

11. a) Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others

Lake Success, New York, 21 March 1950

ENTRY INTO FORCE: 25 July 1951, in accordance with article 24.
REGISTRATION: 25 July 1951, No. 1342.
STATUS: Signatories: 25. Parties: 81.
TEXT: United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 96, p. 271.

Note: The Convention was approved by the General Assembly of the United Nations in resolution 317 (IV)¹ of 2 December 1949.

<i>Participant</i> ^{2,3}	<i>Signature</i>	<i>Ratification, Accession(a), Succession(d)</i>	<i>Participant</i> ^{2,3}	<i>Signature</i>	<i>Ratification, Accession(a), Succession(d)</i>
Afghanistan		21 May 1985 a	Guinea		26 Apr 1962 a
Albania		6 Nov 1958 a	Haiti		26 Aug 1953 a
Algeria		31 Oct 1963 a	Honduras	13 Apr 1954	15 Jun 1993
Argentina		15 Nov 1957 a	Hungary		29 Sep 1955 a
Azerbaijan		16 Aug 1996 a	India	9 May 1950	9 Jan 1953
Bangladesh		11 Jan 1985 a	Indonesia	25 Sep 2003	
Belarus		24 Aug 1956 a	Iran (Islamic Republic of)	16 Jul 1953	
Belgium		22 Jun 1965 a	Iraq		22 Sep 1955 a
Benin	25 Sep 2003		Israel		28 Dec 1950 a
Bolivia		6 Oct 1983 a	Italy		18 Jan 1980 a
Bosnia and Herzegovina ⁴		1 Sep 1993 d	Japan		1 May 1958 a
Brazil	5 Oct 1951	12 Sep 1958	Jordan		13 Apr 1976 a
Bulgaria		18 Jan 1955 a	Kazakhstan	17 Nov 2004	24 Jan 2006
Burkina Faso		27 Aug 1962 a	Kuwait		20 Nov 1968 a
Cambodia	27 Sep 2004		Kyrgyzstan		5 Sep 1997 a
Cameroon		19 Feb 1982 a	Lao People's Democratic Republic		14 Apr 1978 a
Central African Republic		29 Sep 1981 a	Latvia		14 Apr 1992 a
Congo		25 Aug 1977 a	Lesotho	24 Sep 2003	24 Sep 2004
Côte d'Ivoire		2 Nov 1999 a	Liberia	21 Mar 1950	
Croatia ⁴		12 Oct 1992 d	Libyan Arab Jamahiriya		3 Dec 1956 a
Cuba		4 Sep 1952 a	Luxembourg	9 Oct 1950	5 Oct 1983
Cyprus		5 Oct 1983 a	Madagascar	1 Oct 2001	
Czech Republic ⁵		30 Dec 1993 d	Malawi		13 Oct 1965 a
Denmark	12 Feb 1951		Mali		23 Dec 1964 a
Djibouti		21 Mar 1979 a	Mauritania		6 Jun 1986 a
Ecuador	24 Mar 1950	3 Apr 1979	Mauritius	24 Sep 2003	
Egypt ⁶		12 Jun 1959 a	Mexico		21 Feb 1956 a
Ethiopia		10 Sep 1981 a	Micronesia (Federated States of)	23 Sep 2003	
Finland	27 Feb 1953	8 Jun 1972	Montenegro ⁷		23 Oct 2006 d
France		19 Nov 1960 a	Morocco		17 Aug 1973 a
Ghana	24 Sep 2003				
Guatemala		13 Dec 2007 a			

<i>Participant</i> ^{2,3}	<i>Signature</i>	<i>Ratification, Accession(a), Succession(d)</i>	<i>Participant</i> ^{2,3}	<i>Signature</i>	<i>Ratification, Accession(a), Succession(d)</i>
Myanmar	14 Mar	1956	Singapore.....		26 Oct 1966 a
Nepal		10 Dec 2002 a	Slovakia ⁵		28 May 1993 d
Niger.....		10 Jun 1977 a	Slovenia ⁴		6 Jul 1992 d
Nigeria.....	25 Sep	2003	South Africa	16 Oct	1950 10 Oct 1951
Norway		23 Jan 1952 a	Spain.....		18 Jun 1962 a
Pakistan	21 Mar	1950 11 Jul 1952	Sri Lanka		15 Apr 1958 a
Paraguay	26 Mar	2007	Syrian Arab Republic ⁶ ...		12 Jun 1959 a
Philippines.....	20 Dec	1950 19 Sep 1952	Tajikistan.....		19 Oct 2001 a
Poland.....		2 Jun 1952 a	The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia ⁴		18 Jan 1994 d
Portugal ³		30 Sep 1992 a	Togo		14 Mar 1990 a
Republic of Korea		13 Feb 1962 a	Ukraine.....		15 Nov 1954 a
Romania		15 Feb 1955 a	Uzbekistan.....		27 Feb 2004 a
Russian Federation		11 Aug 1954 a	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).....		18 Dec 1968 a
Rwanda.....		26 Sep 2003 a	Yemen ⁸		6 Apr 1989 a
Senegal		19 Jul 1979 a	Zimbabwe.....		15 Nov 1995 a
Serbia ⁴		12 Mar 2001 d			
Seychelles.....		5 May 1992 a			
Sierra Leone	26 Sep	2003			

Declarations and Reservations

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

AFGHANISTAN

Reservation:

"Whereas, the Government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan does not agree with the procedure of referring disputes arising between the Parties to the Convention relating to its interpretation of application, to the International Court of Justice, at the request of any one of the Parties to the dispute, therefore, it does not undertake any commitment regarding observation of article 22 of the present Convention."

ALBANIA

Declaration:

Thanks to the conditions created by the popular democratic régime in Albania, the offences covered by this Convention do not find favourable ground for development there, since the social conditions which give rise to such offences have been eliminated. Nevertheless, in view of the importance of the campaign against these offences in the countries where they still exist and the international importance of that campaign, the People's Republic of Albania has decided to accede to the Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others adopted on 2 December 1949 at the fourth session of the United Nations General Assembly.

Reservation to article 22:

The People's Republic of Albania does not consider itself bound by the provisions of article 22 which stipulates that any dispute between the parties to the Convention relating to its interpretation, application or execution shall, at the request of any one of the parties to the dispute, be referred to the International Court of

Justice. The People's Republic of Albania declares that with respect to the competence of the International Court in that connexion, it will continue to maintain as in the past that for any dispute to be referred to the International Court of Justice for decision the agreement of all the parties to the dispute shall be necessary in each individual case.

ALGERIA

The Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria does not consider itself bound by the provisions of article 22 of the Convention, which provides for the compulsory competence of the International Court of Justice and declares that the agreement of all the parties to the dispute shall be necessary in each individual case for any dispute to be referred to the International Court of Justice for decision.

BELARUS^{9,10,11}

BULGARIA¹¹

Declaration:

The offences referred to in the Convention are unknown under the socialist régime of the People's Republic of Bulgaria, for the conditions favouring them have been eliminated. Nevertheless, since it is important to counteract these offences in the countries where they still exist, and since it is important to the international community that such action should be taken, the People's Republic of Bulgaria has decided to accede to the Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others adopted by the fourth session of the General Assembly of the United Nations on 2 December 1949.

ETHIOPIA

Reservation:

"Socialist Ethiopia does not consider itself bound by article 22 of the Convention."

FINLAND

Reservation to article 9:

"Finland reserves itself the right to leave the decision whether its citizens will or will not be prosecuted for a crime committed abroad to Finland's competent authority;"

FRANCE¹²

HUNGARY^{10,11,13}

KAZAKHSTAN

Reservation:

The Republic of Kazakhstan will implement provisions of articles 1 and 18 of the Convention within the bounds of prevention and suppression of crimes and administrative offences provided by the Legislation of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

The Lao People's Democratic Republic does not consider itself bound by the provisions of article 22 which state that disputes between the Parties to the Convention relating to its interpretation or application shall, at the request of any one of the Parties to the dispute, be referred to the International Court of Justice. The Lao People's Democratic Republic declares that, with respect to the competence of the International Court concerning disputes relating to the interpretation and application of the Convention, for any dispute to be referred to the

International Court of Justice the agreement of all the parties to the dispute is necessary.

MALAWI

"The Government of Malawi accedes to this Convention with the exception of article 22 thereof, the effects of which are reserved."

ROMANIA^{11,14}

RUSSIAN FEDERATION⁹

Declaration:

In the Soviet Union the social conditions which give rise to the offences covered by the Convention have been eliminated. Nevertheless, in view of the international importance of suppressing these offences, the Government of the Soviet Union has decided to accede to the Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others adopted on 2 December 1949 at the fourth session of the United Nations General Assembly.

UKRAINE⁹

Declaration:

In the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic the social conditions which give rise to the offences covered by the Convention have been eliminated. Nevertheless, in view of the international importance of suppressing these offences, the Government of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic has decided to accede to the Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others adopted on 2 December 1949 at the fourth session of the United Nations General Assembly.

Notes:

¹ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fourth Session, Resolutions (A/125 and Corr.1 and 2), p. 33.*

² The German Democratic Republic had acceded to the Convention on 16 July 1974 with a reservation and a declaration. For the text of the reservation and declaration see United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 943, p. 339. See also note 2 under "Germany" in the "Historical Information" section in the front matter of this volume.

³ On 7 July 1999, the Government of Portugal informed the Secretary-General that the Convention would apply to Macao.

Subsequently, on 18 November and 3 December 1999, the Secretary-General received communications regarding the status of Macao from Portugal and China (see note 3 under "China" and note 1 under "Portugal" in the "Historical Information" section in the front matter of this volume). Upon resuming the exercise of sovereignty over Macao, China notified the Secretary-General that the Convention will also apply to the Macao Special Administrative Region.

⁴ The former Yugoslavia had signed and ratified the Convention on 6 February 1951 and 26 April 1951, respectively. See also note 1 under "Bosnia and Herzegovina", "Croatia", "former Yugoslavia", "Slovenia", "The Former Yugoslav

Republic of Macedonia" and "Yugoslavia" in the "Historical Information" section in the front matter of this volume.

⁵ Czechoslovakia had acceded to the Convention on 14 March 1958. See also note 1 under "Czech Republic" and note 1 under "Slovakia" in the "Historical Information" section in the front matter of this volume.

⁶ Accession by the United Arab Republic. See also note 1 under "United Arab Republic" in the "Historical Information" section in the front matter of this volume.

⁷ See note 1 under "Montenegro" in the "Historical Information" section in the front matter of this volume.

⁸ The formality was effected by the Yemen Arab Republic. See also note 1 under "Yemen" in the "Historical Information" section in the front matter of this volume.

⁹ In communications received on 8 March 1989, 19 April 1989 and 20 April 1989, respectively, the Governments of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Belarus and Ukraine, notified the Secretary-General that they had decided to withdraw the reservations relating to article 22 made upon accession. For

the texts of the reservations see United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 196, p. 349, vol. 1527 and vol. 201, p. 372, respectively.

¹⁰ The Government of the Philippines informed the Secretary-General that it objects to the reservations made by the Governments of Belarus and Hungary because it feels that the reference to the International Court of Justice of any dispute relating to the interpretation or application of the Convention should not be made dependent on the consent of all parties.

¹¹ In a communication received on 13 May 1955, the Government of Haiti informed the Secretary-General that it considers that in case of dispute it should be possible for either of the Contracting Parties concerned, without previous agreement between them, to refer a dispute to the International Court of Justice and that consequently it does not accept the reservation entered into by Bulgaria.

On that same date, the Government of South Africa informed the Secretary-General that it regards article 22 as fundamental to the Convention and cannot, therefore, accept the reservation entered into by Bulgaria.

Similar communications were received by the Secretary-General from the Governments of Haiti and South Africa in respect of the reservations made by the Governments of Belarus, Hungary and Romania.

On 24 June 1992, the Government of Bulgaria notified the Secretary-General its decision to withdraw the reservation to

article 22 of the Convention made upon accession which reads as follows:

The People's Republic of Bulgaria declares, with respect to the competence of the International Court of Justice in disputes relating to the interpretation or application of the Convention, that the consent of all the parties to the dispute is necessary in each particular case before any dispute whatsoever can be referred to the Court.

¹² On 11 March 2005, the Government of France informed the Secretary-General that it had decided to withdraw its declaration made upon accession, which reads as follows:

The Government of the French Republic declares that, until further notice, this Convention will only be applicable to the metropolitan territory of the French Republic.

¹³ In a communication received on 8 December 1989, the Government of Hungary notified the Secretary-General that it had decided to withdraw its reservation relating to article 22 made upon accession. For the text of the reservation see United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1427, p. 407.

¹⁴ In a communication received on 2 April 1997, the Government of Romania notified the Secretary-General that it had decided to withdraw its reservation relating to article 22 made upon accession.