



State of Ratification of International Conventions and Treaties relative to the Promotion and Protection of Children's Rights in Sub-Saharan Africa

Countries	CRC	OP-CRC-AC	OP-CRC-SC	ICERD	ICCPR	ICCPR-OP1	ICCPR-OP2	ICESCR	CEDAW	OP-CEDAW	CAT	OP-CAT	IGRMW	CRPD	CSR	1967 Protocol to SR	Reduction of Statelessness	ICPED	Suppression of Traffic & Prostitution	Palermo Protocol	Intercounty 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	African Charter	Countries	
Angola	R	A	A	No Action	A	A	No Action	A	A	A	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	A	A	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	R	R	No	S	A	R	No Action	R	S	A	Angola	
Benin	R	R	R	R	R	A	A	A	A	A	A	R	S	S	D	A	No Action	S	S	R	No Action	No Action	No Action	A	R	A	R	A	R	R	A	R	R	Benin	
Botswana	A	R	A	A	A	No Action	No Action	No Action	A	A	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	A	A	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	R	R	No	R	A	R	No Action	R	R	R	Botswana	
Burkina Faso	R	R	R	R	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	R	R	A	A	No Action	A	A	R	R	R	A	R	R	No	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	Burkina Faso	
Burundi	R	R	R	R	A	No Action	No Action	A	A	A	A	A	R	S	A	A	No Action	S	No	S	A	No Action	No Action	R	R	No	R	A	A	A	No Action	R	R	R	Burundi
Cameroon	R	S	S	R	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	S	S	S	D	A	No Action	S	A	A	No Action	No Action	No Action	R	R	No	S	A	A	No Action	R	S	R	Cameroon	
Cape Verde	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	R	No Action	A	A	No Action	S	No	R	A	A	No Action	No Action	R	R	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	R	Cape Verde
Central African Republic	R	S	R	R	A	No Action	No Action	A	A	A	No Action	No Action	S	D	A	No Action	No Action	No Action	A	A	No Action	No Action	No Action	R	R	A	R	A	A	A	A	A	S	Central African Republic	
Chad	R	R	R	A	A	A	No Action	A	A	A	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	A	A	A	S	No	A	No Action	No Action	No Action	R	R	No	R	A	A	A	No Action	R	S	R	Chad
Comoros	R	No Action	A	R	S	No Action	No Action	S	A	A	No Action	No Action	S	S	No Action	No Action	No Action	S	No	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	R	R	No	R	A	A	A	No Action	R	R	R	Comoros
Congo (Republic of)	A	A	A	A	A	A	No Action	A	A	A	A	S	S	S	D	A	No Action	S	A	A	No Action	No Action	No Action	R	R	A	R	A	A	A	No Action	R	S	R	Congo (Republic of)
Cote d'Ivoire	R	No Action	A	A	A	A	No Action	A	R	No Action	A	No Action	No Action	S	D	A	No Action	No Action	A	No Action	No Action	No Action	A	R	R	R	S	R	R	No Action	R	S	R	Cote d'Ivoire	
Dem. Rep. of the Congo	R	R	R	A	A	A	No Action	A	A	A	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	A	A	No Action	No Action	No Action	A	No Action	No Action	No Action	R	R	No	R	A	A	A	A	A	A	S	Dem. Rep. of the Congo
Djibouti	R	R	R	S	A	A	A	A	A	A	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	D	D	No Action	No Action	A	A	No Action	No Action	No Action	R	R	No	R	A	A	No Action	R	S	S	Djibouti	
Equatorial Guinea	A	No Action	A	A	A	A	No Action	A	A	A	A	No Action	No Action	No Action	A	A	No Action	No Action	No Action	R	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	R	R	No	A	A	No Action	A	No Action	A	A	Equatorial Guinea
Eritrea	R	A	A	A	A	No Action	No Action	A	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	R	No	No	S	R	R	No Action	A	No	A	A	Eritrea
Ethiopia	A	S	No Action	A	A	No Action	No Action	A	R	No Action	A	No Action	No Action	R	A	A	No Action	No Action	A	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	R	R	No	R	A	A	No Action	No	A	A	Ethiopia
Gabon	R	R	R	R	A	No Action	No Action	A	A	A	No Action	No Action	R	S	R	A	No Action	R	A	A	No Action	No Action	No Action	R	R	No	R	A	A	A	A	A	No Action	R	Gabon
Gambia	R	S	R	A	A	A	No Action	A	A	A	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	D	A	No Action	No Action	No Action	R	No Action	No Action	No Action	R	R	No	R	A	A	No Action	R	S	A	A	Gambia
Ghana	R	S	S	R	R	R	No Action	R	R	R	R	R	S	S	A	A	No Action	S	S	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	R	R	No	R	R	R	No Action	R	R	R	Ghana	
Guinea	A	No Action	No Action	R	R	R	No Action	R	R	No Action	R	S	A	R	D	A	No Action	No Action	A	A	A	No Action	R	R	R	R	A	A	A	No Action	R	S	R	Guinea	
Guinea-Bissau	R	S	R	R	R	S	A	A	R	R	S	S	S	No Action	A	A	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	S	A	R	S	A	A	No Action	R	R	R	Guinea-Bissau	
Kenya	R	R	R	A	A	No Action	No Action	A	A	A	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	R	A	No Action	S	No	A	A	No Action	No Action	No Action	R	R	No	R	A	A	A	A	A	R	Kenya
Lesotho	R	R	R	R	A	A	No Action	A	A	A	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	A	A	No Action	No Action	R	R	No Action	No Action	No Action	R	R	No	R	A	A	A	A	A	R	R	Lesotho
Liberia	R	S	S	A	R	S	A	A	A	A	A	S	S	S	A	A	No Action	A	No Action	A	No Action	No Action	No Action	A	R	R	No	R	A	A	A	A	S	R	Liberia
Madagascar	R	R	R	R	R	R	No Action	R	R	R	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	S	A	No Action	No Action	S	R	R	No Action	No Action	R	R	No	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	Madagascar	
Malawi	A	R	R	A	A	A	No Action	A	A	A	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	R	A	No Action	No Action	No Action	A	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	R	R	No	R	A	A	A	A	R	R	Malawi
Mali	R	R	A	A	A	A	No Action	A	R	A	A	R	A	R	A	A	No Action	R	A	A	No Action	No Action	No Action	A	R	R	No	R	A	A	A	A	A	R	Mali
Mauritania	R	No Action	A	A	A	No Action	No Action	A	A	A	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	A	A	No Action	S	No	A	A	No Action	No Action	No Action	R	R	No	R	D	A	A	A	A	S	Mauritania
Mauritius	A	R	R	A	A	A	No Action	A	A	A	A	No Action	No Action	No Action	R	No Action	No Action	No Action	S	A	A	No Action	No Action	R	R	No	R	A	A	A	A	No Action	No	R	Mauritius
Mozambique	R	A	A	A	A	No Action	No Action	A	A	A	A	No Action	No Action	S	A	A	No Action	S	No	R	No Action	No Action	No Action	R	R	No	S	A	A	A	A	A	A	Mozambique	
Namibia	R	R	R	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	No Action	No Action	No Action	R	A	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action	R	R	No	R	A	A	No Action	R	S	R	Namibia	

Firearms Protocol	PROTOCOL AGAINST THE ILLICIT MANUFACTURING OF AND TRAFFICKING IN FIREARMS, THEIR PARTS AND COMPONENTS AND AMMUNITION, SUPPLEMENTING, THE UN CONVENTION AGAINST TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME
Ottawa Treaty	CONVENTION ON THE PROHIBITION OF THE USE, STOCKPILING, PRODUCTION AND TRANSFER OF ANTI-PERSONAL MINES AND ON THEIR DESTRUCTION
CCM	CONVENTION ON CLUSTER MUNITIONS
African Charter	AFRICAN CHARTER ON THE RIGHTS AND WELFARE OF THE CHILD
R	Ratification
A	Accession
AC	Acceptance
D	Succession
S	Signature
N/A	Not applicable

Reservations made by countries in Sub-Saharan Africa to the Convention of the Rights of the Child

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

The Government of **Botswana**, which ratified the Convention on 13 April 1995, made a reservation on article 1 defining a child who is considered here as a "human being below the age of eighteen years unless under the law applicable to the child, majority is attained earlier." For the Botswana government, article 1 may be in conflict with the Laws and Statutes of Botswana and may therefore not be applied. Following this Declaration, the Secretary-General received from the Government of Denmark, on 16 November 1995, a communication rejecting such reservations since it was incompatible with the object and purpose of the Convention and inadmissible under international law.

The Government of **Djibouti** ratified the CRC on 06 December 1990 and declared that it shall "not consider itself bound by any provisions or articles that are incompatible with its religion and its traditional values". The government of Denmark recommended, in its communication on 16 November 1995 to the Secretary-General, that the government of Djibouti reconsidered this reservation.

The Government of the Republic of **Mali** declared that, in view of the provisions of the Mali Family Code, there was no reason to apply article 16 of the Convention.

At the moment of signature, the Islamic Republic of **Mauritania** made reservations to articles or provisions which may be contrary to the beliefs and values of Islam, the religion of the Mauritania People and State.

The Government of **Swaziland** ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child on 06 October 2005 and then declared that the Convention was a starting point of the child rights guarantee and that implementation was to be progressive as it also depended on the enforcement of certain social, economic and cultural rights. More specifically, the government indicated that article 4, concerning the right to free primary education, would be applied "to the maximum extent of available resources". For this purpose, the government called out for the international community's co-operation.

On 4 June 2008, the Government of the Republic of **Mauritius** informed the Secretary-General that it had decided to withdraw the reservation made upon accession in respect to article 22 of the Convention.

On 19 October 2006, the Government of **Morocco** informed the Secretary-General that it had decided to withdraw the reservation made with regard to article 14 made upon ratification

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]