

with a view to making possible the extradition, in accordance with international law, of the persons referred to in article II of this Convention.

ARTICLE IV

The States Parties to the present Convention undertake to adopt, in accordance with their respective constitutional processes, any legislative or other measures necessary to ensure that statutory or other limitations shall not apply to the prosecution and punishment of the crimes referred to in articles I and II of this Convention and that, where they exist, such limitations shall be abolished.

ARTICLE V

This Convention shall, until 31 December 1969, be open for signature by any State Member of the United Nations or member of any of its specialized agencies or of the International Atomic Energy Agency, by any State Party to the Statute of the International Court of Justice, and by any other State which has been invited by the General Assembly of the United Nations to become a Party to this Convention.

ARTICLE VI

This Convention is subject to ratification. Instruments of ratification shall be deposited with the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

ARTICLE VII

This Convention shall be open to accession by any State referred to in article V. Instruments of accession shall be deposited with the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

ARTICLE VIII

1. This Convention shall enter into force on the ninetieth day after the date of the deposit with the Secretary-General of the United Nations of the tenth instrument of ratification or accession.

2. For each State ratifying this Convention or acceding to it after the deposit of the tenth instrument of ratification or accession, the Convention shall enter into force on the ninetieth day after the date of the deposit of its own instrument of ratification or accession.

ARTICLE IX

1. After the expiry of a period of ten years from the date on which this Convention enters into force, a request for the revision of the Convention may be made at any time by any Contracting Party by means of a notification in writing addressed to the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

2. The General Assembly of the United Nations shall decide upon the steps, if any, to be taken in respect of such a request.

ARTICLE X

1. This Convention shall be deposited with the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

2. The Secretary-General of the United Nations shall transmit certified copies of this Convention to all States referred to in article V.

3. The Secretary-General of the United Nations shall inform all States referred to in article V of the following particulars:

(a) Signatures of this Convention, and instruments of ratification and accession deposited under articles V, VI and VII;

(b) The date of entry into force of this Convention in accordance with article VIII;

(c) Communications received under article IX.

ARTICLE XI

This Convention, of which the Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish texts are equally authentic, shall bear the date of 26 November 1968.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the undersigned, being duly authorized for that purpose, have signed this Convention.

2392 (XXIII). Question of the punishment of war criminals and of persons who have committed crimes against humanity

The General Assembly,

Considering the fact that a draft optional protocol¹ to the Convention on the Non-Applicability of Statutory Limitations to War Crimes and Crimes against Humanity² has been submitted,

Noting that the Convention on the Non-Applicability of Statutory Limitations to War Crimes and Crimes against Humanity does not preclude the study of principles that may be affirmed in the future in determining the nature of tribunals constituted for the trial of persons accused of having committed war crimes and crimes against humanity,

Believing that this draft optional protocol raises issues that are closely related to the general question of international criminal jurisdiction,

Recalling its previous consideration of the question of international criminal jurisdiction,

Recalling further its decision at the 1676th plenary meeting not to include the item entitled "International criminal jurisdiction" in the agenda of its twenty-third session but to defer the item to a later session,

Decides to take up this draft optional protocol at such time as it resumes consideration of the question of international criminal jurisdiction, or at such other time as it deems appropriate.

*1727th plenary meeting,
26 November 1968.*

2393 (XXIII). Capital punishment

The General Assembly,

Recalling that article 3 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights provides that everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person,

Recalling further that article 5 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights provides that no one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment,

Having considered the report entitled *Capital Punishment*³ in the light of the comments⁴ thereon of the *Ad Hoc* Advisory Committee of Experts on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders,⁵ and the report entitled *Capital Punishment—Developments 1961 to 1965*,⁶

Taking note of the conclusion drawn by the Advisory Committee from the report entitled *Capital Punishment* that, if one looked at the whole problem of capital punishment in a historical perspective, it became clear that there was a world-wide tendency towards a considerable reduction in the number and categories of offences for which capital punishment might be imposed,

¹ A/C.3/L.1570/Rev.2.

² General Assembly resolution 2391 (XXIII), annex.

³ United Nations publication, Sales No.: E.67.IV.15, part I.

⁴ *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Thirty-fifth Session, Annexes*, agenda item 11, document E/3724, section III.

⁵ In accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1086 B (XXXIX) of 30 July 1965, the *Ad Hoc* Committee was established on a permanent basis as the Advisory Committee of Experts on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders.

⁶ United Nations publication, Sales No.: E.67.IV.15, part II.