operations and interests were transferred without restriction to a new commercial company, Inmarsat Ltd., while the continued provision of the GMDSS and adherence to the other public interests by the company

have been secured by a mechanism for intergovernmental oversight by the International Mobile Satellite Organization (IMSO),

ACKNOWLEDGING that, by adopting IMO Assembly Resolution A.888(21), “Criteria for the Provision of Mobile-Satellite Communication Systems in the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS),” the International Maritime Organization (IMO) has recognized the need for IMO to have in place criteria against which to evaluate the capabilities and performance of mobile satellite communication systems, as may be notified to IMO by Governments for possible recognition for use in the GMDSS,

ACKNOWLEDGING FURTHER that IMO has developed a “Procedure for the Evaluation and Possible Recognition of Mobile-Satellite Systems Notified for Use in the GMDSS”,

ACKNOWLEDGING ALSO the desire of Parties to promote the growth of a pro-competitive market environment in the current and future provision of mobile satellite communications systems services for the GMDSS,

AFFIRMING that, under such circumstances, there is a need to ensure continuity in the provision of the GMDSS through intergovernmental oversight,

ACKNOWLEDGING that IMO, through the Maritime Safety Committee (MSC) at its eighty-first session, adopted amendments to Chapter V of the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1974 relating to the long-range identification and tracking of ships (LRIT), adopted performance standards and functional requirements for LRIT, and adopted arrangements for the timely establishment of the LRIT system,

AFFIRMING the willingness of Parties that IMSO may assume the functions and duties of the LRIT Co-ordinator, at no cost to Parties, in accordance with decisions of IMO, subject to the terms of this Convention,

ACKNOWLEDGING that the MSC, at its eighty-second session, decided to appoint IMSO as the LRIT Co-ordinator and invited IMSO to take whatever action it could in order to ensure the timely implementation of the LRIT system,

AGREE AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

Definitions

For the purposes of this Convention:

- (a) “The Organization” means the intergovernmental organization established pursuant to Article 2.
- (b) “GMDSS” means the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System as established by IMO.
- (c) “Provider” means any entity or entities, which, through a mobile satellite communications system recognized by IMO, provides services for the GMDSS.
- (d) “Party” means a State for which this Convention has entered into force.
- (e) “Public Services Agreement” means an Agreement executed by the Organization and a Provider, as referred to in Article 5(1).
- (f) “IMO” means the International Maritime Organization.

- (g) “MSC” means the Maritime Safety Committee of IMO.
- (h) “LRIT” means the long-range identification and tracking of ships as established by IMO.
- (i) “LRIT Services Agreement” means an Agreement executed by the Organization and either an LRIT Data Centre or an LRIT Data Exchange, or other relevant entities, as referred to in Article 7.
- (j) “LRIT Data Centre” means a national, regional, co-operative or international data centre operating in conformity with requirements adopted by IMO in relation to LRIT.
- (k) “LRIT Data Exchange” means a data exchange operating in conformity with requirements adopted by IMO in relation to LRIT.
- (l) “LRIT Co-ordinator” means the Co-ordinator for the LRIT system appointed by the MSC.

## Article 2

### Establishment of the Organization

The International Mobile Satellite Organization (IMSO), herein referred to as “the Organization”, is hereby established.

## Article 3

### Primary Purpose

- (1) The Primary Purpose of the Organization is to ensure the provision, by each Provider, of maritime mobile satellite communications services for the GMDSS according to the legal framework set up by IMO.
- (2) In implementing the Primary Purpose set out in paragraph (1), the Organization shall:
  - (a) act exclusively for peaceful purposes; and
  - (b) perform the oversight functions in a fair and consistent manner among Providers.

## Article 4

### Other Functions

- (1) Subject to the decision of the Assembly, the Organization may assume functions and/or duties of LRIT Co-ordinator, at no cost to Parties, in accordance with the decisions of IMO.
- (2) The Organization shall continue to perform the functions and/or duties of LRIT Co-ordinator, subject to the decision of the Assembly. In performing such functions and/or duties, the Organization shall act in a fair and consistent manner.

## Article 5

### Oversight of the GMDSS

- (1) The Organization shall execute a Public Services Agreement with each Provider, and shall conclude such other arrangements as may be necessary to enable the Organization to perform its oversight functions, and to report as well as make recommendations, as appropriate.
- (2) Oversight of Providers by the Organization shall be based on:
  - (a) any specific conditions or obligations imposed by the IMO during, or at any stage after, the recognition and authorization of the Provider;
  - (b) relevant international regulations, standards, recommendations, resolutions and procedures relating to the GMDSS;
  - (c) the relevant Public Services Agreement and any other related arrangements concluded between the Organization and the Provider.
- (3) Each Public Services Agreement shall include, inter alia, general provisions, common principles and appropriate obligations for the Provider in accordance with a Reference Public Services Agreement and guidelines developed by the Assembly, including arrangements for the provision of all the information necessary for the Organization to fulfil its purpose, functions and duties, consistent with Article 3.
- (4) All Providers shall execute Public Services Agreements which shall also be executed by the Director General on behalf of the Organization. Public Services Agreements shall be approved by the Assembly. The Director General shall circulate the Public Services Agreements to all Parties. Such Agreements shall be considered approved by the Assembly unless more than one-third of the Parties submit written objections to the Director General within three months from the date of circulation.

## Article 6

### Facilitation

- (1) Parties shall take appropriate measures, in accordance with national laws, to enable Providers to provide GMDSS services.
- (2) The Organization, through existing international and national mechanisms dealing with technical assistance, should seek to assist Providers in their effort to ensure that all areas, where there is a need, are provided with mobile satellite communications services, giving due consideration to the rural and remote areas.

## Article 7

### LRIT Services Agreements

In order to perform its LRIT Co-ordinator functions and duties, including recovery of the costs incurred, the Organization may enter into contractual relationships, including LRIT Services Agreements, with LRIT Data Centres, LRIT Data Exchanges, or other relevant entities, on such terms and conditions as may be negotiated by the Director General, subject to oversight by the Assembly.

## Article 8

### Structure

The organs of the Organization shall be:

- (a) The Assembly.
- (b) A Directorate, headed by a Director General.

## Article 9

### Assembly - Composition and Meetings

- (1) The Assembly shall be composed of all the Parties.
- (2) Regular sessions of the Assembly shall be held once every two years. Extraordinary sessions shall be convened upon the request of one-third of the Parties or upon the request of the Director General, or as may be provided for in the Rules of Procedure for the Assembly.
- (3) All Parties are entitled to attend and participate at meetings of the Assembly, regardless of where the meeting may take place. The arrangements made with any host country shall be consistent with these obligations.

## Article 10

### Assembly - Procedure

- (1) Each Party shall have one vote in the Assembly.
- (2) Decisions on matters of substance shall be taken by a two-thirds majority, and on procedural matters by a simple majority, of the Parties present and voting. Parties which abstain from voting shall be considered as not voting.
- (3) Decisions whether a question is procedural or substantive shall be taken by the Chairman. Such decisions may be overruled by a two-thirds majority of the Parties present and voting.
- (4) A quorum for any meeting of the Assembly shall consist of a simple majority of the Parties.

## Article 11

### Assembly - Functions

The functions of the Assembly shall be:

- (a) to consider and review the purposes, general policy and long term objectives of the Organization and the activities of the Providers which relate to the primary purpose;

- (b) to take any steps or procedures necessary to ensure that each Provider carries out its obligation of providing maritime mobile satellite communications services for the GMDSS, including approval of the conclusion, modification and termination of Public Services Agreements;
- (c) to decide upon questions concerning formal relationships between the Organization and States, whether Parties or not, and international organizations;
- (d) to decide upon any amendment to this Convention pursuant to Article 20 thereof;
- (e) to appoint a Director General under Article 12 and to remove the Director General;
- (f) to endorse the budget proposals of the Director General, and to establish procedures for the review and approval of the budget;
- (g) to consider and review the purposes, general policy and long term objectives of the Organization in the performance of the Organization's role as LRIT Co-ordinator, and to take appropriate steps necessary to ensure that the Organization performs its role as LRIT Co-ordinator;
- (h) to take any steps or procedures necessary in the negotiation and execution of LRIT Services Agreements and/or contracts, including approval of the conclusion, modification and termination of such Agreements and/or contracts; and
- (i) to exercise any other function conferred upon it under any other Article of this Convention.

## Article 12

### Directorate

- (1) The term of appointment of the Director General shall be for four years or such other term as the Assembly decides.
- (2) The Director General shall serve for a maximum of two consecutive terms, unless the Assembly decides otherwise.
- (3) The Director General shall be the legal representative of the Organization and Chief Executive Officer of the Directorate, and shall be responsible to and under the direction of the Assembly.
- (4) The Director General shall, subject to the guidance and instructions of the Assembly, determine the structure, staff levels and standard terms of employment of officials and employees, and consultants and other advisers to the Directorate, and shall appoint the personnel of the Directorate.
- (5) The paramount consideration in the appointment of the Director General and other personnel of the Directorate shall be the necessity of ensuring the highest standards of integrity, competency and efficiency.
- (6) The Organization shall conclude, with any Party in whose territory the Organization establishes the Directorate, an agreement, to be approved by the Assembly, relating to any facilities, privileges and immunities of the Organization, its Director General, other officers, and representatives of Parties whilst in the territory of the host Government, for the purpose of exercising their functions. The agreement shall terminate if the Directorate is moved from the territory of the host Government.

(7) All Parties, other than a Party which has concluded an agreement referred to in paragraph (6), shall conclude a Protocol on the privileges and immunities of the Organization, its Director General, its staff, of experts performing missions for the Organization and representatives of Parties whilst in the territory of Parties for the purposes of exercising their functions. The Protocol shall be independent of this Convention and shall prescribe the conditions for its termination.

## Article 13

### Costs

(1) The Organization shall keep separate accounts of costs incurred for GMDSS oversight and LRIT Co-ordinator services. The Organization shall, in the Public Services Agreements, and in the LRIT Services Agreements and/or contracts, as appropriate, arrange for the costs associated with the following to be paid by the Providers and by entities with which the Organization has entered into LRIT Services Agreements and/or contracts:

- (a) the operation of the Directorate;
- (b) the holding of Assembly sessions and meetings of its subsidiary bodies;
- (c) the implementation of measures taken by the Organization in accordance with Article 5 to ensure that the Provider carries out its obligation of providing maritime mobile satellite communications services for the GMDSS; and
- (d) the implementation of measures taken by the Organization in accordance with Article 4 in its role as LRIT Co-ordinator.

(2) The costs defined in paragraph (1) shall be apportioned between all Providers and among entities with which the Organization has entered into LRIT Services Agreements and/or contracts, as appropriate, according to rules set up by the Assembly.

(3) No Party shall be obligated to pay for any costs associated with the performance by the Organization of the functions and duties of LRIT Co-ordinator by reason of its status as a Party to this Convention.

(4) Each Party shall meet its own costs of representation at Assembly sessions and meetings of its subsidiary bodies.

## Article 14

### Liability

Parties are not, in their capacity as such, liable for the acts and obligations of the Organization or the Providers, except in relation to non-Parties or natural or juridical persons they might represent in so far as such liability may follow from treaties in force between the Party and the non-Party concerned. However, the foregoing does not preclude a Party which has been required to pay compensation under such a treaty to a non-Party or to a natural or juridical person it might represent from invoking any rights it may have under that treaty against any other Party.

## Article 15

### Legal Personality

The Organization shall have legal personality. For the purpose of its proper functioning, it shall, in particular, have the capacity to contract, to acquire, lease, hold and dispose of movable and immovable property, to be a party to legal proceedings and to conclude agreements with States or international organizations.

## Article 16

### Relationship with other International Organizations

The Organization shall cooperate with the United Nations and its bodies dealing with the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and Ocean Area, its Specialized Agencies, as well as other international organizations, on matters of common interest.

## Article 17

### Settlement of Disputes

Disputes between Parties, or between Parties and the Organization, relating to any matter arising under this Convention, should be settled by negotiation between the parties concerned. If within one year of the time any party has requested settlement, a settlement has not been reached and if the parties to the dispute have not agreed either (a) in the case of disputes between Parties to submit it to the International Court of Justice; or (b) in the case of other disputes to some other procedure for settling disputes, the dispute may, if the parties to the dispute consent, be submitted to arbitration in accordance with the Annex to this Convention.

## Article 18

### Consent to be Bound

- (1) This Convention shall remain open for signature in London until entry into force and shall thereafter remain open for accession. All States may become Parties to the Convention by:
  - (a) Signature not subject to ratification, acceptance or approval, or
  - (b) Signature subject to ratification, acceptance or approval, followed by ratification, acceptance or approval, or
  - (c) accession.
- (2) Ratification, acceptance, approval or accession shall be effected by the deposit of the appropriate instrument with the Depositary.
- (3) Reservations cannot be made to this Convention.

## Article 19

### Entry into Force

- (1) This Convention shall enter into force sixty days after the date on which States representing 95 percent of the initial investment shares have become Parties to the Convention.
- (2) Notwithstanding paragraph (1), if the Convention has not entered into force within thirty-six months after the date it was opened for signature, it shall not enter into force.
- (3) For a State which deposits an instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession after the date on which the Convention has entered into force, the ratification, acceptance, approval or accession shall take effect on the date of deposit.

## Article 20

### Amendments

- (1) An amendment to this Convention may be proposed by any Party. The proposed amendment shall be circulated by the Director General to all Parties and to Observers. The Assembly shall consider the proposed amendment not earlier than six months thereafter. This period may in any particular case be reduced by up to three months by a substantive decision of the Assembly. Providers and Observers shall have the right to provide comments and input to Parties concerning the proposed amendment.
- (2) If adopted by the Assembly, the amendment shall enter into force one hundred and twenty days after the Depositary has received notices of acceptance from two-thirds of those States which, at the time of adoption by the Assembly, were Parties. Upon entry into force, the amendment shall become binding upon those Parties that have accepted it. For any other State which was a Party at the time of adoption of the amendment by the Assembly, the amendment shall become binding on the day the Depositary receives its notice of acceptance.

## Article 21

### Withdrawal

Any Party may, by written notification to the Depositary, withdraw voluntarily from the Organization at any time, such withdrawal to be effective upon receipt by the Depositary of such notification.

## Article 22

### Depositary

- (1) The Depositary of this Convention shall be the Secretary-General of IMO.
- (2) The Depositary shall promptly inform all Parties of:
  - (a) Any signature of the Convention.
  - (b) The deposit of any instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession.

- (c) The entry into force of the Convention.
  - (d) The adoption of any amendment to the Convention and its entry into force.
  - (e) Any notification of withdrawal.
  - (f) Other notifications and communications relating to the Convention.
- (3) Upon entry into force of an amendment to the Convention, the Depositary shall transmit a certified copy to the Directorate of the United Nations for registration and publication in accordance with Article 102 of the Charter of the United Nations.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the undersigned, duly authorized by their respective Governments, have signed this Convention.

DONE AT LONDON this third day of September one thousand nine hundred and seventy-six in the English, French, Russian and Spanish languages, all the texts being equally authentic, in a single original which shall be deposited with the Depositary, who shall send a certified copy to the Government of each of the States which were invited to attend the International Conference on the Establishment of an International Maritime Satellite System and to the Government of any other State which signs or accedes to this Convention.

*[Signatures omitted]*

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