

No. 24380

MULTILATERAL

Inter-American Convention on facilitation of international waterborne transportation (Convention of Mar del Plata). Concluded at Mar del Plata, Argentina, on 7 June 1963

Authentic texts: Spanish, English, Portuguese and French.

Registered by the Organization of American States on 23 October 1986.

MULTILATÉRAL

Convention interaméricaine visant à faciliter les transports internationaux par navigation maritime ou intérieure (Convention de Mar del Plata). Conclue à Mar del Plata (Argentine) le 7 juin 1963

Textes authentiques : espagnol, anglais, portugais et français.

Enregistrée par l'Organisation des États américains le 23 octobre 1986.

INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION¹ ON FACILITATION OF INTERNATIONAL WATERBORNE TRANSPORTATION (CON- VENTION OF MAR DEL PLATA)

The Contracting States, inspired by the Charter of Punta del Este² and by the Declaration of San José on the Principles on the Development, Administration and Operation of Ports in the Americas, and with a view to facilitating international waterborne transportation in the Western Hemisphere by reducing to a minimum the formalities, documentary requirements and procedures for the entry and clearance of vessels and the treatment of their passengers, crews, cargo and baggage, have agreed as follows:

Article 1. Each Contracting State agrees to adopt all practicable measures, through the issuance of special regulations or otherwise, to facilitate and expedite waterborne transportation between the territories of the Contracting States, and to prevent unnecessary delays to vessels, passengers, crews, cargo and baggage in the administration of the laws relating to immigration, public health, customs, and other provisions relative to arrivals and departures of vessels.

Article 2. Each Contracting State undertakes, so far as it may find practicable, to establish appropriate procedures and legal provisions on immigration, public health, customs and other matters relative to arrivals and departures of vessels, in accordance with the standards and recommended practices which may be established from time to time, pursuant to this Convention. Nothing in this Convention shall be construed as preventing the establishment of customs-free ports or free zones.

Article 3. Each Contracting State undertakes to collaborate in securing the highest practicable degree of uniformity in appropriate procedures and legal

¹ Came into force on 11 January 1981, i.e., the thirtieth day following the date of deposit with the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States of the eleventh instrument of ratification or adherence, in accordance with article 9:

<i>State</i>	<i>Date of deposit of the instrument of ratification or adherence (a)</i>	
Chile*	16 June	1975
Costa Rica	22 January	1970
Dominican Republic	9 November	1978
Ecuador	29 November	1979 <i>a</i>
Guatemala	12 December	1980 <i>a</i>
Mexico	22 July	1970
Panama	23 March	1971
Paraguay	23 January	1968
Peru*	15 January	1979
United States of America	20 March	1967
Uruguay	21 September	1970

* See p. 189 of this volume for the text of the reservations and declaration made upon ratification.

Subsequently, the Convention came into force for the following state on the thirtieth day after deposit of its instrument of ratification with the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States, in accordance with article 9:

<i>State</i>	<i>Date of deposit of the instrument of ratification</i>	
Argentina	22 September	1982

(With effect from 22 October 1982.)

² United States of America: *Department of State Bulletin*, 11 September 1961, p. 463.

provisions in relation to the entry and clearance of vessels and the treatment of passengers, crews, cargo and baggage in all matters in which such uniformity will facilitate and improve international waterborne transportation.

Article 4. (a) To these ends, the Inter-American Port and Harbor Conference of the Organization of American States shall, from time to time, when necessary, adopt and amend inter-American standards and recommended practices dealing with all matters relating to formalities, requirements and procedures relevant to the efficient and economic entry and clearance of vessels, and the expeditious and appropriate treatment of their passengers, crews, cargo and baggage.

(b) A Group of Experts from the governments of the Contracting States, established within the Permanent Technical Committee on Ports, attached to the Inter-American Economic and Social Council, shall, from time to time, when necessary, study and propose standards and recommended practices through the Committee to the Inter-American Port and Harbor Conference.

Article 5. (a) The adoption by the Inter-American Port and Harbor Conference of the standards and recommended practices and amendments thereto, as provided in paragraph (a) of Article 4 hereof shall require the affirmative vote of two thirds of the accredited delegations of the Contracting States present at the Conference.

(b) The standards and recommended practices adopted, and any amendment thereto, shall enter into force three months after submission to the Contracting States, unless the date of the entry into force is extended by the Conference or unless, in the meantime, a majority of the Contracting States notify their disapproval to the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States.

(c) The standards and recommended practices, and amendments thereto, shall constitute an Annex to the present Convention upon their entry into force, subject to the provisions of Article 6.

(d) The General Secretariat shall notify each of the Contracting States of the date of entry into force of the standards and recommended practices and of any amendment thereto.

Article 6. (a) Any State which finds it impracticable to comply with any inter-American standard or to bring its own regulations or practices into full accord with any such standard after amendment of the latter, or which deems it necessary to adopt regulations or practices differing from those established by an inter-American standard, shall give immediate notification to the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States of the differences between its own regulations or practices and those established by the inter-American standard.

(b) In the case of amendments to inter-American standards, any Contracting State which does not make the appropriate amendments to its own regulations or practices shall give notice to the General Secretariat within sixty days of the adoption of the amendment to the inter-American standard, or indicate the action which it proposes to take.

(c) In any such case, the General Secretariat shall notify all other States of the difference which exists between one or more features of an inter-American standard and the corresponding national practice of that State.

Article 7. The present Convention shall be open for signature or adherence by the member states of the Organization of American States or any other state to which an invitation to sign or adhere has been transmitted at the direction of the Council of the Organization of American States.

Article 8. (a) The original instrument, the English, French, Portuguese, and Spanish texts of which are equally authentic, shall be deposited with the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States, which shall transmit certified copies to each of the governments of the signatory States for ratification.

(b) The present Convention shall be subject to ratification by the signatory States in accordance with their respective constitutional procedures. The instruments of ratification and instruments of adherence shall be deposited with the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States, which shall notify each of the governments of the signatory States and each of the governments of the adhering States of the said deposit.

Article 9. The present Convention shall come into force on the thirtieth day following the date of deposit of the eleventh instrument of ratification or adherence with the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States. For each State ratifying or adhering to the Convention after the deposit of the eleventh instrument of ratification or adherence, the Convention shall enter into force on the thirtieth day after deposit by such State of its instrument of ratification or adherence.

Article 10. The task of providing continuity in the implementation of this Convention, including periodic review of the standards and recommended practices, shall be entrusted to the Permanent Technical Committee on Ports. On its own initiative, or at the suggestion of a Contracting State, the Committee shall direct the Group of Experts to which reference is made in paragraph *(b)* of Article 4 hereof to study the desirability and feasibility of any proposed amendment to the Annex referred to in paragraph *(c)* of Article 5 and make recommendations thereon. Should the consideration and study of any amendments to this Convention be of interest to the Inter-American Travel Congresses or the Pan American Highway Congresses, they shall be consulted.

Article 11. The adoption of any amendment to this Convention shall require the affirmative vote in an Inter-American Port and Harbor Conference of two thirds of the accredited delegations of the Contracting States present and shall then come into force in respect of States which have ratified such amendment in accordance with their respective constitutional procedures 30 days after there has been deposited in the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States the number of ratifications specified for this purpose by the Conference.

Article 12. (a) The present Convention may be denounced by any Contracting State at any time after the expiration of four years from the date on which the Convention comes into force for that State.

(b) Denunciation shall be effected by a notification in writing addressed to the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States which shall notify all the other Contracting States of any denunciation received and of the date of its receipt.

(c) A denunciation shall take effect one year, or such longer period as may be specified in the notification, after its receipt by the General Secretariat of the Organization.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the undersigned Plenipotentiaries, being duly authorized by their respective governments for that purpose, have signed the present Convention. Done at Mar del Plata, the seventh day of June of nineteen hundred and sixty-three.

[For the signature pages, see p. 184 of this volume.]

Por Panamá:
Pour le Panama :
For Panama:
Pelo Panamá:

[*Signed — Signé*]

HUMBERTO CALAMARI G.
26 de enero de 1965¹
Washington, D.C.

Por El Salvador:
Pour El Salvador :
For El Salvador:
Por El Salvador:

Por México:
Pour le Mexique :
For Mexico:
Pelo México:

[*Signed — Signé*]

RAFAEL DE LA COLINA
15 de abril de 1969²
Ad referendum

Por Venezuela:
Pour le Venezuela :
For Venezuela:
Pela Venezuela:

Por Bolivia:
Pour la Bolivie :
For Bolivia:
Pela Bolívia:

[*Signed — Signé*]

EDUARDO ARZE QUIROGA
Mar del Plata, República Argentina, el 7 de junio de
1963
Mar del Plata, République Argentine, le 7 juin 1963
Mar del Plata, Argentine Republic, June 7, 1963
Mar del Plata, República Argentina, em 7 de junho de
1963

¹ 26 January 1965 — 26 janvier 1965.

² 15 April 1969 — 15 avril 1969.

Por los Estados Unidos de América:
Pour les États-Unis d'Amérique :
For the United States of America:
Pelos Estados Unidos da América:

[Signed — Signé]

HOWARD J. MARSDEN

Mar del Plata, República Argentina, el 7 de junio de 1963

Mar del Plata, République Argentine, le 7 juin 1963

Mar del Plata, Argentine Republic, June 7, 1963

Mar del Plata, República Argentina, em 7 de junho de 1963

Por el Paraguay:
Pour le Paraguay :
For Paraguay:
Pelo Paraguai:

[Signed — Signé]

MIGUEL ANGEL GUTIERREZ

Mar del Plata, República Argentina, el 7 de junio de 1963

Mar del Plata, République Argentine, le 7 juin 1963

Mar del Plata, Argentine Republic, June 7, 1963

Mar del Plata, República Argentina, em 7 de junho de 1963

Por el Perú:
Pour le Pérou :
For Peru:
Pelo Peru:

[Signed — Signé]

Contralmirante JORGE BARREJO

Mar del Plata, República Argentina, el 7 de junio de 1963

Mar del Plata, République Argentine, le 7 juin 1963

Mar del Plata, Argentine Republic, June 7, 1963

Mar del Plata, República Argentina, em 7 de junho de 1963

Por Nicaragua:
Pour le Nicaragua :
For Nicaragua:
Pela Nicarágua:

Por Chile:
 Pour le Chili :
 For Chile:
 Pelo Chile:

[*Signed — Signé*]

ANDRÉS AVENDAÑO FUENZALIDA¹
 Mar del Plata, República Argentina, el 7 de junio de
 1963

Mar del Plata, République Argentine, le 7 juin 1963
 Mar del Plata, Argentine Republic, June 7, 1963
 Mar del Plata, República Argentina, em 7 de junho de
 1963

Por el Brasil:
 Pour le Brésil :
 For Brazil:
 Pelo Brasil:

Por la República Dominicana:
 Pour la République dominicaine :
 For the Dominican Republic:
 Pela República Dominicana:

[*Signed — Signé*]

ENRIQUILLO A. DEL ROSARIO
 16 enero 1970²
 Wash., D.C.

Por el Uruguay:
 Pour l'Uruguay :
 For Uruguay:
 Pelo Uruguai:

[*Signed — Signé*]

DANIEL MÉNDEZ SCHIAFFINO
 Mar del Plata, República Argentina, el 7 de junio de
 1963

Mar del Plata, République Argentine, le 7 juin 1963
 Mar del Plata, Argentine Republic, June 7, 1963
 Mar del Plata, República Argentina, em 7 de junho de
 1963

¹ See p. 189 of this volume for the text of the reservation and declaration made upon signature — Voir p. 189 du présent volume pour le texte de la réserve et de la déclaration faites lors de la signature.

² 16 January 1970 — 16 janvier 1970.

Por Costa Rica:
Pour le Costa Rica :
For Costa Rica:
Por Costa Rica:

[*Signed — Signé*]

CARLOS LUIS MORA MORA

Mar del Plata, República Argentina, el 7 de junio de
1963

Mar del Plata, République Argentine, le 7 juin 1963

Mar del Plata, Argentine Republic, June 7, 1963

Mar del Plata, República Argentina, em 7 de junho de
1963

Por Honduras:
Pour le Honduras :
For Honduras:
Por Honduras:

[*Signed — Signé*]

RICARDO A. MIDENCE

Marzo 24, 1965¹

Washington, D.C.

Por Guatemala:
Pour le Guatemala :
For Guatemala:
Pela Guatemala:

Por Colombia:
Pour la Colombie :
For Colombia:
Pela Colômbia:

[*Signed — Signé*]

ALVARO DUGAND DELGADO

Mar del Plata, República Argentina, el 7 de junio de
1963

Mar del Plata, République Argentine, le 7 juin 1963

Mar del Plata, Argentine Republic, June 7, 1963

Mar del Plata, República Argentina, em 7 de junho de
1963

¹ 24 March 1965 — 24 mars 1965.

Por Haïti:
 Pour Haïti :
 For Haiti:
 Pelo Haiti:

[Signed — Signé]

FERN BAGUIDY
 Washington, D.C., le 16 mars 1967

Déclaration de la Délégation d'Haïti :

En signant la présente Convention, la République d'Haïti fait ses réserves d'étendre, en vertu d'Accords bilatéraux ou multilatéraux en vigueur, le bénéfice du traitement de la Nation la plus favorisée en matière de normes et de procédures relatives au transport maritime international.

La même réserve est faite quant à la Déclaration de ladite Convention estimant que celle-ci n'affecte en rien d'autres accords concernant le transport maritime international¹.

Por el Ecuador:
 Pour l'Equateur :
 For Ecuador:
 Pelo Ecuador:

Por la República Argentina:
 Pour la République Argentine :
 For the Argentine Republic:
 Pela República Argentina:

[Signed — Signé]

JORGE E. PARREN

Mar del Plata, República Argentina, el 7 de junio de 1963

Mar del Plata, République Argentine, le 7 juin 1963

Mar del Plata, Argentine Republic, June 7, 1963

Mar del Plata, República Argentina, em 7 de junho de 1963

¹ [Translation* — Traduction**] Washington, D.C., 16 March 1967. Declaration by the Delegation of Haiti: In signing the present Convention, the Republic of Haiti reserves the right to extend the benefit of most-favored-nation treatment with respect to international maritime transportation standards and procedures in virtue of bilateral or multilateral agreements in force.

Reservation is also made to the text of the said Convention, considering that it in no way affects other agreements concerning international maritime transportation.

* Translation supplied by the Organization of American States.

** Traduction fournie par l'Organisation des Etats américains.

RESERVATION AND DECLARATION
MADE UPON SIGNATURERÉSERVE ET DÉCLARATION
FAITES LORS DE LA SIGNATURE

CHILE

CHILI

[SPANISH TEXT — TEXTE ESPAGNOL]

“Chile suscribe el presente Convenio con la reserva de aplicar, en virtud de convenios bilaterales o multilaterales vigentes, un tratamiento más favorable en materia de normas y procedimientos relativos al transporte marítimo internacional.

La Delegación de Chile declara, al suscribir el Convenio sobre Facilitación del Transporte Acuático Internacional (Convenio de Mar del Plata), que estima que éste en nada afecta otros convenios relativos al transporte marítimo internacional, que continuarán en plena vigencia y aplicación.”

[TRANSLATION]¹[TRADUCTION]¹

While signing the present Convention, Chile reserves the right to apply a more favorable treatment with respect to international maritime transportation regulations and procedures in virtue of existing bilateral or multilateral agreements.

On signing the Inter-American Convention on the Facilitation of International Waterborne Transportation (Convention of Mar del Plata), the Delegation of Chile declares that it believes that this Convention in no way affects other conventions on international waterborne transportation, which remain in full force and will continue to be applied.

Le Chili signe la présente Convention sous réserve d'appliquer, en vertu d'accords bilatéraux ou multilatéraux en vigueur, un traitement plus favorable en matière de normes et de procédés concernant le transport maritime international.

La Délégation du Chili déclare, en signant la Convention interaméricaine visant à faciliter les Transports internationaux par Navigation maritime ou intérieure (Convention de Mar del Plata), qu'elle estime que celle-ci n'affecte en rien d'autres accords relatifs au transport maritime international, lesquels demeureront pleinement en vigueur et continueront d'être appliqués.

RESERVATIONS AND DECLARATION
MADE UPON RATIFICATIONRÉSERVES ET DÉCLARATION
FAITES LORS DE LA RATIFICATION

CHILE

CHILI

[*Confirming the reservation and declaration made upon signature. See above.*]

[*Avec confirmation de la réserve et de la déclaration faites lors de la signature. Voir ci-dessus.*]

¹ Translation supplied by the Organization of American States.

¹ Traduction fournie par l'Organisation des Etats américains.

*PERU**PÉROU*

[SPANISH TEXT — TEXTE ESPAGNOL]

“Conceder en virtud de los tratados vigentes una aplicación más favorable en materia de normas y procedimientos relativos al transporte marítimo internacional.”

[TRANSLATION]¹

To grant more favorable application of the standards and procedures related to international maritime transportation, under the terms of the treaties in force.

[TRADUCTION]¹

Concéder en vertu des traités en vigueur une application plus favorable en matière de normes de procédures relatives au transport maritime international.

¹ Translation supplied by the Organization of American States.

¹ Traduction fournie par l'Organisation des Etats américains.