Article 11 (Consent to be Bound)

1. This Convention shall be open until 1 July 1957 for signature by any State Member of the United Nations or of a specialized agency. It shall be subject to ratification by the signatory States, and the instruments of ratification shall be deposited with the Secretary-General of the United Nations, who shall inform each signatory and acceding State.

2. After 1 July 1957 this Convention shall be open for accession by any State Member of the United Nations or of a specialized agency, or by any other State to which an invitation to accede has been addressed by the General Assembly of the United Nations. Accession shall be effected by the deposit of a formal instrument with the Secretary-General of the United Nations, who shall inform each signatory and acceding State.
i. *1954 British Draft Convention*

**ARTICLE 9**

This Convention shall be open for signature by any State whether or not a member of the United Nations until [date]. It shall be ratified. Ratification shall be effected be deposited of a formal instrument with the Secretary-General of the United Nations who shall inform each signatory and acceding State.

After [same date] this Convention shall be open to accession by any State whether or not a member of the United Nations. Accession shall be effected by the deposit of a formal instrument with the Secretary-General of the United Nations who shall inform each signatory and acceding State.¹

On the basis of United Nations Economic and Social Council Resolution 475, the Secretary-General was requested, in April 1953, to hold consultations with States, both members and non-members of the UN Organisation, as to the desirability of establishing an instrument supplementing the 1926 Slavery Convention. In late 1955, the Economic and Social Council appointed a committee to consider the 1954 British Draft Convention put forward by United Kingdom with a look to preparing “a text of a draft supplementary convention for submission to the Council”.² Neither the United Kingdom, in putting forward its 1954 Draft Convention, nor other States during the consultation process, commented on Article 9.³


² Economic and Social Council, *Resolution 564 (XIX), 7 April 1955*.

³ Economic and Social Council, *The Draft Supplementary Convention of Slavery and Servitude Submitted by the Government of the United Kingdom and Comments Thereon (Memorandum by the Secretary-General)*, UN Doc. E/AC.43/L.1, 2 December 1955, p. 9.