

International Conventions and Treaties in the Americas

Countries	Admission to UN	Convention of the Rights of the Child (CRC)	Optional Protocol to CRC on Armed Conflict	Optional Protocol to CRC on Prostitution and Pornography	OAS Charter	ILO Convention 138 on Employment Age	ILO Convention 182 on Worst Forms of Child Labour	Convention on Consent to Marriage	Convention for the Suppression of Traffic and Prostitution	Palermo Protocol	Convention on the Status of Refugees (CSR)	Optional Protocol to CSR on the Status of Refugees	Convention on Migrants Workers and Families	Convention on Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)	Optional Protocol to CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination	Convention against Torture	Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural rights	Covenant on Civil and Political rights	Rome Statute
Antigua et Barbuda	11.11.1981	Ratification 05.10.1993	No Action	Ratification 30.04.2002	Ratification 03.12.1981	Ratification 17.03.1983	Ratification 16.09.2002	Succession 25.10.1988	No Action	No Action	Accession 07.09.1995	Accession 07.09.1995	No Action	Accession 01.08.1989	Accession 05.06.2006	Succession 25.10.1988	Accession 19.07.1993	Signature 30.03.2007	No Action	No Action	Ratification 18.06.2001
Argentina	24.10.1945	Ratification 04.12.1990	Ratification 10.09.2002	Ratification 25.09.2003	Ratification 19.01.1956	Ratification 11.11.1996	Ratification 05.02.2001	Accession 26.02.1970	Accession 15.11.1957	Ratification 19.11.2002	Accession 15.11.1961	Accession 06.12.1967	Ratification 23.02.2007	Ratification 15.07.1985	Ratification 20.03.2007	Ratification 02.10.1968	Ratification 24.09.1986	Ratification 02.09.2008	Ratification 08.08.1986	Ratification 08.08.1986	Ratification 08.02.2001
Bahamas	18.09.1973	Ratification 20.02.1991	No Action	No Action	Ratification 01.03.1982	Ratification 31.10.2001	Ratification 14.06.2001	No Action	No Action	Ratification 26.09.2008	Accession 15.09.1993	Accession 15.09.1993	No Action	Accession 06.10.1993	No Action	Succession 05.08.1975	Signature 16.12.2008	No Action	Ratification 23.12.2008	Ratification 23.12.2008	Signature 29.12.2000
Barbados	09.12.1966	Ratification 09.10.1990	No Action	No Action	Ratification 14.11.1967	Ratification 04.01.2000	Ratification 23.10.2000	Accession 01.10.1979	No Action	Signature 26.09.2001	No Action	No Action	No Action	Ratification 16.10.1980	No Action	Accession 08.11.1972	No Action	Signature 19.07.2007	Accession 05.01.1973	Accession 05.01.1973	Ratification 10.12.2002
Belize	25.09.1981	Ratification 02.05.1990	Ratification 01.12.2003	Ratification 01.12.2003	Ratification 08.01.1991	Ratification 06.03.2000	Ratification 06.03.2000	No Action	No Action	Accession 26.09.2003	Accession 27.06.1990	Accession 27.06.1990	Accession 14.11.2001	Ratification 16.05.1990	Accession 09.12.2002	Ratification 14.11.2001	Accession 17.03.1986	No Action	Signature 06.09.2000	Accession 10.06.1996	Ratification 05.04.2000
Bolivia	14.11.1945	Ratification 26.06.1990	Accession 22.12.2004	Ratification 03.06.2003	Ratification 25.09.1950	Ratification 11.06.1997	Ratification 05.06.2003	No Action	Accession 06.10.1983	Ratification 18.05.2006	Accession 09.02.1982	Accession 09.02.1982	Accession 16.10.2000	Ratification 08.06.1990	Ratification 27.09.2000	Ratification 22.09.1970	Ratification 12.04.1999	Signature 13.08.2007	Accession 12.08.1982	Accession 12.08.1982	Ratification 27.06.2002
Brazil	24.10.1945	Ratification 24.09.1990	Ratification 27.01.2004	Ratification 27.01.2004	Ratification 11.02.1950	Ratification 28.06.2001	Ratification 02.02.2000	Accession 11.02.1970	Ratification 12.09.1958	Ratification 29.01.2004	Ratification 16.11.1960	Accession 07.04.1972	No Action	Ratification 01.02.1984	Ratification 28.06.2002	Ratification 27.03.1968	Ratification 28.09.1989	Ratification 01.08.2008	Accession 24.01.1992	Accession 24.01.1992	Ratification 20.06.2002
Canada	09.11.1945	Ratification 13.12.1991	Ratification 07.07.2000	Ratification 14.09.2005	Ratification 20.12.1989	No Action	Ratification 06.06.2000	No Action	No Action	Ratification 13.05.2002	Accession 04.06.1969	Accession 04.06.1969	No Action	Ratification 10.12.1981	Accession 18.10.2002	Ratification 14.10.1970	Ratification 24.06.1987	Signature 30.03.2007	Accession 19.05.1976	Accession 19.05.1976	Ratification 07.07.2002
Chile	24.10.1945	Ratification 13.08.1990	Ratification 31.07.2003	Ratification 06.02.2003	Ratification 05.05.1953	Ratification 01.02.1999	Ratification 17.07.2000	Signature 10.12.1962	No Action	Ratification 29.11.2004	Accession 28.01.1972	Accession 27.04.1972	Ratification 21.03.2005	Ratification 07.12.1989	Signature 10.12.1999	Ratification 20.10.1971	Ratification 30.09.1988	Ratification 29.07.2008	Ratification 10.02.1972	Ratification 10.02.1972	Ratification 29.06.2009
Colombia	05.11.1945	Ratification 28.01.1991	Ratification 25.05.2005	Ratification 11.11.2003	Ratification 07.12.1951	Ratification 02.02.2001	Ratification 28.01.2005	No Action	No Action	Ratification 04.08.2004	Ratification 10.10.1961	Accession 04.03.1980	Accession 24.05.1995	Ratification 19.01.1982	Ratification 23.01.2007	Ratification 02.09.1981	Ratification 08.12.1987	Signature 30.03.2007	Ratification 29.10.1969	Ratification 29.10.1969	Ratification 05.08.2002
Costa Rica	02.11.1945	Ratification 21.08.1990	Ratification 24.01.2003	Ratification 09.04.2002	Ratification 30.10.1948	Ratification 11.06.1976	Ratification 10.09.2001	No Action	No Action	Ratification 09.09.2003	Accession 28.03.1978	Accession 28.03.1978	No Action	Ratification 04.04.1986	Ratification 20.09.2001	Ratification 16.01.1967	Ratification 11.11.1993	Ratification 01.10.2008	Ratification 29.11.1968	Ratification 29.11.1968	Ratification 07.06.2001
Cuba	24.10.1945	Ratification 21.08.1991	Ratification 09.02.2007	Ratification 25.09.2001	Ratification 07.08.1952	Ratification 07.03.1975	No Action	Ratification 20.08.1965	Accession 04.09.1952	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	Ratification 17.07.1980	Signature 17.03.2000	Ratification 15.02.1972	Ratification 17.05.1995	Ratification 06.09.2007	Signature 28.02.2008	Signature 28.02.2008	No Action
Dominica	18.12.1978	Ratification 13.03.1991	Accession 20.09.2002	Accession 20.09.2002	Ratification 22.05.1979	Ratification 27.09.1983	Ratification 04.01.2001	No Action	No Action	No Action	Accession 17.02.1994	Accession 17.02.1994	No Action	Ratification 15.09.1980	No Action	No Action	No Action	Signature 30.03.2007	Accession 17.06.1993	Accession 17.06.1993	Accession 12.02.2001
Dominican Republic	24.10.1945	Ratification 11.06.1991	Signature 09.05.2002	Accession 06.12.2006	Ratification 11.04.1949	Ratification 15.06.1999	Ratification 15.11.2000	Accession 08.10.1964	No Action	Ratification 05.02.2008	Accession 04.01.1978	Accession 04.01.1978	No Action	Ratification 02.09.1982	Ratification 10.08.2001	Accession 25.05.1983	Signature 04.02.1985	Signature 30.03.2007	Accession 04.01.1978	Accession 04.01.1978	Ratification 12.05.2005
Ecuador	21.12.1945	Ratification 23.03.1990	Ratification 07.06.2004	Ratification 30.06.2004	Ratification 21.12.1950	Ratification 19.09.2000	Ratification 19.09.2000	No Action	Ratification 03.04.1979	Ratification 17.09.2002	Accession 17.08.1955	Accession 06.03.1969	Accession 05.02.2002	Ratification 09.11.1981	Ratification 05.02.2002	Accession 22.09.1966	Ratification 30.03.1988	Ratification 03.04.2008	Ratification 06.03.1969	Ratification 06.03.1969	Ratification 05.02.2002
El Salvador	24.10.1945	Ratification 10.07.1990	Ratification 18.04.2002	Ratification 17.05.2004	Ratification 15.08.1950	Ratification 23.01.1996	Ratification 12.10.2000	No Action	No Action	Ratification 18.03.2004	Accession 28.04.1983	Accession 28.04.1983	Ratification 14.03.2003	Ratification 19.08.1981	Signature 04.04.2001	Accession 30.11.1979	Accession 17.06.1996	Ratification 14.12.2007	Ratification 30.11.1979	Ratification 30.11.1979	No Action
Grenada	17.09.1974	Ratification 05.11.1990	No Action	No Action	Ratification 13.05.1975	Ratification 14.05.2003	Ratification 14.05.2003	No Action	No Action	Accession 21.05.2004	No Action	No Action	No Action	Ratification 30.08.1990	No Action	Signature 17.12.1981	No Action	No Action	Accession 06.09.1991	Accession 06.09.1991	No Action
Guatemala	21.11.1945	Ratification 06.06.1990	Ratification 09.05.2002	Ratification 09.05.2002	Ratification 18.03.1951	Ratification 27.04.1990	Ratification 11.10.2001	Accession 18.01.1983	No Action	Accession 01.04.2004	Accession 22.09.1983	Accession 22.09.1983	Ratification 14.03.2003	Ratification 12.08.1982	Ratification 09.05.2002	Ratification 18.01.1983	Accession 05.01.1990	Ratification 07.04.2009	Accession 19.05.1988	Accession 05.05.1992	No Action
Guyana	20.09.1966	Ratification 14.01.1991	No Action	No Action	Ratification 08.01.1991	Ratification 15.04.1998	Ratification 15.01.2001	No Action	No Action	Accession 14.09.2004	No Action	No Action	Signature 15.09.2005	Ratification 17.07.1980	No Action	Ratification 15.02.1977	Ratification 19.05.1988	Signature 11.04.2007	Ratification 15.02.1977	Ratification 15.02.1977	Ratification 24.09.2004
Haiti	24.10.1945	Ratification 08.06.1995	Signature 15.08.2002	Signature 15.08.2002	Ratification 21.08.1950	Ratification 03.06.2009	Ratification 19.07.2007	No Action	Accession 26.08.1953	Signature 13.12.2000	Accession 25.09.1984	Accession 25.09.1984	No Action	Ratification 20.07.1981	No Action	Ratification 19.12.1972	No Action	No Action	No Action	Accession 06.02.1991	Signature 26.02.1999
Honduras	17.12.1945	Accession 10.08.1990	Accession 14.08.2002	Accession 08.05.2002	Ratification 13.01.1950	Ratification 09.06.1980	Ratification 25.10.2001	No Action	Ratification 15.06.1993	Accession 01.04.2008	Accession 23.03.1992	Accession 23.03.1992	Accession 09.08.2005	Ratification 03.03.1983	No Action	Accession 10.10.2002	Accession 05.12.1996	Ratification 14.04.2008	Ratification 17.02.1981	Ratification 25.08.1997	Ratification 01.07.2002
Jamaica	18.09.1962	Ratification 14.05.1991	Ratification 09.05.2002	Signature 08.09.2000	Ratification 07.08.1969	Ratification 13.10.2003	Ratification 13.10.2003	No Action	No Action	Ratification 29.09.2003	Succession 30.07.1964	Accession 30.10.1980	Ratification 25.09.2008	Ratification 19.10.1984	No Action	Ratification 04.06.1971	No Action	Ratification 30.03.2007	Ratification 03.10.1975	Ratification 03.10.1975	Signature 08.09.2000

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Mexico	07.11.1945	Ratification 21.09.1990	Ratification 15.03.2002	Ratification 15.03.2002	Ratification 23.11.1948	No Action	Ratification 30.06.2000	Accession 22.02.1983	Accession 21.02.1956	Ratification 04.03.2003	Accession 07.06.2000	Accession 07.06.2000	Ratification 08.03.1999	Ratification 23.03.1981	Ratification 15.03.2002	Ratification 20.02.1975	Ratification 23.01.1986	Ratification 17.12.2007	Accession 23.03.1981	Accession 23.03.1981	Ratification 28.10.2005
Nicaragua	24.10.1945	Ratification 05.10.1990	Accession 17.03.2005	Accession 02.12.2004	Ratification 21.06.1950	Ratification 02.11.1981	Ratification 06.11.2000	No Action	No Action	Accession 12.10.2004	Accession 28.03.1980	Accession 28.03.1980	Accession 26.10.2005	Ratification 27.10.1981	No Action	Accession 15.02.1978	Ratification 05.07.2005	Ratification 07.12.2007	Accession 12.03.1980	Accession 12.03.1980	No Action
Panama	13.11.1945	Ratification 12.12.1990	Ratification 08.08.2001	Ratification 09.02.2001	Ratification 16.03.1951	Ratification 31.10.2000	Ratification 31.10.2000	No Action	No Action	Ratification 18.08.2004	Accession 02.08.1978	Accession 02.08.1978	No Action	Ratification 29.10.1981	Ratification 09.05.2001	Ratification 16.08.1967	Ratification 24.08.1987	Ratification 07.08.2007	Ratification 08.03.1977	Ratification 08.03.1977	Ratification 21.03.2002
Paraguay	24.10.1945	Ratification 25.09.1990	Ratification 27.09.2002	Ratification 18.08.2003	Ratification 30.03.1950	Ratification 03.03.2004	Ratification 07.03.2001	No Action	No Action	Ratification 22.09.2004	Accession 01.04.1970	Accession 01.04.1970	Ratification 23.09.2008	Accession 06.04.1987	Ratification 14.05.2001	Ratification 18.08.2003	Ratification 12.03.1990	Ratification 03.09.2008	Accession 10.06.1992	Accession 10.06.1992	Ratification 14.05.2001
Peru	31.10.1945	Ratification 04.09.1990	Ratification 08.05.2002	Ratification 08.05.2002	Ratification 15.05.1952	Ratification 13.11.2002	Ratification 10.01.2002	No Action	No Action	Ratification 23.01.2002	Accession 21.12.1964	Accession 15.09.1983	Ratification 14.09.2005	Ratification 13.09.1982	Ratification 09.04.2001	Ratification 29.09.1971	Ratification 07.07.1988	Ratification 30.01.2008	Ratification 28.04.1978	Ratification 28.04.1978	Ratification 10.11.2001
Saint Kitts and Nevis	23.09.1983	Ratification 24.07.1990	No Action	No Action	Ratification 12.03.1984	Ratification 03.06.2005	Ratification 12.10.2000	No Action	No Action	Accession 21.05.2004	Accession 01.02.2002	No Action	No Action	Accession 25.04.1985	Accession 20.01.2006	Accession 13.10.2006	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	Accession 22.08.2006
Saint Lucia	18.09.1979	Ratification 16.06.1993	No Action	No Action	Ratification 22.05.1979	No Action	Ratification 06.12.2000	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	Accession 08.10.1982	No Action	Succession 02.1990	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	Signature 27.08.1999
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	16.09.1980	Ratification 26.10.1993	No Action	Accession 15.09.2005	Ratification 03.12.1981	Ratification 25.07.2006	Ratification 04.12.2001	Succession 27.04.1999	No Action	Signature 20.11.2002	Accession 03.11.1993	Accession 03.11.2003	No Action	Accession 04.08.1981	No Action	Accession 09.11.1981	Accession 01.08.2001	No Action	Accession 09.11.1981	Accession 09.11.1981	Accession 03.12.2002
Suriname	04.12.1975	Ratification 01.03.1993	Signature 10.05.2002	Signature 10.05.2002	Ratification 01.06.1977	No Action	Ratification 12.04.2006	No Action	No Action	Accession 25.05.2007	Succession 29.11.1978	Succession 29.11.1978	No Action	Accession 01.03.1993	No Action	Succession 15.03.1984	No Action	Signature 30.03.2007	Accession 28.12.1976	Accession 28.12.1976	Accession 15.07.2008
Trinidad et Tobago	18.09.1962	Ratification 05.12.1991	No Action	No Action	Ratification 14.03.1967	Ratification 03.09.2004	Ratification 23.04.2003	Accession 02.10.1969	No Action	Ratification 06.11.2007	Accession 10.11.2000	Accession 10.11.2000	No Action	Ratification 12.01.1990	No Action	Ratification 04.10.1973	No Action	Signature 27.09.2007	Accession 08.12.1978	Accession 21.12.1978	Ratification 06.04.1999
United States of America	24.10.1945	Signature 16.02.1995	Ratification 23.12.2002	Ratification 23.12.2002	Ratification 15.06.1951	No Action	Ratification 02.12.1999	Signature 10.12.1962	No Action	Ratification 03.11.2005	No Action	Accession 01.11.1968	No Action	Signature 17.07.1980	No Action	Ratification 21.10.1994	Ratification 21.10.1994	No Action	Signature 05.10.1977	Ratification 08.06.1992	Signature 31.12.2000
Uruguay	18.12.1945	Ratification 20.11.1990	Ratification 09.09.2003	Ratification 03.07.2003	Ratification 17.08.1955	Ratification 02.06.1977	Ratification 03.08.2001	No Action	No Action	Ratification 04.03.2005	Accession 22.09.1970	Accession 22.09.1970	Accession 15.02.2001	Ratification 09.10.1981	Ratification 26.07.2001	Ratification 30.08.1968	Ratification 24.10.1986	Ratification 11.02.2009	Ratification 01.04.1970	Ratification 01.04.1970	Ratification 28.06.2002
Venezuela	15.11.1945	Ratification 13.09.1990	Ratification 23.09.2003	Ratification 08.05.2002	Ratification 21.12.1951	Ratification 15.07.1987	Ratification 26.10.2005	Accession 31.05.1983	Accession 18.12.1968	Ratification 13.05.2002	No Action	Accession 19.09.1986	No Action	Ratification 02.05.1983	Ratification 13.05.2002	Ratification 10.10.1967	Ratification 29.07.1991	No Action	Ratification 10.05.1978	Ratification 10.05.1978	Ratification 07.06.2000

(1) Excluded 21.01.1962

Short form

Optional Protocol to CRC on Armed Conflict:
 Optional Protocol to CRC on Prostitution and Pornography:
 OAS Charter:
 ILO Convention 138 on Employment Age:
 ILO Convention 182 on Worst Forms of Child Labour:
 Convention on Consent to Marriage:
 Convention for the Suppression of Traffic and Prostitution:
 Palermo Protocol
 Convention on the Status of Refugees (CSR):
 Optional Protocol to CSR on the Status of Refugees:
 Convention on Migrants, Workers and families:
 Convention on Discrimination against Women (CEDAW):
 Optional Protocol to CEDAW on Discrimination against Women:
 Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination:
 Convention against Torture:
 Convention on Persons with Disabilities
 Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights:
 Covenant on Civil and Political Rights:
 Rome Statute:

Full name

OPTIONAL PROTOCOL TO THE CONVENTION OF THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD ON THE INVOLVEMENT OF CHILDREN IN ARMED CONFLICT
 OPTIONAL PROTOCOL TO THE CONVENTION OF THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD ON THE SALE OF CHILDREN, CHILD PROSTITUTION AND CHILD PORNOGRAPHY
 A-41: CHARTER OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES
 CONVENTION CONCERNING THE MINIMUM AGE FOR ADMISSION TO EMPLOYMENT
 CONVENTION CONCERNING THE ELIMINATION OF THE WORST FORMS OF CHILD LABOUR
 CONVENTION ON CONSENT TO MARRIAGE, AND REGISTRATION OF MARRIAGES
 CONVENTION FOR THE SUPPRESSION OF THE TRAFFIC IN PERSONS AND EXPLOITATION OF THE PROSTITUTION OF OTHERS
 PROTOCOL TO PREVENT, SUPPRESS AND PUNISH TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS ESPECIALLY WOMEN AND CHILDREN, SUPPLEMENTING THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION AGAINST TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME
 CONVENTION RELATED TO THE STATUS OF REFUGEES
 PROTOCOL RELATED TO THE STATUS OF REFUGEES
 INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON THE PROTECTION OF THE RIGHTS OF ALL MIGRANTS, WORKERS, AND MEMBERS OF THEIR FAMILY
 CONVENTION ON THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN
 OPTIONAL PROTOCOL TO THE CONVENTION ON THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN
 CONVENTION ON THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION
 CONVENTION AGAINST TORTURE AND OTHER CRUEL, INHUMAN OR DEGRADING TREATMENT OR PUNISHMENT
 CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES
 INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS
 INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS
 ROME STATUTE OF THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT

International Conventions and Treaties in the Americas

Reservations made by countries in the Americas on the Convention of the Rights of the Child

At the time of ratification, the following countries made reservations:

The **Argentine Republic** enters a reservation to subparagraphs (b), (c), (d) and (e) of article 21 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and declares that those subparagraphs shall not apply in areas within its jurisdiction because, in its view, before they can be applied a strict mechanism must exist for the legal protection of children in matters of intercountry adoption, in order to prevent trafficking in and the sale of children.

Concerning article 38 of the Convention, the **Argentine Republic** declares that it would have liked the Convention categorically to prohibit the use of children in armed conflicts. Such a prohibition exists in its domestic law which, by virtue of article 41 of the Convention, it shall continue to apply in this regard.

The Government of the Commonwealth of the **Bahamas** upon signing the Convention reserves the right not to apply the provisions of article 2 of the said Convention insofar as those provisions relate to the conferment of citizenship upon a child having regard to the Provisions of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas.

The Government of **Canada** accepts the general principles of article 37 (c) of the Convention, but reserves the right not to detain children separately from adults where this is not appropriate or feasible.

With a view to ensuring full respect for the purposes and intent of article 20 (3) and article 30 of the Convention, the Government of Canada reserves the right not to apply the provisions of article 21 to the extent that they may be inconsistent with customary forms of care among aboriginal peoples in Canada.

The **Colombian** Government considers that, while the minimum age of 15 years for taking part in armed conflicts, set forth in article 38 of the Convention, is the outcome of serious negotiations which reflect various legal, political and cultural systems in the world, it would have been preferable to fix that age at 18 years in accordance with the principles and norms prevailing in various regions and countries, Colombia among them, for which reason the Colombian Government, for the purpose of article 38 of the Convention, shall construe the age in question to be 18 years.

The Government of Colombia, pursuant to article 2, paragraph 1 (d) of the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties of 23 May 1969, declares that for the purposes of article 38, paragraphs 2 and 3, of the Convention, the age referred to in said paragraphs shall be understood to be 18 years, given the fact that, under Colombian law the minimum age for recruitment into the armed forces of personnel called for military service is 18 years.

Definitions of key terms used in the UN Treaty Collection:

Adoption

"Adoption" is the formal act by which the form and content of a proposed treaty text are established. As a general rule, the adoption of the text of a treaty takes place through the expression of the consent of the states participating in the treaty-making process. Treaties that are negotiated within an international organization will usually be adopted by a resolution of a representative organ of the organization whose membership more or less corresponds to the potential participation in the treaty in question. A treaty can also be adopted by an international conference which has specifically been convened for setting up the treaty, by a vote of two thirds of the states present and voting, unless, by the same majority, they have decided to apply a different rule. [Art.9, Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties 1969]

Acceptance and Approval

The instruments of "acceptance" or "approval" of a treaty have the same legal effect as ratification and consequently express the consent of a state to be bound by a treaty. In the practice of certain states acceptance and approval have been used instead of ratification when, at a national level, constitutional law does not require the treaty to be ratified by the head of state. [Arts.2 (1) (b) and 14 (2), Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties 1969]

Accession

"Accession" is the act whereby a state accepts the offer or the opportunity to become a party to a treaty already negotiated and signed by other states. It has the same legal effect as ratification. Accession usually occurs after the treaty has entered into force. The Secretary-General of the United Nations, in his function as depositary has also accepted accessions to some conventions before their entry into force. The conditions under which accession may occur and the procedure involved depend on the provisions of the treaty. A treaty might provide for the accession of all other states or for a limited and defined number of states. In the absence of such a provision, accession can only occur where the negotiating states were agreed or subsequently agree on it in the case of the state in question. [Arts.2 (1) (b) and 15, Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties 1969]

Ratification

Ratification defines the international act whereby a state indicates its consent to be bound to a treaty if the parties intended to show their consent by such an act. In the case of bilateral treaties, ratification is usually accomplished by exchanging the requisite instruments, while in the case of multilateral treaties the usual procedure is the depositary to collect the ratifications of all states, keeping all parties informed of the situation. The institution of ratification grants states the necessary time-frame to seek the required approval for the treaty on the domestic level and to enact the necessary legislation to give domestic effect to that treaty. [Arts.2 (1) (b), 14 (1) and 16, Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties 1969]

Reservation

A reservation is a declaration made by a state by which it purports to exclude or alter the legal effect of certain provisions of the treaty in their application to that state. A reservation enables a state to accept a multilateral treaty as a whole by giving it the possibility not to apply certain provisions with which it does not want to comply. Reservations can be made when the treaty is signed, ratified, accepted, approved or acceded to. Reservations must not be incompatible with the object and the purpose of the treaty. Furthermore, a treaty might prohibit reservations or only allow for certain reservations to be made. [Arts.2 (1) (d) and 19-23, Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties 1969]

Signature Subject to Ratification, Acceptance or Approval

Where the signature is subject to ratification, acceptance or approval, the signature does not establish the consent to be bound. However, it is a means of authentication and expresses the willingness of the signatory state to continue the treaty-making process. The signature qualifies the signatory state to proceed to ratification, acceptance or approval. It also creates an obligation to refrain, in good faith, from acts that would defeat the object and the purpose of the treaty. [Arts.10 and 18, Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties 1969]

Succession

Participation in treaties in force at the date of the succession of States: a newly independent State may, by a notification of succession, establish its status as a party to any multilateral treaty which at the date of the succession of States was in force in respect of the territory to which the succession of States relates.

Participation in treaties not in force at the date of the succession of States: a newly independent State may, by a notification of succession, establish its status as a contracting State to a multilateral treaty which is not in force at the date of the succession of States the predecessor State was a contracting State in respect of the territory to which that succession of States relates.[Arts.17 and 18, Vienna Convention on Succession of States in respect of Treaties 1978]

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