

- 3 The resources of the Fund shall consist of:
- (a) compulsory and voluntary contributions made by the States Parties to this Convention;
  - (b) contributions, gifts or bequests;
  - (c) any interest due on the resources of the Fund;
  - (d) funds raised by collections and receipts from events organised for the benefit of the Fund; and
  - (e) all other resources authorised by the Fund's regulations, as drawn up by the World Heritage Committee.

## CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA<sup>46</sup>

The Contracting States,

*Recognising* that wild fauna and flora in their many beautiful and varied forms are an irreplaceable part of the natural systems of the earth which must be protected for this and the generations to come;

*Conscious of* the ever-growing value of wild fauna and flora from aesthetic, scientific, cultural, recreational and economic points of view;

*Recognising* that peoples and states are and should be the best protectors of their own wild fauna and flora;

*Recognising*, in addition, that international co-operation is essential for the protection of certain species of wild fauna and flora against over-exploitation through international trade;

*Convinced* of the urgency of taking appropriate measures to this end;

*Have agreed* as follows:

### **Article I Definitions**

For the purpose of the present Convention, unless the context otherwise requires:

- (a) 'Species' means any species, subspecies, or geographically separate population thereof;
- (b) 'Specimen' means:
  - (i) any animal or plant, whether alive or dead;
  - (ii) in the case of an animal: for species included in Appendices I and II, any readily recognisable part or derivative thereof; and for species included in Appendix III, any readily recognisable part or derivative thereof specified in Appendix III in relation to the species; and
  - (iii) in the case of a plant: for species included in Appendix I, any readily recognisable part or derivative thereof; and for species included in Appendices II and III, any readily recognisable part or derivative thereof specified in Appendices II and III in relation to the species;

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<sup>46</sup> Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) done at Washington, 3 March 1973. Entered into force 1 July 1975, 993 UNTS 243 – reprinted in (1973) 12 *ILM* 1085.

- (c) 'Trade' means export, re-export, import and introduction from the sea;
- (d) 'Re-export' means export of any specimen that has previously been exported;
- (e) 'Introduction from the sea' means transportation into a state of specimens of any species which were taken in the marine environment not under the jurisdiction of any state;
- (f) 'Scientific Authority' means a national scientific authority designated in accordance with Article IX;
- (g) 'Management Authority' means a national management authority designated in accordance with Article IX;
- (h) 'Party' means a state for which the present Convention has entered into force.

#### **Article II Fundamental principles**

1 Appendix I shall include all species threatened with extinction which are or may be affected by trade. Trade in specimens of these species must be subject to particularly strict regulation in order not to endanger further their survival and must only be authorised in exceptional circumstances.

2 Appendix II shall include:

- (a) all species which although not necessarily now threatened with extinction may become so unless trade in specimens of such species is subject to strict regulation in order to avoid utilisation incompatible with their survival; and
- (b) other species which must be subject to regulation in order that trade in specimens of certain species referred to in sub-para (a) of this paragraph may be brought under effective control;

3 Appendix III shall include all species which any Party identifies as being subject to regulation within its jurisdiction for the purpose of preventing or restricting exploitation, and as needing the co-operation of other parties in the control of trade.

4 The Parties shall not allow trade in specimens of species included in Appendices I, II and III except in accordance with the provisions of the present Convention.

#### **Article III Regulation of trade in specimens of species included in Appendix I**

1 All trade in specimens of species included in Appendix I shall be in accordance with the provisions of this Article.

2 The export of any specimen of a species included in Appendix I shall require the prior grant and presentation of an export permit. An export permit shall only be granted when the following conditions have been met:

- (a) a Scientific Authority of the state of export has advised that such export will not be detrimental to the survival of that species;
- (b) a Management Authority of the state of export is satisfied that the specimen was not obtained in contravention of the laws of that state for the protection of fauna and flora;
- (c) a Management Authority of the state of export is satisfied that any living specimen will be so prepared and shipped as to minimise the risk of injury, damage to health or cruel treatment; and
- (d) a Management Authority of the state of export is satisfied that an import permit has been granted for that specimen.

3 The import of any specimen of a species included in Appendix I shall require the prior grant and presentation of an import permit and either an export

permit or a re-export certificate. An import permit shall only be granted when the following conditions have been met:

- (a) a Scientific Authority of the state of import has advised that the import will be for purposes which are not detrimental to the survival of the species involved;
- (b) a Scientific Authority of the state of import is satisfied that the proposed recipient of a living specimen is suitably equipped to house and care for it; and
- (c) a Management Authority of the state of import is satisfied that the specimen is not to be used for primarily commercial purposes.

4 The re-export of any specimen of a species included in Appendix I shall require the prior grant and presentation of a re-export permit. A re-export permit shall only be granted when the following conditions have been met:

- (a) a Management Authority of the state of re-export is satisfied that the specimen was imported into that state in accordance with the provisions of the present Convention;
- (b) a Management Authority of the state of re-export is satisfied that any living specimen will be so prepared and shipped as to minimise the risk of injury, damage to health or cruel treatment; and
- (c) a Management Authority of the state of re-export is satisfied that an import permit has been granted for any living specimen.

5 The introduction from the sea of any specimen of a species included in Appendix I shall require the prior grant of a certificate from a Management Authority of the state of introduction. A certificate shall only be granted when the following conditions have been met:

- (a) a Scientific Authority of the state of introduction advises that the introduction will not be detrimental to the survival of the species involved;
- (b) a Management Authority of the state of introduction is satisfied that the proposed recipient of a living specimen is suitably equipped to house and care for it; and
- (c) a Management Authority of the state of introduction is satisfied that the specimen is not to be used for primarily commercial purposes.

#### **Article IV Regulation of trade in specimens of species included in Appendix II**

1 All trade of species included in Appendix II shall be in accordance with the provisions of this article.

2 The export of any specimen of a species included in Appendix II shall require the prior grant and presentation of an export permit. An export permit shall only be granted when the following conditions have been met:

- (a) a Scientific Authority of the state of export has advised that such export will not be detrimental to the survival of that species;
- (b) a Management Authority of the state of export is satisfied that the specimen was not obtained in contravention of the laws of that state for the protection of fauna and flora; and
- (c) a Management Authority of the state of export is satisfied that any living specimen will be so prepared and shipped as to minimise the risk of injury, damage to health or cruel treatment.

3 A Scientific Authority in each party shall monitor both the export permits granted by that state for specimens of species included in Appendix II and the

actual export of such specimens. Whenever a Scientific Authority determines that the export of such specimens of any such species should be limited in order to maintain that species throughout its range at a level consistent with its role in the ecosystems in which it occurs and well above the level at which that species might become eligible for inclusion in Appendix I, the Scientific Authority shall advise the appropriate Management Authority of suitable measures to be taken to limit the grant of export permits for specimens of that species.

4 The import of any specimen of a species included in Appendix II shall require the prior presentation of either an export permit or a re-export certificate.

5 The re-export of any specimen of a species included in Appendix II shall require the prior grant and presentation of a re-export certificate. A re-export certificate shall only be granted when the following conditions have been met:

- (a) a Management Authority of the state of re-export is satisfied that the specimen was imported into that state in accordance with the provisions of the present Convention; and
- (b) a Management Authority of the state of re-export is satisfied that any living specimen will be so prepared and shipped as to minimise the risk of injury, damage to health or cruel treatment.

6 The introduction from the sea of any specimen of a species included in Appendix II shall require the prior grant of a certificate from a Management Authority of the state of introduction. A certificate shall only be granted when the following conditions have been met:

- (a) a Scientific Authority of the state of introduction advises that the introduction will not be detrimental to the survival of the species involved; and
- (b) a Management Authority of the state of introduction is satisfied that any living specimen will be so handled as to minimise the risk of injury, damage to health or cruel treatment.

7 Certificates referred to in para 6 of this Article may be granted on the advice of a Scientific Authority, in consultation with other national scientific authorities or, when appropriate, international scientific authorities, in respect of periods not exceeding one year for total numbers of specimens to be introduced in such periods.

#### **Article V Regulation of trade in specimens of species included in Appendix III**

1 All trade in specimens of species included in Appendix II shall be in accordance with the provisions of this article.

2 The export of any specimen of a species included in Appendix III from any state which has included that species in Appendix III shall require the prior grant and presentation of an export permit. An export permit shall only be granted when the following conditions have been met:

- (a) a Management Authority of the state of export is satisfied that the specimen was not obtained in contravention of the laws of that state for the protection of fauna and flora; and
- (b) a Management Authority of the state of export is satisfied that any living specimen will be so prepared and shipped as to minimise the risk of injury, damage to health or cruel treatment.

3 The import of any specimen of a species included in Appendix III shall require, except in circumstances to which para 4 of this article applies, the prior presentation of a certificate of origin and, where the import is from a state which has included that species in Appendix III, an export permit.

4 In the case of re-export, a certificate granted by the Management Authority of the state of re-export that the specimen was processed in that state or is being re-exported shall be accepted by the state of import as evidence that the provisions of the present Convention have been complied with in respect of the specimen concerned.

**Article VI Permits and Certificates**

**Article VII Exemptions and Other Special Provisions Relating to Trade**

**Article VIII Measures to be Taken by the Parties**

1 The Parties shall take appropriate measures to enforce the provisions of the present Convention and to prohibit trade in specimens in violation thereof. These shall include measures:

- (a) to penalise trade in, or possession of, such specimens, or both; and
- (b) to provide for the confiscation or return to the state of export of such specimens.

2 In addition to the measures taken under para 1 of this article, a party may, when it deems it necessary, provide for any method of internal reimbursement for expenses incurred as a result of the confiscation of a specimen traded in violation of the measures taken in the application of the provisions of the present Convention.

3 As far as possible, the parties shall ensure that specimens shall pass through any formalities required for trade with a minimum of delay. To facilitate such passage, a party may designate ports of exit and ports of entry at which specimens must be presented for clearance. The parties shall ensure further that all living specimens, during any period of transit, holding or shipment, are properly cared for so as to minimise the risk of injury, damage to health or cruel treatment.

4 Where a living specimen is confiscated as a result of measures referred to in para 1 of this Article:

- (a) the specimen shall be entrusted to a Management Authority of the state of confiscation;
- (b) the Management Authority shall, after consultation with the state of export, return the specimen to that state at the expense of that state, or to a rescue centre or such other place as the Management Authority deems appropriate and consistent with the purposes of the present Convention; and
- (c) the Management Authority may obtain the advice of a Scientific Authority, or may, whenever it considers it desirable, consult the Secretariat in order to facilitate the decision under sub-para (b) of this paragraph, including the choice of a rescue centre or other place.

5 A rescue centre as referred to in para 4 of this article means an institution designated by a Management Authority to look after the welfare of living specimens, particularly those that have been confiscated.

6 Each Party shall maintain records of trade in specimens of species included in Appendices I, II and III which shall cover:

- (a) the names and addresses of exporters and importers; and
- (b) the number and type of permits and certificate granted; the states with which such trade occurred; the numbers or quantities and types of specimens, names of species as included in Appendices I, II and III and, where applicable, the size and sex of the specimens in question.

7 Each party shall prepare periodic reports on its implementation of the present Convention and shall transmit to the Secretariat:

- (a) an annual report containing a summary of the information specified in sub-para (b) of para 6 of this article; and
- (b) a biennial report on legislative, regulatory and administrative measures taken to enforce the provisions of the present Convention.

8 The information referred to in para 7 of this article shall be available to the public where this is not inconsistent with the law of the Party concerned.

#### **Article IX Management and Scientific Authorities**

1 Each party shall designate for the purposes of the present Convention:

- (a) one or more Management Authorities competent to grant permits or certificates on behalf of that party; and
- (b) one or more Scientific Authorities.

2 A state depositing an instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession shall at that time inform the Depositary Government of the name and address of the Management Authority authorised to communicate with other parties and with the Secretariat.

3 Any changes in the designations or authorisations under the provisions of this Article shall be communicated by the party concerned to the Secretariat for transmission to all other parties.

4 Any Management Authority referred to in para 2 of this article shall if so requested by the Secretariat or the Management Authority of another party, communicate to it impression of stamps, seals or other devices used to authenticate permits or certificates.

#### **Article X Trade with states not party to the Convention**

Where export or re-export is to, or import is from, a state not a party to the present Convention, comparable documentation issued by the competent authorities in that state which substantially conforms with the requirements of the present Convention for permits and certificates may be accepted in lieu thereof by any party.

## **CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF MIGRATORY SPECIES OF WILD ANIMALS<sup>47</sup>**

#### **Article II Fundamental principles**

1 The parties acknowledge the importance of migratory species<sup>48</sup> being conserved and of Range states<sup>49</sup> agreeing to take action to this end whenever possible and appropriate, paying special attention to migratory species the

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47 Done at Bonn, Germany, 23 June 1979.

48 Defined in Article I as 'the entire population or any geographically separate part of a population of any species or lower taxon of wild animals, a significant proportion of whose members cyclically and predictably cross one or more national jurisdictional boundaries'.

49 Defined in Article I as 'any state that exercises jurisdiction over any part of the range of that migratory species, or a sState, flag vessels of which are engaged outside national jurisdictional limits in [taking, hunting, fishing, capturing, harassing, deliberately killing, or attempting to engage in any such conduct] that migratory species'.

conservation status of which is unfavourable, and taking individually or in co-operation appropriate and necessary steps to conserve such species and their habitat.

2 The parties acknowledge the need to take action to avoid any migratory species becoming endangered.

3 In particular, the parties:

- (a) should promote, co-operate in and support research relating to migratory species;
- (b) shall endeavour to provide immediate protection for migratory species included in Appendix I; and
- (c) shall endeavour to conclude agreements covering the conservation and management of migratory species included in Appendix II.<sup>50</sup>

In 1992 the Convention on Biological Diversity was signed at the Rio Conference. This takes the law relating to conservation a stage further by requiring states to take positive action in many key areas. The force of the Convention is however slightly undermined by the fact that many of the provisions are qualified with words such as 'as far as possible and appropriate' and it remains unclear what specific action the Convention will promulgate.

## CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY<sup>51</sup>

### Article 1

The objectives of this Convention, to be pursued in accordance with its relevant provisions, are the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilisation of genetic resources, including by appropriate access to genetic resources and by appropriate transfer of relevant technologies, taking into account all rights over those resources and to technologies, and by appropriate funding.

### Article 2

For the purposes of this Convention:

'Biological diversity' means the variability among living organisms from all sources including, *inter alia*, terrestrial, marine and other aquatic ecosystems and the ecological complexes of which they are part; this includes diversity within species, between species and of ecosystems.

'Biological resources' includes genetic resources, organisms or parts thereof, populations, or any other biotic component of ecosystems with actual or potential use or value for humanity.

'Biotechnology' means any technological application that uses biological systems, living organisms, or derivatives thereof, to make or modify products or processes for specific use.

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50 Appendix I lists endangered species; Appendix II lists those species with an unfavourable conservation status.

51 Convention on Biological Diversity – adopted at the UN Conference on Environment and Development, 5 June 1992, reprinted (1992) 31 *ILM* 818.

'Country of origin of genetic resources' means the country which possesses those genetic resources in *in-situ* conditions.

'Country providing genetic resources' means the country supplying genetic resources collected from *in-situ* sources, including populations of both wild and domesticated species, or taken from *ex-situ* sources, which may or may not have originated in that country.

'Domesticated or cultivated species' means species in which the evolutionary process has been influenced by humans to meet their needs.

'Ecosystem' means a dynamic complex of plant, animal and micro-organism communities and their non-living environment interacting as a functional unit.

'*Ex-situ* conservation' means the conservation of components of biological diversity outside their natural habitat.

'Genetic material' means any material of plant, animal, microbial or other origin containing functional units of heredity.

'Genetic resources' means genetic material of actual or potential value.

'Habitat' means the place or type of site where an organisms or population naturally occurs.

'*In-situ* conditions' means conditions where genetic resources exist within ecosystems and natural habitats, and, in the case of domesticated or cultivated species, in the surroundings where they have developed their distinctive properties.

'*In-situ* conservation' means the conservation of ecosystems and natural habitats and the maintenance and recovery of viable populations of species in their natural surroundings and, in the case of domesticated or cultivated species, in the surroundings where they have developed their distinctive properties.

'Protected area' means a geographically defined area which is designated or regulated and managed to achieve specific conservation objectives.

'Regional economic integration organisation' means an organisation constituted by sovereign states of a given region, to which its member states have transferred competence in respect of matters governed by this Convention and which has been duly authorised, in accordance with its internal procedures, to sign, ratify, accept, approve or accede to it.

'Sustainable use' means the use of components of biological diversity in a way and at a rate that does not lead to the long-term decline of biological diversity, thereby maintain its potential to meet the needs and aspirations of present and future generations.

'Technology' includes biotechnology.

### **Article 3**

States have, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and the principles of international law, the sovereign right to exploit their own resources pursuant to their own environmental policies, and the responsibility to ensure that activities within their jurisdiction or control do not cause damage to the environment of other states or of areas beyond the limits of national jurisdiction.

### **Article 4 Jurisdictional scope**

#### **Article 5**

Each Contracting Party shall, as far as possible and as appropriate, co-operate with other Contracting Parties, directly or, where appropriate, through competent international organisations, in respect of areas beyond national



jurisdiction and on other matters of mutual interest, for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity.

**Article 6**

Each Contracting Party shall, in accordance with its particular conditions and capabilities:

- (a) develop national strategies, plans or programmes for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity or adapt for this purpose existing strategies, plans or programmes which shall reflect, *inter alia*, the measures set out in this Convention relevant to the Contracting Party concerned; and
- (b) integrate, as far as possible and as appropriate, the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity into relevant sectoral or cross-sectoral plans, programmes and policies.

### *18.8.2 Conservation of marine resources*

The conservation regime governing living marine resources has a slightly different history since it has largely developed as an integral part of the law of the sea and the main concern has been with fishing rights and the need to avoid over-fishing. The first treaties regulating fishing rights were agreed before World War One and since that time there have been a number of treaties governing such things as fishing quotas and fishing rights. The UN Food and Agriculture Organisation has had an important role in encouraging co-operation between coastal states. Many groups of coastal states have made agreements setting a total allowable catch and very often attempting to exclude other states from fishing grounds. The first truly global attempt to regulate the conservation of marine resources was the Convention on Fishing and Conservation of the Living Resources of the High Seas 1958 which imposes only limited duties of conservation. Conservation provisions are considerably strengthened in LOSC although concerns continue to be expressed about the extent to which such provisions will prove effective.

In addition to the general rules relating to marine resources there are a number of specific agreements which relate to single species or groups of species, the best known of which is probably the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling 1946.

### *18.8.3 Antarctica*

Antarctica constitutes the largest area of land not subject to the jurisdiction of a single state. The special nature of the region has meant that it has been the subject of specific attention by international law. The region is important from an environmental point of view but it also has an economic importance since the discovery in the 1980s of significant quantities of manganese nodules. Historically, Antarctica had been the subject of competing claims to sovereignty by a number of different states. However in the late 1950s pressure from the scientific community resulted in the suspension of such claims and the signing of the Antarctic Treaty 1959 by the main claimant states. The treaty provides that the region shall only be used for peaceful purposes. Subsequently, the Convention for the Conservation of Antarctic Seals 1972 and the Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources 1980 were signed.

The discovery of the manganese deposits led to renewed discussions and a 50-year ban on mining was agreed in April 1991. In the same year a Protocol to the Antarctic Treaty, the Protocol on Environmental Protection 1991, was signed. The Protocol would have the effect of establishing Antarctica as a world park, thus putting a permanent end to the individual claims of sovereignty, and significantly strengthen the conservation provisions of the Antarctic regime.

## 18.9 A right to a decent environment

As was discussed in Chapter 1, traditionally international law was only concerned with the rights and obligations of states. It has already been seen in Chapter 16 that significant changes occurred with the establishment of rules governing human rights. Arguments have since been raised about the existence of people's rights additional to and different from the rights of individual human beings. The growth of environmental law has now led to discussion about whether there exists a right to a decent environment. Such a right might not only be possessed by individuals and peoples but raises the connected question of whether future generations, animals or even the environment itself have recognisable rights. Clearly, much depends on the concept of 'right' that is employed. Some would argue that rights which are not capable of legal enforcement should not properly be called rights. Jeremy Bentham expressed such a view when he referred to claims of the existence of rights as 'nonsense on stilts'. Others argue that no right can exist without a corresponding clearly defined duty.

It seems clear that the existence of recognised human rights has implications for environmental law. For example, the right to life must in some part be dependent on the existence of an environment capable of sustaining life. Principle 1 of the Stockholm Declaration provides that:

Man has the fundamental right to freedom, equality and adequate conditions of life, in an environment of a quality that permits a life of dignity and well-being ...

and imposes a corresponding duty to protect and improve the environment for present and future generations. Article 24 of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights 1981 provides:

All peoples shall have the right to a general satisfactory environment favourable to their development.

No other treaty appears expressly to recognise an individual right to a decent environment and it is submitted that the right operates at the level of a general principle, in a manner similar to the right of self-determination, rather than as an individually enforceable human right.

## APPENDIX

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### UNITED NATIONS MEMBER STATES<sup>1</sup>

With the admission of Palau, there are now 185 member states of the United Nations. The member states and the dates on which they joined the Organisation are listed below:

**Member – (date of admission)**

Afghanistan – (19 November 1946)  
Albania – (14 December 1955)  
Algeria – (8 October 1962)  
Andorra – (28 July 1993)  
Angola – (1 December 1976)  
Antigua and Barbuda – (11 November 1981)  
Argentina – (24 October 1945)  
Armenia – (2 March 1992)  
Australia – (1 November 1945)  
Austria – (14 December 1955)  
Azerbaijan – (9 March 1992)  
Bahamas – (18 September 1973)  
Bahrain – (21 September 1971)  
Bangladesh – (17 September 1974)  
Barbados – (9 December 1966)  
Belarus – (24 October 1945)<sup>2</sup>  
Belgium – (27 December 1945)  
Belize – (25 September 1981)  
Benin – (20 September 1960)  
Bhutan – (21 September 1971)  
Bolivia – (14 November 1945)  
Bosnia and Herzegovina – (22 May 1992)  
Botswana – (17 October 1966)  
Brazil – (24 October 1945)  
Brunei Darussalam – (21 September 1984)  
Bulgaria – (14 December 1955)  
Burkina Faso – (20 September 1960)

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1 Source: UN Press Release ORG/1190 (15 December 1994). Updated 24 June 1997 from <http://www.un.org/Overview/unmember.html>.

2 On 19 September 1991, Byelorussia informed the United Nations that it had changed its name to Belarus.

Burundi – (18 September 1962)  
Cambodia – (14 December 1955)  
Cameroon – (20 September 1960)  
Canada – (9 November 1945)  
Cape Verde – (16 September 1975)  
Central African Republic – (20 September 1960)  
Chad – (20 September 1960)  
Chile – (24 October 1945)  
China – (24 October 1945)  
Colombia – (5 November 1945)  
Comoros – (12 November 1975)  
Congo – (20 September 1960)  
Costa Rica – (2 November 1945)  
Côte d'Ivoire – (20 September 1960)  
Croatia – (22 May 1992)  
Cuba – (24 October 1945)  
Cyprus – (20 September 1960)  
Czech Republic – (19 January 1993)<sup>3</sup>  
Democratic People's Republic of Korea – (17 September 1991)  
Democratic Republic of the Congo – (20 September 1960)  
Denmark – (24 October 1945)  
Djibouti – (20 September 1977)  
Dominica – (18 December 1978)  
Dominican Republic – (24 October 1945)  
Ecuador – (21 December 1945)  
Egypt – (24 October 1945)<sup>4</sup>  
El Salvador – (24 October 1945)  
Equatorial Guinea – (12 November 1968)  
Eritrea – (28 May 1993)

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3 Czechoslovakia was an original member of the United Nations from 24 October 1945. In a letter dated 10 December 1992, its Permanent Representative informed the Secretary General that the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic would cease to exist on 31 December 1992 and that the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic, as successor states, would apply for membership in the United Nations. Following the receipt of its application, the Security Council, on 8 January, recommended to the General Assembly that the Czech Republic be admitted to United Nations membership. The Czech Republic was thus admitted on 19 January as a member state.

4 Egypt and Syria were original members of the United Nations from 24 October 1945. Following a plebiscite on 21 February 1958, the United Arab Republic was established by a union of Egypt and Syria and continued as a single member. On 13 October 1961, Syria, having resumed its status as an independent state, resumed its separate membership in the United Nations. On 2 September 1971, the United Arab Republic changed its name to the Arab Republic of Egypt.

Estonia – (17 September 1991)  
Ethiopia – (13 November 1945)  
Federated States of Micronesia – (17 September 1991)  
Fiji – (13 October 1970)  
Finland – (14 December 1955)  
France – (24 October 1945)  
Gabon – (20 September 1960)  
Gambia – (21 September 1965)  
Georgia – (31 July 1992)  
Germany – (18 September 1973)<sup>5</sup>  
Ghana – (8 March 1957)  
Greece – (25 October 1945)  
Grenada – (17 September 1974)  
Guatemala – (21 November 1945)  
Guinea – (12 December 1958)  
Guinea-Bissau – (17 September 1974)  
Guyana – (20 September 1966)  
Haiti – (24 October 1945)  
Honduras – (17 December 1945)  
Hungary – (14 December 1955)  
Iceland – (19 November 1946)  
India – (30 October 1945)  
Indonesia – (28 September 1950)<sup>6</sup>  
Iran – (24 October 1945)  
Iraq – (21 December 1945)  
Ireland – (14 December 1955)  
Israel – (11 May 1949)  
Italy – (14 December 1955)  
Jamaica – (18 September 1962)  
Japan – (18 December 1956)  
Jordan – (14 December 1955)

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5 The Federal Republic of Germany and the German Democratic Republic were admitted to membership in the United Nations on 18 September 1973. Through the accession of the German Democratic Republic to the Federal Republic of Germany, effective from 3 October 1990, the two German States have united to form one sovereign state.

6 By letter of 20 January 1965, Indonesia announced its decision to withdraw from the United Nations 'at this stage and under the present circumstances'. By telegram of 19 September 1966, it announced its decision 'to resume full co-operation with the United Nations and to resume participation in its activities'. On 28 September 1966, the General Assembly took note of this decision and the President invited representatives of Indonesia to take seats in the Assembly.

Kazakstan – (2 March 1992)  
Kenya – (16 December 1963)  
Kuwait – (14 May 1963)  
Kyrgyz Republic – (2 March 1992)  
Lao People’s Democratic Republic – (14 December 1955)  
Latvia – (17 September 1991)  
Lebanon – (24 October 1945)  
Lesotho – (17 October 1966)  
Liberia – (2 November 1945)  
Libya – (14 December 1955)  
Liechtenstein – (18 September 1990)  
Lithuania – (17 September 1991)  
Luxembourg – (24 October 1945)  
Madagascar – (20 September 1960)  
Malawi – (1 December 1964)  
Malaysia – (17 September 1957)<sup>7</sup>  
Maldives – (21 September 1965)  
Mali – (28 September 1960)  
Malta – (1 December 1964)  
Marshall Islands – (17 September 1991)  
Mauritania – (7 October 1961)  
Mauritius – (24 April 1968)  
Mexico – (7 November 1945)  
Monaco – (28 May 1993)  
Mongolia – (27 October 1961)  
Morocco – (12 November 1956)  
Mozambique – (16 September 1975)  
Myanmar – (19 April 1948)  
Namibia – (23 April 1990)  
Nepal – (14 December 1955)  
Netherlands – (10 December 1945)  
New Zealand – (24 October 1945)  
Nicaragua – (24 October 1945)  
Niger – (20 September 1960)  
Nigeria – (7 October 1960)

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7 The Federation of Malaya joined the United Nations on 17 September 1957. On 16 September 1963, its name was changed to Malaysia, following the admission to the new federation of Singapore, Sabah (North Borneo) and Sarawak. Singapore became an independent state on 9 August 1965 and a member of the United Nations on 21 September 1965.

Norway – (27 November 1945)  
Oman – (7 October 1971)  
Pakistan – (30 September 1947)  
Palau – (15 December 1994)  
Panama – (13 November 1945)  
Papua New Guinea – (10 October 1975)  
Paraguay – (24 October 1945)  
Peru – (31 October 1945)  
Philippines – (24 October 1945)  
Poland – (24 October 1945)  
Portugal – (14 December 1955)  
Qatar – (21 September 1971)  
Republic of Korea – (17 September 1991)  
Republic of Moldova – (2 March 1992)  
Romania – (14 December 1955)  
Russian Federation – (24 October 1945)<sup>8</sup>  
Rwanda – (18 September 1962)  
Saint Kitts and Nevis – (23 September 1983)  
Saint Lucia – (18 September 1979)  
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines – (16 September 1980)  
Samoa – (15 December 1976)  
San Marino – (2 March 1992)  
Sao Tome and Principe – (16 September 1975)  
Saudi Arabia – (24 October 1945)  
Senegal – (28 September 1960)  
Seychelles – (21 September 1976)  
Sierra Leone – (27 September 1961)  
Singapore – (21 September 1965)  
Slovak Republic – (19 January 1993)<sup>9</sup>

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8 The Union of Soviet Socialist Republics was an original member of the United Nations from 24 October 1945. In a letter dated 24 December 1991, Boris Yeltsin, the President of the Russian Federation, informed the Secretary General that the membership of the Soviet Union in the Security Council and all other United Nations organs was being continued by the Russian Federation with the support of the 11 member countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States.

9 Czechoslovakia was an original member of the United Nations from 24 October 1945. In a letter dated 10 December 1992, its Permanent Representative informed the Secretary General that the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic would cease to exist on 31 December 1992 and that the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic, as successor sStates, would apply for membership in the United Nations. Following the receipt of its application, the Security Council, on 8 January, recommended to the General Assembly that the Slovak Republic be admitted to United Nations membership. The Slovak Republic was thus admitted on 19 January as a member state.

Slovenia – (22 May 1992)  
Solomon Islands – (19 September 1978)  
Somalia – (20 September 1960)  
South Africa – (7 November 1945)  
Spain – (14 December 1955)  
Sri Lanka – (14 December 1955)  
Sudan – (12 November 1956)  
Suriname – (4 December 1975)  
Swaziland – (24 September 1968)  
Sweden – (19 November 1946)  
Syria – (24 October 1945)<sup>10</sup>  
Tajikistan – (2 March 1992)  
Thailand – (16 December 1946)  
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia – (8 April 1993)<sup>11</sup>  
Togo – (20 September 1960)  
Trinidad and Tobago – (18 September 1962)  
Tunisia – (12 November 1956)  
Turkey – (24 October 1945)  
Turkmenistan – (2 March 1992)  
Uganda – (25 October 1962)  
Ukraine – (24 October 1945)  
United Arab Emirates – (9 December 1971)  
United Kingdom – (24 October 1945)  
United Republic of Tanzania – (14 December 1961)<sup>12</sup>  
United States of America – (24 October 1945)  
Uruguay – (18 December 1945)  
Uzbekistan – (2 March 1992)  
Vanuatu – (15 September 1981)

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10 Egypt and Syria were original members of the United Nations from 24 October 1945. Following a plebiscite on 21 February 1958, the United Arab Republic was established by a union of Egypt and Syria and continued as a single member. On 13 October 1961, Syria, having resumed its status as an independent State, resumed its separate membership in the United Nations.

11 The General Assembly decided on 8 April 1993 to admit to United Nations membership the state being provisionally referred to for all purposes within the United Nations as 'The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia' pending settlement of the difference that had arisen over its name.

12 Tanganyika was a member of the United Nations from 14 December 1961 and Zanzibar was a member from 16 December 1963. Following the ratification on 26 April 1964 of Articles of Union between Tanganyika and Zanzibar, the United Republic of Tanganyika and Zanzibar continued as a single member, changing its name to the United Republic of Tanzania on 1 November 1964.



Venezuela – (15 November 1945)

Viet Nam – (20 September 1977)

Yemen – (30 September 1947)<sup>13</sup>

Yugoslavia – (24 October 1945)

Zambia – (1 December 1964)

Zimbabwe – (25 August 1980)

### *Membership of the Security Council*

#### **Permanent members**

China

France

Russian Federation

United Kingdom

United States of America

#### **Elected members (membership term ends)**

Chile (31 December 1997)

Costa Rica (31 December 1998)

Egypt (31 December 1997)

Guinea-Bissau (31 December 1997)

Japan (31 December 1998)

Kenya (31 December 1998)

Poland (31 December 1997)

Portugal (31 December 1998)

Republic of Korea (31 December 1997)

Sweden (31 December 1998)

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<sup>13</sup> Yemen was admitted to membership in the United Nations on 30 September 1947 and Democratic Yemen on 14 December 1967. On 22 May 1990, the two countries merged and have since been represented as one member with the name 'Yemen'.



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