

**CHAPTER XVI**  
**STATUS OF WOMEN**

**1. CONVENTION ON THE POLITICAL RIGHTS OF WOMEN**

*New York, 31 March 1953*

**ENTRY INTO FORCE:** 7 July 1954, in accordance with article VI.

**REGISTRATION:** 7 July 1954, No. 2613.

**STATUS:** Signatories: 47. Parties: 123.

**TEXT:** United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 193, p. 135.

*Note:* The Convention was opened for signature pursuant to resolution [640 \(VII\)](#),<sup>1</sup> adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on 20 December 1952.

<i>Participant</i> <sup>2,3</sup>	<i>Signature</i>	<i>Ratification, Accession(a), Succession(d)</i>	<i>Participant</i> <sup>2,3</sup>	<i>Signature</i>	<i>Ratification, Accession(a), Succession(d)</i>
Afghanistan.....		16 Nov 1966 a	Congo.....		15 Oct 1962 d
Albania.....		12 May 1955 a	Costa Rica.....	31 Mar 1953	25 Jul 1967
Algeria.....		5 Aug 2004 a	Côte d'Ivoire.....		18 Dec 1995 a
Angola.....		17 Sep 1986 a	Croatia <sup>4</sup> .....		12 Oct 1992 d
Antigua and Barbuda.....		25 Oct 1988 d	Cuba.....	31 Mar 1953	8 Apr 1954
Argentina.....	31 Mar 1953	27 Feb 1961	Cyprus.....	10 Sep 1968	12 Nov 1968
Armenia.....		24 Jan 2008 a	Czech Republic <sup>5</sup> .....		22 Feb 1993 d
Australia.....		10 Dec 1974 a	Democratic Republic of the Congo.....		12 Oct 1977 a
Austria.....	19 Oct 1959	18 Apr 1969	Denmark.....	29 Oct 1953	7 Jul 1954
Bahamas.....		16 Aug 1977 d	Dominican Republic.....	31 Mar 1953	11 Dec 1953
Bangladesh.....		5 Oct 1998 a	Ecuador <sup>6</sup> .....	31 Mar 1953	23 Apr 1954
Barbados.....		12 Jan 1973 a	Egypt.....		8 Sep 1981 a
Belarus.....	31 Mar 1953	11 Aug 1954	El Salvador.....	24 Jun 1953	26 Mar 2008
Belgium.....		20 May 1964 a	Eswatini.....		20 Jul 1970 a
Bolivia (Plurinational State of).....	9 Apr 1953	22 Sep 1970	Ethiopia.....	31 Mar 1953	21 Jan 1969
Bosnia and Herzegovina <sup>4</sup> .....		1 Sep 1993 d	Fiji.....		12 Jun 1972 d
Brazil.....	20 May 1953	13 Aug 1963	Finland.....		6 Oct 1958 a
Bulgaria.....		17 Mar 1954 a	France.....	31 Mar 1953	22 Apr 1957
Burkina Faso.....		9 Dec 1998 a	Gabon.....	19 Apr 1967	19 Apr 1967
Burundi.....		18 Feb 1993 a	Georgia.....		6 Jul 2005 a
Cambodia.....	11 Nov 2001		Germany <sup>7,8</sup> .....		4 Nov 1970 a
Canada.....		30 Jan 1957 a	Ghana.....		28 Dec 1965 a
Central African Republic.....		4 Sep 1962 d	Greece.....	1 Apr 1953	29 Dec 1953
Chile.....	31 Mar 1953	18 Oct 1967	Guatemala.....	31 Mar 1953	7 Oct 1959
Colombia.....		5 Aug 1986 a	Guinea.....	19 Mar 1975	24 Jan 1978
			Haiti.....	23 Jul 1957	12 Feb 1958

<i>Participant</i> <sup>2,3</sup>	<i>Signature</i>	<i>Ratification, Accession(a), Succession(d)</i>	<i>Participant</i> <sup>2,3</sup>	<i>Signature</i>	<i>Ratification, Accession(a), Succession(d)</i>
Hungary .....	2 Sep 1954	20 Jan 1955	Paraguay .....	16 Nov 1953	22 Feb 1990
Iceland .....	25 Nov 1953	30 Jun 1954	Peru .....		1 Jul 1975 a
India .....	29 Apr 1953	1 Nov 1961	Philippines .....	23 Sep 1953	12 Sep 1957
Indonesia.....	31 Mar 1953	16 Dec 1958	Poland .....	31 Mar 1953	11 Aug 1954
Ireland.....		14 Nov 1968 a	Republic of Korea.....		23 Jun 1959 a
Israel .....	14 Apr 1953	6 Jul 1954	Republic of Moldova.....		26 Jan 1993 a
Italy .....		6 Mar 1968 a	Romania.....	27 Apr 1954	6 Aug 1954
Jamaica .....		14 Aug 1966 a	Russian Federation .....	31 Mar 1953	3 May 1954
Japan .....	1 Apr 1955	13 Jul 1955	Rwanda .....		26 Sep 2003 a
Jordan.....		1 Jul 1992 a	Senegal.....		2 May 1963 d
Kazakhstan.....		28 Mar 2000 a	Serbia <sup>4</sup> .....		12 Mar 2001 d
Kyrgyzstan.....		10 Feb 1997 a	Sierra Leone.....		25 Jul 1962 a
Lao People's Democratic Republic .....		28 Jan 1969 a	Slovakia <sup>5</sup> .....		28 May 1993 d
Latvia.....		14 Apr 1992 a	Slovenia <sup>4</sup> .....		6 Jul 1992 d
Lebanon .....	24 Feb 1954	5 Jun 1956	Solomon Islands <sup>10</sup> .....		3 Sep 1981 a
Lesotho .....		4 Nov 1974 a	South Africa.....	29 Jan 1993	
Liberia.....	9 Dec 1953		Spain .....		14 Jan 1974 a
Libya.....		16 May 1989 a	St. Vincent and the Grenadines .....		27 Apr 1999 d
Luxembourg.....	4 Jun 1969	1 Nov 1976	State of Palestine .....		2 Jan 2015 a
Madagascar .....		12 Feb 1964 a	Sweden.....	6 Oct 1953	31 Mar 1954
Malawi.....		29 Jun 1966 a	Tajikistan .....		7 Jun 1999 a
Mali.....		16 Jul 1974 a	Thailand.....	5 Mar 1954	30 Nov 1954
Malta.....		9 Jul 1968 a	Trinidad and Tobago .....		24 Jun 1966 a
Mauritania.....		4 May 1976 a	Tunisia .....		24 Jan 1968 a
Mauritius.....		18 Jul 1969 d	Turkey.....	12 Jan 1954	26 Jan 1960
Mexico.....	31 Mar 1953	23 Mar 1981	Turkmenistan.....		11 Oct 1999 a
Mongolia.....		18 Aug 1965 a	Uganda.....		21 Jun 1995 a
Montenegro <sup>9</sup> .....		23 Oct 2006 d	Ukraine .....	31 Mar 1953	15 Nov 1954
Morocco.....		22 Nov 1976 a	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.....		24 Feb 1967 a
Myanmar.....	14 Sep 1954		United Republic of Tanzania.....		19 Jun 1975 a
Nepal.....		26 Apr 1966 a	United States of America.....		8 Apr 1976 a
Netherlands.....	8 Aug 1968	30 Jul 1971	Uruguay .....	26 May 1953	
New Zealand.....		22 May 1968 a	Uzbekistan .....		29 Sep 1997 a
Nicaragua.....		17 Jan 1957 a	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) .....		31 May 1983 a
Niger.....		7 Dec 1964 d	Yemen <sup>11</sup> .....		9 Feb 1987 a
Nigeria .....	11 Jul 1980	17 Nov 1980	Zambia .....		4 Feb 1972 a
North Macedonia <sup>4</sup> .....		18 Jan 1994 d	Zimbabwe .....		5 Jun 1995 a
Norway .....	18 Sep 1953	24 Aug 1956			
Pakistan.....	18 May 1954	7 Dec 1954			
Papua New Guinea .....		27 Jan 1982 a			

## **Declarations and Reservations**

**(Unless otherwise indicated, the declarations and reservations were made upon ratification, accession or succession. For objections thereto and territorial applications, see hereinafter.)**

### **ALBANIA**

1. *As regards Article VII* : The People's Republic of Albania declares its disagreement with the last sentence of article VII and considers that the juridical effect of a reservation is to make the Convention operative as between the State making the reservation and all other States parties to the Convention, with the exception only of that part thereof to which the reservation relates.

2. *As regards Article IX*: The People's Republic of Albania does not consider itself bound by the provisions of article IX which provides that disputes between Contracting Parties concerning the interpretation or application of this Convention shall at the request of any one of the parties to the dispute be referred to the International Court of Justice for decision, and declares 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.

### **ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA**

"The Government of Antigua and Barbuda reserves from the application of this Convention all matters relating to the recruitment to, and conditions of service in, the armed forces of Antigua and Barbuda."

### **ARGENTINA**

The Argentine Government reserves the right not to submit to the procedure set out in this article [article IX] any dispute which is directly connected with territories which fall within Argentine sovereignty.

### **AUSTRALIA**

"The Government of Australia hereby declares that the accession by Australia shall be subject to the reservation that article III of the Convention shall have no application as regards recruitment to and conditions of service in the Defence Forces.

"The Government of Australia furthermore declares that the Convention shall not extend to Papua New Guinea."

### **AUSTRIA<sup>12</sup>**

### **BANGLADESH<sup>13</sup>**

"The Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh will apply article III of the Convention in consonance with the relevant provisions of the Constitution of Bangladesh and in particular, article 28 (4) allowing special provision in favour of women; article 29.3 (c) allowing reservation of any class of employment or office for one sex on the ground that it is considered by its nature to be unsuited to members of the opposite sex; and article 65 (3) providing for reservation of 30 seats in the National Assembly for women in addition to the provision allowing women to be elected to any and all of the 300 seats.

For the submission of any dispute in terms of this article to the jurisdiction of the International Court of Justice, the consent of all the parties to the dispute will be required in each case."

### **BELARUS<sup>14</sup>**

*As regards article VII:*  
[ *Same declaration as the one reproduced under "Albania".* ]

### **BELGIUM<sup>15</sup>**

### **BULGARIA<sup>16</sup>**

*As regards article VII:*  
[ *Same declaration and reservation as the one reproduced under "Albania".* ]

### **CANADA**

"Inasmuch as under the Canadian constitutional system legislative jurisdiction in respect of political rights is divided between the provinces and the Federal Government, the Government of Canada is obliged, in acceding to this Convention, to make a reservation in respect of rights within the legislative jurisdiction of the provinces."

### **CZECH REPUBLIC<sup>5</sup>**

### **DENMARK**

Subject to a reservation with respect to article III of the Convention, in so far as it relates to the right of women to hold military appointments or to act as heads of recruitment services or to serve on recruitment boards.

### **ESWATINI**

"(a) Article III of the Convention shall have no application as regards remuneration for women in certain posts in the Civil Service of the Kingdom of Swaziland;

"(b) The Convention shall have no application to matters which are regulated by Swaziland Law and Custom in accordance with Section 62 (2) of the Constitution of the Kingdom of Swaziland. [(a) The office of Nggwenyama; (b) the office of Ndllovukazi (the Queen Mother); (c) the authorization of a person to perform the functions of Regent for the purposes of section 30 of this Constitution; (d) the appointment, revocation of appointment and suspension of Chiefs; (e) the composition of the Swazi National Council, the appointment and revocation of appointment of members of the Council, and the procedure of the Council; (f) the Ncwala Ceremony; (g) the Libutfo (regimental) system.]

### **FIJI**

"The reservations of the United Kingdom 1 (a), (b), (d) and (f) are affirmed and are redrafted as more suitable to the situation of Fiji in the following terms:

"Article III is accepted subject to reservations, pending notification of withdrawal of any case, insofar as it relates to:

"(a) succession to the Crown;

"(b) certain offices primarily of a ceremonial nature;

"(d) recruitment to and conditions of service in the armed forces;

"(f) the employment of married women in the civil service

"All other reservations made by the United Kingdom are withdrawn."

**FINLAND**

*As regards Article III:* "A decree may be issued to the effect that only men or women can be appointed to certain functions, which because of their nature, can be properly discharged either only by men or by women."

**FRANCE<sup>17</sup>**

**GERMANY<sup>7</sup>**

**GERMANY<sup>7</sup>**

"The Federal Republic of Germany accedes to the Convention with the reservation that article III of the Convention does not apply to service in the armed forces."

**GUATEMALA<sup>18</sup>**

**HUNGARY<sup>19</sup>**

*As regards article VII:*  
[Same declaration as the one reproduced under "Albania".]

**INDIA**

"Article III of the Convention shall have no application as regards recruitment to, and conditions of service in any of the Armed Forces of India or the Forces charged with the maintenance of public order in India."

**INDONESIA**

"The last sentence of article VII and the whole article IX do not apply to Indonesia."

**IRELAND**

"Article III is accepted subject to reservation in so far as it relates to

"(a) the employment of married women in the public service;

"(b) the unequal remuneration of women in certain positions in the public service,

"and subject to the following declarations:

"(1) that the exclusion of women from positions of employment for which by objective standards or for physical reasons they are not suitable is not regarded as discriminatory;

"(2) that the fact that jury service is not at present obligatory for women is not regarded as discriminatory."

**ITALY**

"In acceding to the Convention on the Political Rights of Women, done at New York on 31 March 1953, the Italian Government declares that it reserves its rights to apply the provisions of Art. III as far as service in the armed forces and in special armed corps is concerned within the limits established by national legislation."

**LESOTHO**

"Article III is accepted subject to reservation, pending notification of withdrawal in any case, so far as it relates to: Matters regulated by Basotho Law and Custom."

**MALTA**

"In acceding to this Convention, the Government of Malta hereby declares that it does not consider itself bound by article III in so far as that article applies to

conditions of service in the Public Service and to Jury Service."

**MAURITIUS**

"The Government of Mauritius hereby declares that it does not consider itself bound by article III of the Convention in so far as that Article applies to recruitment to and conditions of service in the armed forces or to jury service."

**MEXICO**

"It is expressly understood that the Government of Mexico will not deposit its instrument of ratification pending the entry into force of the amendment to the Political Constitution of the United Mexican States which is now under consideration, providing that citizenship rights shall be granted to Mexican women."

**MONGOLIA<sup>20</sup>**

"The Government of the Mongolian People's Republic declares its disagreement with paragraph 1 of article IV and paragraph 1 of article V and considers that the present Convention should be open to all States for signature or accession.

**MOROCCO**

The consent of all the parties concerned is required for the referral of any dispute to the International Court of Justice.

**NEPAL**

*As regards article IX of the Convention:* "A dispute shall be referred for decision to the International Court of Justice only at the request of all the parties to the dispute."

**NETHERLANDS<sup>21</sup>**

**NEW ZEALAND**

"Subject to a reservation with respect to Article III of the Convention, in so far as it relates to recruitment and conditions of service in the armed forces of New Zealand."

**PAKISTAN**

"Article III of the Convention shall have no application as regards recruitment to and conditions of services charged with the maintenance of public order or unsuited to women because of the hazards involved."

**POLAND<sup>22</sup>**

*As regards article VII:*  
[ Same declaration and reservation as the ones reproduced under "Albania". ]

**ROMANIA<sup>23</sup>**

*As regards article VII:*  
[ Same declaration and reservation as the ones reproduced under "Albania". ]

**RUSSIAN FEDERATION<sup>14</sup>**

*As regards article VII:*  
[ Same declaration as the one reproduced under "Albania". ]

#### SIERRA LEONE

"In acceding to this Convention, the Government of Sierra Leone hereby declares that it does not consider itself bound by article III in so far as that article applies to recruitment to and conditions of service in the Armed Forces or to jury service."

#### SLOVAKIA<sup>5</sup>

#### SOLOMON ISLANDS

The Government of Solomon Islands declared that Solomon Islands maintains the reservations entered by the United Kingdom save in so far as the same cannot apply to Solomon Islands.

#### SPAIN

Articles I and III of the Convention shall be interpreted with out prejudice to the provisions which in current Spanish legisla- tion define the status of head of family.

Articles II and III shall be interpreted without prejudice to the norms relating to the office of Head of State contained in the Spanish Fundamental Laws.

Article III shall be interpreted without prejudice to the fact that certain functions, which by their nature can be exercised satisfactorily only by men or only by women, shall be exercised exclusively by men or by women, as appropriate, in accordance with Spanish legislation.

#### ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

"The Government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines reserves from the application of article III of this Convention all matters relating to the recruitment to, and conditions of service in, the armed forces of St. Vincent and the Grenadines."

#### TUNISIA

[Article IX] For any dispute to be referred to the International Court of Justice, the agreement of all the parties to the dispute shall be necessary in every case.

#### UKRAINE<sup>14</sup>

*As regards article VII:*

[ Same declaration as the one reproduced under "Albania" .]

#### UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND<sup>24</sup>

The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland accedes to the Convention with the following reservations submitted in accordance with article VII:

"(1) Article III is accepted subject to reservations, pending notification of withdrawal in any case, in so far as it relates to:

"(a) succession to the Crown;

"(b) certain offices primarily of a ceremonial nature;

"(c) the function of sitting and voting in the House of Lords pertaining to holders of hereditary peerages and holders of certain offices in the Church of England;

"(d) recruitment to and conditions of service in the armed forces;

"(e) jury service in Grenada, [...] as well as in the Kingdom of Tonga;

"(f) ...

"(g) remuneration for women in the Civil Service of [...] Hong Kong, as well as of the Protectorate of Swaziland;

"(h) ...

"(i) in the State of Brunei, the exercise of the royal powers, jury service or its equivalent and the holding of certain offices governed by Islamic Law.

"(2) The United Kingdom reserves the right to postpone the application of this Convention in respect of women living in the Colony of Aden, having regard to the local customs and tradi- tions. Further, the United Kingdom reserves the right not to apply this Convention to Rhodesia unless and until the United Kingdom informs the Secretary-General of the United Nations that it is in a position to ensure that the obligations imposed by the Convention in respect of that territory can be fully implemented."

#### VENEZUELA (BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF)

*Reservation with regard to article IX:*

[Venezuela] does not accept the jurisdiction of the International Court of Justice for the settlement of disputes concerning the interpretation or application of this Convention.

#### YEMEN<sup>11</sup>

(a) The People's Democratic Republic of Yemen declares that it does not accept the last sentence of article VII and considers that the juridical effect of a reservation is to make the Convention operative as between the State making the reservation and all other States parties to the Convention with the exception only of that part thereof to which the reservation relates.

(b) The People's Democratic Republic of Yemen does not consider itself bound by the text of article IX, which provides that disputes between Contracting Parties concerning the interpretation or application of this Convention may, at the request of any one of the parties to the dispute, be referred to the International Court of Justice. It declares that the competence of the International Court of Justice with respect to disputes concerning the interpretation or application of the Convention shall in each case be subject to the express consent of all parties to the dispute.

#### Objections

*(Unless otherwise indicated, the objections were received upon ratification, accession or succession.)*

*(Note: In accordance with article VII of the Convention, a State which objects to a reservation, may "... within a period of ninety days from the date of the [notification of the reservation by the Secretary-General] , notify the Secretary-General that it does not accept it. In such case, the Convention shall not enter into force as between such State and the State making the reservation.")*

#### CANADA

Objection to the reservations made in respect of articles VII and IX by the Governments of Albania,

Bulgaria, the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic and Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

#### CZECH REPUBLIC<sup>5</sup>

#### DENMARK

Objection to the reservations in respect of articles VII and IX:

[ *Same States as the ones listed under "Canada".* ]

#### DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Objection to the reservations made by the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics in respect of articles VII and IX.

#### ETHIOPIA

Objection to the reservations in respect of articles VII and IX:

[ *Same States as the ones listed under "Canada".* ]

#### ISRAEL

Objection to the reservations in respect of articles VII and IX:

[ *Same States as the ones listed under "Canada".* ]

#### MONTENEGRO<sup>9</sup>

Objection to the reservations made by the Government of Guatemala, in respect of articles I, II and III, as these reservations "are not in accordance with the principles contained in Article I of the Charter of the United Nations and with the aims of the Convention".

#### NORWAY

Objection to the reservations made by the Government of Argentina in respect of article VII.

Objection to the reservations made by the Government of Guatemala in respect of articles I, II and III.

Objection to the reservations in respect of articles VII and IX:

[ *Same States as the ones listed under "Canada".* ]

"A reservation by which a State Party limits its responsibilities under the Convention by invoking general principles of internal law may create doubts about the commitment of the reserving State to the object and purpose of the Convention and, moreover contribute to undermining the basis of international treaty law. Under well-established international treaty law, a state is not permitted to invoke internal law as justification for its failure to perform its treaty obligations. For this reason, the Government of Norway objects to the said reservation made by the Government of Bangladesh.

The Government of Norway does not consider this objection to preclude the entry into force in its entirety of the Convention between the Kingdom of Norway and the People's Republic of Bangladesh, the Convention thus becomes operative between the Kingdom of Norway and the People's Republic of Bangladesh without the Republic of Bangladesh benefiting from these reservations."

#### PAKISTAN

Objection to the reservations made by the Government of Argentina in respect of article VII.

Objection to the reservation made by France and recorded in the procès-verbal of signature of the Convention.

Objection to the reservations made by the Government of Guatemala in respect of articles I, II and III.

Objection to the reservations in respect of articles VII and IX:

[ *Same States as the ones listed under "Canada".* ]

#### PHILIPPINES

Objection to the reservations made by the Government of Albania in respect of articles VII and IX.

Objection to the reservations made by the Government of Romania in respect of articles VII and IX.

#### REPUBLIC OF KOREA

Objection to the reservations made by the Government of Mongolia in respect of articles IV, paragraph 1, and V, paragraph 1.

Objection to the reservations made by the Government of Mongolia in respect of articles IV, paragraph 1, and V, paragraph 1.

#### SERBIA<sup>4</sup>

Objection to the reservations made by the Government of Guatemala, in respect of articles I, II and III, as these reservations "are not in accordance with the principles contained in Article I of the Charter of the United Nations and with the aims of the Convention".

#### SLOVAKIA<sup>5</sup>

#### SWEDEN

Objection to reservations:

[ *Same objections as the ones listed under "Norway".* ]

"In this context the Government of Sweden would like to recall, that under well-established international treaty law, the name assigned to a statement whereby the legal effect of certain provisions of a treaty is excluded or modified, does not determine its status as a reservation to the treaty. Thus, the Government of Sweden considers that the declarations made by the Government of Bangladesh, in the absence of further clarification, in substance constitute reservations to the Convention.

The Government of Sweden notes that the declaration relating to article III is of a general kind, stating that Bangladesh will apply the said article in consonance with the relevant provisions of its Constitution. The Government of Sweden is of the view that this declaration raises doubts as to the commitment of Bangladesh to the object and purpose of the Convention and would recall that, according to well-established international law, a reservation incompatible with the object and purpose of a treaty shall not be permitted.

It is in the common interest of States that treaties to which they have chosen to become parties are respected, as to their object and purpose, by all parties and that States are prepared to undertake any legislative changes necessary to comply with their obligations under those treaties.

For the reasons set out above the Government of Sweden objects to the aforesaid declaration made by the Government of Bangladesh to the Convention on the Political Rights of Women.

This objection does not preclude the entry into force of the Convention between Bangladesh and Sweden. The Convention will thus become operative between the two States without Bangladesh benefiting from the declaration".

## *Territorial Application*

<i>Participant</i>	<i>Date of receipt of the notification</i>	<i>Territories</i>
Netherlands <sup>25</sup>	30 Jul 1971	Suriname
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland <sup>3,26</sup>	24 Feb 1967	Territories under the territorial sovereignty of the United Kingdom, British Solomon Islands Protectorate, State of Brunei, Protectorate of Swaziland, Kingdom of Tonga

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### *Notes:*

<sup>1</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventh Session, Supplement No. 20 (A/2361), p. 27.*

<sup>2</sup> Signed and ratified on behalf of the Republic of China on 9 June 1953 and 21 December 1953, respectively. 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).

In communications addressed to the Secretary-General with reference to the above-mentioned signature and/or ratification, the Permanent Missions to the United Nations of Czechoslovakia, Denmark, India, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Yugoslavia stated that, since their Governments did not recognize the Nationalist Chinese authorities as the Government of China, they could not regard the said signature or ratification as valid. The Permanent Missions of Czechoslovakia and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics further stated that the sole authorities entitled to act for China and the Chinese people in the United Nations and in international relations, and to sign, ratify, accede or denounce treaties, conventions and agreements on behalf of China, were the Government of the People's Republic of China and its duly appointed representatives.

In a note addressed to the Secretary-General, the Permanent Mission of China to the United Nations stated that the Government of the Republic of China was the only legal Government which represented China and the Chinese people in international relations and that, therefore, the allegations made in the above-mentioned communications as to the lack of validity of the signature or ratification in question had no legal foundation whatever.

<sup>3</sup> On 10 June 1997, the Governments of China and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland notified the Secretary-General of the following:

China:

[ *Same notification as the one made under note 6 in chapter V.3.* ]

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland:

[ *Same notification as the one made under note 5 in chapter IV.1.* ]

In addition, the notification made by the Government of China contained the following declaration:

The signature and ratification by the Taiwan authorities in the name of China respectively on 9 June 1953 and 21 December 1953 of the [said Convention] are all illegal and therefore null and void.

<sup>4</sup> The former Yugoslavia had signed and ratified the Convention on 31 March 1953 and 23 June 1954, respectively. The former Yugoslavia had also made the following objection:

Objection to the reservations made by the Government of Guatemala, in respect of articles I, II and III, as these reservations "are not in accordance with the principles contained in Article I of the Charter of the United Nations and with the aims of the Convention".

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>5</sup> Czechoslovakia had signed and ratified the Convention on 31 March 1953 and 6 April 1995, respectively, with reservations, one of which regarding article IX of the Convention, had been withdrawn on 26 April 1991. For the text of the said reservations, see United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 193, p. 157. Subsequently, on 10 June 1974, the Government of Czechoslovakia formulated an objection to the reservation made by Spain. For the text of the objection, see United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 940, p. 340. 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>6</sup> On 14 September 2015, the Government of Ecuador notified the Secretary-General that it had decided to withdraw its reservation made upon signature and confirmed upon ratification, that read as follows:

"The Government of Ecuador signs this Convention subject to a reservation with respect to the last phrase in article I, 'without any discrimination', since article 22 of the Political Constitution of the Republic specifies that "a vote in popular elections is obligatory for a man and optional for a woman".

<sup>7</sup> The German Democratic Republic had acceded to the Convention with reservations and a declaration on 27 March

1973. For the text of the reservations and declaration, see United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 861, p. 203. See note 2 under "Germany" in the "Historical Information" section in the front matter of this volume.

<sup>8</sup> See note 1 under "Germany" regarding Berlin (West) in the "Historical Information" section in the front matter of this volume.

<sup>9</sup> See note 1 under "Montenegro" in the "Historical Information" section in the front matter of this volume.

<sup>10</sup> In a communication received on 10 May 1982, the Government of Solomon Islands declared that Solomon Islands maintains the reservations entered by the United Kingdom save in so far as the same cannot apply to Solomon Islands.

<sup>11</sup> The formality was effected by Democratic Yemen. See also note 1 under "Yemen" in the "Historical Information" section in the front matter of this volume.

<sup>12</sup> On 11 September 2000, the Government of Austria notified the Secretary-General that it had decided to withdraw its reservation to article III made upon ratification. For the text of the reservation, see United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 669, p. 312.

<sup>13</sup> In this regard, the Secretary-General received the following communications on the dates indicated hereinafter:

*Germany (17 December 1999):*

"The Government of the Federal Republic of Germany notes that the declaration with regard to article III of the Convention, application of that article "in consonance with the relevant provisions of the Constitution of Bangladesh", constitutes a reservation of a general nature in respect of a provision of the Convention which may be contrary to the Constitution of Bangladesh.

The Government of the Federal Republic of Germany is of the view that this general reservation raises doubts as to the full commitment of Bangladesh to the object and purpose of the Convention. It is in the common interest of States that treaties to which they have chosen to become Parties are respected, as to their object and purpose, by all Parties and that States are prepared to undertake any legislative changes necessary to comply with their obligations under these treaties.

The Government of the Federal Republic of Germany therefore objects to the reservation made by the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh to the Convention on the Political Rights of Women. This objection does not preclude the entry into force of the Convention between the Federal Republic of Germany and the People's Republic of Bangladesh".

*Netherlands (20 December 1999):*

"The Government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands has examined the declarations made by the Government of Bangladesh at the time of its accession to the Convention on the political rights of women and considers the declaration concerning Article III as a reservation.

The Government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands considers that such a reservation, which seeks to limit the responsibilities of the reserving State under the Convention by invoking national law, may raise doubts as to the commitment of this State to the object and purpose of the Convention and, moreover, contributedetermining the basis of international treaty law.

It is in the common interest of States that treaties to which they have chosen to become parties should be respected, as to object and purpose, by all parties.

The Government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands therefore objects to the aforementioned reservation made by the Government of Bangladesh.

This objection shall not preclude the entry into force of the Convention between the Kingdom of the Netherlands and Bangladesh".

<sup>14</sup> In communications received on 8 March 1989, 19 and 20 April 1989, respectively, the Governments of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic and the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic notified the Secretary-General that they had decided to withdraw the reservation relating to article IX. For the text of the reservations, see United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 193, pp. 170, 154 and 169, respectively.

<sup>15</sup> By notifications received by the Secretary-General on 19 June 1978 and on 14 September 1998, respectively, the Government of Belgium withdrew reservations No. 2 and No. 1 relating to article III of the Convention. For the text of the reservations, see United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 496, p. 353.

<sup>16</sup> On 24 June 1992, the Government of Bulgaria notified the Secretary-General its decision to withdraw the reservation to article IX made upon accession. For the text of the reservation, see United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 193, p. 136.

<sup>17</sup> In a communication received on 26 November 1960, the Government of France gave notice of the withdrawal of the reservation made in the procès-verbal of signature of the Convention. For the text of the reservation, see United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 193, p. 159.

<sup>18</sup> In a communication received on 12 July 2007, the Government of Guatemala notified the Secretary-General that it had decided to withdraw the reservations made upon ratification. The text of the reservations reads as follows: 1. To articles I, II and III shall apply only to female citizens of Guatemala in accordance with the provisions of article 16, paragraph 2 of the Constitution of the Republic. 2. In order to satisfy constitutional requirements, article IX shall be interpreted subject to the provisions of article 149, paragraph 3 (b) of the Constitution of the Republic.

<sup>19</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 with respect to article IX made upon ratification. For the text of the reservation see United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 202, p. 382.

<sup>20</sup> In a communication received on 19 July 1990, the Government of Mongolia notified the Secretary-General of its



decision to withdraw the reservations to articles VI and IX made upon accession. For the text of the reservations, see United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 543, p. 362.

<sup>21</sup> On 17 December 1985, the Secretary-General received from the Government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands a notification of withdrawal of its reservation (the reservation concerned the succession to the Crown) relating to article III of the Convention made upon ratification. For the text of the said reservation, see United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 790, p. 130.

<sup>22</sup> On 16 October 1997, the Government of Poland notified the Secretary-General that it had decided to withdraw its reservation with regard to article 9 of the Convention made upon ratification. For the text of the reservation see United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 196, p. 365.

<sup>23</sup> On 2 April 1997, the Government of Romania informed the Secretary-General that it had decided to withdraw its reservation with regard to article IX. For the text of the reservation, see United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 196, p. 363.

<sup>24</sup> The Secretary-General received the following communications from the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland on the dates indicated hereinafter:

( 12 February 1968 ):

Withdrawal of the reservation contained in sub-paragraph (e), in respect of the Bahamas, as formulated upon accession.

( 15 October 1974 ):

Withdrawal of the reservation contained in sub-paragraph (f) (employment of married women in Her Majesty's Diplomatic Service and in the Civil Service) in respect of the territories where the reservation was still applicable, that is to say: Northern Ireland, Antigua, Hong Kong and St. Lucia. The same reservation had been withdrawn in respect of St. Vincent by a notification received on 24 November 1967.

On that same date, withdrawal of the reservation contained in sub-paragraph (e) in respect of the Seychelles, to which the said reservation applied originally.

( 4 January 1995 ):

Withdrawal of the reservations contained in sub-paragraph (e) in respect of the Isle of Man and Montserrat; in sub-paragraph (g) in respect of Gibraltar; and sub-paragraph (h) in respect of Bailiff in Guernsey.

<sup>25</sup> See note 1 under "Netherlands" regarding Aruba/Netherlands Antilles in the "Historical Information" section in the front matter of this volume.

<sup>26</sup> For the reservations to article III of the Convention in its application to certain territories, and for the reservations regarding the application of the Convention to the Colony of Aden and to Rhodesia, see "United Kingdom" under "Declarations and Reservations".

