

**10. UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION IN THOSE COUNTRIES EXPERIENCING SERIOUS DROUGHT AND/OR DESERTIFICATION, PARTICULARLY IN AFRICA**

*Paris, 14 October 1994*

**ENTRY INTO FORCE:** 26 December 1996, in accordance with article 36(1).

**REGISTRATION:** 26 December 1996, No. 33480.

**STATUS:** Signatories: 114. Parties: 197.<sup>1</sup>

**TEXT:** United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1954, p. 3; depositary notification C.N.176.1995.TREATIES-6 of 27 July 1995 (procès-verbal of rectification of the authentic Chinese text); C.N.513.2000.TREATIES-9 of 19 July 2000 (procès-verbal of rectification of the authentic russian text); C.N.1490.2000.TREATIES-16 of 6 March 2001 (adoption of annex V) and C.N.866.2001.TREATIES-5 of 17 September 2001 (Entry into force of Annex V)<sup>2</sup>.

*Note:* The Convention was adopted on 17 June 1994 by the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for the elaboration of an international convention to combat desertification in those countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa (established pursuant to [resolution 47/188](#)<sup>3</sup> of the General Assembly dated 22 December 1992), during its Fifth session held at Paris. The Convention was open for signature at Paris by all States and regional economic integration organizations on 14 and 15 October 1994. Thereafter, it remained open for signature at the United Nations Headquarters in New York until 13 October 1995.

<i>Participant</i>	<i>Signature</i>	<i>Ratification, Accession(a), Acceptance(A)</i>	<i>Participant</i>	<i>Signature</i>	<i>Ratification, Accession(a), Acceptance(A)</i>
Afghanistan.....		1 Nov 1995 a	Botswana .....	12 Oct 1995	11 Sep 1996
Albania.....		27 Apr 2000 a	Brazil .....	14 Oct 1994	25 Jun 1997
Algeria .....	14 Oct 1994	22 May 1996	Brunei Darussalam .....		4 Dec 2002 a
Andorra.....		15 Jul 2002 a	Bulgaria .....		21 Feb 2001 a
Angola .....	14 Oct 1994	30 Jun 1997	Burkina Faso.....	14 Oct 1994	26 Jan 1996
Antigua and Barbuda.....	4 Apr 1995	6 Jun 1997	Burundi .....	14 Oct 1994	6 Jan 1997
Argentina .....	15 Oct 1994	6 Jan 1997	Cabo Verde.....	14 Oct 1994	8 May 1995
Armenia .....	14 Oct 1994	2 Jul 1997	Cambodia.....	15 Oct 1994	18 Aug 1997
Australia.....	14 Oct 1994	15 May 2000	Cameroon.....	14 Oct 1994	29 May 1997
Austria .....		2 Jun 1997 a	Canada <sup>4</sup> .....		21 Dec 2016 a
Azerbaijan.....		10 Aug 1998 a	Central African Republic .....	14 Oct 1994	5 Sep 1996
Bahamas.....		10 Nov 2000 a	Chad.....	14 Oct 1994	27 Sep 1996
Bahrain.....		14 Jul 1997 a	Chile.....	3 Mar 1995	11 Nov 1997
Bangladesh.....	14 Oct 1994	26 Jan 1996	China.....	14 Oct 1994	18 Feb 1997
Barbados .....		14 May 1997 a	Colombia .....	14 Oct 1994	8 Jun 1999
Belarus .....		29 Aug 2001 a	Comoros.....	14 Oct 1994	3 Mar 1998
Belgium .....		30 Jun 1997 a	Congo.....	15 Oct 1994	12 Jul 1999
Belize.....		23 Jul 1998 a	Cook Islands .....		21 Aug 1998 a
Benin.....	14 Oct 1994	29 Aug 1996	Costa Rica.....	15 Oct 1994	5 Jan 1998
Bhutan.....		20 Aug 2003 a	Côte d'Ivoire .....	15 Oct 1994	4 Mar 1997
Bolivia (Plurinational State of).....	14 Oct 1994	1 Aug 1996	Croatia .....	15 Oct 1994	6 Oct 2000 A
Bosnia and Herzegovina .....		26 Aug 2002 a	Cuba.....	15 Oct 1994	13 Mar 1997
			Cyprus.....		29 Mar 2000 a

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Czech Republic.....		25 Jan 2000 a	Japan .....	14 Oct 1994	11 Sep 1998 A
Democratic People's Republic of Korea....		29 Dec 2003 a	Jordan.....	13 Apr 1995	21 Oct 1996
Democratic Republic of the Congo.....	14 Oct 1994	12 Sep 1997	Kazakhstan.....	14 Oct 1994	9 Jul 1997
Denmark .....	15 Oct 1994	22 Dec 1995	Kenya.....	14 Oct 1994	24 Jun 1997
Djibouti.....	15 Oct 1994	12 Jun 1997	Kiribati.....		8 Sep 1998 a
Dominica .....		8 Dec 1997 a	Kuwait .....	22 Sep 1995	27 Jun 1997
Dominican Republic.....		26 Jun 1997 a	Kyrgyzstan.....		19 Sep 1997 a
Ecuador.....	19 Jan 1995	6 Sep 1995	Lao People's Democratic Republic.....	30 Aug 1995	20 Sep 1996 A
Egypt.....	14 Oct 1994	7 Jul 1995	Latvia.....		21 Oct 2002 a
El Salvador .....		27 Jun 1997 a	Lebanon .....	14 Oct 1994	16 May 1996
Equatorial Guinea.....	14 Oct 1994	27 Jun 1997	Lesotho .....	15 Oct 1994	12 Sep 1995
Eritrea .....	14 Oct 1994	14 Aug 1996	Liberia.....		2 Mar 1998 a
Estonia .....		8 Feb 2012 a	Libya.....	15 Oct 1994	22 Jul 1996
Eswatini .....	27 Jul 1995	7 Oct 1996	Liechtenstein.....		29 Dec 1999 a
Ethiopia.....	15 Oct 1994	27 Jun 1997	Lithuania.....		25 Jul 2003 a
European Union.....	14 Oct 1994	26 Mar 1998	Luxembourg.....	14 Oct 1994	4 Feb 1997
Fiji .....		26 Aug 1998 a	Madagascar.....	14 Oct 1994	25 Jun 1997
Finland.....	15 Oct 1994	20 Sep 1995 A	Malawi.....	17 Jan 1995	13 Jun 1996
France .....	14 Oct 1994	12 Jun 1997	Malaysia.....	6 Oct 1995	25 Jun 1997
Gabon.....		6 Sep 1996 a	Maldives .....		3 Sep 2002 a
Gambia.....	14 Oct 1994	11 Jun 1996	Mali.....	15 Oct 1994	31 Oct 1995
Georgia .....	15 Oct 1994	23 Jul 1999	Malta.....	15 Oct 1994	30 Jan 1998
Germany .....	14 Oct 1994	10 Jul 1996	Marshall Islands.....		2 Jun 1998 a
Ghana.....	15 Oct 1994	27 Dec 1996	Mauritania.....	14 Oct 1994	7 Aug 1996
Greece.....	14 Oct 1994	5 May 1997	Mauritius.....	17 Mar 1995	23 Jan 1996
Grenada.....		28 May 1997 a	Mexico .....	15 Oct 1994	3 Apr 1995
Guatemala.....		10 Sep 1998 a	Micronesia (Federated States of).....	12 Dec 1994	25 Mar 1996
Guinea.....	14 Oct 1994	23 Jun 1997	Monaco .....		5 Mar 1999 a
Guinea-Bissau.....	15 Oct 1994	27 Oct 1995	Mongolia.....	15 Oct 1994	3 Sep 1996
Guyana.....		26 Jun 1997 a	Montenegro.....		4 Jun 2007 a
Haiti .....	15 Oct 1994	25 Sep 1996	Morocco.....	15 Oct 1994	7 Nov 1996
Honduras.....	22 Feb 1995	25 Jun 1997	Mozambique.....	28 Sep 1995	13 Mar 1997
Hungary .....		13 Jul 1999 a	Myanmar.....		2 Jan 1997 a
Iceland .....		3 Jun 1997 a	Namibia .....	24 Oct 1994	16 May 1997
India.....	14 Oct 1994	17 Dec 1996	Nauru .....		22 Sep 1998 a
Indonesia.....	15 Oct 1994	31 Aug 1998	Nepal.....	12 Oct 1995	15 Oct 1996
Iran (Islamic Republic of).....	14 Oct 1994	29 Apr 1997	Netherlands <sup>5</sup> .....	15 Oct 1994	27 Jun 1995 A
Iraq.....		28 May 2010 a	New Zealand <sup>6</sup> .....		7 Sep 2000 a
Ireland.....	15 Oct 1994	31 Jul 1997	Nicaragua.....	21 Nov 1994	17 Feb 1998
Israel .....	14 Oct 1994	26 Mar 1996	Niger .....	14 Oct 1994	19 Jan 1996
Italy.....	14 Oct 1994	23 Jun 1997	Nigeria .....	31 Oct 1994	8 Jul 1997
Jamaica .....		12 Nov 1997 a	Niue .....		14 Aug 1998 a

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North Macedonia .....		6 Mar 2002 a	St. Lucia.....		2 Jul 1997 a
Norway .....	15 Oct 1994	30 Aug 1996	St. Vincent and the Grenadines .....	15 Oct 1994	16 Mar 1998
Oman .....		23 Jul 1996 a	State of Palestine .....		29 Dec 2017 a
Pakistan.....	15 Oct 1994	24 Feb 1997	Sudan .....	15 Oct 1994	24 Nov 1995
Palau .....		15 Jun 1999 a	Suriname.....		1 Jun 2000 a
Panama.....	22 Feb 1995	4 Apr 1996	Sweden.....	15 Oct 1994	12 Dec 1995
Papua New Guinea .....		6 Dec 2000 a	Switzerland .....	14 Oct 1994	19 Jan 1996
Paraguay .....	1 Dec 1994	15 Jan 1997	Syrian Arab Republic ....	15 Oct 1994	10 Jun 1997
Peru.....	15 Oct 1994	9 Nov 1995	Tajikistan .....		16 Jul 1997 a
Philippines .....	8 Dec 1994	10 Feb 2000	Thailand.....		7 Mar 2001 a
Poland .....		14 Nov 2001 a	Timor-Leste .....		20 Aug 2003 a
Portugal.....	14 Oct 1994	1 Apr 1996	Togo.....	15 Oct 1994	4 Oct 1995 A
Qatar .....		15 Mar 1999 a	Tonga.....		25 Sep 1998 a
Republic of Korea.....	14 Oct 1994	17 Aug 1999	Trinidad and Tobago .....		8 Jun 2000 a
Republic of Moldova.....		10 Mar 1999 a	Tunisia .....	14 Oct 1994	11 Oct 1995
Romania.....		19 Aug 1998 a	Türkiye.....	14 Oct 1994	31 Mar 1998
Russian Federation .....		29 May 2003 a	Turkmenistan.....	27 Mar 1995	18 Sep 1996
Rwanda .....	22 Jun 1995	22 Oct 1998	Tuvalu.....		14 Sep 1998 a
Samoa .....		21 Aug 1998 a	Uganda.....	21 Nov 1994	25 Jun 1997
San Marino .....		23 Jul 1999 a	Ukraine .....		27 Aug 2002 a
Sao Tome and Principe..	4 Oct 1995	8 Jul 1998	United Arab Emirates ....		21 Oct 1998 a
Saudi Arabia .....		25 Jun 1997 a	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland <sup>7</sup> .....	14 Oct 1994	18 Oct 1996
Senegal.....	14 Oct 1994	26 Jul 1995	United Republic of Tanzania.....	14 Oct 1994	19 Jun 1997
Serbia.....		18 Dec 2007 a	United States of America.....	14 Oct 1994	17 Nov 2000
Seychelles .....	14 Oct 1994	26 Jun 1997	Uruguay .....		17 Feb 1999 a
Sierra Leone.....	11 Nov 1994	25 Sep 1997	Uzbekistan .....	7 Dec 1994	31 Oct 1995
Singapore.....		26 Apr 1999 a	Vanuatu.....	28 Sep 1995	10 Aug 1999
Slovakia .....		7 Jan 2002 a	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) .....		29 Jun 1998 a
Slovenia .....		28 Jun 2001 a	Viet Nam.....		25 Aug 1998 a
Solomon Islands .....		16 Apr 1999 a	Yemen.....		14 Jan 1997 a
Somalia .....		24 Jul 2002 a	Zambia .....	15 Oct 1994	19 Sep 1996
South Africa.....	9 Jan 1995	30 Sep 1997	Zimbabwe .....	15 Oct 1994	23 Sep 1997
South Sudan.....		17 Feb 2014 a			
Spain .....	14 Oct 1994	30 Jan 1996			
Sri Lanka.....		9 Dec 1998 a			
St. Kitts and Nevis .....		30 Jun 1997 a			

**Declarations**  
(Unless otherwise indicated, the declarations were made upon ratification,  
accession or acceptance.)

**ALGERIA**

The People's Democratic Republic of Algeria does not consider itself bound by the provisions of article 28,

paragraph 2, of the [said Convention], to the effect that any dispute must be submitted to the International Court of Justice.

The People's Democratic Republic of Algeria declares that for a dispute submitted to the International Court of Justice, the consent of both parties will be necessary in each case.

#### AUSTRIA

"The Republic of Austria declares in accordance with article 28 of the Convention that it accepts both of the means of dispute in paragraph 2 as compulsory in relation to any Party accepting an obligation concerning one or both of these means of dispute settlement."

#### ESTONIA

"In accordance with paragraph 4 of Article 34 of the Convention, any additional regional implementation annex or an amendment to any regional implementation annex shall enter into force with respect to the Republic of Estonia only upon the deposit of its instrument of approval of such annex or amendment with the Depositary."

#### GUATEMALA

The Republic of Guatemala declares that, in respect of any dispute concerning the interpretation or application of the Convention, it recognizes arbitration in accordance with procedures adopted by the Conference of the Parties in an annex as soon as practicable as a means of dispute settlement, compulsory in relation to any Party accepting the same obligation. This declaration shall remain in force until three months after written notice of its revocation has been deposited with the Depositary.

#### KUWAIT

With respect to the State of Kuwait, any additional regional implementation annex or any amendment to any regional implementation annex shall enter into force only upon the deposit of its instrument of ratification or accession with respect thereto.

#### NETHERLANDS

"The Kingdom of the Netherlands declares, in accordance with paragraph 2 of article 28 of [the said Convention] that it accepts both means of dispute settlement referred to in that paragraph as compulsory in relation to any Party accepting one or both of these means of dispute settlement."

#### NEW ZEALAND

"Any additional regional implementation annex or any amendment to any regional implementation annex to the Convention shall enter into force for New Zealand only upon the Government of New Zealand's deposit of its instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession with respect thereto."

#### UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

" (1) Foreign assistance.-- The United States understands that, as a "developed country," pursuant to Article 6 of the Convention and its Annexes, it is not obligated to satisfy specific funding requirements or other specific requirements regarding the provision of any resource, including technology, to any "affected country," as defined in Article 1 of the Convention. The United States understands that ratification of the Convention does not alter its domestic legal processes to determine foreign assistance funding or programs.

(2) Financial resources and mechanism.-- The United States understands that neither Article 20 nor Article 21 of the Convention impose obligations to provide specific levels of funding for the Global Environmental Facility, or the Global Mechanism, to carry out the objectives of the Convention, or for any other purpose.

(3) United States land management.-- The United States understands that it is a "developed country party" as defined in Article 1 of the Convention, and that it is not required to prepare a national action program pursuant to Part III, Section 1, of the Convention. The United States also understands that no changes to its existing land management practices and programs will be required to meet its obligations under Articles 4 or 5 of the Convention.

(4) Legal process for amending the Convention.-- In accordance with Article 34 (4), any additional regional implementation annex to the Convention or any amendment to any regional implementation annex to the Convention shall enter into force for the United States only upon the deposit of a corresponding instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession.

(5) Dispute settlement.-- The United States declines to accept as compulsory either of the dispute settlement means set out in Article 28(2), and understands that it will not be bound by the outcome, findings, conclusions or recommendations of a conciliation process initiated under Article 28 (6). For any dispute arising from this Convention, the United States does not recognize or accept the jurisdiction of the International Court of Justice."

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#### Notes:

<sup>1</sup> For the purpose of entry into force of the [Convention/Protocol], any instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession deposited by a regional economic integration organization shall not be counted as additional to those deposited by member States of that Organization.

<sup>2</sup> At the fourth session of the Conference of the Parties to the above Convention, held in Bonn, Germany, from 11 to 22 December 2000, the Regional Implementation Annex for Central and Eastern Europe to the above Convention (Annex V) was adopted by decision 7/COP.4 of 22 December 2000 (12th Plenary meeting).

None of the Parties having submitted a notification in accordance with the provisions of article 31(3) (a) or a declaration in accordance with the provisions of article 31 (3) (b) of the Convention, the adoption of annex V became effective for all Parties to the Convention on the expiry of six months from the date of its notification ( 6 March 2001) in accordance with paragraph 3 of article 31, i.e. on 6 September 2001.

<sup>3</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 49 (A/47/49) (Vol.I), p. 137.*

<sup>4</sup> Canada had signed the Convention on 14 October 1994 and had ratified it subsequently on 1 December 1995. Thereafter, on 28 March 2013, in accordance with its article 38

(2), the Government of Canada had notified the Secretary-General of its decision to withdraw from the Convention. The withdrawal took effect on 28 March 2014.

On 21 December 2016, Canada deposited with the Secretary-General an instrument of accession to the Convention.

<sup>5</sup> For the Kingdom in Europe.

<sup>6</sup> With a declaration to the effect that “consistent with the constitutional status of Tokelau and taking into account its commitment to the development of self-government through an act of self-determination under the Charter of the United Nations, this ratification shall not extend to Tokelau unless and until a Declaration to this effect is lodged by the Government of New Zealand with the Depositary on the basis of appropriate consultation with that territory.”

<sup>7</sup> For the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the British Virgin Islands, St. Helena and Ascension Island. Subsequently, on 24 December 1996, the Government of the United Kingdom notified the Secretary-General that the Convention would apply to Montserrat.

