

CHAPTER IX

HEALTH

1. CONSTITUTION OF THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

New York, 22 July 1946

ENTRY INTO FORCE: 7 April 1948, in accordance with article 80.

REGISTRATION: 7 April 1948, No. 221.

STATUS: Signatories: 59. Parties: 193.

TEXT: United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 14, p. 185 (with regard to the text of subsequent amendments, see further under each series of amendments).

Note: The Constitution was drawn up by the International Health Conference, which had been convened pursuant to resolution [1 \(I\)](#)¹ of the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations, adopted on 15 February 1946. The Conference was held at New York from 19 June to 22 July 1946. In addition to the Constitution, the Conference drew up the Final Act, the Arrangements for the Establishment of an Interim Commission of the World Health Organization and the Protocol concerning the *Office international d'hygiène publique*, for the text of which, see United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 9, p. 3.

<i>Participant</i> ^{2,3,4}	<i>Signature</i>	<i>Definitive signature(s), Acceptance(A)</i>	<i>Participant</i> ^{2,3,4}	<i>Signature</i>	<i>Definitive signature(s), Acceptance(A)</i>
Afghanistan.....		19 Apr 1948 A	Botswana		26 Feb 1975 A
Albania.....	22 Jul 1946	26 May 1947 A	Brazil	22 Jul 1946	2 Jun 1948 A
Algeria		8 Nov 1962 A	Brunei Darussalam		25 Mar 1985 A
Andorra		15 Jan 1997 A	Bulgaria	22 Jul 1946	9 Jun 1948 A
Angola		15 May 1976 A	Burkina Faso.....		4 Oct 1960 A
Antigua and Barbuda.....		12 Mar 1984 A	Burundi		22 Oct 1962 A
Argentina	22 Jul 1946	22 Oct 1948 A	Cabo Verde.....		5 Jan 1976 A
Armenia		4 May 1992 A	Cambodia.....		17 May 1950 A
Australia.....	22 Jul 1946	2 Feb 1948 A	Cameroon.....		6 May 1960 A
Austria	22 Jul 1946	30 Jun 1947 A	Canada	22 Jul 1946	29 Aug 1946 A
Azerbaijan.....		2 Oct 1992 A	Central African Republic		20 Sep 1960 A
Bahamas.....		1 Apr 1974 A	Chad.....		1 Jan 1961 A
Bahrain.....		2 Nov 1971 A	Chile.....	22 Jul 1946	15 Oct 1948 A
Bangladesh.....		19 May 1972 A	China ^{4,5,6}		22 Jul 1946 s
Barbados		25 Apr 1967 A	Colombia	22 Jul 1946	14 May 1959 A
Belarus	22 Jul 1946	7 Apr 1948 A	Comoros.....		9 Dec 1975 A
Belgium	22 Jul 1946	25 Jun 1948 A	Congo.....		26 Oct 1960 A
Belize.....		23 Aug 1990 A	Cook Islands		9 May 1984 A
Benin.....		20 Sep 1960 A	Costa Rica.....	22 Jul 1946	17 Mar 1949 A
Bhutan.....		8 Mar 1982 A	Côte d'Ivoire		28 Oct 1960 A
Bolivia (Plurinational State of).....	22 Jul 1946	23 Dec 1949 A	Croatia		11 Jun 1992 A
Bosnia and Herzegovina.....		10 Sep 1992 A	Cuba.....	22 Jul 1946	9 May 1950 A
			Cyprus.....		16 Jan 1961 A

<i>Participant</i> ^{2,3,4}	<i>Signature</i>	<i>Definitive signature(s), Acceptance(A)</i>	<i>Participant</i> ^{2,3,4}	<i>Signature</i>	<i>Definitive signature(s), Acceptance(A)</i>
Czech Republic ⁷		22 Jan 1993 A	Jordan.....	22 Jul 1946	7 Apr 1947 A
Democratic People's Republic of Korea....		19 May 1973 A	Kazakhstan.....		19 Aug 1992 A
Democratic Republic of the Congo.....		24 Feb 1961 A	Kenya.....		27 Jan 1964 A
Denmark	22 Jul 1946	19 Apr 1948 A	Kiribati.....		26 Jul 1984 A
Djibouti.....		10 Mar 1978 A	Kuwait		9 May 1960 A
Dominica		13 Aug 1981 A	Kyrgyzstan.....		29 Apr 1992 A
Dominican Republic.....	22 Jul 1946	21 Jun 1948 A	Lao People's Democratic Republic		17 May 1950 A
Ecuador.....	22 Jul 1946	1 Mar 1949 A	Latvia.....		4 Dec 1991 A
Egypt.....	22 Jul 1946	16 Dec 1947 A	Lebanon	22 Jul 1946	19 Jan 1949 A
El Salvador	22 Jul 1946	22 Jun 1948 A	Lesotho		7 Jul 1967 A
Equatorial Guinea.....		5 May 1980 A	Liberia.....	22 Jul 1946	14 Mar 1947 A
Eritrea		24 Jul 1993 A	Libya.....		16 May 1952 A
Estonia		31 Mar 1993 A	Lithuania.....		25 Nov 1991 A
Eswatini		16 Apr 1973 A	Luxembourg.....	22 Jul 1946	3 Jun 1949 A
Ethiopia.....	22 Jul 1946	11 Apr 1947 A	Madagascar.....		16 Jan 1961 A
Fiji		1 Jan 1972 A	Malawi.....		9 Apr 1965 A
Finland.....	22 Jul 1946	7 Oct 1947 A	Malaysia.....		24 Apr 1958 A
France	22 Jul 1946	16 Jun 1948 A	Maldives		5 Nov 1965 A
Gabon.....		21 Nov 1960 A	Mali.....		17 Oct 1960 A
Gambia.....		26 Apr 1971 A	Malta.....		1 Feb 1965 A
Georgia		26 May 1992 A	Marshall Islands.....		5 Jun 1991 A
Germany ^{8,9}		29 May 1951 A	Mauritania.....		7 Mar 1961 A
Ghana.....		8 Apr 1957 A	Mauritius.....		9 Dec 1968 A
Greece.....	22 Jul 1946	12 Mar 1948 A	Mexico	22 Jul 1946	7 Apr 1948 A
Grenada.....		4 Dec 1974 A	Micronesia (Federated States of)		14 Aug 1991 A
Guatemala.....	22 Jul 1946	26 Aug 1949 A	Monaco		8 Jul 1948 A
Guinea.....		19 May 1959 A	Mongolia.....		18 Apr 1962 A
Guinea-Bissau.....		29 Jul 1974 A	Montenegro.....		29 Aug 2006 A
Guyana.....		27 Sep 1966 A	Morocco.....		14 May 1956 A
Haiti	22 Jul 1946	12 Aug 1947 A	Mozambique		11 Sep 1975 A
Honduras.....	22 Jul 1946	8 Apr 1949 A	Myanmar.....		1 Jul 1948 A
Hungary	19 Feb 1947	17 Jun 1948 A	Namibia		23 Apr 1990 A
Iceland		17 Jun 1948 A	Nauru		9 May 1994 A
India.....	22 Jul 1946	12 Jan 1948 A	Nepal.....		2 Sep 1953 A
Indonesia.....		23 May 1950 A	Netherlands (Kingdom of the).....	22 Jul 1946	25 Apr 1947 A
Iran (Islamic Republic of).....	22 Jul 1946	23 Nov 1946 A	New Zealand ¹⁰	22 Jul 1946	10 Dec 1946 A
Iraq.....	22 Jul 1946	23 Sep 1947 A	Nicaragua.....	22 Jul 1946	24 Apr 1950 A
Ireland.....	22 Jul 1946	20 Oct 1947 A	Niger		5 Oct 1960 A
Israel		21 Jun 1949 A	Nigeria		25 Nov 1960 A
Italy	22 Jul 1946	11 Apr 1947 A	Niue		5 May 1994 A
Jamaica		21 Mar 1963 A	North Macedonia		22 Apr 1993 A
Japan		16 May 1951 A			

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Norway	22 Jul 1946	18 Aug 1947 A	St. Kitts and Nevis		3 Dec 1984 A
Oman		28 May 1971 A	St. Lucia.....		11 Nov 1980 A
Pakistan.....		23 Jun 1948 A	St. Vincent and the Grenadines		1 Sep 1983 A
Palau		9 Mar 1995 A	Sudan		14 May 1956 A
Panama.....	22 Jul 1946	20 Feb 1951 A	Suriname.....		25 Mar 1976 A
Papua New Guinea		29 Apr 1976 A	Sweden.....	13 Jan 1947	28 Aug 1947 A
Paraguay	22 Jul 1946	4 Jan 1949 A	Switzerland	22 Jul 1946	26 Mar 1947 A
Peru.....	22 Jul 1946	11 Nov 1949 A	Syrian Arab Republic	22 Jul 1946	18 Dec 1946 A
Philippines	22 Jul 1946	9 Jul 1948 A	Tajikistan		4 May 1992 A
Poland	22 Jul 1946	6 May 1948 A	Thailand.....	22 Jul 1946	26 Sep 1947 A
Portugal.....	22 Jul 1946	13 Feb 1948 A	Timor-Leste		27 Sep 2002 A
Qatar		11 May 1972 A	Togo.....		13 May 1960 A
Republic of Korea.....		17 Aug 1949 A	Tonga		14 Aug 1975 A
Republic of Moldova.....		4 May 1992 A	Trinidad and Tobago		3 Jan 1963 A
Romania.....		8 Jun 1948 A	Tunisia		14 May 1956 A
Russian Federation	22 Jul 1946	24 Mar 1948 A	Türkiye.....	22 Jul 1946	2 Jan 1948 A
Rwanda		7 Nov 1962 A	Turkmenistan.....		2 Jul 1992 A
Samoa		16 May 1962 A	Tuvalu.....		7 May 1993 A
San Marino		12 May 1980 A	Uganda.....		7 Mar 1963 A
Sao Tome and Principe..		23 Mar 1976 A	Ukraine	22 Jul 1946	3 Apr 1948 A
Saudi Arabia	22 Jul 1946	26 May 1947 A	United Arab Emirates		30 Mar 1972 A
Senegal.....		31 Oct 1960 A	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.....		22 Jul 1946 s
Serbia.....		28 Nov 2000 A	United States of America ¹¹	22 Jul 1946	21 Jun 1948 A
Seychelles		11 Sep 1979 A	Uruguay	22 Jul 1946	22 Apr 1949 A
Sierra Leone.....		20 Oct 1961 A	Uzbekistan		22 May 1992 A
Singapore.....		25 Feb 1966 A	Vanuatu.....		7 Mar 1983 A
Slovakia ⁷		4 Feb 1993 A	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	22 Jul 1946	7 Jul 1948 A
Slovenia		7 May 1992 A	Viet Nam ¹²		17 May 1950 A
Solomon Islands		4 Apr 1983 A	Yemen ¹³		6 May 1968 A
Somalia		26 Jan 1961 A	Zambia		2 Feb 1965 s
South Africa.....	22 Jul 1946	7 Aug 1947 A	Zimbabwe		16 May 1980 A
South Sudan.....		27 Sep 2011 A			
Spain		28 May 1951 A			
Sri Lanka.....		7 Jul 1948 A			

Notes:

¹ *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, First Session, Supplement No. 1*, p. 86.

² The former Yugoslavia had signed and accepted the Constitution on 22 July 1946 and 19 November 1947, 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.

³ Accepted for Tanganyika on 15 March 1962 and for Zanzibar on 29 February 1964. See also note 1 under "United Republic of Tanzania" in the "Historical Information" section in the front matter of this volume.

⁴ See note concerning signatures, ratifications, accessions, etc., on behalf of China (note 1 under “China” in the “Historical Information” section in the front matter of this volume).

⁵ See note 3 under “China” regarding Macao in the “Historical Information” section in the front matter of this volume.

⁶ See note 2 under “China” regarding Hong Kong in the “Historical Information” section in the front matter of this volume.

⁷ Czechoslovakia had signed and accepted the Convention on 22 July 1946 and 1 March 1948, respectively. See also note 1 under “Czech Republic” and note 1 under “Slovakia” in the “Historical Information” section in the front matter of this volume.

⁸ See note 1 under “Germany” regarding Berlin (West) in the “Historical Information” section in the front matter of this volume.

⁹ The German Democratic Republic had accepted the Constitution on 8 May 1973. See also note 2 under “Germany” in the “Historical Information” section in the front matter of this volume.

¹⁰ See note 1 under “New Zealand” regarding Tokelau in the “Historical Information” section in the front matter of this volume.

¹¹ Accepted subject to the provisions of the joint resolution of the Congress of the United States of America approved 14 June 1948 (Public Law 643, 80th Congress), section 4 of which reads as follows: "In adopting this joint resolution the Congress does so with the understanding that, in the absence of any provision in the World Health Organization Constitution for withdrawal from the organization, the United States reserves its right to withdraw from the organization on a one-year notice, provided, however, that the financial obligations of the United States to the organization shall be met in full for the organization's current fiscal year."

"The World Health Assembly adopted unanimously on 2 July 1948 the following resolution: "The Assembly recognized the validity of the ratification by the United States of America and resolved that the Secretary-General of the United Nations be advised of this decision."

¹² By a letter dated at Hanoi on 12 July 1976, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Socialist Republic of Viet-Nam notified the Director-General of the World Health Organization that the Democratic Republic of Viet-Nam and the Republic of South Viet-Nam had united to form the Socialist Republic of Viet-Nam, and that the latter would continue to exercise the official membership in the World Health Organization of the Democratic Republic of Viet-Nam and the Republic of South Viet-Nam. The above-mentioned communication from the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Socialist Republic of Viet-Nam was brought to the attention of the Member States of the World Health Organization by a circular letter from the Director-General of that Organization dated 30 August 1976. The Thirtieth World Health Assembly took note of the said notification in its resolution WHA 30.13 dated 10 May 1977. The Constitution of the World Health Organization had been

accepted on behalf of the Democratic Republic of Viet-Nam on 22 October 1975 (See [CN.304.1975-Treaties-22](#)) and on behalf of the Republic of Viet-Nam (later replaced by the Republic of South Viet-Nam) (See [CN.86.1950-Treaties](#)) on 17 May 1950. The Amendments to articles 34 and 55 of the Constitution of the World Health Organization had been accepted on behalf of the Republic of Viet-Nam on 28 October 1974 (See [CN.285.1974-Treaties-17](#)) and on behalf of the Socialist Republic of Viet-Nam on 10 March 1977 (See [CN.48.1977-Treaties-7](#)).

¹³ Democratic Yemen had accepted the Constitution on 6 May 1968. See also note 1 under “Yemen” in the “Historical Information” section in the front matter of this volume.

