

**International Conventions and Treaties in Western and Central Africa**

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	African 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
Benin	20.09.1960	Ratification 03.08.1990	Ratification 31.01.2005	Ratification 31.05.2005	Ratification 17.04.1997	Ratification 11.06.2001	Ratification 06.11.2001	Accession 19.10.1965	No Action	Ratification 30.08.2004	Succession 04.04.1962	Accession 06.07.1970	Signature 15.09.2005	Ratification 12.03.1992	Signature 25.05.2000	Ratification 30.11.2001	Accession 12.03.1992	Signature 08.02.2008	Accession 12.03.1992	Accession 12.03.1992	Ratification 22.01.2002
Burkina Faso	20.09.1960	Ratification 31.08.1990	Ratification 06.07.2007	Ratification 31.03.2006	Ratification 08.06.1992	Ratification 11.02.1999	Ratification 25.07.2001	Accession 08.12.1964	Accession 27.08.1962	Ratification 15.05.2002	Accession 18.06.1980	Accession 18.06.1980	Ratification 26.11.2003	Accession 14.10.1987	Ratification 10.10.2005	Accession 18.07.1974	Accession 04.01.1999	Signature 23.05.2007	Accession 04.01.1999	Accession 04.01.1999	Ratification 16.04.2004
Cameroun	20.09.1960	Ratification 11.01.1993	Signature 05.10.2001	Signature 05.10.2001	Ratification 05.09.1997	Ratification 13.08.2001	Ratification 05.06.2002	No Action	Accession 19.02.1982	Ratification 06.02.2006	Succession 23.10.1961	Accession 19.09.1967	No Action	Accession 23.08.1994	Accession 07.01.2005	Ratification 24.06.1971	Accession 19.12.1986	Signature 01.10.2008	Accession 27.06.1984	Accession 27.06.1984	Signature 17.07.1998
Cape Verde	16.09.1975	Accession 04.06.1992	Accession 10.05.2002	Accession 10.05.2002	Ratification 20.07.1993	No Action	Ratification 23.10.2001	No Action	No Action	Ratification 15.07.2004	No Action	Accession 09.07.1987	Accession 16.09.1997	Accession 05.12.1981	No Action	Accession 03.10.1979	Accession 04.06.1992	Signature 30.03.2007	Accession 06.08.1993	Accession 06.08.1993	Signature 28.12.2000
Central African Republic	20.09.1960	Ratification 23.04.1992	No Action	No Action	Signature 04.02.2003	Ratification 28.06.2000	Ratification 28.06.2000	No Action	Accession 29.09.1981	Accession 06.10.2006	Succession 04.09.1962	Accession 30.08.1967	No Action	Accession 21.06.1991	No Action	Ratification 16.03.1971	No action	Signature 09.05.2007	Accession 08.05.1981	Accession 08.05.1981	Ratification 03.10.2001
Chad	20.09.1960	Ratification 02.10.1990	Ratification 28.08.2002	Ratification 28.08.2002	Ratification 30.03.2000	Ratification 21.03.2005	Ratification 06.11.2000	No Action	No Action	No Action	Accession 19.08.1981	Accession 19.08.1981	No Action	Accession 09.06.1995	No Action	Accession 17.08.1977	Accession 09.06.1995	No Action	Accession 09.06.1995	Accession 09.06.1995	Ratification 01.11.2006
Congo (Republic of)	20.09.1960	Accession 14.10.1993	No Action	No Action	Ratification 08.09.2006	Ratification 26.11.1999	Ratification 23.08.2002	No Action	Accession 25.08.1977	Signature 14.12.2000	Succession 15.10.1962	Accession 10.07.1970	Signature 29.09.2008	Ratification 26.07.1982	Signature 29.09.2008	Accession 11.07.1988	Accession 30.07.2003	Signature 30.03.2007	Accession 05.10.1983	Accession 05.10.1983	Ratification 03.05.2004
Congo (Dem. Rep. of)	20.09.1960	Ratification 27.09.1990	Ratification 11.11.2001	Accession 11.11.2001	No Action [i]	Ratification 20.06.2001	Ratification 20.06.2001	No Action	No Action	Accession 28.10.2005	Accession 19.07.1965	Accession 13.01.1975	No Action	Ratification 17.10.1986	Accession 21.04.1976	Accession 18.03.1996	Accession 18.03.1996	No Action	Accession 01.11.1976	Accession 01.11.1976	Ratification 11.04.2002
Cote d'Ivoire	20.09.1960	Ratification 04.02.1991	No Action	No Action	Ratification 01.03.2002	Ratification 07.02.2003	Ratification 07.02.2003	Accession 18.12.1995	Accession 02.11.1999	No Action	Succession 08.12.1961	Accession 16.02.1970	No Action	Accession 18.12.1995	No Action	Accession 04.01.1973	Accession 18.12.1995	Signature 07.06.2007	Accession 26.03.1992	Accession 26.03.1992	Signature 30.11.1998
Equatorial Guinea	20.09.1977	Accession 15.06.1992	No Action	Accession 07.02.2003	Accession 20.12.2002	Ratification 12.06.1985	Ratification 13.08.2001	No Action	No Action	Ratification 07.02.2003	Accession 07.02.1986	Accession 07.02.1986	No Action	Accession 23.10.1984	No Action	Accession 08.10.2002	Accession 08.10.2002	No Action	Accession 25.09.1987	Accession 25.09.1987	No Action
Gabon	20.09.1960	Ratification 09.02.1994	Signature 08.09.2000	Accession 01.10.2007	Ratification 18.05.2007	No Action	Ratification 28.03.2001	No Action	No Action	No Action	Accession 27.04.1964	Accession 28.08.1973	Signature 15.12.2004	Ratification 21.01.1983	Accession 05.11.2004	Ratification 29.02.1980	Ratification 08.09.2000	Ratification 01.10.2007	Accession 21.01.1983	Accession 21.01.1983	Ratification 21.09.2000
Gambia	21.09.1965	Ratification 08.08.1990	Signature 21.12.2000	Signature 21.12.2000	Ratification 14.12.2000	Ratification 04.09.2000	Ratification 03.07.2001	No Action	No Action	Ratification 05.05.2003	Succession 07.09.1966	Accession 29.09.1967	No Action	Ratification 16.04.1993	Accession 29.12.1978	Signature 23.10.1985	Accession 29.12.1978	No Action	Accession 29.12.1978	Accession 22.03.1979	Ratification 28.06.2002
Ghana	08.03.1957	Ratification 05.02.1990	Signature 24.09.2003	Signature 24.09.2003	Ratification 10.06.2005	No Action	Ratification 13.06.2000	No Action	No Action	No Action	Accession 18.03.1963	Accession 30.10.1968	Ratification 07.09.2000	Ratification 02.01.1986	Signature 24.02.2000	Ratification 08.09.1966	Ratification 07.09.2000	Signature 30.03.2007	Ratification 07.09.2000	Ratification 07.09.2000	Ratification 20.12.1999
Guinea	12.12.1958	Accession 13.07.1990	No Action [ii]	No Action	Ratification 27.05.1999	Ratification 06.06.2003	Ratification 06.06.2003	Ratification 24.01.1978	Accession 26.04.1962	Accession 09.11.2004	Accession 28.12.1965	Accession 16.05.1968	Accession 07.09.2000	Ratification 09.08.1982	No Action	Ratification 14.03.1977	Ratification 10.10.1989	Ratification 08.02.2008	Accession 24.01.1978	Accession 24.01.1978	Ratification 14.07.2003
Guinea-Bissau	17.09.1974	Ratification 20.08.1990	Signature 08.09.2000	Signature 08.09.2000	Ratification 19.06.2008	Accession 05.03.2009	Ratification 26.08.2008	No Action	No Action	Ratification 10.09.2007	Accession 11.02.1976	Accession 11.02.1976	Signature 12.09.2000	Ratification 23.08.1985	Signature 12.09.2000	Signature 12.09.2000	Signature 12.09.2000	No Action	Accession 02.07.1992	Signature 12.09.2000	Signature 12.09.2000
Liberia	02.11.1945	Ratification 04.06.1993	Signature 22.09.2004	Signature 22.09.2004	Ratification 01.08.2007	No Action	Ratification 02.06.2003	No Action	Signature 21.03.1950	Accession 22.09.2004	Accession 15.10.1964	Accession 27.02.1980	Signature 22.09.2004	Accession 17.07.1984	Signature 22.09.2004	Accession 05.11.1976	Accession 22.09.2004	Signature 30.03.2007	Accession 22.09.2004	Accession 22.09.2004	Ratification 22.09.2004
Mali	28.09.1960	Ratification 20.09.1990	Ratification 16.05.2002	Accession 16.05.2002	Ratification 03.06.1998	Ratification 11.03.2002	Ratification 14.07.2000	Accession 19.08.1964	Accession 23.12.1964	Ratification 12.04.2002	Succession 02.02.1973	Accession 02.02.1973	Accession 05.06.2003	Ratification 10.09.1985	Accession 05.12.2000	Accession 16.07.1974	Accession 26.02.1999	Ratification 07.04.2008	Accession 16.07.1974	Accession 16.07.1974	Ratification 16.08.2000
Mauritania	27.10.1961	Ratification 16.05.1991	No Action	Accession 23.04.2007	Accession 21.09.2005	Ratification 03.12.2001	Ratification 03.12.2001	No Action	Accession 06.06.1986	Accession 22.07.2005	Accession 05.05.1987	Accession 05.05.1987	Accession 22.01.2007	Accession 10.05.2001	No Action	Ratification 13.12.1988	Accession 17.11.2004	No Action	Accession 17.11.2004	Accession 17.11.2004	No Action
Niger	20.09.1960	Ratification 30.09.1990	No Action	Ratification 26.10.2004	Ratification 11.12.1996	Ratification 04.12.1978	Ratification 23.10.2000	Accession 01.12.1964	Accession 10.06.1977	Ratification 30.09.2004	Succession 25.08.1961	Accession 02.02.1970	Accession 18.03.2009	Accession 08.10.1999	Accession 30.09.2004	Ratification 24.07.1967	Accession 05.10.1998	Ratification 24.06.2008	Accession 07.03.1986	Accession 07.03.1986	Ratification 11.04.2002
Nigeria	07.10.1960	Ratification 19.04.1991	Signature 08.09.2000	Signature 08.09.2000	Ratification 23.07.2001	Ratification 02.10.2002	Ratification 02.10.2002	No Action	No Action	Ratification 28.06.2001	Accession 23.10.1967	Accession 02.05.1968	No Action	Ratification 13.06.1985	Ratification 22.11.2004	Accession 16.10.1967	Accession 28.06.2001	Signature 30.03.2007	Accession 29.07.1993	Accession 29.07.1993	Ratification 27.09.2001
Sao Tome & Principe	16.09.1975	Accession 14.05.1991	No Action	No Action	No Action	Ratification 04.05.2005	Ratification 04.05.2005	No Action	No Action	Accession 23.08.2006	Accession 01.02.1978	Accession 01.02.1978	Signature 06.09.2000	Ratification 03.06.2003	Signature 06.09.2000	Signature 06.09.2000	Signature 06.09.2000	No Action	Signature 31.10.1995	Signature 31.10.1995	Signature 28.12.2000
Senegal	28.09.1960	Ratification 31.07.1990	Ratification 03.03.2004	Ratification 05.11.2003	Ratification 29.09.1998	Ratification 15.12.1999	Ratification 01.06.2000	No Action	Accession 10.07.1979	Ratification 27.10.2003	Succession 02.05.1963	Accession 03.10.1967	Accession 09.06.1999	Ratification 05.02.1985	Ratification 26.05.2000	Accession 19.04.1972	Ratification 21.08.1986	Signature 25.04.2007	Ratification 13.02.1978	Ratification 13.02.1978	Ratification 02.02.1999
Sierra Leone	27.09.1961	Ratification	Ratification	Ratification	Ratification	No	No	No	No	Signature	Accession	Accession	Signature	Ratification	Signature	Ratification	Ratification	Signature	Accession	Accession	Ratification

## International Conventions and Treaties in Western and Central Africa

		18.06.1990	15.05.2002	17.09.2001	13.05.2002	Action	Action [iii]	Action	Action	27.11.2001	22.05.1981	22.05.1981	15.09.2000	11.11.1988	08.09.2000	02.08.1967	25.04.2001	30.03.2007	23.08.1996	23.08.1996	15.09.2000
Togo	20.09.1960	Ratification 01.08.1990	Ratification 28.11.2005	Ratification 02.07.2004	Ratification 05.05.1998	Ratification 16.03.1984	Ratification 19.09.2000	No Action	Accession 14.03.1990	Ratification 08.05.2009	Succession 27.02.1962	Accession 01.12.1969	Signature 15.11.2001	Accession 26.09.1983	No Action	Accession 01.09.1972	Ratification 18.11.1987	Signature 23.09.2008	Accession 24.05.1984	Accession 24.05.1984	No Action

### Short form

Optional Protocol to CRC on Armed Conflict:

Optional Protocol to CRC on Prostitution and Pornography:

African 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 Culture 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

AFRICAN CHARTER ON THE RIGHTS AND WELFARE OF THE CHILD

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

### Reservations made by countries in Western and Central Africa on the Convention of the Rights of the Child

i-Côte d'Ivoire appears to have acceded to the Optional Protocol at the national level, but it has not yet deposited the necessary instruments at the international level to make this accession internationally recognised.

ii-The Republic of Guinea appears to have acceded to the Optional Protocol at the national level, but it has not yet deposited the necessary instruments at the international level to make this accession internationally recognised.

iii-Sierra Leone appears to have acceded to the Optional Protocol at the national level, but it has not yet deposited the necessary instruments at the international level to make this accession internationally recognised.

### 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 of 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 for 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.

## International Conventions and Treaties in Western and Central Africa

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 of 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 if 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]