

**12. CONVENTION ON THE STAMP LAWS IN CONNECTION WITH BILLS OF EXCHANGE AND PROMISSORY NOTES**

*Geneva, 7 June 1930*

**ENTRY INTO FORCE:** 1 January 1934, in accordance with article 6.

**REGISTRATION:** 1 January 1934, No. 3315.<sup>1</sup>

**TEXT:** League of Nations, *Treaty Series*, [vol.143, p.337](#).

***Ratifications or definitive accessions***

Austria	(August 31st, 1932)	Jamaica, including the Turks and Caicos Islands and the Cayman Islands (with limitation), Somaliland Protectorate (with limitation) (August 3rd, 1939 a)
Belgium	(August 31st, 1932)	
Brazil	(August 26th, 1942 a)	Australia <sup>3</sup> (September 3rd, 1939 a)
Great Britain and Northern Ireland	(April 18th, 1934 a)	Including the territories of <i>Papua</i> and <i>Norfolk Island</i> and the mandated territories of <i>New Guinea</i> and <i>Nauru</i> .
His Majesty does not assume any obligations in respect of any of his Colonies or Protectorates or any territories under mandate exercised by his Government in the United Kingdom.		It is agreed that, insofar as concerns the Commonwealth of Australia, the only instruments to which the provisions of this Convention shall apply are bills of exchange presented for acceptance or accepted or payable elsewhere than in the Commonwealth of Australia.
<i>Newfoundland</i>	(May 7th, 1934 a)	A similar limitation shall apply in the case of Territories of <i>Papua</i> and <i>Norfolk Island</i> and the Mandated Territories of <i>New Guinea</i> and <i>Nauru</i> .
Subject to the provision D.I. in the Protocol of the Convention		
<i>Barbados (with limitation)<sup>2</sup>, Basutoland, Bechuanaland Protectorate, Bermuda (with limitation), British Guiana (with limitation), British Honduras, Ceylon (with limitation), Cyprus (with limitation), Fiji (with limitation), Gambia (Colony and Protectorate), Gibraltar (with limitation), Gold Coast [(a) Colony, (b) Ashanti, (c) Northern Territories, (d) Togoland under British Mandate], Kenya (Colony and Protectorate) (with limitation), Malay States [(a) Federated Malay States: Negri Sembilan, Pahang, Perak, Selangor; (b) Unfederated Malay States: Johore, Kedah, Kelantan, Perlis, Trengganu, and Brunei (with limitation)], Malta, Northern Rhodesia, Nyasaland Protectorate, Palestine (excluding Trans-Jordan), Seychelles, Sierra Leone (Colony and Protectorate) (with limitation), Straits Settlements (with limitation), Swaziland, Trinidad and Tobago (with limitation), Uganda Protectorate (with limitation), Windward Islands (Grenada, St. Lucia, St. Vincent) (with limitation)</i>	(July 18th, 1936 a)	Ireland <sup>4</sup> (July 10th, 1936 a)
<i>Bahamas (with limitation), British Solomon Islands Protectorate (with limitation), Falkland Islands and Dependencies (with limitation), Gilbert and Ellice Islands Colony (with limitation), Mauritius, Saint Helena and Ascension (with limitation), Tanganyika Territory (with limitation), Tonga (with limitation), Trans-Jordan (with limitation), Zanzibar (with limitation)</i>	(September 7th, 1938 a)	Denmark (July 27th, 1932) The Government of the King, by its acceptance of this Convention, does not intend to assume any obligations as regards Greenland.
		Finland (August 31st, 1932)
		France (April 27th, 1936 a)
		Germany <sup>5,6</sup> (October 3rd, 1933)
		Italy (August 31st, 1932)
		Japan (August 31st, 1932)
		Monaco (January 25th, 1934 a)
		The Netherlands (for the Kingdom in Europe) <sup>7</sup> (August 20th, 1932)
		<i>Netherlands Indies and Curaçao</i> (July 16th, 1935 a)
		<i>Surinam</i> (August 7th, 1936 a)

New Hebrides (Anglo-French Condominium) (with limitation) (March 16th, 1939 a)	Sweden (July 27th, 1932)
Norway (July 27th, 1932)	Switzerland <sup>9</sup> (August 26th, 1932)
Poland (December 19th, 1936 a)	Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (November 25th, 1936 a)
Portugal <sup>6,8</sup> (June 8th, 1934)	

***Signatures not yet perfected by ratification***

Colombia	Spain
Czechoslovakia <sup>10</sup>	Turkey
Ecuador	Yugoslavia (former) <sup>11</sup>
Peru	

***Actions subsequent to the assumption of depositary functions by the Secretary-General of the United Nations***

<b><i>Participant<sup>5,8</sup></i></b>	<b><i>Ratification, Accession(a), Succession(d)</i></b>	<b><i>Participant<sup>5,8</sup></i></b>	<b><i>Ratification, Accession(a), Succession(d)</i></b>
Bahamas <sup>12</sup> .....	19 May 1976 d	Malaysia.....	14 Jan 1960 d
Belarus.....	4 Feb 1998 d	Malta.....	6 Dec 1966 d
Cyprus <sup>13</sup> .....	5 Mar 1968 d	Papua New Guinea.....	12 Feb 1981 a
Fiji <sup>13</sup> .....	25 Mar 1971 d	Tonga <sup>13</sup> .....	2 Feb 1972 d
Hungary.....	28 Oct 1964 a	Uganda.....	15 Apr 1965 a
Kazakhstan.....	20 Nov 1995 a	Ukraine.....	8 Oct 1999 a
Luxembourg.....	5 Mar 1963		

***Declarations and Reservations***

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

**PAPUA NEW GUINEA**

"It is agreed that, insofar as concerns Papua New Guinea, the only instruments to which the provisions of

the Convention shall apply are bills of exchange presented for acceptance or accepted or payable elsewhere than in Papua New Guinea."

***Notes:***

<sup>1</sup> League of Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol.143, p.337.

<sup>2</sup> The words "with limitation" placed after the names of certain territories indicate that the limitation contained in Section D of the Protocol of the Convention applies to these territories.

<sup>3</sup> This limitation was accepted by the States parties to the Convention, which were consulted in accordance with Section D, paragraph 4, of the Protocol of the said Convention.

<sup>4</sup> The Government of Ireland having informed the Secretary-General of the League of Nations of its desire to be allowed the limitation specified in paragraph 1 of Section D of the Protocol to this Convention, the Secretary-General has transmitted this desire to the interested States in application of paragraph 4 of the above-mentioned Section. No objection

having been raised on the part of the said States, this limitation should be considered as accepted.

<sup>5</sup> In a notification received on 21 February 1974, the Government of the German Democratic Republic stated that the German Democratic Republic had declared the reapplication of the Convention as of 6 June 1958.

In this connection, the Secretary-General received, on 13 January 1976, the following communication from the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany:

With reference to the communication by the German Democratic Republic of 31 January 1974 concerning the application, as from 6 June 1958, of the Convention of 7 June 1930 on the Stamp Laws in connection with Bills of Exchange and Promissory Notes, the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany declares that in the relation between the Federal

Republic of Germany and the German Democratic Republic the declaration of application has no retroactive effect beyond 21 June 1973.

Subsequently, in a communication received on 28 April 1976, the Government of the German Democratic Republic declared:

"The Government of the German Democratic Republic takes the view that in accordance with the applicable rules of international law and the international practice of States the regulations on the reapplication of agreements concluded under international law are an internal affair of the successor State concerned. Accordingly, the German Democratic Republic was entitled to determine the date of reapplication of the Convention on the Stamp Laws in Connection with Bills of Exchange and Promissory Notes of 7 June 1930 to which it acceded on the basis of the succession of States."

See note 14 in chapter I.2.

<sup>6</sup> All the parties to this Convention have agreed to consider the instrument of ratification deposited by this country, after the date stipulated in the Convention, as valid. The Japanese Government, however, is of opinion that this ratification has the character of an accession.

<sup>7</sup> See note 1 under "Netherlands" regarding Aruba/Netherlands Antilles in the "Historical Information" section in the front matter of this volume.

<sup>8</sup> The ratification was made subject to the reservation that the provisions of the Convention do not apply to the colonial territory of Portugal (see League of Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol.143, p.339). In a communication received on 18 August 1953, the Government of Portugal notified the Secretary-General of the withdrawal of this reservation.

Subsequently, the Secretary-General received the following communications on the dates indicated hereinafter:

*Portugal (29 September 1999):*

"In accordance with the Joint Declaration of the Government of the Portuguese Republic and the Government of the People's Republic of China on the Question of Macau signed on 13 April 1987, the Portuguese Republic will continue to have international responsibility for Macau until 19 December 1999 and from that date onwards the People's Republic of China will resume the exercise of sovereignty over Macau with effect from 20 December 1999.

From 20 December 1999 onwards the Portuguese Republic will cease to be responsible for the international rights and obligations arising from the application of the Convention to Macau."

*China (19 October 1999):*

In accordance with the Joint Declaration of the Government of the People's Republic of China and the Government of the Republic of Portugal on the Question of Macau (hereinafter referred to as the Joint Declaration), the Government of the People's Republic of China will resume the exercise of sovereignty over Macau with effect from 20 December 1999. Macau will, from that date, become a Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China and will enjoy a high

degree of autonomy, except in foreign and defense affairs which are the responsibilities of the Central People's Government of the People's Republic of China.

It is provided both in Section VIII of Elaboration by the Government of the People's Republic of China of its Basic Policies Regarding Macau, which is Annex I to the Joint Declaration, and Article 138 of the Basic Law of the Macau Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China, which was adopted on 31 March 1993 by the National People's Congress of the People's Republic of China, that international agreements to which the People's Republic of China is not yet a party but which are implemented in Macau may continue to be implemented in the Macau Special Administrative Region.

In accordance with the above provisions, [the Government of the People's Republic of China informs the Secretary-General of the following:]

The Convention on the Stamp Laws in Connection with Bills of Exchange and Promissory Notes (and Protocol), done at Geneva on 7 June 1930 (hereinafter referred to as the "Convention and the Protocol"), which applies to Macau at present, will continue to apply to the Macao Special Administrative Region with effect from 20 December 1999.

Within the above ambit, the Government of the People's Republic of China will assume the responsibility for the international rights and obligations that place on a Party to the Convention and the Protocol.

<sup>9</sup> According to a declaration made by the Swiss Government when depositing the instrument of ratification of this Convention, the latter was to take effect, in respect of Switzerland, only after the adoption of a law revising Sections XXIV to XXXIII of the Federal Code of Obligations or, if necessary of a special law regarding bills of exchange, promissory notes and cheques. The law above referred to having entered into force on July 1st, 1937, the Convention took effect, for Switzerland, as from that date.

<sup>10</sup> See note 1 under "Czech Republic" and note 1 under "Slovakia" in the "Historical Information" section in the front matter of this volume.

<sup>11</sup> See note 1 regarding "former Yugoslavia" in the "Historical Information" section in the front matter of this volume.

<sup>12</sup> Maintaining the limitations contained in Section D of the Protocol to the Convention, subject to which the Convention was made applicable to its territory.

<sup>13</sup> Maintaining the limitations contained in Section D of the Protocol of the Convention subject to which the Convention was made applicable to its territory before the attainment of independence.

