# No. 31191

## MULTILATERAL

## Convention on the Statute of the Central American Court of Justice. Concluded at Panama City on 10 December 1992

*Authentic text: Spanish.*

*Registered by the General Secretariat of the Central American Integration System, acting on behalf of the Parties, on 14 September 1994.*

## MULTILATÉRAL

## Convention concernant le Statut de la Cour centraméricaine de Justice. Conclue à Panama le 10 décembre 1992

*Texte authentique : espagnol.*

*Enregistrée par le Secrétariat général du Système d'intégration de l'Amérique centrale, agissant au nom des Parties, le 14 septembre 1994.*

[TRANSLATION — TRADUCTION][1]

# CONVENTION[2] ON THE STATUTE OF THE CENTRAL AMERICAN COURT OF JUSTICE

## STATUTE OF THE CENTRAL AMERICAN COURT OF JUSTICE

The Presidents of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama,

Considering that on December 13, 1991, the Presidents of the Central American Isthmus, signed the Protocol of Tegucigalpa,[3] which reforms the Charter of the Organization of Central American States (ODECA),[4] which constitutes the "Central American Integration System", and which, in its article 12, established, among other organs of that System, the Central American Court of Justice, whose organization, functioning and attributes shall be governed by its Statute.

Considering that the supreme courts of justice, in their meetings in Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua, have demonstrated their deep interest in the creation of the Central American Court of Justice, and have completed important legal works. Of these works, the Draft Statute of the Court is especially important and has been presented to our Governments for their review and approval,

Therefore, we have agreed to sign the following:

### STATUTE OF THE CENTRAL AMERICAN COURT OF JUSTICE

#### *Statement of goals*

*History*

It has been a strong and lasting desire of the states of the Central American Isthmus that they be recognized as one nation, as this recognition would accord their peoples the full attainment of justice, legal security and general welfare.

In the same manner it has also been an ardent desire that all the states' differences be resolved in a peaceful and civilized manner, thereby permitting the achievement of the social peace longed for by their peoples.

To that end various efforts have been undertaken, which have made it possible to demonstrate the enduring peaceful attitude of the inhabitants of the Central American states. These efforts resulted in the Central American Court of Justice, or

[1] Translation supplied by the General Secretariat of the Central American Integration System — Traduction fournie par le Secrétariat général du système d'intégration de l'Amérique centrale.

[2] Came into force on 2 February 1994, i.e., eight days after the date on which the States which had ratified the Tegucigalpa Protocol of 13 December 1991 to the Charter of the Organization of Central American States (OCAS) had deposited their instrument of ratification with the General Secretariat of the Central American Integration System, in accordance with article 48:

| *Participant* | *Date of deposit of the instrument of ratification* |
|---|---|
| El Salvador | 24 November 1993 |
| Honduras | 24 January 1994 |
| Nicaragua | 19 January 1994 |

[3] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1695, No. A-8048.

[4] *Ibid.*, vol. 552, p. 15.

the Court of Cartago, which was created by means of the Protocol signed in Washington, D.C. in the year 1907. The Protocol created universal precedents on the establishment of a court of justice with a unifying international character and for which access by individuals before the state would constitute an integral component.

The fortunes of that Court are known. During its ephemeral existence the Court proved what it was by making possible the settlement of differences among states through judicial resolutions that have permitted the maintenance of regional peace during such a convulsive period.

For historical and political reasons which need not be discussed, the Central American Court of Justice was established in a non-permanent from through the Charter of the Organization of Central American States (ODECA). The Presidents of the supreme courts of justice of the respective states actes as members and would meet to resolve specific matters presented.

Thereafter, the judicial organs of Central America brought together the interests and intentions of their peoples and states, and during the first meeting of the supreme courts of justice of Central America, held in the City of Guatemala, in March 1989, an agreement was reached, among others, to study a way in which to bring the Central American Court of Justice into being. To achieve that goal the delegation from Guatemala presented a draft convention for the creation of the Central American Court of Justice.

During the second meeting of the supreme courts of justice of Central America, held in the City of San Salvador, in June 1990, it was agreed that said draft convention would be ratified and that the Council of Presidents of the Courts would continue to study it.

During the third meeting, held in Tegucigalpa, in May 1991, a new proposal was presented in which the status of the Draft Convention was reaffirmed. During this meeting, pursuant to resolution VII, the eminent Honduran jurist dont Roberto Ramírez, was designated to undertake the preliminary studies that would determine the deasibility of establishing the Central American Court.

Doctor Ramírez presented his study at the meeting of the Central American Judicial Counsel, held in the city of San José, Costa Rica, during the month of November 1991. During the meeting Dr. Ramírez was assigned to draft the Convention for the Creation of the Court and its Statute, in line with the approved principles and elements to be discussed and approved thereafter in the city of Guatemala.

During the current year, the delegates of the Courts have held three meetings in Guatemala, Tegucigalpa and San Salvador, to revise Doctor Ramírez's project. These revisions are reflected in the Statute that we present today.

The success that has impelled the activity of the courts of Central America, during the process of judicial integration of the Isthmus, must be noted since on December 13, 1991, during the XI Meeting of the Presidents [sic] of the Central American Isthmus, the six heads of state of the republics of the Isthmus signed the "Protocol of Tegucigalpa". The Protocol reforms the Charter of the Organization of Central American States (ODECA), forms the "Central American Integration System", and, through its Article 12, establishes the Central American Court of Justice as the organ of the system. The Protocol was duly ratified and deposited by the states of El Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua.

Given the above, the necessity has arisen to give effect to the work initially prepared by the jurist don Roberto Ramírez and to execute the provisions of Article 12 of the aforementioned Protocol, so that the Statute of the Central American Court may be completed within 90 days following the entry into force of the Protocol which occurred on 23 July of this year.

*A jurisdictional power for the Central American States*

As discussed above, the creation of the Central American Court of Justice, has been the strong and lasting desire of the Central American countries. It has also become the organ of the Central American Integration System that can prescribe a sentence of a unifying legal character for the resolution of regional conflicts.

Thus the Central American Court of Justice views itself as a regional tribunal, with exclusive jurisdiction over the states of the Isthmus.

The court has absolute competence which excludes every other Tribunal. In addition to hearing conflicts between states, the Court may also hear conflicts between natural or legal persons resident in the area and the governments or organisms of the Central American Integration System.

*Organization of the Court*

The Court's basic organization is set forth in the Statute and shall be further developed in the Court's own rules. Notwithstanding the above, the Court's minimum number of members and the qualifications and requisites that each member must meet are indicated. These qualifications are equal to those required for the exercise of the highest judicial functions in the member's respective countries.

The election of magistrates to the Court in established by the respective organs or judicial authorities. Once elected, the Magistrates shall exercise their functions with absolute and complete independence for a period of ten years, with the possibility of being reelected. In addition, they shall enjoy the immunities and privileges accorded to the heads of diplomatic missions and at no time shall be permitted to exercise public or administrative duties, other than academic functions.

Although the Court's headquarters are designated in the Statute, the Court may agree to meet and function temporarily in any other place in Central America.

The Court shall exist indefinitely. Its members, and Secretary shall be required to reside in the country where the court is headquartered. The Court shall have a president and a vice-president who will exercise their functions for one year. The Presidency shall be held in succession according to the alphabetical order of the names of the Member States; and the Vice-Presidency may not be held, for any reason, by a Magistrate of the same nationality as the President.

The court's budget shall apportioned in equal parts to the Member States.

*Competence*

The Court shall have mandatory jurisdiction over disputes and voluntary jurisdiction over questions of law and fact.

As has been noted, the Court shall have competence over a wide range of subject matter. One of its areas of competence shall be as an International Regional

Tribunal. In that capacity it shall hear by petitions as court of sole resort the controversies presented by the states.

Another area of competence shall encompass conflicts that arise between natural or legal persons and a state of an organism of Central American Integration System.

It must be emphasized that the Court's competence includes the authority to try, at the request of a party, conflicts that may arise between the powers of the states, and in cases where judicial verdicts are not respected.

In addition to the competencies already mentioned, the Court is attributed the role of Organ of Permanent Consultation to the Central American courts of Justice. In that role it shall hear the questions presented and shall issue recommendations that facilitate the passage of uniform laws.

At any point in time, the respective chanceries may solicit a compromise among the states.

*Conclusions*

The creation of the Central American Court of Justice is of critical importance give the politicized period in which the Central American countries find themselves.

It is believed that in order to achieve lasting and durable peace in the Isthmus, a form of jurisdicional control must exist to prevent the states from unjustly asserting rights that they do not have, or becoming arbitrary powers that negate all justice.

The Court's grant of exclusive jurisdiction shall result in the creation of a supranational organ that will permit the resolution of problems of the Central American Integration System in a peaceful and civilized manner.

The Member States' submission to the Court's jurisdiction will limit their sovereignty. The implies that the states must respect the Court's decisions.

The Court's independence and autonomy stem from the delegation of powers by the Member States. In the exercise of its jurisdictional functions the Court examines and controls, through the judicial process, the acts executed by the Member States and by the organs of the Central American Integration System that affect the convenants and the treaties in force among them.

Natural and legal persons whose rights have been affected by the acts of states or organs of the Central American Integration System also have access to the Court.

The supervisory powers conferred upon the "Central American Judicial Council" during the phase prior to the formation an establishment of the Court must be noted in that the Council is granted powers to apply, interpret and execute the provisions of the Statute, and may undertake all necessary efforts to ensure the prompt establishment and functioning of the Court.

The Statute does nothing more than continue the Protocol of Tegucigalpa's recognition of the Council and its participation in the process of Central American judicial integration as evidenced by its work in the area.

Finally, it is worth emphasizing the content of Article 6 of the Statute, which adopts what was established by the Central American Court of Justice, or the Court of Cartago of 1907, and enriches what was established by declaring the Central

American Court of Justice the representative of the national conscience of Central America and the depositary of values that constitute the Central American nationality. Article 6 thereby incorporates into the new rules of Central American coexistence the values that will shape the future generations of our Central American fatherland.

*XIII Summit of the Presidents of Central America, Convention of the Statute of the Central American Court of Justice*

The Presidents of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama.

Considering that on December 13, 1991, the presidents of the Central American Isthmus signed the Protocol of Tegucigalpa, which reforms the Charter of the Organization of Central American States (ODECA), constitutes the "Central American Integration System" and through its Article 12 established the Central American Court of Justice and other organs of the System. The Court's formation, functioning and attributes shall be regulated by its Statute, which Statute must be negotiated and signed by all the Member States within ninety days of July 23, 1992, the date on which the Protocol of Tegucigalpa came into force.

Considering that the supreme courts of justice of the Central American states, in their meetings in Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua, have demonstrated heir deep interest in the creation of the Central American Court of Justice, and have completed important legal works. Of the works, the Draft Convention of the Court's Statute is especially important and has been presented to our Governments for their review and approval.

Therefore, to that end the presidents of the Central American Republics agree to approve the following convention:

STATUTE OF THE CENTRAL AMERICAN COURT OF JUSTICE

*Chapter I.* ATTRIBUTES AND ORGANIZATION

*Article 1.* The Central American Court of Justice, established through Article 122 of the "Protocol of Tegucigalpa to the Charter of the Organization of Central American States (ODECA)", is established and shall function according to the provisions of the present Statute and the ordinances, rules and resolutions issued by the Court itself.

The Central American Court of Justice is the principal and permanent judicial organ of the "Central American Integration System". It shall have mandatory regional jurisdiction and competence over all the Member States.

In the text of this Convention, the Central American Court of Justice shall also be referred to as "the Court".

*Article 2.* The Court shall guarantee respect for the law, both in the interpretation and execution of the "Protocol of Tegucigalpa of Reforms to the Charter of the Organization of Central American States (ODECA)", and of its related instruments and acts.

*Article 3.* The Court shall have its own competence and jurisdiction. It shall have the authority to render judgments at the request of a party and to resolve issues

with the effect of res judicata. The Court's doctrine shall have a unifying effect on all the states, organs and organizations that form of participate in the "Central American Integration System", and on issues of private law.

*Article 4.* The Court shall issue procedural ordinances and general rules, whether substantive or otherwise, through which the Court shall determine the process and manner by which it will exercise its functions. However, these ordinances and rules may not contain norms that are in conflict with the present Statute.

*Article 5.* The goal of the procedures anticipated by this Statute and of the procedures that will be established in the rules and ordinances shall be to safeguard the aims and principles of the "Central American Integration System", the availability of rights, the equality of parties and the guarantee of due process.

*Article 6.* The Court embodies the national conscience of Central America and is considered the depositary and the guardian of the values that form the Central American nationality. By virtue of this role, the Magistrates of the Court shall not permit the interest of the states that nominated them to interfere with the exercise of their functions.

*Article 7.* The Court shall exercise its functions in plenary sessions. Nonetheless it shall have authority to separate or distribute its competence and jurisdiction to Tribunals or Chambers in order to hear controversies that may be submitted for decision. These Tribunals or Chambers shall issue their judgments or resolutions as courts of sole resort.

The Court shall be headquartered in the city of Managua, Republic of Nicaragua, where it shall function indefinitely. Nevertheless, it may hold sessions in the territory of any of the Member States.

*Article 8.* The Court shall be composed of one or more Magistrates from each state.

Each Magistrate shall have an alternate who must possess the same qualifications as the Magistrate.

*Article 9.* The Magistrates must be individuals who are held in high moral esteem and must possess the qualifications required for holding the highest judicial positions in their country. The age requirement for jurists of notorious competence may be waived by the court of their respective country.

*Article 10.* The Magistrates and their alternates shall be elected by the supreme courts of justice of the Member States.

*Article 11.* The Magistrates of the Court shall perform their duties for a period of ten years and may be reelected. Those Magistrates elected for a stated period shall continue to exercise their duties until replaced by their successor.

*Article 12.* The Magistrates of the Court and their alternates may only be removed for the causes and pursuant to the procedures established in the rules, provided that the decision to remove is approved by a two-thirds affirmative vote of the remaining Magistrates.

*Article 13.* In the event that a Magistrate is temporarily absent from the Court, the President will call the respective alternate who will perform the duties of Magistrate during his or her absence. If the absence is permanent, the President shall bring the matter to the attention of the respective organ or judicial authority so that it may proceed to nominate a new Magistrate for a full term. The foregoing shall not inter-

fere with the alternate's exercice of his or her functions, until the new Magistrate assumes his or her post.

*Article 14.* In the exercise of their functions the Magistrates shall enjoy complete independence — including independence from the states of which they are nationals — and they shall exercise their functions impartially.

*Article 15.* The Magistrates may not perform other professional activities, whether remunerated or not, except for those of an academic nature. They shall also abstain from engaging in any activities that are incompatible with the character and dignity of their post.

*Article 16.* The Court shall have a president and a vice-president, who will perform their functions for one year. The Presidency will be held successively by one of the Magistrates in alphabetical order according to the names of their respective states. The Vice-President shall be elected by the Court according to the Court's rules and must be of a different nationality than that of the President.

*Article 17.* In the event that the President is temporarily absent, the Presidency shall be held the Vice-President. If the absence is permanent, the Vice-President shall continue to exercise the presidential functions for the remainder of the President's term.

*Article 18.* The President shall be the representative of the Court. Such representation shall be exercised by the Vice-President in the event referred to in the previous article. In the absence of both the President and the Vice-President, such representation may be delegated to another Magistrate.

*Article 19.* The Court shall name its Secretary General and may arrange for the nomination of the other officials when necessary. These officials shall exercise discretion over the cases that are discussed before the Court.

*Article 20.* The rules of the court shall establish the qualifications that the Secretary General and other officials must possess.

*Article 21.* The Magistrates of the Court and the Secretary General shall reside in the country where the Court is headquartered.

The Magistrates of the Court must participate in the exercice of the Court's functions throughout the duration of their respective terms. In the event that a Magistrate is prevented from participating, he or she must inform the President or whomever is performing the functions of the President.

## *Chapter II.* COMPETENCE AND AUTHORITY

*Article 22.* The Court's competence includes the following:

*a*) To hear, at the request of any of the Member States, the controversies that arise among them. Excepted are frontier, territorial or maritime controversies, which may not be heard without the consent of all parties concerned.

Prior to commencement of trial, the respective chanceries must seek to obtain an agreement on the issues, but may also attempt to obtain an agreement during a later stage in the proceedings.

*b*) To hear actions that relate to the nullification or nonfulfillment of the agreements of the organisms of the Central American Integration System.

*c*) To hear, at the request of any interested party, any matter related to the legal, regulatory or administrative provisions or any other type of rules prescribed by a state, when such provisions or rules affect the conventions, treaties or any other norm of the Law of Central American Integration, of the agreements or resolutions of its organs or organisms;

*ch*) To hear and issue verdicts, if it so decides, relating to matters which the parties have requested the Court to hear as a competent tribunal. The Court may also hear, decide, and resolve disputes *ex aequo et bono*, if the interested parties so agree;

*d*) To act as Tribunal of Permanent Consultation to the supreme courts of justice of the Member States;

*e*) To act as a consultant to the organs and organisms of the Central American Integration System in the interpretation and application of the "Protocol of Tegucigalpa of Reforms to the Charter of the Organization of Central American States (ODECA)" and of the complementary instruments and acts derived form the same;

*f*) To hear and resolve, at the request of aggrieved parties, conflicts that may arise among the fundamental powers or organs of the Member States, and disputes which may arise when judicial verdict are not respected;

*g*) To hear matters that are submitted directly by individuals who are affected by the agreements of the organs or organisms of the Central American Integration System;

*h*) To hear controversies or questions that may arise between a Central American state and another non-Central American state when such controversies are submitted to the Court by mutual agreement;

*i*) To undertake comparative studies of Central American legislation in order to achieve the harmonization of laws and to complete drafts of uniform laws so as to achieve the legal integration of Central America.

This task shall be performed either directly or by means of a specialized institute or organism such as the Central American Judicial Council or the Central American Institute of the Law of Integration;

*j*) To hear on appeal, as court of last resort, the administrative resolutions prescribed by the organs or organisms of the Central American Integration System which directly affect a member of the staff of the same and whose reinstatement has been denied.

*k*) To resolve all pre-judicial consultations as requested by any judge or judicial tribunal which is hearing a pending case or which wants to obtain a uniform application or interpretation of the norms that conform to the legal principles of the "Central American Integration System" created by the "Protocol of Tegucigalpa", its complementary instruments or acts derived from the same.

*Article 23.* The Member States shall be permitted to formulate and propose questions to the Court which relate to the interpretation of any treaty or international convention in force, or to conflicts between treaties, or between treaties and the national laws of each Member State.

*Article 24.* Questions decided by the Court pursuant to this Statute, rules or regulations which involve the Central American Integration System, shall be binding on all the states that comprise the system.

*Article 25.* The Court's competence does not extent do the area of human rights which falls under the exclusive jurisdiction of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights.

*Article 26.* The Member States are obligated to grant to the Court all necessary facilities for the adequate performance of its functions.

*Article 27.* The Court and its Magistrates shall enjoy in all the Member States the immunities recognized by international custom and by the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations with respect to the inviolability of its archives and official correspondence and with respect to all that relates to its jurisdiction, both civil and penal.

*Article 28.* The Court shall possess a legal personality and shall enjoy, in all the Member States, the privileges and immunities that it is due as an organ of the Central American Integration System. These privileges and immunities shall ensure the independent exercise of the Court's functions and the realization of the objectives for which it was created. The Magistrates, the Secretary General of the Court and the officials designated by the Court as international employees shall enjoy the immunities and privileges due to their posts. To that end, the Magistrates shall possess a rank equivalent to that of Ambassadors and the other officials shall possess a rank as established by mutual agreement of the Court and the Government of the country where the Court is headquartered.

*Article 29.* The Magistrates shall be immune from all responsibility associated with the execution of acts and the issuance of opinions in the fulfillment of their official functions and shall continue to enjoy such immunity after having ceased performing these functions.

*Article 30.* Consistent with the norms heretofore established, the Court possesses the authority to determine its competence in each case by interpreting the treaties and conventions pertinent to the matter at hand and by applying the principles of both the Law of Integration and International Law.

*Article 31.* The Court shall be authorized to prescribe pretrial or protective measures which it considers advisable to safeguard the rights of the parties from the moment that a claim is made against one or more states, organs or organisms of the Central American Integration System until a definitive verdict is issued. This authority shall permit the Court to stabilize the situation in which the contending parties are to remain, so as not to aggravate the harm and so as to maintain matters in the same state pending resolution.

*Article 32.* The rules of evidence will be established in the Court's rules. The court shall be able to request or accept evidence which it considers useful to define, establish or uphold the rights that the parties hold or claim.

*Article 33.* In the area of the admission and use of evidence, the orders issued by the Court shall not require ratification or approval prior to their execution, and must be executed by the Court's officials, judicial or administrative authorities, or by whomever receives an order from the Court.

*Article 34.* The documents from any country, regardless of their form, which are presented as evidence in trials, need only be authenticated in the place of origin by competent officials of that country or by a notary in the exercise of his or her functions.

The rules of evidence to be observed in any one of the territories of the Member States shall comply with the rules prescribed by the Court.

### *Chapter III.* THE VERDICT AND ITS EXECUTION

*Article 35.* The Court shall evaluate the evidence as a whole, using its judgment as the evaluating criteria.

*Article 36.* All of the Court's decisions and those of its Tribunals and Chambers shall be reached by a vote of at least an absolute majority of the members of the relevant decision-making body. The dissenting or concurring Magistrate or Magistrates shall have the right to have their opinion set apart in writing.

The resolution shall set forth the grounds on which it is based, shall mention the names of the Magistrates who have taken part in it and shall contain their signatures in the absence of justification for not including their signatures.

*Article 37.* The judgment shall resolve every point in dispute. However, the judgment shall only be binding upon the parties to the dispute.

*Article 38.* The judgement shall be definitive and shall not be appealable; nevertheless the Court may, either on its own initiative or at the request of a party, clarify or expand the reasoning of the decision within thirty days following the decision.

*Article 39.* The interlocutory decisions and definitive sentences prescribed by the Court shall not appealable. All such decisions are binding upon the Member States and upon the organs or organisms of the Central American Integration System and upon natural and legal persons, and shall be executed as would a resolution, award or sentence of a national court. Moreover, the certification issued by the Secretary General of the Court shall suffice for such execution.

In the event that the Court's judgments or resolutions are not enforced by a Member State, the Court shall inform the other Member States, so that they may ensure the execution through appropriate means.

*Article 40.* In cases submitted to the jurisdictional ambit of the Court, the Court may not avoid passing judgment by alleging silence or uncertainty in the Convention or Treaties alleged to be applicable.

### *Chapter IV.* GENERAL PROVISIONS, TRANSITORY PROVISIONS AND DATES OF EFFECTIVENESS

*Article 41.* The Member States shall bear the expenses for the Court's general budget equally.

*Article 42.* In the budget of each Member State a specific item must provide for the Court's budget. Each Member State shall pay its contribution within the three months before the beginning of the calendar year.

*Article 43.* In order to issue and reform rules and regulations that govern proceedings, the affirmative votes of the majority of the Magistrates shall be required. These modifications shall have no retroactive effect.

*Article 44.* Each Magistrate of the Court shall earn a salary and shall have a right to be compensated for incidental expenses, travel expenses and expenses associated with food and lodging. Magistrates who have completed their terms shall be

entitled to a retirement pension in an amount and subject to conditions established by the Court.

*Article 45.* While the Court is not yet composed or established, the application, interpretation and execution of the provisions contained in the present Statute will be the responsibility of the Central American Judicial Council, made up of the Presidents of the supreme courts of justice of the Member States. The Central American Judicial Council shall also be responsible for undertaking all appropriate measures and whatever steps that are necessary to ensure to prompt installation and operation of the Court.

*Article 46.* The Central American Judicial Council shall, in addition to those duties already stated, fix the date of solemn establishment and commencement of the functions of the Central American Court of Justice; draft its rules and regulations, which are to govern proceedings and budgets; and fix the initial number of Magistrates who will compose the Court.

*Article 47.* Before the Court begins its functions, the Member States must endow the Court with sufficient financial resources so that it may adequately carry out its critical and lofty functions.

*Article 48.* This Statute does not permit any reservations. Its duration shall be indefinite and it shall enter into force eight days after the date on which the Member States, who have ratified the Protocol of Tegucigalpa to the Charter of the Organization of Central American Integration System", have deposited the appropriate documents pursuant to what is established in Article 36 of the aforementioned Protocol. Those Member States which, on the day of entry into force of the Statute, have yet to ratify the aforementioned Protocol, may participate in the composition of the Court prior to the ratification and deposit of instruments in accordance with the procedures stated in those instruments.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the Central American Presidents sign the present Statute in the City of Panama, Republic of Panama, in six original copies, on the tenth day of the month of December, nineteen hundred and ninety-two.

RAFAEL A. CALDERON FOURNIER
President of the Republic of Costa Rica

ALFREDO F. CRISTIANI BURKARD
President of the Republic of El Salvador

JORGE SERRANO ELIAS
President of the Republic of Guatemala

RAFAEL L. CALLEJAS ROMERO
President of the Republic of Honduras

VIOLETA BARRIOS DE CHAMORRO
President of the Republic of Nicaragua

GUILLERMO ENDARA GALIMANY
President of the Republic of Panama

[EDGAR CERVANTES VILLALTA
President of the Supreme Court of Justice of Costa Rica

GABRIEL MAURICIO GUTIERREZ
President of the Supreme Court of Justice of El Salvador

JUAN JOSÉ RODILL PERALTA
President of the Supreme Court of Justice of Guatemala

ORLANDO LOZANO MARTÍÑEZ
President of the Supreme Court of Justice of Honduras

ORLANDO TREJOS SOMARRIBA
President of the Supreme Court of Justice of Nicaragua

CARLOS LUCAS LOPEZ TEJADA
President of the Supreme Court of Justice of Panama]

[*Note:* In El Salvador, the present Convention has been ratified by the Legislative Assembly during its session of 14 May 1993, and is actually at the stage of its approval, promulgation and publication by the President of the Republic.]