

**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: 82.

**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 \(IV\)](#)<sup>2</sup> of 2 December 1949.

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

<i>Participant<sup>3,4</sup></i>	<i>Signature</i>	<i>Accession(a), Succession(d), Ratification</i>	<i>Participant<sup>3,4</sup></i>	<i>Signature</i>	<i>Accession(a), Succession(d), Ratification</i>
Mauritania.....		6 Jun 1986 a	Rwanda.....		26 Sep 2003 a
Mauritius.....	24 Sep 2003		Senegal.....		19 Jul 1979 a
Mexico.....		21 Feb 1956 a	Serbia <sup>5</sup> .....		12 Mar 2001 d
Micronesia (Federated States of).....	23 Sep 2003	2 Jun 2011	Seychelles.....		5 May 1992 a
Montenegro <sup>8</sup> .....		23 Oct 2006 d	Sierra Leone.....	26 Sep 2003	
Morocco.....		17 Aug 1973 a	Singapore.....		26 Oct 1966 a
Myanmar.....	14 Mar 1956		Slovakia <sup>6</sup> .....		28 May 1993 d
Nepal.....		10 Dec 2002 a	Slovenia <sup>5</sup> .....		6 Jul 1992 d
Niger.....		10 Jun 1977 a	South Africa.....	16 Oct 1950	10 Oct 1951
Nigeria.....	25 Sep 2003		Spain.....		18 Jun 1962 a
North Macedonia <sup>5</sup> .....		18 Jan 1994 d	Sri Lanka.....		15 Apr 1958 a
Norway.....		23 Jan 1952 a	Syrian Arab Republic <sup>7</sup> ...		12 Jun 1959 a
Pakistan.....	21 Mar 1950	11 Jul 1952	Tajikistan.....		19 Oct 2001 a
Paraguay.....	26 Mar 2007		Togo.....		14 Mar 1990 a
Philippines.....	20 Dec 1950	19 Sep 1952	Ukraine <sup>1</sup> .....		15 Nov 1954 a
Poland.....		2 Jun 1952 a	Uzbekistan.....		27 Feb 2004 a
Portugal <sup>4</sup> .....		30 Sep 1992 a	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).....		18 Dec 1968 a
Republic of Korea.....		13 Feb 1962 a	Yemen <sup>9</sup> .....		6 Apr 1989 a
Romania.....		15 Feb 1955 a	Zimbabwe.....		15 Nov 1995 a
Russian Federation.....		11 Aug 1954 a			

### ***Declarations and Reservations***

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

#### **AFGHANISTAN**

"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**

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.

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<sup>10,11,12</sup>**

#### **BULGARIA<sup>12</sup>**

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**

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

#### **FINLAND**

"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;"

#### **FRANCE<sup>13</sup>**

#### **HUNGARY<sup>11,12,14</sup>**

#### **KAZAKHSTAN**

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<sup>12,15</sup>**

#### **RUSSIAN FEDERATION<sup>10</sup>**

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.

#### **UKRAINE<sup>10</sup>**

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.

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#### **Notes:**

<sup>1</sup> On 20 October 2015, the Government of Ukraine made a communication. The text can be found here: C.N.611.2015.TREATIES-VII.11.a of 20 October 2015.

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

<sup>3</sup> 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.

<sup>4</sup> 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.

<sup>5</sup> 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.

<sup>6</sup> 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.

<sup>7</sup> 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.

<sup>8</sup> See note 1 under "Montenegro" in the "Historical Information" section in the front matter of this volume.

<sup>9</sup> 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.

<sup>10</sup> 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.

<sup>11</sup> 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.

<sup>12</sup> 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.

<sup>13</sup> 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.

<sup>14</sup> 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.

<sup>15</sup> 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.