Article 15

**Section III**

**Article 15. Institutional Arrangements**

Committee

1. There shall be a Committee established in accordance with the following procedures:

a. The Committee shall consist, at the time of entry into force of the present (Legally Binding Instrument), (12) experts. After an additional sixty ratifications or accessions to the (Legally Binding Instrument), the membership of the Committee shall increase by six members, attaining a maximum number of eighteen members. The members of the Committee shall serve in their personal capacity and shall be of high moral standing and recognized competence in the field of human rights, public international law or other relevant fields.

b. The experts shall be elected by the State Parties, consideration being given to equitable geographical distribution, the differences among legal systems, gender balanced representation and ensuring that elected experts are not engaged, directly or indirectly, in any activity which might adversely affect the purpose of this (Legally Binding Instrument)

c. The members of the Committee shall be elected by secret ballot from a list of persons nominated by State Parties. They shall be elected for a term of 4 years and can be re-elected for another term. Each State Party may nominate one person from among its own nationals. Elections of the members of the Committee shall be held at the Conference of State Parties by majority present and voting. At least four months before the date of each election, the Secretary-General of the United Nations shall address a letter to the State Parties inviting them to submit their nominations within two months. The Secretary-General shall prepare a list in alphabetical order of all persons thus nominated, indicating the State Parties which have nominated them, and shall submit it to the State Parties.

d. The initial election shall be held no later than six months after the date of the entry into force of this (Legally Binding Instrument). The term of six of the members elected at the first election shall expire at the end of two years; immediately after the first election, the names of these six members shall be chosen by lot by the chairperson of the meeting referred to in this Article.

e. If a member of the Committee dies or resigns or for any other cause can no longer perform his or her Committee duties, the State Party which nominated him or her shall appoint another expert from among its nationals to serve for the remainder of his or her term, subject to the approval of the majority of the States Parties.

f. The Committee shall establish its own rules of procedure and elect its officers for a term of two years. They may be re-elected.

g. The Secretary-General of the United Nations shall provide the necessary staff and facilities for the effective performance of the functions of the Committee under this (Legally Binding Instrument). The Secretary-General of the United Nations shall convene the initial meeting of the Committee. After its initial meeting, the Committee shall meet at such times as shall be provided in its rules of procedure.

h. With the approval of the General Assembly, the members of the Committee established under the present (Legally Binding Instrument) shall receive emoluments from United Nations resources on such terms and conditions as the Assembly may decide through the established procedures.

2. State Parties shall submit to the Committee, through the Secretary-General of the United Nations, reports on the measures they have taken to give effect to their undertakings under this (Legally Binding Instrument), within one year after the entry into force of the (Legally Binding Instrument) for the State Party concerned. Thereafter the State Parties shall submit supplementary reports every four years on any new measures taken and such other reports as the Committee may request.

3. The Secretary-General of the United Nations shall transmit the reports to all State Parties.

4. The Committee shall have the following functions:

a. Make general comments and normative recommendations on the understanding and implementation of the (Legally Binding Instrument) based on the examination of reports and information received from the State Parties and other stakeholders;

b. Consider and provide concluding observations and recommendations on reports submitted by State Parties as it may consider appropriate and forward these to the State Party concerned that may respond with any observations it chooses to the Committee. The Committee may, at its discretion, decide to include this suggestions and general recommendations in the report of the Committee together with comments, if any, from State Parties;

c. Provide support to the State Parties in the compilation and communication of information required for the implementation of the provisions of the (Legally Binding Instrument);

d. Submit an annual report on its activities under this (Legally Binding Instrument) to the State Parties and to the General Assembly of the United Nations;

e. [The Committee may recommend to the General Assembly to request the Secretary-General to undertake on its behalf studies on specific issues relating to the present (Legally Binding Instrument)].

**Conference of States Parties**

5. The States Parties shall meet regularly in a Conference of States Parties in order to consider any matter with regard to the implementation of the (Legally Binding Instrument), including any further development needed towards fulfilling its purposes.

6. No later than six months after the entry into force of the present (Legally Binding Instrument), the Conference of the States Parties shall be convened by the Secretary-General of the United Nations. The subsequent meetings shall be convened by the Secretary-General of the United Nations biennially or upon the decision of the Conference of States Parties.

**International Fund for Victims**

7. States Parties shall establish an International Fund for Victims covered under this (Legally Binding Instrument), to provide legal and financial aid to victims. This Fund shall be established at most after (X) years of the entry into force of this (Legally Binding Instrument). The Conference of Parties shall define and establish the relevant provisions for the functioning of the Fund.