2. In case of any further amendment made to this Convention pursuant to Article XV, the fishing entity referred to in paragraph 1 may, by a written instrument delivered to the Executive Secretary of the Commission, express its firm commitment to abide by the terms of the amended Convention and comply with recommendations adopted pursuant to it. This commitment of a fishing entity shall be effective from the dates referred to in Article XV or on the date of receipt of the written communication referred to in this paragraph, whichever is later.

3. The Executive Secretary shall notify the Contracting Parties of its receipt of such commitments or notifications; make such notifications available to the Contracting Parties; provide notifications from the Contracting Parties to the fishing entity, including notifications of ratification, approval, or adherence and entry into force of this Convention and its amendments; and keep safe custody of any such documents transmitted between the fishing entity and the Executive Secretary.

4. The fishing entity referred to in paragraph 1 which has expressed, through the submission of the written instrument referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2, its firm commitment to abide by the terms of this Convention and comply with recommendations adopted pursuant to it may participate in the relevant work, including decision making, of the Commission, and shall, mutatis mutandis, enjoy the same rights and obligations as Members of the Commission as set forth in Articles III, V, VII, IX, XI, XII, and XIII of this Convention.

5. If a dispute involves the fishing entity referred to in paragraph 1 which has expressed its commitment to be bound by the terms of this Convention in accordance with this Annex and cannot be settled by amicable means, the dispute may, with the mutual agreement of the parties to the dispute, be submitted, as the case may be, to an ad hoc expert panel or, after seeking to agree on the scope of the dispute, for final and binding arbitration.

6. The provisions of this Annex relating to the participation of the fishing entity referred to in paragraph 1 are only for the purposes of this Convention.

7. Any Non-Contracting Party, Entity, or Fishing Entity that obtains Cooperating Status after 10 July 2013 shall not be considered a Fishing Entity for the purposes of this Annex and, thus, shall not enjoy the same rights and obligations as Members of the Commission as set forth in Articles III, V, VII, IX, XI, XII, and XIII of this Convention."

Article 12

The original of this Protocol, the English, French and Spanish texts of which are equally authentic, shall be deposited with the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. It shall be open for signature in Palma de Mallorca, Spain on 20 November 2019 and thereafter in Rome until 20 November 2020. The Contracting Parties to the Convention that have not signed this Protocol may nevertheless deposit their instruments of approval, ratification, or acceptance at any time. The Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations shall send a certified copy of this Protocol to each of the Contracting Parties to the Convention.

Article 13

This Protocol shall enter into force for each Contracting Party to the Convention accepting it on the ninetieth day after the deposit with the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations of an instrument of approval, ratification, or acceptance by three-fourths of the Contracting Parties to the Convention, and thereafter for each remaining Contracting Party to the Convention upon approval, ratification, or acceptance by it. A government which becomes a Contracting Party to the Convention after this Protocol has been opened for signature pursuant to Article 12 above shall be considered as having accepted this Protocol.

Article 14

Following the entry into force of this Protocol for those three-fourths of the Contracting Parties to the Convention that have deposited an instrument of approval, ratification or acceptance with the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the Contracting Parties to the Convention that have not deposited their instruments of approval, ratification, or acceptance shall be deemed to remain Members of the Commission. The Commission shall adopt measures to ensure its orderly functioning until this Protocol enters into force for all Contracting Parties to the Convention. A Contracting Party to the Convention for which this Protocol has not yet entered into force may nonetheless choose to implement these amendments provisionally, and may notify the Director General of the Food and Agriculture Organization to this effect.

Done at Palma de Mallorca, Spain, 18 November 2019