



State of Ratification of International Conventions and Treaties relative to the Promotion and Protection of Children's Rights in the Asia-Pacific Region

Countries	CRC	OP-CRC-AC	OP-CRC-SC	ICERD	ICOPR	ICPPR-OP1	ICPPR-OP2	ICESCR	CEDAW	OP-CEDAW	CAT	OP-CAT	ICRMW	CRPD	CSR	1967 Protocol to SR	Reduction of Statelessness	ICPED	Suppression of Traffic & Prostitution	Palermo Protocol	Intercountry Adoption	International Child Abduction	Consent to Marriage	ILO-138	ILO-182	Discrimination in Education	Rome Statute	GENEVA PROTOCOL I	GENEVA PROTOCOL II	Firearm Protocol	Ottawa Treaty	CCM	Countries
Afghanistan	R	A	A	A	A	No Action	No Action	A	R	No Action	R	No Action	No Action	No Action	A	A	No Action	No Action	A	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	R	R	A	R	R	No Action	A	S	Afghanistan	
Australia	R	R	R	R	R	A	A	R	R	A	R	S	No Action	R	A	A	A	No Action	No Action	R	R	R	No Action	R	R	A	R	R	S	R	S	Australia	
Bangladesh	R	R	R	R	R	A	No Action	A	R	A	R	No Action	R	R	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	Bangladesh
Bhutan	R	R	R	R	R	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	Bhutan
Brunei Darussalam	A	No Action	A	A	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	Brunei Darussalam
Cambodia	A	R	R	R	A	S	No Action	A	A	R	A	R	S	A	A	A	No Action	No Action	A	R	A	No Action	No Action	R	R	R	R	A	A	A	A	Cambodia	
China	R	R	R	R	A	S	No Action	R	R	No Action	R	No Action	No Action	R	A	A	No Action	No Action	No Action	A	R	C III	No Action	R	R	No Action	No Action	A	A	S	No Action	No Action	China
Dem. People's Rep. of Korea	R	No Action	No Action	R	A	No Action	No Action	A	A	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	R	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	A	A	No Action	No Action	Dem. People's Rep. of Korea
Fiji	R	S	S	D	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	A	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	S	D	D	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	A	D	R	R	R	A	A	No Action	R	Fiji	
India	A	R	R	R	A	No Action	No Action	A	R	No Action	S	No Action	No Action	R	No Action	No Action	No Action	S	R	R	R	R	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	India
Indonesia	R	S	S	A	A	No Action	No Action	A	R	S	R	No Action	S	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	S	R	R	No Action	No Action	R	R	A	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	Indonesia	
Iran (Islamic Rep. of)	R	S	A	R	R	No Action	No Action	R	A	R	No Action	No Action	No Action	A	A	A	No Action	No Action	A	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	R	R	A	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	Iran (Islamic Rep. of)	
Japan	R	R	R	R	A	No Action	No Action	R	R	No Action	A	No Action	No Action	S	A	A	No Action	R	A	S	No Action	No Action	No Action	R	R	No Action	R	A	A	S	R	Japan	
Kiribati	A	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	A	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	D	No Action	A	No Action	No Action	No Action	R	R	No Action	No Action	R	R	No Action	No Action	No Action	Kiribati
Lao (People's Dem. Rep. of)	A	A	A	A	R	No Action	No Action	R	R	No Action	S	No Action	No Action	R	No Action	No Action	No Action	S	A	A	No Action	No Action	No Action	R	R	No Action	No Action	R	R	A	No Action	R	Lao (People's Dem. Rep. of)
Malaysia	A	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	A	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	R	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	A	No Action	No Action	No Action	R	R	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	Malaysia
Maldives	R	R	R	A	A	A	No Action	A	A	A	A	R	No Action	R	No Action	No Action	No Action	S	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	A	A	A	No Action	No Action	Maldives	
Marshall Islands	R	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	A	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	R	R	No Action	No Action	No Action	Marshall Islands
Micronesia (Fed. States of)	A	S	S	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	A	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	S	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	R	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	Micronesia (Fed. States of)
Mongolia	R	R	R	R	R	A	No Action	R	R	R	A	No Action	No Action	A	No Action	No Action	No Action	S	A	A	A	No Action	A	R	R	R	R	R	R	A	No Action	No Action	Mongolia
Myanmar	A	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	A	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	S	A	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	Myanmar
Nauru	A	S	S	S	S	S	No Action	A	A	No Action	S	No Action	No Action	No Action	A	A	No Action	No Action	No Action	S	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	R	A	A	S	A	S	Nauru
Nepal	R	R	R	A	A	A	A	A	R	A	A	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	R	R	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	Nepal
New Zealand	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	New Zealand
Pakistan	R	S	R	R	R	No Action	No Action	R	A	No Action	R	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	R	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	R	R	No Action	No Action	R	R	No Action	No Action	No Action	Pakistan
Palau	A	No Action	No Action	S	S	No Action	No Action	S	S	No Action	S	No Action	S	S	No Action	No Action	No Action	S	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	Palau
Papua New Guinea	R	No Action	No Action	A	A	No Action	No Action	A	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	S	A	A	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	R	R	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	Papua New Guinea
Philippines	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	Philippines
Republic of Korea	R	R	R	R	A	A	No Action	A	R	A	A	No Action	No Action	R	A	A	No Action	No Action	A	S	No Action	No Action	No Action	R	R	No Action	R	R	R	S	No Action	No Action	Republic of Korea
Samoa	R	No Action	No Action	No Action	A	No Action	No Action	A	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	A	A	No Action	S	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	A	R	R	No Action	R	A	A	No Action	R	R	Samoa
Singapore	A	R	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	A	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	R	R	No Action	No Action	R	R	No Action	No Action	No Action	Singapore
Solomon Islands	A	S	S	D	No Action	No Action	No Action	D	A	No Action	No Action	No Action	S	A	A	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	Solomon Islands
Sri Lanka	R	R	R	A	A	A	No Action	A	R	A	A	No Action	A	S	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	A	S	R	A	S	R	R	AC	No Action	R	R	No Action	No Action	Sri Lanka	



Thailand	A	A	A	A	A	No Action	No Action	A	A	R	A	No Action	No Action	R	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	S	No Action	No Action	No Action	R	R	No Action	No Action	R	R	No Action	R	No Action	Thailand
Timor-Leste	A	A	A	A	A	No Action	A	A	A	A	S	A	No Action	A	A	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	A	A	No Action	No Action	R	No Action	A	A	A	No Action	A	No Action	Timor-Leste	
Tonga	A	No Action	No Action	A	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	S	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	R	A	A	No Action	No Action	Tonga		
Tuvalu	A	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	A	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	D	D	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	R	R	No Action	No Action	Tuvalu		
Vanuatu	R	R	R	No Action	R	No Action	No Action	No Action	A	A	A	No Action	No Action	R	No Action	No Action	S	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	R	A	A	No Action	R	No Action	Vanuatu	
Viet Nam	R	R	R	A	A	No Action	No Action	A	R	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	S	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	R	R	R	No Action	R	R	No Action	No Action	Viet Nam	
Countries	CRC	OP-CRC-AC	OP-CRC-SC	ICERD	ICCPR	ICCPR-OP1	ICCPR-OP2	ICESCR	CEDAW	OP-CEDAW	CAT	OP-CAT	ICRMW	CRPD	CSR	1967 Protocol to SR	Reduction of Statelessness	ICPED	Suppression of Traffic & Prostitution	Palermo Protocol	Intercountry Adoption	International Child Abduction	Consent to Marriage	ILO-138	ILO-182	Discrimination in Education	Rome Statute	GENEVA PROTOCOL I	GENEVA PROTOCOL II	Firearm Protocol	Ottawa Treaty	CCM	Countries

[i]: This Convention applies to the Special Administrative Regions of Hong Kong and Macao only, as a result of extensions made by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Portugal, respectively. When Hong Kong and Macao were restored to the People's Republic of China on 1 July 1997 and 20 December 1999, respectively, China declared that the Convention will continue to apply to the Special Administrative Regions of Hong Kong and Macao.
 [ii]: On 17 October 1999, China notified the Director-General of UNESCO that the Convention will continue to apply to the Macao Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China with effect from 20 December 1999.

short form

- [CRC](#)
- [OP-CRC-AC](#)
- [OP-CRC-SC](#)
- [ICERD](#)
- [ICCPR](#)
- [ICCPR-OP1](#)
- [ICCPR-OP2](#)
- [ICESCR](#)
- [CEDAW](#)
- [OP-CEDAW](#)
- [CAT](#)
- [OP-CAT](#)
- [ICRMW](#)
- [CRPD](#)
- [CSR](#)
- [1967 Protocol to SR](#)
- [Reduction of Statelessness](#)
- [ICPED](#)
- [Suppression of Traffic & Prostitution](#)
- [Palermo Protocol](#)
- [Intercountry Adoption](#)
- [International Child Abduction](#)
- [Consent to Marriage](#)
- [ILO-138](#)
- [ILO-182](#)
- [Discrimination in Education](#)
- [Rome Statute](#)
- [GENEVA PROTOCOL I](#)
- [GENEVA PROTOCOL II](#)
- [Firearms Protocol](#)
- [Ottawa Treaty](#)
- [CCM](#)
- R
- A
- AC
- D
- S
- C
- N/A

full name

- CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD
- 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
- INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION
- INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS
- OPTIONAL PROTOCOL TO THE INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS
- SECOND OPTIONAL PROTOCOL TO THE INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS, AIMING AT THE ABOLITION OF THE DEATH PENALTY
- INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS
- 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 AGAINST TORTURE AND OTHER CRUEL, INHUMAN OR DEGRADING TREATMENT OR PUNISHMENT
- OPTIONAL PROTOCOL TO THE CONVENTION AGAINST TORTURE AND OTHER CRUEL, INHUMAN OR DEGRADING TREATMENT OR PUNISHMENT
- INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON THE PROTECTION OF THE RIGHTS OF ALL MIGRANT WORKERS AND MEMBERS OF THEIR FAMILIES
- CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES
- CONVENTION RELATING TO THE STATUS OF REFUGEES
- PROTOCOL RELATING TO THE STATUS OF REFUGEES
- CONVENTION ON THE REDUCTION OF STATELESSNESS
- INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION FOR THE PROTECTION OF ALL PERSONS FROM ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCE
- CONVENTION FOR THE SUPPRESSION OF THE TRAFFIC IN PERSONS AND OF THE 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 ON PROTECTION OF CHILDREN AND CO-OPERATION IN RESPECT OF INTERCOUNTRY ADOPTION
- CONVENTION ON THE CIVIL ASPECTS OF INTERNATIONAL CHILD ABDUCTION
- CONVENTION ON CONSENT TO MARRIAGE, MINIMUM AGE FOR MARRIAGE AND REGISTRATION OF MARRIAGES
- CONVENTION CONCERNING THE MINIMUM AGE FOR ADMISSION TO EMPLOYMENT
- CONVENTION CONCERNING THE ELIMINATION OF THE WORST FORMS OF CHILD LABOUR
- CONVENTION AGAINST DISCRIMINATION IN EDUCATION (UNESCO)
- ROME STATUTE OF THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT
- PROTOCOL ADDITIONAL (I) TO THE GENEVA CONVENTIONS, AND RELATING TO THE PROTECTION OF VICTIMS OF INTERNATIONAL ARMED CONFLICTS
- PROTOCOL ADDITIONAL (II) TO THE GENEVA CONVENTIONS, AND RELATING TO THE PROTECTION OF VICTIMS OF NON-INTERNATIONAL ARMED CONFLICTS
- PROTOCOL AGAINST THE ILLICIT MANUFACTURING OF AND TRAFFICKING IN FIREARMS, THEIR PARTS AND COMPONENTS AND AMMUNITION, SUPPLEMENTING THE UN CONVENTION AGAINST TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME
- CONVENTION ON THE PROHIBITION OF THE USE, STOCKPILING, PRODUCTION AND TRANSFER OF ANTI-PERSONAL MINES AND ON THEIR DESTRUCTION
- CONVENTION ON CLUSTER MUNITIONS
- Ratification
- Accession
- Acceptance
- Succession
- Signature
- Continuation
- Not applicable

Reservations made by countries in Asia-pACIFIC on the Convention of the Rights of the Child

(Unless otherwise indicated, the reservations were made upon ratification, acceptance, accession or succession.)

Australia

Australia accepts the general principles of article 37. In relation to the second sentence of paragraph (c), the obligation to separate children from adults in prison is accepted only to the extent that such imprisonment is considered by the responsible authorities to be feasible and consistent with the obligation that children be able to maintain contact with their families, having regard to the geography and demography of Australia. Australia, therefore, ratifies the Convention to the extent that it is unable to comply with the obligation imposed by article 37 (c).

Bangladesh

The Government of Bangladesh ratifies the Convention with a reservation to article 14, paragraph 1. Also article 21 would apply subject to the existing laws and practices in Bangladesh.

China

The People's Republic of China shall fulfil its obligations provided by article 6 of the Convention under the prerequisite that the Convention accords with the provisions of article 25 concerning family planning of the Constitution of the People's Republic of China and in conformity with the provisions of article 2 of the Law of Minor Children of the People's Republic of China.

Iran (Islamic Republic of)

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.

Japan

In applying paragraph (c) of article 37 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, Japan reserves the right not to be bound by the provision in its second sentence, that is, 'every child deprived of liberty shall be separated from adults unless it is considered in the child's best interest not to do so', considering the fact that in Japan as regards persons deprived of liberty, those who are below twenty years of age are to be generally separated from those who are of twenty years of age and over under its national law.

Kiribati

In respect of article 24 paragraphs (b,c,d,e and f), article 26 and article 28 paragraphs (b,c and d), in accordance with article 51 paragraph 1 of the Convention.

Malaysia

The Government of Malaysia accepts the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of the Child but expresses reservations with respect to articles 1, 2, 7, 13, 14, 15, [...], 28, [paragraph 1 (a)] 37, [...] of the Convention and declares that the said provisions shall be applicable only if they are in conformity with the Constitution, national laws and national policies of the Government of Malaysia.

Maldives

Since the Islamic Shariah is one of the fundamental sources of a Maldivian Law and since Islamic Shariah does not include the system of adoption among the ways and means for the protection and care of children contained in Shariah, the Government of the Republic of Maldives expresses its reservation with respect to all the clauses and provisions relating to adoption in the said Convention on the Rights of the Child. The Government of the Republic of Maldives expresses its reservation to paragraph 1 of article 14 of the said Convention on the Rights of the Child, since the Constitution and the Laws of the Republic of Maldives stipulate that all Maldivians should be Muslims.

Republic of Korea

The Republic of Korea considers itself not bound by the provisions of paragraph (a) of article 21 and sub-paragraph (b) (v) of paragraph 2 of article 40.

Samoa

The Government of Western Samoa whilst recognising the importance of providing free primary education as specified under article 28 (1)(a) of the Convention on the rights of the child and being mindful of the fact that the greater portion of schools within Western Samoa that provide primary education are controlled by bodies outside the control of the government. Pursuant then to article 51, the Government of Western Samoa thus reserves the right to allocate resources to the primary level sector of education in Western Samoa in contrast to the requirement of article 28 (1)(a) to provide free primary education.

Singapore

The Constitution and the laws of the Republic of Singapore provide adequate protection and fundamental rights and liberties in the best interests of the child. The accession to the Convention by the Republic of Singapore does not imply the acceptance of obligations going beyond the limits prescribed by the Constitution of the Republic of Singapore nor the acceptance of any obligation to introduce any right beyond those prescribed under the Constitution.

Singapore is geographically one of the smallest independent countries in the world and one of the most densely populated. The Republic of Singapore accordingly reserves the right to apply such legislation and conditions concerning the entry into, stay in and departure from the Republic of Singapore of those who do not or who no longer have the right under the laws of the Republic of Singapore, to enter and remain in the Republic of Singapore, and to the acquisition and possession of citizenship, as it may deem necessary from time to time and in accordance with the laws of the Republic of Singapore.

The employment legislation of the Republic of Singapore prohibits the employment of children below 12 years old and gives special protection to working children between the ages of 12 years and below the age of 16 years. The Republic of Singapore reserves the right to apply article 32 subject to such employment legislation.

With respect to article 28.1(a), the Republic of Singapore-

(a) does not consider itself bound by the requirement to make primary education compulsory because such a measure is unnecessary in our social context where in practice virtually all children attend primary school; and
(b) reserves the right to provide primary education free only to children who are citizens of Singapore.

Thailand

The application of articles 7, 22 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child shall be subject to the national laws, regulations and prevailing practices in Thailand.

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]