

Section IV. THE ARBITRATION COMMISSION

Article 24. The Arbitration Commission shall consist of four judges who shall be designated by the States, with the exception of the Presiding Judge. Nominated by the judges from among their number, the Presiding Judge shall be appointed by the current President of the Conference.

The country of which the judge designated to the presidency is a national shall nominate another judge for appointment. The four judges shall be selected from among persons offering full guarantees of independence and impartiality, and possessing the qualifications required in their respective countries for appointment to high judicial offices. They shall be appointed for a renewable four-year term.

The Commission shall meet as necessary when convened by its President. The Commission shall take decisions by an absolute majority.

The Commission shall appoint its Registrar and determine his mandate.

Article 25. The Arbitration Commission shall ensure compliance with the law in interpreting and applying this Convention.

Article 26. The Commission shall be competent to rule on any dispute between member States under this Convention.

Article 27. The Commission's decisions shall have executory and binding force.

Article 28. The Commission shall establish its rules of procedure, which shall be subject to approval by the Council.

Article 29. The member States undertake not to submit any dispute relating to the interpretation or application of this Convention to any means of settlement other than that provided for herein.

Article 30. The statute of the Commission shall be established under a separate protocol.

PART III. THE BUDGET

Article 31. The Community's budget shall be prepared by the Executive Secretary, approved by the Council of Ministers and the State Commissioner and put into effect by the Conference of Heads of State.

Article 32. The budget shall be financed by member States' contributions, in accordance with the procedures laid down by the Conference of Heads of State on the recommendation of the Council.

Member States undertake to pay their respective contributions regularly and on time.

PART IV. JURIDICAL PERSONALITY

Article 33. The Community shall possess juridical personality. It shall have the capacity to:

- (a) Contract;
- (b) Acquire and dispose of movable and immovable property essential to the attainment of its objectives;

- (c) Borrow;
- (d) Institute legal proceedings;
- (e) Accept donations, legacies and gifts.

The current President of the Conference of Heads of State shall be the Community's legal representative. He shall be competent to perform or delegate the above-mentioned juridical acts.

Article 34. The Conference shall determine the immunities and privileges to be granted to the Community, its representatives and the staff of the Executive Secretariat in the territories of the member States.

PART V. MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

Article 35. This Convention shall enter into force upon its ratification by the signatory States in accordance with their constitutional procedures.

The instruments of ratification shall be deposited with the headquarters' country designated as the depositary State, which shall notify all the signatory States and the Permanent Executive Secretariat of the said act.

Article 36. This Convention may be acceded to by other States in the Great Lakes region.

Article 37. This Convention shall be registered with the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity.

Article 38. This Convention may be amended or revised by the Conference of Heads of State upon written request by a member State.

Article 39. Any member State may give notice of denunciation of this Convention to the current President, who shall immediately notify the other member States.

The Convention shall cease to apply to that State three years after the date of notification.

Article 40. Competence with regard to the dissolution of the Community shall lie exclusively with the Conference of Heads of State, which shall determine the procedure for apportioning assets and liabilities.

DONE at Gisenyi on 20 September 1976.

President of the Republic
of Burundi:

[Signed]

MICHEL MICOMBERO
Lieutenant General

President of the Rwandese
Republic:

[Signed]

JUVÉNAL HABYARIMANA
Major General

President of the Republic of Zaire:

[Signed]

MOBUTO SESE SEKO KUKU NGBENDU WA ZA BANGA
Army General