2. Notwithstanding any confidentiality rules which may be adopted in accordance with paragraph 1 of this Article, any persons with access to such confidential information may disclose such information in connection with legal or administrative proceedings, if requested by the competent authority concerned.

## PART VI

## COOPERATION

### ARTICLE XXIII. COOPERATION AND ASSISTANCE

1. The Commission shall seek to adopt measures relating to technical assistance, technology transfer, training and other forms of cooperation, to assist developing countries that are members of the Commission to fulfill their obligations under this Convention, as well as to enhance their ability to develop fisheries under their respective national jurisdictions and to participate in high seas fisheries on a sustainable basis.

2. The members of the Commission shall facilitate and promote such cooperation, especially financial and technical, and the transfer of technology, as may be necessary for the effective implementation of paragraph 1 of this Article.

### ARTICLE XXIV. COOPERATION WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS OR ARRANGEMENTS

1. The Commission shall cooperate with subregional, regional, and global fishery organizations and arrangements and, as appropriate, shall establish relevant institutional arrangements such as consultative committees, in agreement with such organizations or arrangements, with the goal of promoting the achievement of the objective of this Convention, obtaining the best available scientific information, and avoiding duplication with respect to their work.

2. The Commission, in agreement with the relevant organizations or arrangements, shall adopt the rules of operation for the institutional arrangements established in accordance with paragraph 1 of this Article.

3. Where the Convention Area overlaps with an area under regulation by another fisheries management organization, the Commission shall cooperate with such other organization in order to ensure that the objective of this Convention is reached. To this end, through consultations or other arrangements, the Commission shall strive to agree with the other organization on the relevant measures to be taken, such as ensuring the harmonization and compatibility of the conservation and management measures adopted by the Commission and the other organization, or deciding that the Commission or the other organization, as appropriate, avoid taking measures in respect of species in that area which are regulated by the other.

4. The provisions of paragraph 3 of this Article shall be applied, as appropriate, to the case of fish stocks that migrate through areas under the purview of the Commission and of another organization or organizations or arrangements.

## PART VII

## SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES

### ARTICLE XXV. SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES

1. The members of the Commission shall cooperate in order to prevent disputes. Any member may consult with one or more members about any dispute related to the interpretation or application of the provisions of this Convention to reach a solution satisfactory to all as quickly as possible.

2. If a dispute is not settled through such consultation within a reasonable period, the members in question shall consult among themselves as soon as possible in order to settle the dispute through any peaceful means they may agree upon, in accordance with international law.

3. In cases when two or more members of the Commission agree that they have a dispute of a technical nature, and they are unable to resolve the dispute among themselves, they may refer the dispute, by mutual consent, to a non-binding *ad hoc* expert panel constituted within the framework of the Commission in accordance with the procedures adopted for this purpose by the Commission. The panel shall confer with the members concerned and shall endeavor to resolve the dispute expeditiously without recourse to binding procedures for the settlement of disputes.

## PART VIII

## NON-MEMBERS

### ARTICLE XXVI. NON-MEMBERS

1. The Commission and its members shall encourage all States and regional economic integration organizations referred to in Article XXVII of this Convention and, as appropriate, fishing entities referred to in Article XXVIII of this Convention that are not members of the Commission to become members or to adopt laws and regulations consistent with this Convention.

2. The members of the Commission shall exchange information among themselves, either directly or through the Commission, with respect to activities of vessels of non-members that undermine the effectiveness of this Convention.

3. The Commission and its members shall cooperate, consistent with this Convention and international law, to jointly deter vessels of non-members from carrying out activities that undermine the effectiveness of this Convention. To this end, the members shall, *inter alia*, call to the attention of non-members such activities by their vessels.

## PART IX

## FINAL PROVISIONS

### ARTICLE XXVII. SIGNATURE

1. This Convention shall be open for signature at Washington from November 14, 2003, until December 31, 2004, by:

   (a) the Parties to the 1949 Convention;

   (b) States not Party to the 1949 Convention with a coastline bordering the Convention Area; and

   (c) States and regional economic integration organizations which are not Parties to the 1949 Convention and whose vessels have fished for fish stocks covered by this Convention at any time during the four years preceding the adoption of this Convention and that participated in the negotiation of this Convention; and

   (d) other States which are not Parties to the 1949 Convention and whose vessels have fished for fish stocks covered by this Convention at any time during the four years preceding the adoption of this Convention, following consultations with the Parties to the 1949 Convention.

2. In relation to the regional economic integration organizations referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article, no member State of such organizations may sign this Convention unless it represents a territory which lies outside the territorial scope of the treaty establishing the organization and provided that such member State's participation be limited to representing only the interests of that territory.

### ARTICLE XXVIII. FISHING ENTITIES

1. Any fishing entity whose vessels have fished for fish stocks covered by this Convention at any time during the four years preceding the adoption of this Convention may express its firm commitment to abide by the terms of this Convention and comply with any conservation and management measures adopted pursuant thereto, by:

   (a) signing, during the period referred to in Article XXVII, paragraph 1 of this Convention, an instrument drafted to this effect in accordance with a resolution to be adopted by the Commission under the 1949 Convention; and/or

   (b) during or after the above-mentioned period, providing a written communication to the Depositary in accordance with a resolution to be adopted by the Commission under the 1949 Convention. The Depositary shall promptly provide a copy of this communication to all signatories and Parties.

2. The commitment expressed pursuant to paragraph 1 of this Article shall be effective from the date referred to in Article XXXI, paragraph 1, of this Convention, or on the date of the written communication referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article, whichever is later.

3. Any fishing entity referred to above may express its firm commitment to abide by the terms of this Convention as it may be amended pursuant to Article XXXIV or Article XXXV of this Convention by providing a written communication to this effect to the Depositary in accordance with the resolution referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article.

4. The commitment expressed pursuant to paragraph 3 of this Article shall be effective from the dates referred to in Article XXXIV, paragraph 3, and Article XXXV, paragraph 4, of this Convention, or on the date of the written communication referred to in paragraph 3 of this Article, whichever is later.

### ARTICLE XXIX. RATIFICATION, ACCEPTANCE OR APPROVAL

This Convention is subject to ratification, acceptance or approval by the signatories in accordance with their domestic laws and procedures.