

**United Nations Convention on the Law of Treaties, Signed at Vienna  
23 May 1969, Entry into Force: 27 January 1980**

United Nations (UN)

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**United Nations Convention on the Law of Treaties**

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**United Nations Convention on the Law of Treaties**  
**Signed at Vienna 23 May 1969, Entry into Force: 27**  
**January 1980**

**[Preamble]**

The States Parties to the present Convention

Considering the fundamental role of treaties in the history of international relations,

Recognizing the ever-increasing importance of treaties as a source of international law and as a means of developing peaceful co-operation among nations, whatever their constitutional and social systems,

Noting that the principles of free consent and of good faith and the pacta sunt servanda rule are universally recognized,

Affirming that disputes concerning treaties, like other international disputes, should be settled by peaceful means and in conformity with the principles of justice and international law,

Recalling the determination of the peoples of the United Nations to establish conditions under which justice and respect for the obligations arising from treaties can be maintained,

Having in mind the principles of international law embodied in the Charter of the United Nations, such as the principles of the equal rights and self-determination of peoples, of the sovereign equality and independence of all States, of non-interference in the domestic affairs of States, of the prohibition of the threat or use of force and of universal respect for, and observance of, human rights and fundamental freedoms for all,

Believing that the codification and progressive development of the law of treaties achieved in the present Convention will promote the purposes of the United Nations set forth in the Charter, namely, the

maintenance of international peace and security, the development of friendly relations and the achievement of co-operation among nations,

Affirming that the rules of customary international law will continue to govern questions not regulated by the provisions of the present Convention,

Have agreed as follows:

**Part I - Introduction**

**Article 1 - Scope of the present Convention**

The present Convention applies to treaties between States.

**Article 2 - Use of terms**

1. For the purposes of the present Convention:

(a) 'treaty' means an international agreement concluded between States in written form and governed by international law, whether embodied in a single instrument or in two or more related instruments and whatever its particular designation;

(b) 'ratification', 'acceptance', 'approval' and 'accession' mean in each case the international act so named whereby a State establishes on the international plane its consent to be bound by a treaty;

(c) 'full powers' means a document emanating from the competent authority of a State designating a person or persons to represent the State for negotiating, adopting or authenticating the text of a treaty, for expressing the consent of the State to be bound by a treaty, or for accomplishing any other act with respect to a treaty;

20 (d) 'reservation' means a unilateral statement, however phrased  
or named, made by a State, when signing, ratifying, accepting, ap-  
proving or acceding to a treaty, whereby it purports to exclude or  
to modify the legal effect of certain provisions of the treaty in their  
application to that State;

21 (e) 'negotiating State' means a State which took part in the drawing  
up and adoption of the text of the treaty;

22 (f) 'contracting State' means a State which has consented to be  
bound by the treaty, whether or not the treaty has entered into  
force;

23 (g) 'party' means a State which has consented to be bound by the  
treaty and for which the treaty is in force;

24 (h) 'third State' means a State not a party to the treaty;

25 (i) 'international organization' means an intergovernmental organi-  
zation.

26 2. The provisions of paragraph 1 regarding the use of terms in the  
present Convention are without prejudice to the use of those terms  
or to the meanings which may be given to them in the internal law  
of any State.

### 27 **Article 3 - International agreements not within the scope of the present Convention**

28 The fact that the present Convention does not apply to interna-  
tional agreements concluded between States and other subjects  
of international law or between such other subjects of international  
law, or to international agreements not in written form, shall not  
affect:

29 (a) the legal force of such agreements;

30 (b) the application to them of any of the rules set forth in the present

Convention to which they would be subject under international law  
independently of the Convention;

(c) the application of the Convention to the relations of States as 31  
between themselves under international agreements to which other  
subjects of international law are also parties.

### **Article 4 - Non-retroactivity of the present Convention** 32

Without prejudice to the application of any rules set forth in the 33  
present Convention to which treaties would be subject under  
international law independently of the Convention, the Convention  
applies only to treaties which are concluded by States after the  
entry into force of the present Convention with regard to such  
States.

### **Article 5 - Treaties constituting international organizations and treaties adopted within an international organization** 34

The present Convention applies to any treaty which is the consti- 35  
tuent instrument of an international organization and to any treaty  
adopted within an international organization without prejudice to  
any relevant rules of the organization.

## **Part II - Conclusion and Entry into Force of Treaties** 36

### **Section 1. - Conclusion of Treaties** 37

#### **Article 6 - Capacity of States to conclude treaties** 38

Every State possesses capacity to conclude treaties. 39

## Article 7 - Full powers

41 1. A person is considered as representing a State for the purpose  
of adopting or authenticating the text of a treaty or for the purpose of  
expressing the consent of the State to be bound by a treaty if:

42 (a) he produces appropriate full powers; or

43 (b) it appears from the practice of the States concerned or from  
other circumstances that their intention was to consider that person  
as representing the State for such purposes and to dispense with  
full powers.

44 2. In virtue of their functions and without having to produce full pow-  
ers, the following are considered as representing their State:

45 (a) Heads of State, Heads of Government and Ministers for For-  
eign Affairs, for the purpose of performing all acts relating to the  
conclusion of a treaty;

46 (b) heads of diplomatic missions, for the purpose of adopting the  
text of a treaty between the accrediting State and the State to which  
they are accredited;

47 (c) representatives accredited by States to an international confer-  
ence or to an international organization or one of its organs, for the  
purpose of adopting the text of a treaty in that conference, organi-  
zation or organ.

## 48 Article 8 - Subsequent confirmation of an act performed without authorization

49 An act relating to the conclusion of a treaty performed by a person  
who cannot be considered under article 7 as authorized to repre-  
sent a State for that purpose is without legal effect unless after-  
wards confirmed by that State.

## 40 Article 9 - Adoption of the text

51 1. The adoption of the text of a treaty takes place by the consent  
of all the States participating in its drawing up except as provided  
in paragraph 2.

52 2. The adoption of the text of a treaty at an international confer-  
ence takes place by the vote of two-thirds of the States present  
and voting, unless by the same majority they shall decide to apply  
a different rule.

## Article 10 - Authentication of the text

53 The text of a treaty is established as authentic and definitive:

54 (a) by such procedure as may be provided for in the text or agreed  
upon by the States participating in its drawing up; or

55 (b) failing such procedure, by the signature, signature ad referen-  
dum or initialling by the representatives of those States of the text  
of the treaty or of the Final Act of a conference incorporating the  
text.

## Article 11 - Means of expressing consent to be bound by a treaty

56 The consent of a State to be bound by a treaty may be expressed  
57 by signature, exchange of instruments constituting a treaty, ratifi-  
cation, acceptance, approval or accession, or by any other means  
58 if so agreed.

## Article 12 - Consent to be bound by a treaty expressed by signature

59 1. The consent of a State to be bound by a treaty is expressed by  
60



the signature of its representative when:

- 61 (a) the treaty provides that signature shall have that effect;
- 62 (b) it is otherwise established that the negotiating States were agreed that signature should have that effect; or
- 63 (c) the intention of the State to give that effect to the signature appears from the full powers of its representative or was expressed during the negotiation.

64 2. For the purposes of paragraph 1:

- 65 (a) the initialling of a text constitutes a signature of the treaty when it is established that the negotiating States so agreed;
- 66 (b) the signature ad referendum of a treaty by a representative, if confirmed by his State, constitutes a full signature of the treaty.

67 **Article 13 - Consent to be bound by a treaty expressed by an exchange of instruments constituting a treaty**

68 The consent of States to be bound by a treaty constituted by instruments exchanged between them is expressed by that exchange when:

- 69 (a) the instruments provide that their exchange shall have that effect; or
- 70 (b) it is otherwise established that those States were agreed that the exchange of instruments should have that effect

71 **Article 14 - Consent to be bound by a treaty expressed by ratification, acceptance or approval**

72 1. The consent of a State to be bound by a treaty is expressed by

ratification when:

- 73 (a) the treaty provides for such consent to be expressed by means of ratification;
- 74 (b) it is otherwise established that the negotiating States were agreed that ratification should be required;
- 75 (c) the representative of the State has signed the treaty subject to ratification; or
- 76 (d) the intention of the State to sign the treaty subject to ratification appears from the full powers of its representative or was expressed during the negotiation.

2. The consent of a State to be bound by a treaty is expressed by acceptance or approval under conditions similar to those which apply to ratification.

78 **Article 15 - Consent to be bound by a treaty expressed by accession**

79 The consent of a State to be bound by a treaty is expressed by accession when:

- 80 (a) the treaty provides that such consent may be expressed by that State by means of accession;
- 81 (b) it is otherwise established that the negotiating States were agreed that such consent may be expressed by that State by means of accession; or
- 82 (c) all the parties have subsequently agreed that such consent may be expressed by that State by means of accession.

**Article 16 - Exchange or deposit of instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession** <sup>9483</sup>

84 Unless the treaty otherwise provides, instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession establish the consent of a State to be bound by a treaty upon:

- 85 (a) their exchange between the contracting States;
- 86 (b) their deposit with the depositary; or
- 87 (c) their notification to the contracting States or to the depositary, if so agreed.

**Article 17 - Consent to be bound by part of a treaty and choice of differing provisions**

- 89 1. Without prejudice to articles 19 to 23, the consent of a State to be bound by part of a treaty is effective only if the treaty so permits or the other contracting States so agree.
- 90 2. The consent of a State to be bound by a treaty which permits a choice between differing provisions is effective only if it is made clear to which of the provisions the consent relates.

**Article 18 - Obligation not to defeat the object and purpose of a treaty prior to its entry into force**

92 A State is obliged to refrain from acts which would defeat the object and purpose of a treaty when:

- 93 (a) it has signed the treaty or has exchanged instruments constituting the treaty subject to ratification, acceptance or approval, until it shall have made its intention clear not to become a party to the treaty; or

(b) it has expressed its consent to be bound by the treaty, pending the entry into force of the treaty and provided that such entry into force is not unduly delayed.

**Section 2. - Reservations** 95

**Article 19 - Formulation of reservations** 96

A State may, when signing, ratifying, accepting, approving or acceding to a treaty, formulate a reservation unless: 97

- (a) the reservation is prohibited by the treaty; 98
- (b) the treaty provides that only specified reservations, which do not include the reservation in question, may be made; or 99
- (c) in cases not falling under sub-paragraphs (a) and (b), the reservation is incompatible with the object and purpose of the treaty. 100

**Article 20 - Acceptance of and objection to reservations** 101

1. A reservation expressly authorized by a treaty does not require any subsequent acceptance by the other contracting States unless the treaty so provides. 102
2. When it appears from the limited number of the negotiating States and the object and purpose of a treaty that the application of the treaty in its entirety between all the parties is an essential condition of the consent of each one to be bound by the treaty, a reservation requires acceptance by all the parties. 103
3. When a treaty is a constituent instrument of an international organization and unless it otherwise provides, a reservation requires the acceptance of the competent organ of that organization. 104

4. In cases not falling under the preceding paragraphs and unless the treaty otherwise provides:

(a) acceptance by another contracting State of a reservation constitutes the reserving State a party to the treaty in relation to that other State if or when the treaty is in force for those States;

(b) an objection by another contracting State to a reservation does not preclude the entry into force of the treaty as between the objecting and reserving States unless a contrary intention is definitely expressed by the objecting State;

(c) an act expressing a State's consent to be bound by the treaty and containing a reservation is effective as soon as at least one other contracting State has accepted the reservation.

5. For the purposes of paragraphs 2 and 4 and unless the treaty otherwise provides, a reservation is considered to have been accepted by a State if it shall have raised no objection to the reservation by the end of a period of twelve months after it was notified of the reservation or by the date on which it expressed its consent to be bound by the treaty, whichever is later.

#### **Article 21 - Legal effects of reservations and of objections to reservations**

1. A reservation established with regard to another party in accordance with articles 19, 20 and 23:

(a) modifies for the reserving State in its relations with that other party the provisions of the treaty to which the reservation relates to the extent of the reservation; and

(b) modifies those provisions to the same extent for that other party in its relations with the reserving State.

2. The reservation does not modify the provisions of the treaty for

the other parties to the treaty inter se.

3. When a State objecting to a reservation has not opposed the entry into force of the treaty between itself and the reserving State, the provisions to which the reservation relates do not apply as between the two States to the extent of the reservation.

#### **Article 22 - Withdrawal of reservations and of objections to reservations**

1. Unless the treaty otherwise provides, a reservation may be withdrawn at any time and the consent of a State which has accepted the reservation is not required for its withdrawal.

2. Unless the treaty otherwise provides, an objection to a reservation may be withdrawn at any time.

3. Unless the treaty otherwise provides, or it is otherwise agreed:

(a) the withdrawal of a reservation becomes operative in relation to another contracting State only when notice of it has been received by that State;

(b) the withdrawal of an objection to a reservation becomes operative only when notice of it has been received by the State which formulated the reservation.

#### **Article 23 - Procedure regarding reservations**

1. A reservation, an express acceptance of a reservation and an objection to a reservation must be formulated in writing and communicated to the contracting States and other States entitled to become parties to the treaty.

2. If formulated when signing the treaty subject to ratification, ac-

ceptance or approval, a reservation must be formally confirmed by the reserving State when expressing its consent to be bound by the treaty. In such a case the reservation shall be considered as having been made on the date of its confirmation.

125 3. An express acceptance of, or an objection to, a reservation made previously to confirmation of the reservation does not itself require confirmation.

126 4. The withdrawal of a reservation or of an objection to a reservation must be formulated in writing.

### 127 **Section 3. - Entry Into Force and Provisional Application of Treaties**

#### 128 **Article 24 - Entry into force**

129 1. A treaty enters into force in such manner and upon such date as it may provide or as the negotiating States may agree.

130 2. Failing any such provision or agreement, a treaty enters into force as soon as consent to be bound by the treaty has been established for all the negotiating States.

131 3. When the consent of a State to be bound by a treaty is established on a date after the treaty has come into force, the treaty enters into force for that State on that date, unless the treaty otherwise provides.

132 4. The provisions of a treaty regulating the authentication of its text, the establishment of the consent of States to be bound by the treaty, the manner or date of its entry into force, reservations, the functions of the depositary and other matters arising necessarily before the entry into force of the treaty apply from the time of the adoption of its text.

#### **Article 25 - Provisional application**

133

1. A treaty or a part of a treaty is applied provisionally pending its entry into force if:

134

(a) the treaty itself so provides; or

135

(b) the negotiating States have in some other manner so agreed.

136

2. Unless the treaty otherwise provides or the negotiating States have otherwise agreed, the provisional application of a treaty or a part of a treaty with respect to a State shall be terminated if that State notifies the other States between which the treaty is being applied provisionally of its intention not to become a party to the treaty.

137

### **Part III - Observance, Application and Interpretation of Treaties**

138

#### **Section 1. - Observance of Treaties**

139

#### **Article 26 - Pacta sunt servanda**

140

Every treaty in force is binding upon the parties to it and must be performed by them in good faith.

141

#### **Article 27 - Internal law and observance of treaties**

142

A party may not invoke the provisions of its internal law as justification for its failure to perform a treaty. This rule is without prejudice to article 46.

143

## Section 2. - Application of Treaties

### 145 Article 28 - Non-retroactivity of treaties

146 Unless a different intention appears from the treaty or is otherwise established, its provisions do not bind a party in relation to any act or fact which took place or any situation which ceased to exist before the date of the entry into force of the treaty with respect to that party.

### 147 Article 29 - Territorial scope of treaties

148 Unless a different intention appears from the treaty or is otherwise established, a treaty is binding upon each party in respect of its entire territory.

### 149 Article 30 - Application of successive treaties relating to the same subject-matter

150 1. Subject to Article 103 of the Charter of the United Nations, the rights and obligations of States parties to successive treaties relating to the same subject-matter shall be determined in accordance with the following paragraphs.

151 2. When a treaty specifies that it is subject to, or that it is not to be considered as incompatible with, an earlier or later treaty, the provisions of that other treaty prevail.

152 3. When all the parties to the earlier treaty are parties also to the later treaty but the earlier treaty is not terminated or suspended in operation under article 59, the earlier treaty applies only to the extent that its provisions are compatible with those of the latter treaty.

153 4. When the parties to the later treaty do not include all the parties

144 to the earlier one:

(a) as between States parties to both treaties the same rule applies as in paragraph 3; 154

(b) as between a State party to both treaties and a State party to only one of the treaties, the treaty to which both States are parties governs their mutual rights and obligations. 155

5. Paragraph 4 is without prejudice to article 41, or to any question of the termination or suspension of the operation of a treaty under article 60 or to any question of responsibility which may arise for a State from the conclusion or application of a treaty, the provisions of which are incompatible with its obligations towards another State under another treaty. 156

## Section 3. - Interpretation of Treaties 157

### Article 31 - General rule of interpretation 158

159 1. A treaty shall be interpreted in good faith in accordance with the ordinary meaning to be given to the terms of the treaty in their context and in the light of its object and purpose.

160 2. The context for the purpose of the interpretation of a treaty shall comprise, in addition to the text, including its preamble and annexes:

(a) any agreement relating to the treaty which was made between all the parties in connexion with the conclusion of the treaty; 161

(b) any instrument which was made by one or more parties in connexion with the conclusion of the treaty and accepted by the other parties as an instrument related to the treaty. 162

3. There shall be taken into account, together with the context: 163

164 (a) any subsequent agreement between the parties regarding the interpretation of the treaty or the application of its provisions;

165 (b) any subsequent practice in the application of the treaty which establishes the agreement of the parties regarding its interpretation;

166 (c) any relevant rules of international law applicable in the relations between the parties.

167 4. A special meaning shall be given to a term if it is established that the parties so intended.

#### 168 **Article 32 - Supplementary means of interpretation**

169 Recourse may be had to supplementary means of interpretation, including the preparatory work of the treaty and the circumstances of its conclusion, in order to confirm the meaning resulting from the application of article 31, or to determine the meaning when the interpretation according to article 31:

170 (a) leaves the meaning ambiguous or obscure; or

171 (b) leads to a result which is manifestly absurd or unreasonable.

#### 172 **Article 33 - Interpretation of treaties authenticated in two or more languages**

173 1. When a treaty has been authenticated in two or more languages, the text is equally authoritative in each language, unless the treaty provides or the parties agree that, in case of divergence, a particular text shall prevail.

174 2. A version of the treaty in a language other than one of those in

which the text was authenticated shall be considered an authentic text only if the treaty so provides or the parties so agree.

3. The terms of the treaty are presumed to have the same meaning in each authentic text. 175

4. Except where a particular text prevails in accordance with paragraph 1, when a comparison of the authentic texts discloses a difference of meaning which the application of articles 31 and 32 does not remove, the meaning which best reconciles the texts, having regard to the object and purpose of the treaty, shall be adopted. 176

#### **Section 4. - Treaties and Third States** 177

##### **Article 34 - General rule regarding third States** 178

A treaty does not create either obligations or rights for a third State without its consent. 179

##### **Article 35 - Treaties providing for obligations for third States** 180

An obligation arises for a third State from a provision of a treaty if the parties to the treaty intend the provision to be the means of establishing the obligation and the third State expressly accepts that obligation in writing. 181

##### **Article 36 - Treaties providing for rights for third States** 182

1. A right arises for a third State from a provision of a treaty if the parties to the treaty intend the provision to accord that right either to the third State, or to a group of States to which it belongs, or to all States, and the third State assents thereto. Its assent shall be 183

presumed so long as the contrary is not indicated, unless the treaty otherwise provides.

184 2. A State exercising a right in accordance with paragraph 1 shall  
comply with the conditions for its exercise provided for in the treaty  
or established in conformity with the treaty.

185 **Article 37 - Revocation or modification of obligations or rights  
of third States**

186 1. When an obligation has arisen for a third State in conformity with  
article 35, the obligation may be revoked or modified only with the  
consent of the parties to the treaty and of the third State, unless it  
is established that they had otherwise agreed.

187 2. When a right has arisen for a third State in conformity with article  
36, the right may not be revoked or modified by the parties if it  
is established that the right was intended not to be revocable or  
subject to modification without the consent of the third State.

188 **Article 38 - Rules in a treaty becoming binding on third States  
through international custom**

189 Nothing in articles 34 to 37 precludes a rule set forth in a treaty  
from becoming binding upon a third State as a customary rule of  
international law, recognized as such.

190 **Part IV - Amendment and Modification of Treaties**

191 **Article 39 - General rule regarding the amendment of  
treaties**

192 A treaty may be amended by agreement between the parties. The

rules laid down in Part II apply to such an agreement except in so  
far as the treaty may otherwise provide.

**Article 40 - Amendment of multilateral treaties** 193

1. Unless the treaty otherwise provides, the amendment of multilat- 194  
eral treaties shall be governed by the following paragraphs.

2. Any proposal to amend a multilateral treaty as between all the 195  
parties must be notified to all the contracting States, each one of  
which shall have the right to take part in:

(a) the decision as to the action to be taken in regard to such pro- 196  
posal;

(b) the negotiation and conclusion of any agreement for the amend- 197  
ment of the treaty.

3. Every State entitled to become a party to the treaty shall also be 198  
entitled to become a party to the treaty as amended.

4. The amending agreement does not bind any State already a 199  
party to the treaty which does not become a party to the amending  
agreement; article 30, paragraph 4(b), applies in relation to such  
State.

5. Any State which becomes a party to the treaty after the entry 200  
into force of the amending agreement shall, failing an expression  
of a different intention by that State:

(a) be considered as a party to the treaty as amended; and 201

(b) be considered as a party to the unamended treaty in rela- 202  
tion to any party to the treaty not bound by the amending agree-  
ment.

**Article 41 - Agreements to modify multilateral treaties between certain of the parties only**

203

of a party, may take place only as a result of the application of the provisions of the treaty or of the present Convention. The same rule applies to suspension of the operation of a treaty.

204 1. Two or more of the parties to a multilateral treaty may conclude an agreement to modify the treaty as between themselves alone if:

205 (a) the possibility of such a modification is provided for by the treaty; or

206 (b) the modification in question is not prohibited by the treaty and:

207 (i) does not affect the enjoyment by the other parties of their rights under the treaty or the performance of their obligations;

208 (ii) does not relate to a provision, derogation from which is incompatible with the effective execution of the object and purpose of the treaty as a whole.

209 2. Unless in a case falling under paragraph 1(a) the treaty otherwise provides, the parties in question shall notify the other parties of their intention to conclude the agreement and of the modification to the treaty for which it provides.

210 **Part V - Invalidity, Termination and Suspension of the Operation of Treaties**

211 **Section 1. - General Provisions**

212 **Article 42 - Validity and continuance in force of treaties**

213 1. The validity of a treaty or of the consent of a State to be bound by a treaty may be impeached only through the application of the present Convention.

214 2. The termination of a treaty, its denunciation or the withdrawal

**Article 43 - Obligations imposed by international law independently of a treaty**

215

216 The invalidity, termination or denunciation of a treaty, the withdrawal of a party from it, or the suspension of its operation, as a result of the application of the present Convention or of the provisions of the treaty, shall not in any way impair the duty of any State to fulfil any obligation embodied in the treaty to which it would be subject under international law independently of the treaty.

**Article 44 - Separability of treaty provisions**

217

218 1. A right of a party, provided for in a treaty or arising under article 56, to denounce, withdraw from or suspend the operation of the treaty may be exercised only with respect to the whole treaty unless the treaty otherwise provides or the parties otherwise agree.

219 2. A ground for invalidating, terminating, withdrawing from or suspending the operation of a treaty recognized in the present Convention may be invoked only with respect to the whole treaty except as provided in the following paragraphs or in article 60.

220 3. If the ground relates solely to particular clauses, it may be invoked only with respect to those clauses where:

221 (a) the said clauses are separable from the remainder of the treaty with regard to their application;

222 (b) it appears from the treaty or is otherwise established that acceptance of those clauses was not an essential basis of the consent



of the other party or parties to be bound by the treaty as a whole;  
and

223 (c) continued performance of the remainder of the treaty would not  
be unjust.

224 4. In cases falling under articles 49 and 50 the State entitled to  
invoke the fraud or corruption may do so with respect either to the  
whole treaty or, subject to paragraph 3, to the particular clauses  
alone.

225 5. In cases falling under articles 51, 52 and 53, no separation of  
the provisions of the treaty is permitted.

226 **Article 45 - Loss of a right to invoke a ground for invalidating,  
terminating, withdrawing from or suspending the operation  
of a treaty**

227 A State may no longer invoke a ground for invalidating, terminat-  
ing, withdrawing from or suspending the operation of a treaty under  
articles 46 to 50 or articles 60 and 62 if, after becoming aware of  
the facts:

228 (a) it shall have expressly agreed that the treaty is valid or remains  
in force or continues in operation, as the case may be; or

229 (b) it must by reason of its conduct be considered as having acqui-  
esced in the validity of the treaty or in its maintenance in force or  
in operation, as the case may be.

230 **Section 2. - Invalidity of Treaties**

231 **Article 46 - Provisions of internal law regarding competence to  
conclude treaties**

232 1. A State may not invoke the fact that its consent to be bound by a

treaty has been expressed in violation of a provision of its internal  
law regarding competence to conclude treaties as invalidating its  
consent unless that violation was manifest and concerned a rule of  
its internal law of fundamental importance.

2. A violation is manifest if it would be objectively evident to any 233  
State conducting itself in the matter in accordance with normal  
practice and in good faith.

**Article 47 - Specific restrictions on authority to express the 234  
consent of a State**

If the authority of a representative to express the consent of a State 235  
to be bound by a particular treaty has been made subject to a spe-  
cific restriction, his omission to observe that restriction may not be  
invoked as invalidating the consent expressed by him unless the  
restriction was notified to the other negotiating States prior to his  
expressing such consent.

**Article 48 - Error 236**

1. A State may invoke an error in a treaty as invalidating its consent 237  
to be bound by the treaty if the error relates to a fact or situation  
which was assumed by that State to exist at the time when the  
treaty was concluded and formed an essential basis of its consent  
to be bound by the treaty.

2. Paragraph 1 shall not apply if the State in question contributed 238  
by its own conduct to the error or if the circumstances were such  
as to put that State on notice of a possible error.

3. An error relating only to the wording of the text of a treaty does 239  
not affect its validity; article 79 then applies.

240 **Article 49 - Fraud**

241 If a State has been induced to conclude a treaty by the fraudulent conduct of another negotiating State, the State may invoke the fraud as invalidating its consent to be bound by the treaty.

242 **Article 50 - Corruption of a representative of a State**

243 If the expression of a State's consent to be bound by a treaty has been procured through the corruption of its representative directly or indirectly by another negotiating State, the State may invoke such corruption as invalidating its consent to be bound by the treaty.

244 **Article 51 - Coercion of a representative of a State**

245 The expression of a State's consent to be bound by a treaty which has been procured by the coercion of its representative through acts or threats directed against him shall be without any legal effect.

246 **Article 52 - Coercion of a State by the threat or use of force**

247 A treaty is void if its conclusion has been procured by the threat or use of force in violation of the principles of international law embodied in the Charter of the United Nations.

248 **Article 53 - Treaties conflicting with a peremptory norm of general international law (jus cogens)**

249 A treaty is void if, at the time of its conclusion, it conflicts with a

peremptory norm of general international law. For the purposes of the present Convention, a peremptory norm of general international law is a norm accepted and recognized by the international community of States as a whole as a norm from which no derogation is permitted and which can be modified only by a subsequent norm of general international law having the same character.

**Section 3. - Termination and Suspension of the Operation of Treaties**

250

**Article 54 - Termination of or withdrawal from a treaty under its provisions or by consent of the parties**

251

The termination of a treaty or the withdrawal of a party may take place:

252

(a) in conformity with the provisions of the treaty; or

253

(b) at any time by consent of all the parties after consultation with the other contracting States.

254

**Article 55 - Reduction of the parties to a multilateral treaty below the number necessary for its entry into force**

255

Unless the treaty otherwise provides, a multilateral treaty does not terminate by reason only of the fact that the number of the parties falls below the number necessary for its entry into force.

256

**Article 56 - Denunciation of or withdrawal from a treaty containing no provision regarding termination, denunciation or withdrawal**

257

1. A treaty which contains no provision regarding its termination

258

and which does not provide for denunciation or withdrawal is not 270  
subject to denunciation or withdrawal unless:

259 (a) it is established that the parties intended to admit the possibility  
of denunciation or withdrawal; or

260 (b) a right of denunciation or withdrawal may be implied by the na-  
ture of the treaty.

261 2. A party shall give not less than twelve months' notice of its  
intention to denounce or withdraw from a treaty under paragraph  
1.

262 **Article 57 - Suspension of the operation of a treaty under its  
provisions or by consent of the parties**

263 The operation of a treaty in regard to all the parties or to a particular  
party may be suspended:

264 (a) in conformity with the provisions of the treaty; or

265 (b) at any time by consent of all the parties after consultation with  
the other contracting States.

266 **Article 58 - Suspension of the operation of a multilateral treaty  
by agreement between certain of the parties only**

267 1. Two or more parties to a multilateral treaty may conclude an  
agreement to suspend the operation of provisions of the treaty,  
temporarily and as between themselves alone, if:

268 (a) the possibility of such a suspension is provided for by the treaty;  
or

269 (b) the suspension in question is not prohibited by the treaty  
and:

(i) does not affect the enjoyment by the other parties of their rights  
under the treaty or the performance of their obligations;

(ii) is not incompatible with the object and purpose of the 271  
treaty.

2. Unless in a case falling under paragraph 1(a) the treaty other- 272  
wise provides, the parties in question shall notify the other parties  
of their intention to conclude the agreement and of those provisions  
of the treaty the operation of which they intend to suspend.

**Article 59 - Termination or suspension of the operation of a 273  
treaty implied by conclusion of a later treaty**

1. A treaty shall be considered as terminated if all the parties 274  
to it conclude a later treaty relating to the same subject-matter  
and:

(a) it appears from the later treaty or is otherwise established that 275  
the parties intended that the matter should be governed by that  
treaty; or

(b) the provisions of the later treaty are so far incompatible with 276  
those of the earlier one that the two treaties are not capable of  
being applied at the same time.

2. The earlier treaty shall be considered as only suspended in op- 277  
eration if it appears from the later treaty or is otherwise established  
that such was the intention of the parties.

**Article 60 - Termination or suspension of the operation of a 278  
treaty as a consequence of its breach**

1. A material breach of a bilateral treaty by one of the parties enti- 279  
tles the other to invoke the breach as a ground for terminating the  
treaty or suspending its operation in whole or in part.

280 2. A material breach of a multilateral treaty by one of the parties  
entitles:

281 (a) the other parties by unanimous agreement to suspend the oper-  
ation of the treaty in whole or in part or to terminate it either:

282 (i) in the relations between themselves and the defaulting State,  
or

283 (ii) as between all the parties;

284 (b) a party specially affected by the breach to invoke it as a ground  
for suspending the operation of the treaty in whole or in part in the  
relations between itself and the defaulting State;

285 (c) any party other than the defaulting State to invoke the breach  
as a ground for suspending the operation of the treaty in whole or  
in part with respect to itself if the treaty is of such a character that  
a material breach of its provisions by one party radically changes  
the position of every party with respect to the further performance  
of its obligations under the treaty.

286 3. A material breach of a treaty, for the purposes of this article,  
consists in:

287 (a) a repudiation of the treaty not sanctioned by the present Con-  
vention; or

288 (b) the violation of a provision essential to the accomplishment of  
the object or purpose of the treaty.

289 4. The foregoing paragraphs are without prejudice to any provision  
in the treaty applicable in the event of a breach.

290 5. Paragraphs 1 to 3 do not apply to provisions relating to the  
protection of the human person contained in treaties of a humani-  
tarian character, in particular to provisions prohibiting any form of  
reprisals against persons protected by such treaties.

**Article 61 - Supervening impossibility of performance** 291

292 1. A party may invoke the impossibility of performing a treaty as a  
ground for terminating or withdrawing from it if the impossibility re-  
sults from the permanent disappearance or destruction of an object  
indispensable for the execution of the treaty. If the impossibility is  
temporary, it may be invoked only as a ground for suspending the  
operation of the treaty.

293 2. Impossibility of performance may not be invoked by a party as  
a ground for terminating, withdrawing from or suspending the op-  
eration of a treaty if the impossibility is the result of a breach by  
that party either of an obligation under the treaty or of any other  
international obligation owed to any other party to the treaty.

**Article 62 - Fundamental change of circumstances** 294

295 1. A fundamental change of circumstances which has occurred  
with regard to those existing at the time of the conclusion of a treaty,  
and which was not foreseen by the parties, may not be invoked as a  
ground for terminating or withdrawing from the treaty unless:

296 (a) the existence of those circumstances constituted an essen-  
tial basis of the consent of the parties to be bound by the treaty;  
and

297 (b) the effect of the change is radically to transform the extent of  
obligations still to be performed under the treaty.

298 2. A fundamental change of circumstances may not be invoked as  
a ground for terminating or withdrawing from a treaty:

299 (a) if the treaty establishes a boundary; or

300 (b) if the fundamental change is the result of a breach by the party  
invoking it either of an obligation under the treaty or of any other  
international obligation owed to any other party to the treaty.

301 3. If, under the foregoing paragraphs, a party may invoke a fun-  
302 damental change of circumstances as a ground for terminating or  
withdrawing from a treaty it may also invoke the change as a ground  
for suspending the operation of the treaty.

### 302 **Article 63 - Severance of diplomatic or consular relations**

303 The severance of diplomatic or consular relations between par-  
ties to a treaty does not affect the legal relations established be-  
tween them by the treaty except in so far as the existence of diplo-  
matic or consular relations is indispensable for the application of  
the treaty.

### 304 **Article 64 - Emergence of a new peremptory norm of general international law (jus cogens)**

305 If a new peremptory norm of general international law emerges,  
any existing treaty which is in conflict with that norm becomes void  
and terminates.

## 306 **Section 4. - Procedure**

### 307 **Article 65 - Procedure to be followed with respect to invalidity, termination, withdrawal from or suspension of the operation of a treaty**

308 1. A party which, under the provisions of the present Convention,  
invokes either a defect in its consent to be bound by a treaty or a  
ground for impeaching the validity of a treaty, terminating it, with-  
drawing from it or suspending its operation, must notify the other  
parties of its claim. The notification shall indicate the measure pro-  
posed to be taken with respect to the treaty and the reasons there-  
for.

2. If, after the expiry of a period which, except in cases of special 309  
urgency, shall not be less than three months after the receipt of the  
notification, no party has raised any objection, the party making the  
notification may carry out in the manner provided in article 67 the  
measure which it has proposed.

3. If, however, objection has been raised by any other party, the 310  
parties shall seek a solution through the means indicated in article  
33 of the Charter of the United Nations.

4. Nothing in the foregoing paragraphs shall affect the rights or 311  
obligations of the parties under any provisions in force binding the  
parties with regard to the settlement of disputes.

5. Without prejudice to article 45, the fact that a State has not 312  
previously made the notification prescribed in paragraph 1 shall not  
prevent it from making such notification in answer to another party  
claiming performance of the treaty or alleging its violation.

### 313 **Article 66 - Procedures for judicial settlement, arbitration and conciliation**

If, under paragraph 3 of article 65, no solution has been reached 314  
within a period of 12 months following the date on which the objec-  
tion was raised, the following procedures shall be followed:

(a) any one of the parties to a dispute concerning the application 315  
or the interpretation of articles 53 or 64 may, by a written applica-  
tion, submit it to the International Court of Justice for a decision  
unless the parties by common consent agree to submit the dispute  
to arbitration;

(b) any one of the parties to a dispute concerning the application 316  
or the interpretation of any of the other articles in Part V of the  
present Convention may set in motion the procedure specified in

the Annexe to the Convention by submitting a request to that effect to the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

317 **Article 67 - Instruments for declaring invalid, terminating,  
withdrawing from or suspending the operation of a  
treaty**

318 1. The notification provided for under article 65 paragraph 1 must  
be made in writing.

319 2. Any act declaring invalid, terminating, withdrawing from or sus-  
pending the operation of a treaty pursuant to the provisions of the  
treaty or of paragraphs 2 or 3 of article 65 shall be carried out  
through an instrument communicated to the other parties. If the  
instrument is not signed by the Head of State, Head of Govern-  
ment or Minister for Foreign Affairs, the representative of the State  
communicating it may be called upon to produce full powers.

320 **Article 68 - Revocation of notifications and instruments  
provided for in articles 65 and 67**

321 A notification or instrument provided for in articles 65 or 67 may be  
revoked at any time before it takes effect.

322 **Section 5. - Consequences of the Invalidity, Termination  
or Suspension of the Operation of a Treaty**

323 **Article 69 - Consequences of the invalidity of a treaty**

324 1. A treaty the invalidity of which is established under the present  
Convention is void. The provisions of a void treaty have no legal  
force.

325 2. If acts have nevertheless been performed in reliance on such a

treaty:

(a) each party may require any other party to establish as far as 326  
possible in their mutual relations the position that would have ex-  
isted if the acts had not been performed;

(b) acts performed in good faith before the invalidity was invoked 327  
are not rendered unlawful by reason only of the invalidity of the  
treaty.

3. In cases falling under articles 49, 50, 51 or 52, paragraph 2 328  
does not apply with respect to the party to which the fraud, the act  
of corruption or the coercion is imputable.

4. In the case of the invalidity of a particular State's consent to 329  
be bound by a multilateral treaty, the foregoing rules apply in the  
relations between that State and the parties to the treaty.

**Article 70 - Consequences of the termination of a treaty** 330

1. Unless the treaty otherwise provides or the parties otherwise 331  
agree, the termination of a treaty under its provisions or in accor-  
dance with the present Convention:

(a) releases the parties from any obligation further to perform the 332  
treaty;

(b) does not affect any right, obligation or legal situation of the par- 333  
ties created through the execution of the treaty prior to its termina-  
tion.

2. If a State denounces or withdraws from a multilateral treaty, 334  
paragraph 1 applies in the relations between that State and each of  
the other parties to the treaty from the date when such denunciation  
or withdrawal takes effect.

**Article 71 - Consequences of the invalidity of a treaty which conflicts with a peremptory norm of general international law**

336 1. In the case of a treaty which is void under article 53 the parties shall:

337 (a) eliminate as far as possible the consequences of any act performed in reliance on any provision which conflicts with the peremptory norm of general international law; and

338 (b) bring their mutual relations into conformity with the peremptory norm of general international law.

339 2. In the case of a treaty which becomes void and terminates under article 64, the termination of the treaty:

340 (a) releases the parties from any obligation further to perform the treaty;

341 (b) does not affect any right, obligation or legal situation of the parties created through the execution of the treaty prior to its termination; provided that those rights, obligations or situations may thereafter be maintained only to the extent that their maintenance is not in itself in conflict with the new peremptory norm of general international law.

342 **Article 72 - Consequences of the suspension of the operation of a treaty**

343 1. Unless the treaty otherwise provides or the parties otherwise agree, the suspension of the operation of a treaty under its provisions or in accordance with the present Convention:

344 (a) releases the parties between which the operation of the treaty is suspended from the obligation to perform the treaty in their mutual relations during the period of the suspension;

335 (b) does not otherwise affect the legal relations between the parties established by the treaty.

346 2. During the period of the suspension the parties shall refrain from acts tending to obstruct the resumption of the operation of the treaty.

**Part VI - Miscellaneous Provisions**

**Article 73 - Cases of State succession, State responsibility and outbreak of hostilities**

349 The provisions of the present Convention shall not prejudice any question that may arise in regard to a treaty from a succession of States or from the international responsibility of a State or from the outbreak of hostilities between States.

**Article 74 - Diplomatic and consular relations and the conclusion of treaties**

351 The severance or absence of diplomatic or consular relations between two or more States does not prevent the conclusion of treaties between those States. The conclusion of a treaty does not in itself affect the situation in regard to diplomatic or consular relations.

**Article 75 - Case of an aggressor State**

353 The provisions of the present Convention are without prejudice to any obligation in relation to a treaty which may arise for an aggressor State in consequence of measures taken in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations with reference to that State's aggression.

354 **Part VII - Depositories, Notifications, Corrections and**  
**Registration**

355 **Article 76 - Depositories of treaties**

356 1. The designation of the depository of a treaty may be made by  
the negotiating States, either in the treaty itself or in some other  
manner. The depository may be one or more States, an interna-  
tional organization or the chief administrative officer of the organi-  
zation.

357 2. The functions of the depository of a treaty are international in  
character and the depository is under an obligation to act impar-  
tially in their performance. In particular, the fact that a treaty has  
not entered into force between certain of the parties or that a differ-  
ence has appeared between a State and a depository with regard  
to the performance of the latter's functions shall not affect that obli-  
gation.

358 **Article 77 - Functions of depositaries**

359 1. The functions of a depository, unless otherwise provided in the  
treaty or agreed by the contracting States, comprise in particu-  
lar:

360 (a) keeping custody of the original text of the treaty and of any full  
powers delivered to the depository;

361 (b) preparing certified copies of the original text and preparing any  
further text of the treaty in such additional languages as may be  
required by the treaty and transmitting them to the parties and to  
the States entitled to become parties to the treaty;

362 (c) receiving any signatures to the treaty and receiving and keep-  
ing custody of any instruments, notifications and communications  
relating to it;

(d) examining whether the signature or any instrument, notification 363  
or communication relating to the treaty is in due and proper form  
and, if need be, bringing the matter to the attention of the State in  
question;

(e) informing the parties and the States entitled to become parties 364  
to the treaty of acts, notifications and communications relating to  
the treaty;

(f) informing the States entitled to become parties to the treaty when 365  
the number of signatures or of instruments of ratification, accep-  
tance, approval or accession required for the entry into force of the  
treaty has been received or deposited;

(g) registering the treaty with the Secretariat of the United Na- 366  
tions;

(h) performing the functions specified in other provisions of the 367  
present Convention.

2. In the event of any difference appearing between a State and 368  
the depository as to the performance of the latter's functions,  
the depository shall bring the question to the attention of the  
signatory States and the contracting States or, where appro-  
priate, of the competent organ of the international organization  
concerned.

**Article 78 - Notifications and communications** 369

Except as the treaty or the present Convention otherwise provide, 370  
any notification or communication to be made by any State under  
the present Convention shall:

(a) if there is no depository, be transmitted direct to the States for 371  
which it is intended, or if there is a depository, to the latter;

(b) be considered as having been made by the State in question 372



only upon its receipt by the State to which it was transmitted or, as 381  
the case may be, upon its receipt by the depositary;

373 (c) if transmitted to a depositary, be considered as received by the  
State for which it was intended only when the latter State has been  
informed by the depositary in accordance with article 77, paragraph  
1(e).

374 **Article 79 - Correction of errors in texts or in certified copies  
of treaties**

375 1. Where, after the authentication of the text of a treaty, the signa-  
tory States and the contracting States are agreed that it contains an  
error, the error shall, unless they decide upon some other means  
of correction, be corrected:

376 (a) by having the appropriate correction made in the text and caus-  
ing the correction to be initialled by duly authorized representa-  
tives;

377 (b) by executing or exchanging an instrument or instruments setting  
out the correction which it has been agreed to make; or

378 (c) by executing a corrected text of the whole treaty by the same  
procedure as in the case of the original text.

379 2. Where the treaty is one for which there is a depositary, the latter  
shall notify the signatory States and the contracting States of the  
error and of the proposal to correct it and shall specify an appro-  
priate time-limit within which objection to the proposed correction  
may be raised. If, on the expiry of the time-limit:

380 (a) no objection has been raised, the depositary shall make and  
initial the correction in the text and shall execute a proc?s-verbal of  
the rectification of the text and communicate a copy of it to the par-  
ties and to the States entitled to become parties to the treaty;

(b) an objection has been raised, the depositary shall communi-  
cate the objection to the signatory States and to the contracting  
States.

3. The rules in paragraphs 1 and 2 apply also where the text has 382  
been authenticated in two or more languages and it appears that  
there is a lack of concordance which the signatory States and the  
contracting States agree should be corrected.

4. The corrected text replaces the defective text ab initio, un- 383  
less the signatory States and the contracting States otherwise de-  
cide.

5. The correction of the text of a treaty that has been registered 384  
shall be notified to the Secretariat of the United Nations.

6. Where an error is discovered in a certified copy of a treaty, the 385  
depositary shall execute a proc?s-verbal specifying the rectification  
and communicate a copy of it to the signatory States and to the  
contracting States.

**Article 80 - Registration and publication of treaties** 386

1. Treaties shall, after their entry into force, be transmitted to the 387  
Secretariat of the United Nations for registration or filing and record-  
ing, as the case may be, and for publication.

2. The designation of a depositary shall constitute authorization for 388  
it to perform the acts specified in the preceding paragraph.

**Part VIII - Final Provisions** 389

**Article 81 - Signature** 390

The present Convention shall be open for signature by all States 391

Members of the United Nations or of any of the specialized agencies or of the International Atomic Energy Agency or parties to the Statute of the International Court of Justice, and by any other State invited by the General Assembly of the United Nations to become a party to the Convention, as follows: until 30 November 1969, at the Federal Ministry for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Austria, and subsequently, until 30 April 1970, at United Nations Headquarters, New York.

392 **Article 82 - Ratification**

393 The present Convention is subject to ratification. The instruments of ratification shall be deposited with the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

394 **Article 83 - Accession**

395 The present Convention shall remain open for accession by any State belonging to any of the categories mentioned in article 81. The instruments of accession shall be deposited with the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

396 **Article 84 - Entry into force**

397 1. The present Convention shall enter into force on the thirtieth day following the date of deposit of the thirty-fifth instrument of ratification or accession.

398 2. For each State ratifying or acceding to the Convention after the deposit of the thirty-fifth instrument of ratification or accession, the Convention shall enter into force on the thirtieth day after deposit by such State of its instrument of ratification or accession.

**Article 85 - Authentic texts**

399

The original of the present Convention, of which the Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish texts are equally authentic, shall be deposited with the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

400

**[Post Provisions]**

**[Post Clauses (If any: Signed; Witnessed; Done; Authentic Texts; & Deposited Clauses)]**

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the undersigned Plenipotentiaries, being duly authorized thereto by their respective Governments, have signed the present Convention.

401

DONE at Vienna, this twenty-third day of May, one thousand nine hundred and sixty-nine.

402

**ANNEX**

403

1. A list of conciliators consisting of qualified jurists shall be drawn up and maintained by the Secretary-General of the United Nations. To this end, every State which is a Member of the United Nations or a party to the present Convention shall be invited to nominate two conciliators, and the names of the persons so nominated shall constitute the list. The term of a conciliator, including that of any conciliator nominated to fill a casual vacancy, shall be five years and may be renewed. A conciliator whose term expires shall continue to fulfil any function for which he shall have been chosen under the following paragraph.

404

2. When a request has been made to the Secretary-General under article 66, the Secretary-General shall bring the dispute before a conciliation commission constituted as follows:

406 The State or States constituting one of the parties to the dispute shall appoint: (a) one conciliator of the nationality of that State or of one of those States, who may or may not be chosen from the list referred to in paragraph 1; and (b) one conciliator not of the nationality of that State or of any of those States, who shall be chosen from the list.

407 The State or States constituting the other party to the dispute shall appoint two conciliators in the same way. The four conciliators chosen by the parties shall be appointed within sixty days following the date on which the Secretary-General receives the request.

408 The four conciliators shall, within sixty days following the date of the last of their own appointments, appoint a fifth conciliator chosen from the list, who shall be chairman.

409 If the appointment of the chairman or of any of the other conciliators has not been made within the period prescribed above for such appointment, it shall be made by the Secretary-General within sixty days following the expiry of that period. The appointment of the chairman may be made by the Secretary-General either from the list or from the membership of the International Law Commission. Any of the periods within which appointments must be made may be extended by agreement between the parties to the dispute.

410 Any vacancy shall be filled in the manner prescribed for the initial appointment.

411 3. The Conciliation Commission shall decide its own procedure. The Commission, with the consent of the parties to the dispute, may invite any party to the treaty to submit to it its views orally or in

405 writing. Decisions and recommendations of the Commission shall be made by a majority vote of the five members.

412 4. The Commission may draw the attention of the parties to the dispute to any measures which might facilitate an amicable settlement.

413 5. The Commission shall hear the parties, examine the claims and objections, and make proposals to the parties with a view to reaching an amicable settlement of the dispute.

414 6. The Commission shall report within twelve months of its constitution. Its report shall be deposited with the Secretary-General and transmitted to the parties to the dispute. The report of the Commission, including any conclusions stated therein regarding the facts or questions of law, shall not be binding upon the parties and it shall have no other character than that of recommendations submitted for the consideration of the parties in order to facilitate an amicable settlement of the dispute.

415 7. The Secretary-General shall provide the Commission with such assistance and facilities as it may require. The expenses of the Commission shall be borne by the United Nations.

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