4. The election of the President, Vice President and Secretary-General shall be made by secret ballot with a simple majority of Member States present and voting in accordance with the General Regulations.
5. The election of the Council shall be made with the highest number of votes of the Member States present and voting through a secret ballot, in accordance with the General Regulations.

Article 12
Languages

The official languages of the Organization shall be Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish.

Article 13
Finance

1. The expenditure for the functioning of the Organization shall be met by the financial resources provided by:
   (a) Member State contributions;
   (b) Associate Member and Affiliate Member fees; and
   (c) Donations, bequests, grants, gifts and other sources approved by the Council upon recommendation by the Secretary-General.
2. Each Member State shall pay a contribution and each Associate Member and Affiliate Member shall pay a fee to the Organization on an annual basis in the amount determined in accordance with Article 7.7 (g). The contribution shall be set at the same rate for each Member State.
3. Member State contributions and Associate Member and Affiliate Member fees shall be due and payable in accordance with the Financial Regulations.
4. Any Member State which is two years in arrears in making contributions shall, after written notification by the Secretary-General, be denied voting rights and the right to be elected to the Council until such time as the outstanding contributions have been paid, in accordance with the Financial Regulations, unless the General Assembly waives this provision.
5. Following the Council's approval of the Organization's audited financial statements, these statements shall be distributed to all Member States, Associate Members and Affiliate Members in the Annual Report.

Article 14
Legal Personality, Privileges and Immunities

1. The Organization has international legal personality and has the capacity to:
   (a) Contract and conclude agreements with governments, organizations and other bodies;
   (b) Acquire and dispose of immovable and movable property; and
   (c) Institute legal proceedings.
2. In the territory of each of its Member States, the Organization shall enjoy, to the extent provided for in an agreement with the Member State concerned, such privileges and immunities as may be necessary for the exercise of its functions and the fulfilment of its aim and objectives.
3. No Member State, Associate Member or Affiliate Member shall be liable, by reason of its status or participation in the Organization, for acts, omissions or obligations of the Organization.

Article 15
Amendments

1. Any Member State may propose an amendment to this Convention, in writing, to the Secretary-General.
2. The Secretary-General shall circulate the proposed amendment in the official languages to all Member States at least six months in advance of its consideration by the General Assembly.
3. The proposed amendment shall be adopted by vote of the General Assembly.
4. Any amendment adopted in accordance with paragraph 3 shall be sent by the Secretary-General to the Depositary. The latter shall notify all Member States of the adoption of the amendment.
5. The amendment shall enter into force for all Member States six months after written notifications of acceptance by two-thirds of the Member States have been received by the Depositary, except for a Member State which has notified the Depositary, prior to the entry into force of such amendment, that the amendment shall enter into force for that Member State only after a subsequent notification of its acceptance.
6. Notwithstanding paragraph 5, the General Assembly may decide by consensus that the amendment shall come into force for all Member States six months after written notifications of acceptance by two-thirds of the Member States have been received by the Depositary. If within this period of six months a Member State gives notification of withdrawal from the Organization on account of an amendment, the withdrawal shall, notwithstanding Article 21, take effect on the date on which such amendment comes into force.
7. The Depositary shall inform the Member States and the Secretary-General of the entry into force of the amendment, specifying the date of its entry into force.

Article 16
Reservations

No reservations shall be made to this Convention.

Article 17
Interpretation and Disputes

Member States shall make every effort to prevent disputes on the interpretation or application of this Convention, and shall use their best efforts to resolve any disputes by peaceful means which may include consultation and negotiation with each other and any other means as agreed to by the parties to the dispute.

Article 18
Signature, Ratification, Acceptance, Approval and Accession

1. This Convention shall be open for signature by any State that is a member of the United Nations at Paris from 27 January 2021 and remain open until 26 January 2022.
2. This Convention is subject to ratification, acceptance or approval by the signatory States.
3. This Convention shall be open for accession by any State that is a member of the United Nations which has not signed this Convention from the day after the date on which this Convention closes for signature.
4. Instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession shall be deposited with the Depositary, who shall then notify all States having deposited such instruments with the Depository and the Secretary-General thereof.