

No. 9262. INTERNATIONAL COFFEE AGREEMENT, 1968. OPEN FOR SIGNATURE AT NEW YORK FROM 18 TO 31 MARCH 1968<sup>1</sup>

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## ACCESSIONS

*Instrument deposited on:*

31 December 1969

BELGIUM

With the following declaration:

[TRANSLATION — TRADUCTION]

At the 11th meeting of the Council of the International Coffee Organization, the members of the group of consumer countries jointly expressed the view that member countries, while respecting their obligations under the International Coffee Agreement, should take the greatest possible care not to interfere with the freedom to choose the vessel in which coffee is transported.

The policy of the Belgian Government with respect to the transport of goods by sea is based on the principle which ensures the free movement of the merchant fleet in international trade, through free and fair competition. In accordance with this principle, the international transport of coffee should not be complicated or obstructed by discriminatory merchant shipping arrangements that give preference to national lines. Rather, the objective should be to ensure that normal commercial considerations alone determine the flag of the merchant ship and the method of shipment.

The Belgian Government is confident that signatories of the International Coffee Agreement will support and maintain the principle of the freedom of choice of merchant ships.

*Instrument deposited on:*

31 December 1969

LUXEMBOURG

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<sup>1</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 647, p. 3, and annex A in volumes 649, 651, 652, 653, 669, 673 and 693.