6. CONVENTION CONCERNING CUSTOMS FACILITIES FOR TOURING

*New York, 4 June 1954*

**ENTRY INTO FORCE:** 11 September 1957, in accordance with article 16.

**REGISTRATION:** 11 September 1957, No. 3992.

**STATUS:** Signatories: 32. Parties: 80.¹²

**TEXT:** United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 276, p. 191; vol. 596, p. 542 (amendment to article 2).³


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Participant</th>
<th>Signature</th>
<th>Ratification, Accession(a), Succession(d)</th>
<th>Participant</th>
<th>Signature</th>
<th>Ratification, Accession(a), Succession(d)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Albania</td>
<td>9 Aug 2010 a</td>
<td>Gambia¹⁸</td>
<td>Germany¹⁸</td>
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<td>Algeria</td>
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<td>Israel</td>
<td>1 Aug 1957 a</td>
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<td>Chile</td>
<td>15 Aug 1974 a</td>
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<td>Italy</td>
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<td>Costa Rica</td>
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<td>Jamaica</td>
<td>11 Nov 1963 d</td>
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<td>Jordan</td>
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<td>Lebanon</td>
<td>16 Mar 1971 a</td>
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<td>Denmark</td>
<td>13 Oct 1955 a</td>
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<td>Liberia</td>
<td>16 Sep 2005 a</td>
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<td>Dominican Republic</td>
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<td>Lithuania</td>
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<td>Egypt</td>
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<td>4 Apr 1957</td>
<td>Malaysia</td>
<td>7 May 1958 d</td>
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<td>El Salvador</td>
<td>18 Jun 1958 a</td>
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<td>Mali</td>
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<td>Fiji</td>
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<td>Malta</td>
<td>3 Jan 1966 d</td>
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<td>Finland</td>
<td>21 Jun 1962 a</td>
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<td>Mauritius</td>
<td>18 Jul 1969 d</td>
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<td>Monaco</td>
<td>4 Jun 1954</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Declarations and Reservations
(Unless otherwise indicated, the declarations and reservations were made upon ratification, accession or succession.)

ALGERIA

The Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria reserves the right, notwithstanding article 1 of the said Convention, not to regard as tourists persons who, in the course of their visit, accept any paid employment.

The Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria does not consider itself bound by the provisions of article 21 of the said Convention concerning compulsory arbitration and declares that the agreement of all the parties in dispute is required for the submission of each individual dispute to arbitration.

BULGARIA\textsuperscript{16}

The Revolutionary Government of Cuba does not consider itself bound by the provisions of paragraphs 2 and 3 of article 21 of the Convention.

DENMARK

Notwithstanding the provisions of article 3 of this Convention, the Scandinavian countries shall be permitted to make special rules applicable to persons residing in those countries.

EGYPT

"The Delegation of Egypt reserves its Government's right to withhold the advantages provided for by the Convention concerning Customs Facilities for Touring from any person who, while visiting Egypt as a tourist, takes up employment with or without pay."

FINLAND

"(i) Notwithstanding the provisions of article 3 the Government of Finland shall be permitted to make special rules applicable to persons residing in the Scandinavian countries;"

"(ii) Taking into account the relevant provisions in the Finnish legislation the Government of Finland apply the rule in article 10, paragraph 2 so far as subparagraph c is concerned to tourists under 21 years of age."

GHANA

"(1) The exemption on arms and ammunition included in article 2 (3) of the Convention shall not be applicable to Ghana.

"(2) The authorization contained in article 4 (b) of the Convention, to export travel souvenirs of a total value not exceeding 100 USA dollars, without the formalities applying to Exchange Control and without payment of export duties shall not apply to Ghana."

\begin{tabular}{|l|c|c|c|}
\hline
\textbf{Participant}\textsuperscript{5,6,7} & \textbf{Signature} & \textbf{Participant}\textsuperscript{5,6,7} & \textbf{Signature} \\
\hline
Montenegro\textsuperscript{12} & 23 Oct 2006 d & Slovenia\textsuperscript{8} & 6 Jul 1992 d \\
Morocco & 25 Sep 1957 a & Solomon Islands & 3 Sep 1981 d \\
Netherlands (Kingdom & 4 Jun 1954 & Sri Lanka & 4 Jun 1954 a & 28 Nov 1955 \\
of the)\textsuperscript{13} & 7 Mar 1958 & Sweden & 4 Jun 1954 a & 11 Jun 1957 \\
New Zealand\textsuperscript{14} & 17 Aug 1962 a & Switzerland\textsuperscript{3} & 4 Jun 1954 a & 23 May 1956 \\
Nigeria & 26 Jun 1961 d & Syrian Arab Republic\textsuperscript{15} & 26 Mar 1959 \\
Norway & 10 Oct 1961 a & Tonga & 11 Nov 1977 d \\
Panama & 4 Jun 1954 & Trinidad and Tobago & 11 Apr 1966 d \\
Peru & 16 Jan 1959 a & Tunisia & 20 Jun 1974 a \\
Philippines & 4 Jun 1954 & Türkiye & 26 Apr 1983 a \\
Poland & 16 Mar 1960 a & Uganda & 15 Apr 1965 a \\
Portugal\textsuperscript{5} & 18 Sep 1958 & United Kingdom of Northern Ireland\textsuperscript{6} & 4 Jun 1954 a & 27 Feb 1956 \\
Romania & 26 Jan 1961 a & United Republic of Tanzania & 22 Jun 1964 a \\
Rwanda & 1 Dec 1964 d & Uruguay & 4 Jun 1954 a & 8 Sep 1967 \\
Senegal & 19 Apr 1972 a & Viet Nam & 31 Jan 1956 a \\
Serbia\textsuperscript{4} & 12 Mar 2001 d & \\
Sierra Leone & 13 Mar 1962 d & \\
Singapore\textsuperscript{1} & [22 Nov 1966 d] & \\
\hline
\end{tabular}
GUATEMALA
"The Guatemalan Government reserves the right:
"(1) Not to consider as tourists persons who enter the
country for business as provided in article 1.
"(2) Not to accept the provisions of article 19 in
respect of territories in dispute which are under the de
facto administration of another State."

HAITI
The Delegation of Haiti reserves its Government's
right to withhold the advantages provided for by the
Convention concerning Customs Facilities for Touring
from any person who, while visiting Haiti as a tourist,
accepts any paid employment or engages in any other
form of gainful occupation.

HUNGARY
"The Hungarian People's Republic does not consider
itself bound by the terms of paragraphs 2 and 3 of article
21 of the Convention."

POLAND17,18
1. The Government of the People's Republic of
Poland reserves the right not to apply the provisions of
article 4 of the Convention concerning Customs Facilities
for Touring.

ROMANIA19
The Romanian People's Republic does not consider
itself bound by the provisions of article 21, paragraphs 2
and 3, of the Convention. The position of the Romanian
People's Republic is that a dispute concerning the
interpretation or application of the Convention may be
submitted to arbitration only with the agreement of all the
parties in dispute and that only persons nominated by
unanimous agreement of the parties in dispute may act as
arbitrators.

RUSSIAN FEDERATION20
The Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist
Republics, considering that disputes concerning the
interpretation or application of the Convention concerning
Customs Facilities for Touring can be decided by
arbitration, declares that a dispute may be submitted to
arbitration only with the agreement of all the parties in
dispute and that only persons nominated by unanimous
agreement of the parties in dispute may act as arbitrators.

SENEGAL
1. The Government of the Republic of Senegal
reserves the right to withhold the benefits of the
provisions of the Convention concerning Customs
Facilities for Touring from any person who, while visiting
Senegal as a tourist, takes any employment paid or not;

2. The Government of the Republic of Senegal
reserves the right:
a) Not to consider as tourists persons who enter the
country for business as provided in article 1.
b) Not to accept the provisions of article 19 in
respect of territories in dispute which are under the de
facto administration of another State.

SINGAPORE1

SWEDEN
"Notwithstanding the provisions of article 3 of the
Convention concerning Customs Facilities for Touring,
the Scandinavian countries shall be permitted to make
special rules applicable to persons residing in those
countries."

SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC
Reserving "the right of the Government to deny the
privileges and facilities provided in the said Convention,
to any tourist who takes up any job paid or unpaid during
his stay in the country".

TUNISIA
A dispute may be submitted to arbitration only with
the agreement of all the parties in dispute.

UGANDA
"The Government of Uganda shall be bound by Article
2 provided that a tourist's stay in the East African
Territories does not exceed six months, but shall not be
bound by Article 2 in so far as it refers to portable
gramophones with records, portable sound recording
apparatus, portable wireless receiving sets, tents and other
camping equipment, fishing outfits, non-powered
bicycles, skis, tennis racquets and other similar articles if
the period of stay in the Territories does not exceed six
months, but undertakes to allow the temporary
importation of these articles in accordance with the
temporary importation permit procedure.
"The Government of Uganda shall not be bound by
Article 3 but undertakes to grant reasonable concessions.
"The Government of Uganda shall not be bound by
Article 4 and reserves the right to require that such goods
shall be dealt with in accordance with the temporary
importation permit procedure."

UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA21
"The Government of the United Republic of
Tanganyika and Zanzibar [Tanzania] shall not be bound
by article 3 of the Convention, but undertakes to grant
reasonable concessions in respect of the items referred to
therein."

Territorial Application

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Participant</th>
<th>Date of receipt of the notification</th>
<th>Territories</th>
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<tr>
<td>Belgium22</td>
<td>21 Feb 1955</td>
<td>Belgian Congo and the Trust Territory of Ruanda-Urundi, with reservations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Netherlands (Kingdom of the)</td>
<td>7 Mar 1958</td>
<td>Netherlands Antilles, Netherlands New Guinea and Suriname</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Notes:

1. On 3 November 1999, the Government of Singapore informed the Secretary-General that it had decided to denounce the Convention [with effect from 3 February 2001 in accordance with its article 17 (2)]. It will be recalled that the Government of Singapore had, on 12 July 1999, communicated to the Secretary-General, the following reservation:

   “… the Government of the Republic of Singapore wishes to make a reservation to article 3 of the [Convention].”

   Subsequently, the Secretary-General received objections to the reservation from the following Governments on the dates indicated hereinafter:

   **Finland (22 October 1999)**

   [The Government of Finland] notes that, according to the well-established rule under the international law of treaties, codified in the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties, reservations to treaties are only allowed when signing, ratifying, accepting, approving or acceding to a treaty. Under international law, after a State has bound itself by a treaty it can no longer submit reservations.

   The Government of Finland therefore objects to the aforesaid reservation made by the Government of Singapore to the Convention concerning Customs Facilities for Touring.”

   **United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (22 October 1999):**

   “As it is well established in international law that, in the absence of express provision in the treaty itself, a party may not formulate a reservation to a treaty by which it is already bound, the United Kingdom is unable to agree that the reservation referred to above be accepted for deposit.”

   Consequently, the reservation in question is not accepted, the Governments of Finland and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland having objected thereto.

2. On 16 June 1975, the Government of Switzerland declared that the provisions of the Convention apply to the Principality of Liechtenstein so long as it is linked to Switzerland by a customs union treaty.

3. In a communication received by the Secretary-General on 9 August 1966, the Government of the Netherlands proposed an amendment to article 2, paragraph 3 of the Convention to the effect that the words “one portable television set” be inserted after the words “one portable wireless receiving set”. The text of the proposed amendment was circulated by the Secretary-General to all contracting States on 6 September 1966. No objection having been expressed to the proposed amendment within the period of six months from the date of the circulation of its text by any of the contracting States, the amendment is deemed to have been accepted, in accordance with paragraph 2 of article 23 of the Convention. Pursuant to paragraph 3 of the same article, the amendment entered into force for all contracting States three months after the expiration of the said period of six months, that is to say, on 6 June 1967.


5. On 29 September and on 19 October 1999, the Secretary-General received communications regarding the status of Macao from China and Portugal (see also note 3 under “China” and note 1 under “Portgual” 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 continue to apply to the Macao Special Administrative Region.

### Participant | Date of receipt of the notification | Territories
---|---|---
New Zealand | 21 May 1963 | Cook Islands (including Niue)
Portugal | 18 Sep 1958 | Overseas Provinces
 | 30 Mar 1983 | Macau
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland | 7 Aug 1957 | North Borneo, Cyprus, Fiji, Jamaica, Federation of Malaya, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Somaliland Protectorate, Tonga and Zanzibar; and Malta with reservation
 | 14 Jan 1958 | Brunei, Antigua, Mauritius, Sarawak, Dominica, Bermuda, Gambia, Montserrat, Federation of Nigeria, British Solomon Islands Protectorate, Gibraltar, Virgin Islands, St. Helena, Grenada, St. Vincent; and Kenya, Uganda and Tanganyika with reservations
 | 16 Jun 1959 | Barbados
 | 12 Sep 1960 | British Honduras
 | 11 Nov 1960 | Hong Kong
 | 9 Jan 1961 | St. Christopher-Nevis-Anguilla
 | 15 Sep 1961 | Trinidad and Tobago
 | 5 Feb 1962 | British Guiana
United States of America | 25 Jul 1956 | Alaska, Hawaii, Puerto Rico and United States Virgin Islands
The Secretary-General, received on 6 and 10 June 1997 communications regarding the status of Hong Kong from China and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (see also note 2 under “China” and note 2 under “United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland” in the “Historical Information” section in the front matter of this volume). Upon resuming the exercise of sovereignty over Hong Kong, China notified the Secretary-General that the Convention will continue to apply to the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region.

The Republic of Viet-Nam had acceded to the Convention on 31 January 1956. See also note 1 under “Viet Nam” in the “Historical Information” section in the front matter of this volume.

The former Yugoslavia had acceded to the Convention on 10 July 1958. 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.

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

See note 2 under “Germany” in the “Historical Information” section in the front matter of this volume.

In a notification received on 4 April 1974, the Government of Greece stated that it accepted the decisions, recommendations and declarations contained in the Final Act of the Conference.

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

See note 1 under “Netherlands” regarding Aruba/Netherlands Antilles in the “Historical Information” section in the front matter of this volume.

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

Notification 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.

The Governments of Italy and Switzerland have notified the Secretary-General that they object to this reservation. The Government of the United States of America has notified the Secretary-General that it has no objection to this reservation, but "considers that it may and hereby states that it will apply this reservation reciprocally with respect to Romania".

The Governments of Italy and Switzerland have notified the Secretary-General that they object to this reservation. The Government of the United States of America has notified the Secretary-General that it has no objection to this reservation, but "considers that it may and hereby states that it will apply this reservation reciprocally with respect to Romania".

The Governments of Italy and Switzerland have notified the Secretary-General that they object to this reservation. The Government of the United States of America has notified the Secretary-General that it has no objection to this reservation, but "considers that it may and hereby states that it will apply this reservation reciprocally with respect to Romania".

This Convention is applicable to the Territory of the Belgian Congo and to the Trust Territory of Ruanda-Urundi, subject to the following reservations:

(1) The temporary importation of firearms and their ammunition cannot be considered without a temporary importation document (article 2 of the Convention);

(2) The exemption in the case of wine, spirits, toilet water and perfume must continue to be limited to opened containers and subject, in the case of alcoholic beverages in particular, to the observance of the legal provisions in force (article 3 of the Convention);

(3) Worked ivory and objects of indigenous art must be excluded from the operation of the Convention (article 4).

The Government of Rwanda notified the Secretary-General of its succession to the Convention on 1 December 1964. Subsequently, in a communication received on 10 February 1965, the Government of Rwanda informed the Secretary-General that it did not intend to maintain any of the above-mentioned reservations.

The Governments of Italy and Switzerland have notified the Secretary-General that it had decided to withdraw its reservation with regard to article 21 of the Convention made upon accession. For the text of the reservation see United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 367, p. 334. (See also note 13.)

The Governments of Italy and Switzerland have notified the Secretary-General that they object to these reservations.

8 The Governments of Italy and Switzerland have notified the Secretary-General that they object to this reservation. The Government of the United States of America has notified the Secretary-General that it has no objection to this reservation, but "considers that it may and hereby states that it will apply this reservation reciprocally with respect to Romania".

9 See note 1 under “Montenegro” in the “Historical Information” section in the front matter of this volume.

10 See note 2 under “Germany” in the “Historical Information” section in the front matter of this volume.

11 In a notification received on 4 April 1974, the Government of Greece stated that it accepted the decisions, recommendations and declarations contained in the Final Act of the Conference.

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

13 See note 1 under “Netherlands” regarding Aruba/Netherlands Antilles in the “Historical Information” section in the front matter of this volume.

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

15 Notification 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.

16 The Governments of Italy and Switzerland have notified the Secretary-General that they object to this reservation. The Government of the United States of America has notified the Secretary-General that it has no objection to this reservation, but "considers that it may, and hereby states that it will apply the aforesaid reservation reciprocally with respect to Bulgaria".

Subsequently, in a notification received on 6 May 1994, the Government of Bulgaria notified the Secretary-General that it had decided to withdraw the reservation made upon accession with regard to article 21 (2) and (3). For the text of the reservation, see United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 348, p. 358.

17 On 16 October 1997, the Government of Poland notified the Secretary-General that it had decided to withdraw its reservation with regard to article 21 of the Convention made upon accession. For the text of the reservation see United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 367, p. 334. (See also note 13.)

18 The Governments of Italy and Switzerland have notified the Secretary-General that they object to these reservations.

19 The Governments of Switzerland and the Republic of Viet-Nam informed the Secretary-General that they object to this reservation. The Government of the United States of America informed the Secretary-General that it has no objection to this reservation but "considers that it may and hereby states that it will apply this reservation reciprocally with respect to Romania".

20 The Governments of Italy and Switzerland have notified the Secretary-General that they object to this reservation. The Government of the United States of America has notified the Secretary-General that it has no objection to this reservation, but "considers that it may and hereby states that it will apply this reservation reciprocally with respect to Romania".

21 In a communication received on 2 August 1965, the Government of Portugal notified the Secretary-General that, in accordance with paragraph 7 of article 20 and paragraph 7 of article 14, respectively, of the Convention and Additional Protocol, Portugal reserves the right of not extending to the United Republic of Tanzania the benefit of those provisions of the Convention and the Additional Protocol to which apply the reservations made upon accession by the United Republic of Tanzania.

22 This Convention is applicable to the Territory of the Belgian Congo and to the Trust Territory of Ruanda-Urundi, subject to the following reservations:

(1) The temporary importation of firearms and their ammunition cannot be considered without a temporary importation document (article 2 of the Convention);

(2) The exemption in the case of wine, spirits, toilet water and perfume must continue to be limited to opened containers and subject, in the case of alcoholic beverages in particular, to the observance of the legal provisions in force (article 3 of the Convention);

(3) Worked ivory and objects of indigenous art must be excluded from the operation of the Convention (article 4).

The Government of Rwanda notified the Secretary-General of its succession to the Convention on 1 December 1964. Subsequently, in a communication received on 10 February 1965, the Government of Rwanda informed the Secretary-General that it did not intend to maintain any of the above-mentioned reservations.

23 [As concerns Malta] “The definition of 'Personal effects' contained in paragraph 3 of article 2 of the Convention shall not include 'one portable wireless set'.”
On 3 January 1966, the Government of Malta notified the Secretary-General of its succession to the Convention. In a communication received on 28 February 1966, the Government of Malta notified the Secretary-General that it did not intend to maintain the said reservation, which had been made on its behalf by the Government of the United Kingdom at the time of the notification of the extension of the Convention to Malta.

24 "(i) The Governments of Kenya, Uganda and Tanganyika shall not be bound by article 2 of the Convention in so far as it refers to portable musical instruments, portable gramophones with records, portable sound-recording apparatus, non-powered bicycles and sporting firearms with cartridges, but undertake to allow the temporary importation of these articles in accordance with the temporary importation permit procedure.

"(ii) The Governments of Kenya, Uganda and Tanganyika shall not be bound by article 3 of the Convention but undertake to grant reasonable concessions in respect of the items referred to therein.

"(iii) The Governments of Kenya, Uganda, and Tanganyika shall not be bound by article 4 of the Convention and reserve the right to require a temporary importation permit in respect of the articles referred to therein."

For the reservations made on accession by the Governments of Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania, see under "Declarations and Reservations".