

**International Conventions and Treaties in the Middle East and North 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
Algeria	08.10.1962	Ratification 16.04.1993	Accession 06.05.2009	Ratification 27.12.2006	Ratification 08.07.2003	Ratification 30.04.1984	Accession 09.02.2001	No Action	Accession 31.10.1963	Succession 09.03.2004	Succession 21.02.1963	Accession 08.11.1967	Accession 21.04.2005	Accession 22.05.1996	No Action	Ratification 14.02.1972	Ratification 12.09.1989	Signature 30.03.2007	Ratification 12.09.1989	Ratification 12.09.1989	Signature 28.12.2000
Bahrain	21.09.1971	Accession 13.02.1992	Accession 21.09.2004	Accession 21.09.2004	No Action	No Action	Ratification 23.03.2001	No Action	No Action	Accession 07.06.2004	No Action	No Action	No Action	Accession 18.06.2002	No Action	Accession 27.03.1990	Accession 06.03.1998	Signature 25.06.2007	Accession 27.09.2007	Accession 20.09.2006	Signature 11.12.2000
Egypt	24.10.1945	Ratification 06.07.1990	Accession 06.02.2007	Accession 12.07.2002	Ratification 09.05.2001	Ratification 09.06.1999	Ratification 06.05.2002	No Action	Accession 12.06.1959	Ratification 05.03.2004	Accession 22.05.1981	Accession 22.05.1981	Accession 19.02.1993	Ratification 18.09.1981	No Action	Ratification 01.05.1967	Accession 25.06.1986	Ratification 14.04.2008	Ratification 14.01.1982	Ratification 14.01.1982	Signature 26.12.2000
Iran	24.10.1945	Ratification 13.07.1994	No Action	Accession 26.09.2007	No Action	No Action	Ratification 08.05.2002	No Action	Signature 16.07.1953	No Action	Accession 28.07.1976	Accession 28.07.1976	No Action	No Action	No Action	Ratification 29.08.1968	No Action	No Action	Ratification 24.06.75	Ratification 24.06.75	Signature 31.12.2000
Iraq	21.12.1945	Accession 15.06.1994	Accession 24.07.2008	Accession 24.06.2008	No Action	Ratification 13.02.1985	Ratification 09.07.2001	No Action	Accession 22.09.1955	Accession 09.02.2009	No Action	No Action	No Action	Accession 13.08.1986	No Action	Ratification 14.01.1970	No Action	No Action	Ratification 25.01.1971	Ratification 25.01.1971	No Action
Israel	11.05.1949	Ratification 03.10.1991	Ratification 18.07.2005	Ratification 23.07.2008	No Action	Ratification 21.06.1979	Ratification 15.03.2005	Signature 10.12.1962	Accession 28.12.1950	Ratification 23.07.2008	Ratification 01.10.1954	Accession 14.06.1968	No Action	Ratification 03.10.1991	No Action	Ratification 03.01.1979	Ratification 03.10.1991	Signature 30.03.2007	Ratification 03.10.1991	Ratification 03.10.1991	Signature 31.12.2000
Jordan	14.12.1955	Ratification 24.05.1991	Ratification 23.05.2007	Ratification 04.12.2006	No Action	Ratification 23.03.1998	Ratification 20.04.2000	Accession 01.07.1992	Accession 13.04.1976	Accession 11.06.2009	No Action	No Action	No Action	Ratification 01.07.1992	No Action	Accession 30.05.1974	Accession 13.11.1991	Ratification 31.03.2008	Ratification 28.05.1975	Ratification 28.05.1975	Ratification 11.04.2002
Kuwait	14.05.1963	Ratification 21.10.1991	Accession 26.08.2004	Accession 26.08.2004	No Action	Ratification 15.11.1999	Ratification 15.08.2000	No Action	Accession 20.11.1968	Accession 12.05.2006	No Action	No Action	No Action	Accession 02.09.1994	No Action	Accession 15.10.1968	Accession 08.03.1996	No Action	Accession 21.05.1996	Accession 21.05.1996	Signature 08.09.2000
Lebanon	24.10.1945	Ratification 14.05.1991	Signature 11.02.2002	Ratification 08.11.2004	No Action	Ratification 10.06.2003	Ratification 11.09.2001	No Action	No Action	Ratification 05.10.2005	No Action	No Action	No Action	Accession 16.04.1997	No Action	Accession 12.11.1971	Accession 05.10.2000	Signature 14.06.2007	Accession 03.11.1972	Accession 03.11.1972	No Action
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	14.12.1955	Accession 15.04.1993	Accession 29.10.2004	Accession 18.06.2004	Ratification 23.09.2000	Ratification 19.06.1975	Ratification 04.10.2000	Accession 06.09.2005	Accession 03.12.1956	Ratification 24.09.2004	No Action	No Action	Accession 18.06.2004	Accession 16.05.1989	Accession 18.06.2004	Accession 03.07.1968	Accession 16.05.1989	Signature 01.05.2008	Accession 15.05.1970	Accession 15.05.1970	No Action
Morocco	12.11.1956	Ratification 21.06.1993	Ratification 22.05.2002	Ratification 02.10.2001	No Action	Ratification 06.01.2000	Ratification 26.01.2001	No Action	Accession 17.08.1973	No Action	Succession 07.11.1956	Accession 20.04.1971	Ratification 21.06.1993	Accession 21.06.1993	No Action	Ratification 18.12.1970	Ratification 21.06.1993	Ratification 08.04.09	Ratification 03.05.1979	Ratification 03.05.1979	Signature 08.09.2000
Oman	07.10.1971	Accession 09.12.1996	Accession 17.09.2004	Accession 17.09.2004	No Action	Ratification 21.07.2005	Ratification 11.06.2001	No Action	No Action	Accession 13.05.2005	No Action	No Action	No Action	Accession 07.02.2006	No Action	Accession 02.01.2003	No Action	Accession 06.01.2009	No Action	No Action	Signature 20.12.2000
Qatar	21.09.1971	Ratification 03.04.1995	Accession 25.07.2002	Accession 14.12.2001	No Action	Ratification 03.01.2006	Ratification 30.05.2000	No Action	No Action	Accession 29.05.2009	No Action	No Action	No Action	Accession 29.04.2009	No Action	Accession 22.07.1976	Accession 11.01.2000	Ratification 13.05.2008	No Action	No Action	No Action
Saudi Arabia	24.10.1945	Accession 26.01.1996	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	Ratification 08.10.2001	No Action	No Action	Ratification 20.07.2007	No Action	No Action	No Action	Ratification 07.09.2000	No Action	Accession 22.09.1997	Accession 23.09.1997	Accession 24.06.2008	No Action	No Action	No Action
Syrian Arab Republic	24.10.1945	Ratification 15.07.1993	Accession 17.10.2003	Accession 15.05.2003	No Action	Ratification 18.09.2001	Ratification 22.05.2003	No Action	Accession 12.06.1959	Signature 13.12.2000	No Action	No Action	Accession 02.06.2005	Accession 28.03.2003	No Action	Accession 21.04.1969	Accession 19.08.2004	Signature 30.03.2007	Accession 21.04.1969	Accession 21.04.1969	Signature 29.11.2000
Tunisia	12.11.1956	Ratification 30.01.1992	Ratification 02.01.2003	Ratification 13.09.2002	Ratification 16.03.1983	Ratification 19.10.1995	Ratification 28.02.2000	Accession 24.01.1968	No Action	Ratification 14.07.2003	Succession 24.10.1957	Accession 16.10.1968	No Action	Ratification 20.09.1985	Accession 23.09.2008	Ratification 13.01.1967	Ratification 23.09.1988	Ratification 02.04.2008	Ratification 18.03.1969	Ratification 18.03.1969	No Action
Turkey	24.10.1945	Ratification 04.04.1995	Ratification 04.05.2004	Ratification 19.08.2002	No Action	Ratification 30.10.1998	Ratification 02.08.2001	No Action	No Action	Ratification 25.03.2003	Ratification 30.03.1962	Accession 31.07.1968	Ratification 27.09.2004	Accession 20.12.1985	Ratification 29.10.2002	Ratification 16.09.2002	Ratification 02.08.1988	Signature 30.03.2007	Ratification 23.09.2003	Ratification 23.09.2003	No Action
United Arab Emirates	09.12.1971	Accession 03.01.1997	No Action	No Action	No Action	Ratification 02.10.1998	Ratification 28.06.2001	No Action	No Action	Accession 21.01.2009	No Action	No Action	No Action	Accession 06.10.2004	No Action	Accession 20.06.1974	No Action	Signature 08.02.2008	No Action	No Action	Signature 27.11.2000
Yemen	30.09.1947	Ratification 01.05.1991	Accession 02.03.2007	Accession 15.12.2004	No Action	Ratification 15.06.2000	Ratification 15.06.2000	Accession 09.02.1987	Accession 06.04.1989	No Action	Accession 18.01.1980	Accession 18.01.1980	No Action	Accession 30.05.1984	No Action	Accession 18.10.1972	Accession 05.11.1991	Ratification 26.03.09	Accession 09.02.1987	Accession 09.02.1987	Signature 28.12.2000

(1) Withdraw 30.02.2005

## International Conventions and Treaties in the Middle East and North Africa

### 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 the 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 Middle East and North Africa on the Convention of the Rights of the Child

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

The provisions of paragraphs 1 and 2 of article 14 shall be interpreted by the **Algerian** Government in compliance with the basic foundations of the Algerian legal system, in particular:

- With the Constitution, which stipulates in its article 2 that Islam is the State religion and in its article 35 that "there shall be no infringement of the inviolability of the freedom of conviction and the inviolability of the freedom of opinion";
- With Law No. 84-11 of 9 June 1984, comprising the Family Code, which stipulates that a child's education is to take place in accordance with the religion of its father.

The **Islamic Republic of Iran** is making reservation to the articles and provisions which may be contrary to the Islamic Shariah, and preserves the right to make such particular declaration, upon its ratification. The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran reserves the right not to apply any provisions or articles of the Convention that are incompatible with Islamic Laws and the international legislation in effect

[**Iraq**] ha[s] seen fit to accept it [the Convention] ... subject to a reservation in respect of article 14, paragraph 1, concerning the child's freedom of religion, as allowing a child to change his or her religion runs counter to the provisions of the Islamic Shariah.

The **Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan** expresses its reservation and does not consider itself bound by articles 14, 20 and 21 of the Convention, which grant the child the right to freedom of choice of religion and concern the question of adoption, since they are at variance with the precepts of the tolerant Islamic Shariah.

[**Kuwait** expresses] reservations on all provisions of the Convention that are incompatible with the laws of Islamic Shari'a and the local statutes in effect. The State of Kuwait understands the concepts of this article to signify the right of the child who was born in Kuwait and whose parents are unknown (parentless) to be granted the Kuwaiti nationality as stipulated by the Kuwaiti Nationality Laws. With respect to article 21 the State of Kuwait, as it adheres to the provisions of the Islamic shariah as the main source of legislation, strictly bans abandoning the Islamic religion and does not therefore approve adoption.

A reservation is entered to all the provisions of the Convention that do not accord with Islamic law or the legislation in force in the Sultanate (of **Oman**) and, in particular, to the provisions relating to adoption set forth in its article 21. The words "or to public safety" should be added in article 9 [, paragraph 4,] after the words "unless the provision of the information would be detrimental to the well-being of the child. The provisions of the Convention should be applied within the limits imposed by the material resources available. The Sultanate does not consider itself to be bound by those provisions of article 14 of the Convention that accord a child the right to choose his or her religion or those of its article 30 that allow a child belonging to a religious minority to profess his or her own religion. The Sultanate considers that article 7 of the Convention as it relates to the nationality of a child shall be understood to mean that a child born in the Sultanate of unknown parents shall acquire Omani nationality, as stipulated in the Sultanate's Nationality Law.  
Islamic Shariah.

[The Government of **Saudi Arabia** enters] reservations with respect to all such articles as are in conflict with the provisions of Islamic law.

The Government of the **Republic of Tunisia** declares that it shall not, in implementation of this Convention, adopt any legislative or statutory decision that conflicts with the Tunisian Constitution. The Government of the Republic of Tunisia declares that its undertaking to implement the provisions of this Convention shall be limited by the means at its disposal. The Government of the Republic of Tunisia enters a reservation with regard to the provisions of article 2 of the convention, which may not impede implementation of the provisions of its national legislation concerning personal status, particularly in relation to marriage and inheritance rights.

The **Republic of Turkey** reserves the right to interpret and apply the provisions of articles 17, 29 and 30 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child according to the letter and the spirit of the Constitution of the Republic of Turkey and those of the Treaty of Lausanne of 24 July 1923.

The **United Arab Emirates** is of the view that the acquisition of nationality is an internal matter and one that is regulated and whose terms and conditions are established by national legislation. The United Arab Emirates shall be bound by the tenor of this article to the extent that it does not conflict with the principles and provisions of Islamic law. Since, given its commitment to the principles of Islamic law, the United Arab Emirates does not permit the system of adoption, it has reservations with respect to this article and does not deem it necessary to be bound by its provisions. While the United Arab Emirates appreciates and respects the functions assigned to the mass media by the article, it shall be bound by its provisions in the light of the requirements of domestic statutes and laws and, in accordance with the recognition accorded them in the preamble to the Convention, such a manner that the country's traditions and cultural values are not violated

## International Conventions and Treaties in the Middle East and North Africa

### 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. 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]