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CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES  
TO THE CONVENTION  
ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY  
First meeting  
Nassau, 28 November - 9 December 1994

## STATUS OF RATIFICATION OF THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY (as at 5 December 1994)

### THE CONVENTION HAS BEEN RATIFIED BY:

- |                                  |   |  |
|----------------------------------|---|--|
| 1. Mauritius                     | 37. Barbados  | 69. Kenya  |
| 2. Seychelles                    | 38. Sweden  | 70. Pakistan   |
| 3. Marshall Islands              | 39. Denmark   | 71. Estonia  |
| 4. Maldives                      | 40. Germany   | 72. Finland  |
| 5. Monaco                        | 41. Portugal  | 73. Greece   |
| 6. Canada                        | 42. Spain   | 74. Grenada  |
| 7. China                         | 43. European<br>Community <sup>Ap</sup>                           | 75. Kiribati   |
| 8. Saint Kitts and<br>Nevis      | 44. Belize  | 76. Romania  |
| 9. Ecuador                       | 45. Albania <sup>Ac</sup>   | 77. Austria  |
| 10. Fiji                         | 46. Malawi  | 78. Indonesia  |
| 11. Antigua and<br>Barbuda       | 47. Samoa   | 79. Slovakia   |
| 12. Mexico                       | 48. India   | 80. Costa Rica   |
| 13. Papua New Guinea             | 49. Hungary   | 81. Ghana  |
| 14. Vanuatu                      | 50. Paraguay  | 82. Nigeria  |
| 15. Cook Islands                 | 51. Brazil  | 83. Guyana   |
| 16. Guinea                       | 52. Cuba  | 84. Djibouti   |
| 17. Armenia                      | 53. Sri Lanka   | 85. Kazakhstan   |
| 18. Japan <sup>At</sup>          | 54. Ethiopia  | 86. El Salvador  |
| 19. Zambia                       | 55. Dominica <sup>Ac</sup>  | 87. Chile  |
| 20. Peru                         | 56. Italy   | 88. Iceland  |
| 21. Australia                    | 57. Bangladesh  | 89. Venezuela  |
| 22. Norway                       | 58. Luxembourg  | 90. Comoros  |
| 23. Tunisia                      | 59. Egypt   | 91. Bolivia  |
| 24. Saint Lucia <sup>Ac</sup>    | 60. Georgia   | 92. Republic of<br>Korea   |
| 25. Bahamas                      | 61. United Kingdom<br>of Great Britain<br>and Northern<br>Ireland | 93. Senegal  |
| 26. Burkina Faso                 | 62. Chad  | 94. Cameroon   |
| 27. Belarus                      | 63. Gambia  | 95. Democratic<br>People's<br>Republic of<br>Korea <sup>Ap</sup> |
| 28. Uganda                       | 64. Micronesia<br>(Federated<br>States of)                        | 96. San Marino   |
| 29. New Zealand                  | 65. Malaysia  | 97. Swaziland  |
| 30. Mongolia                     | 66. Benin   | 98. Zimbabwe   |
| 31. Philippines                  | 67. France  | 99. Viet Nam   |
| 32. Uruguay                      | 68. Netherlands   | 100. Switzerland   |
| 33. Nauru                        |   | 101. Argentina   |
| 34. Jordan                       |   | 102. Myanmar   |
| 35. Nepal                        |   | 103. Colombia  |
| 36. Czech Republic <sup>Ap</sup> |   | 104. Côte d'Ivoire   |

<sup>At</sup> Acceptance of the Convention <sup>Ac</sup> Accession to the Convention <sup>Ap</sup> Approval of the Convention



## INTRODUCTION

The Convention on Biological Diversity was adopted by the Conference for the Adoption of the Agreed Text of the Convention on Biological Diversity, held at Nairobi on 22 May 1992. It opened on 5 June 1992 and remained open for signature at Rio de Janeiro until 14 June 1992, and at the United Nations Headquarters in New York from 15 June 1992 until 4 June 1993 (Article 33). The Convention received 157 signatures at Rio de Janeiro and had received 168 signatures by 4 June 1993, the date it closed for signature.

This document contains information concerning dates of signature and ratification, acceptance, approval or accession as at 5 December 1994, received from the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the Depositary of the Convention (Article 41).

The Convention on Biological Diversity entered into force on 29 December 1993, ninety days after the thirtieth instrument of ratification was received on 30 September 1993 (Article 36, paragraph 1).

Since the deposit of the thirtieth instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession on 30 September 1993, the Convention shall enter into force for a Contracting Party ninety days after it deposits its instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession (Article 36, paragraph 3).

CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

SIGNATORY/PARTY	DATE OF SIGNATURE	DATE OF RATIFICATION, ACCESSION, ACCEPTANCE OR APPROVAL	DATE OF ENTRY INTO FORCE FOR CONTRACTING PARTY
1 Afghanistan	12 June 1992		
2 Albania		5 January 1994 (Ac)	5 April 1994
3 Algeria	13 June 1992		
4 Angola	12 June 1992		
5 Antigua and Barbuda	5 June 1992	9 March 1993 (R)	29 December 1993
6 Argentina	12 June 1992	22 November 1994 (R)	20 February 1995
7 Armenia	13 June 1992	14 May 1993 (R)	29 December 1993
8 Australia	5 June 1992	18 June 1993 (R)	29 December 1993
9 Austria (1)	13 June 1992	18 August 1994 (R)	16 November 1994
10 Azerbaijan	12 June 1992		
11 Bahamas	12 June 1992	2 September 1993 (R)	29 December 1993
12 Bahrain	9 June 1992		
13 Bangladesh	5 June 1992	3 May 1994 (R)	1 August 1994
14 Barbados	12 June 1992	10 December 1993 (R)	10 March 1994
15 Belarus	11 June 1992	8 September 1993 (R)	29 December 1993
16 Belgium	5 June 1992		
17 Belize	13 June 1992	30 December 1993 (R)	30 March 1994
18 Benin	13 June 1992	30 June 1994 (R)	28 September 1994
19 Bhutan	11 June 1992		
20 Bolivia	13 June 1992	3 October 1994 (R)	1 January 1995
21 Botswana	8 June 1992		
22 Brazil	5 June 1992	28 February 1994 (R)	29 May 1994
23 Bulgaria	12 June 1992		
24 Burkina Faso	12 June 1992	2 September 1993 (R)	29 December 1993

	SIGNATORY/PARTY	DATE OF SIGNATURE	DATE OF RATIFICATION, ACCESSION, ACCEPTANCE OR APPROVAL	DATE OF ENTRY INTO FORCE FOR CONTRACTING PARTY
25	Burundi	11 June 1992		
26	Cameroon	14 June 1992	19 October 1994 (R)	17 January 1995
27	Canada	11 June 1992	4 December 1992 (R)	29 December 1993
28	Cape Verde	12 June 1992		
29	Central African Republic	13 June 1992		
30	Chad	12 June 1992	7 June 1994 (R)	5 September 1994
31	Chile	13 June 1992	9 September 1994 (R)	8 December 1994
32	China	11 June 1992	5 January 1993 (R)	29 December 1993
33	Colombia	12 June 1992	28 November 1994	26 February 1995
34	Comoros Islands	11 June 1992	29 September 1994 (R)	28 December 1994
35	Congo	11 June 1992		
36	Cook Islands	12 June 1992	20 April 1993 (R)	29 December 1993
37	Costa Rica	13 June 1992	26 August 1994 (R)	24 November 1994
38	Cote d'Ivoire	10 June 1992	29 November 1994	27 February 1995
39	Croatia	11 June 1992		
40	Cuba (2)	12 June 1992	8 March 1994 (R)	6 June 1994
41	Cyprus	12 June 1992		
42	Czech Republic	4 June 1993	3 December 1993 (Ap)	3 March 1994
43	Democratic People's Republic of Korea	11 June 1992	26 October 1994 (Ap)	24 January 1995
44	Denmark	12 June 1992	21 December 1993 (R)	21 March 1994
45	Djibouti	13 June 1992	1 September 1994 (R)	30 November 1994
46	Dominica		6 April 1994 (Ac)	5 July 1994
47	Dominican Republic	13 June 1992		
48	Ecuador	9 June 1992	23 February 1993 (R)	29 December 1993
49	Egypt	9 June 1992	2 June 1994 (R)	31 August 1994

	SIGNATORY/PARTY	DATE OF SIGNATURE	DATE OF RATIFICATION, ACCESSION, ACCEPTANCE OR APPROVAL	DATE OF ENTRY INTO FORCE FOR CONTRACTING PARTY
50	El Salvador	13 June 1992	8 September 1994 (R)	7 December 1994
51	Estonia	12 June 1992	27 July 1994 (R)	25 October 1994
52	Ethiopia	10 June 1992	5 April 1994	4 July 1994
53	European Community (3)	13 June 1992	21 December 1993 (Ap)	21 March 1994
54	Fiji	9 October 1992	25 February 1993 (R)	29 December 1993
55	Finland	5 June 1992	27 July 1994 (At)	25 October 1994
56	France (4)	13 June 1992	1 July 1994 (R)	29 September 1994
57	Gabon	12 June 1992		
58	Gambia	12 June 1992	10 June 1994 (R)	8 September 1994
59	Georgia (5)		2 June 1994 (Ac)	31 August 1994
60	Germany	12 June 1992	21 December 1993 (R)	21 March 1994
61	Ghana	12 June 1992	29 August 1994 (R)	27 November 1994
62	Greece	12 June 1992	4 August 1994 (R)	2 November 1994
63	Grenada	3 December 1992	11 August 1994 (R)	9 November 1994
64	Guatemala	13 June 1992		
65	Guinea	12 June 1992	7 May 1993 (R)	29 December 1993
66	Guinea-Bissau	12 June 1992		
67	Guyana	13 June 1992	29 August 1994 (R)	27 November 1994
68	Haiti	13 June 1992		
69	Honduras	13 June 1992		
70	Hungary	13 June 1992	24 February 1994 (R)	25 May 1994
71	Iceland	10 June 1992	12 September 1994 (R)	11 December 1994
72	India	5 June 1992	18 February 1994 (R)	19 May 1994
73	Indonesia	5 June 1992	23 August 1994 (R)	21 November 1994
74	Iran	14 June 1992		

	SIGNATORY/PARTY	DATE OF SIGNATURE	DATE OF RATIFICATION, ACCESSION, ACCEPTANCE OR APPROVAL	DATE OF ENTRY INTO FORCE FOR CONTRACTING PARTY
75	Ireland	13 June 1992		
76	Israel	11 June 1992		
77	Italy (6)	5 June 1992	15 April 1994 (R)	14 July 1994
78	Jamaica	11 June 1992		
79	Japan	13 June 1992	28 May 1993 (At)	29 December 1993
80	Jordan	11 June 1992	12 November 1993 (R)	10 February 1994
81	Kazakhstan	9 June 1992	6 September 1994 (R)	5 December 1994
82	Kenya	11 June 1992	26 July 1994 (R)	24 October 1994
83	Kiribati		16 August 1994 (Ac)	14 November 1994
84	Kuwait	9 June 1992		
85	Latvia	11 June 1992		
86	Lebanon	12 June 1992		
87	Lesotho	11 June 1992		
88	Liberia	12 June 1992		
89	Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	29 June 1992		
90	Liechtenstein	5 June 1992		
91	Lithuania	11 June 1992		
92	Luxembourg	9 June 1992	9 May 1994 (R)	7 August 1994
93	Madagascar	8 June 1992		
94	Malawi	10 June 1992	2 February 1994 (R)	3 May 1994
95	Malaysia	12 June 1992	24 June 1994 (R)	22 September 1994
96	Maldives	12 June 1992	9 November 1992 (R)	29 December 1993
97	Mali	22 September 1992		
98	Malta	12 June 1992		
99	Marshall Islands	12 June 1992	8 October 1992 (R)	29 December 1993

SIGNATORY/PARTY	DATE OF SIGNATURE	DATE OF RATIFICATION, ACCESSION, ACCEPTANCE OR APPROVAL	DATE OF ENTRY INTO FORCE FOR CONTRACTING PARTY
100 Mauritania	12 June 1992		
101 Mauritius	10 June 1992	4 September 1992 (R)	29 December 1993
102 Mexico	13 June 1992	11 March 1993 (R)	29 December 1993
103 Micronesia (Federated States of)	12 June 1992	20 June 1994 (R)	18 September 1994
104 Monaco	11 June 1992	20 November 1992 (R)	29 December 1993
105 Mongolia	12 June 1992	30 September 1993 (R)	29 December 1993
106 Morocco	13 June 1992		
107 Mozambique	12 June 1992		
108 Myanmar	11 June 1992	25 November 1994 (R)	23 February 1995
109 Namibia	12 June 1992		
110 Nauru	5 June 1992	11 November 1993 (R)	9 February 1994
111 Nepal	12 June 1992	23 November 1993 (R)	21 February 1994
112 Netherlands	5 June 1992	12 July 1994 (At)	10 October 1994
113 New Zealand	12 June 1992	16 September 1993 (R)	29 December 1993
114 Nicaragua	13 June 1992		
115 Niger	11 June 1992		
116 Nigeria	13 June 1992	29 August (R)	27 November 1994
117 Norway	9 June 1992	9 July 1993 (R)	29 December 1993
118 Oman	10 June 1992		
119 Pakistan	5 June 1992	26 July 1994 (R)	24 October 1994
120 Panama	13 June 1992		
121 Papua New Guinea (7)	13 June 1992	16 March 1993 (R)	29 December 1993
122 Paraguay	12 June 1992	24 February 1994 (R)	25 May 1994
123 Peru	12 June 1992	7 June 1993 (R)	29 December 1993
124 Philippines	12 June 1992	8 October 1993 (R)	6 January 1994



	SIGNATORY/PARTY	DATE OF SIGNATURE	DATE OF RATIFICATION, ACCESSION, ACCEPTANCE OR APPROVAL	DATE OF ENTRY INTO FORCE FOR CONTRACTING PARTY
125	Poland	5 June 1992		
126	Portugal	13 June 1992	21 December 1993 (R)	21 March 1994
127	Qatar	11 June 1992		
128	Republic of Korea	13 June 1992	3 October 1994 (R)	1 January 1995
129	Republic of Moldova	5 June 1992		
130	Romania	5 June 1992	17 August 1994 (R)	15 November 1994
131	Russian Federation	13 June 1992		
132	Rwanda	10 June 1992		
133	Saint Kitts and Nevis	12 June 1992	7 January 1993 (R)	29 December 1993
134	Saint Lucia		28 July 1993 (Ac)	29 December 1993
135	Samoa	12 June 1992	9 February 1994 (R)	10 May 1994
136	San Marino	10 June 1992	28 October 1994	26 January 1995
137	Sao Tome and Principe	12 June 1992		
138	Senegal	13 June 1992	17 October 1994 (R)	15 January 1995
139	Seychelles	10 June 1992	22 September 1992 (R)	29 December 1993
140	Singapore	10 March 1993		
141	Slovakia	19 May 1993	25 August 1994 (Ap)	23 November 1994
142	Slovenia	13 June 1992		
143	Solomon Islands	13 June 1992		
144	South Africa	4 June 1993		
145	Spain	13 June 1992	21 December 1993 (R)	21 March 1994
146	Sri Lanka	10 June 1992	23 March 1994 (R)	21 June 1994
147	Sudan	9 June 1992		
148	Suriname	13 June 1992		
149	Swaziland	12 June 1992	9 November 1994 (R)	7 February 1995

SIGNATORY/PARTY	DATE OF SIGNATURE	DATE OF RATIFICATION, ACCESSION, ACCEPTANCE OR APPROVAL	DATE OF ENTRY INTO FORCE FOR CONTRACTING PARTY
150 Sweden	8 June 1992	16 December 1993 (R)	16 March 1994
151 Switzerland (8)	12 June 1992	21 November 1994 (R)	19 February 1995
152 Syrian Arab Republic (9)	3 May 1993		
153 Thailand	12 June 1992		
154 Togo	12 June 1992		
155 Trinidad and Tobago	11 June 1992		
156 Tunisia	13 June 1992	15 July 1993 (R)	29 December 1993
157 Turkey	11 June 1992		
158 Tuvalu	8 June 1992		
159 Uganda	12 June 1992	8 September 1993 (R)	29 December 1993
160 Ukraine	11 June 1992		
161 United Arab Emirates	11 June 1992		
162 United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (10)	12 June 1992	3 June 1994 (R)	1 September 1994
163 United Republic of Tanzania	12 June 1992		
164 United States of America	4 June 1993		
165 Uruguay	9 June 1992	5 November 1993 (R)	3 February 1994
166 Vanuatu	9 June 1992	25 March 1993 (R)	29 December 1993
167 Venezuela	12 June 1992	13 September 1994 (R)	12 December 1994
168 Viet Nam	28 May 1993	16 November 1994 (R)	14 February 1995
169 Yemen	12 June 1992		
170 Yugoslavia	8 June 1992		
171 Zaire	11 June 1992		
172 Zambia	11 June 1992	28 May 1993 (R)	29 December 1993
173 Zimbabwe	12 June 1992	11 November 1994 (R)	9 February 1995

END NOTE

(1) AUSTRIA

Upon ratification:

"The Republic of Austria declares in accordance with Article 27 paragraph 3, of the Convention that it accepts both of the means of dispute settlement mentioned in this Paragraph as compulsory in relation to any Party accepting an obligation concerning one or both of these means of dispute settlement."

(2) CUBA

Upon ratification:

"The Government of the Republic of Cuba declares, with respect to Article 27 of the Convention on Biological Diversity, that as far as the Republic of Cuba is concerned, disputes that arise between Parties concerning the interpretation or application of this international legal instrument shall be settled by negotiation through the diplomatic channel or, failing that, by arbitration in accordance with the procedure laid down in Annex II on arbitration of the Convention."

(3) EUROPEAN COMMUNITY

Upon approval:

"Within their respective competence, the European Community and its Member States wish to reaffirm the importance they attach to transfers of technology and to biotechnology in order to ensure the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity. The compliance with intellectual property rights constitutes an essential element for the implementation of policies for technology transfer and co-investment.

For the European Community and its Member States, transfers of technology and access to biotechnology, as defined in the text of the Convention on Biological Diversity, will be carried out in accordance with Article 16 of the said Convention and in compliance with the principles and rules of protection of intellectual property, in particular multilateral and bilateral agreements signed or negotiated by the contracting parties to this Convention.

The European Community and its Member States will encourage the use of the financial mechanism established by the Convention to promote the voluntary transfer of intellectual property rights held by European operators, in particular as regards the granting of licences, through normal commercial mechanisms and decisions, while ensuring adequate and effective protection of property rights."

The European Community also made the following declaration in accordance with Article 34, paragraph 3, of the Convention:

"In accordance with the relevant provisions of the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community, the Community alongside its Member States has competence to take action aiming at the protection of the environment.

In relation to the matters covered by the Convention, the Community has adopted several legal instruments, both as part of its environment policy and in the framework of other sectoral policies, the most relevant of which are listed below:

- Council Decision 82/72/EEC of 3 December 1981 concerning the conclusion of the Convention on the conservation of European wildlife and natural habitats (OJ No L 38, 10.2.1982, p.1),
- Council Decision 82/461/EEC of 24 June 1982 on the conclusion of the Convention on the conservation of migratory species of wild animals (OJ No L 210, 19.7.1982, p.10),
- Council Regulation (EEC) No 3626/82 of 3 December 1982 on the implementation in the Community of the Convention on international trade in endangered species of wild fauna and flora (OJ No L 384, 31.12.1982, p.1),
- Council Directive 79/409/EEC of 2 April 1979 on the conservation of wild birds (OJ No L 103, 25.4.1979, p.1),
- Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (OJ No L 206, 22.7.1992, p.7),
- Council Directive 85/337/EEC of 27 June 1985 on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment (OJ No L 175, 5.7.1985, p.40),
- Council Regulation (EEC) No 2078/92 of 30 June 1992 on agricultural production methods compatible with the requirements of the protection of the environment and the maintenance of the countryside (OJ No L 215, 30.7.1992, p.85),
- Council Decision 89/625/EEC of 29 November 1989 on a European Programme on Science and Technology for Environment Protection (STEP) (OJ No L 359, 8.12.1989, p.9),
- Council Regulation (EEC) No. 3760/92 of 20 December 1992 establishing a Community system for fisheries and aquaculture (OJ No L 389, 31.12.1992, p.1),
- Council Directive 90/219/EEC of 23 April 1990 on the contained use of genetically modified micro-organisms (OJ No L 117, 8.5.1990, p.1),
- Council Directive 90/220/EEC of 23 April 1990 on the deliberate release into the environment of genetically modified organisms (OJ No L 117, 8.5.1990, p.15),
- Council Regulation (EEC) No 1973/92 of 21 May 1992 establishing a financial instrument for the environment (LIFE) (OJ No L 206, 22.7.1992, p.1)."

(4) FRANCE

Upon ratification:

"The French Republic interprets Article 3 as a guiding principle to be taken into account in the implementation of the Convention.

/...

The French Republic reaffirms its belief in the importance of the transfer of technology and biotechnology in guaranteeing the protection and long-term utilization of biological diversity. Respect for intellectual property rights is an essential element of the implementation of policies for technology transfer and co-investment.

The French Republic affirms that the transfer of technology and access to biotechnology, as defined in the Convention on Biological Diversity, will be implemented according to article 16 of that Convention and with respect for the principles and rules concerning the protection of intellectual property, including multilateral agreements signed or negotiated by the Contracting Parties to the present Convention.

The French Republic will encourage recourse to the financial mechanism established by the Convention for the purpose of promoting the voluntary transfer of intellectual property rights under French ownership, inter alia as regards the granting of licences, by traditional commercial decisions and mechanisms while ensuring the appropriate and effective protection of property rights.

With reference to article 21, paragraph 1, the French Republic considers that the decision taken periodically by the Conference of the Parties concerns the "amount of resources needed" and that no provision of the Convention authorizes the Conference of the Parties to take decisions concerning the amount, nature or frequency of the contributions from Parties to the Convention."

(5) GEORGIA

Upon accession:

"The Republic of Georgia will use both means for dispute settlement referred to in the Convention:

1. Arbitral consideration in accordance with the procedure given in the enclosure II, part I.
2. Submitting of disputes to the international court."

(6) ITALY

Upon signature:

"The Italian Government [...] declares its understanding that the decision to be taken by the Conference of the Parties under Article 21, paragraph 1, of the Convention refers to the "amount of resources needed" by the financial mechanism, not to the extent or nature and form of the contributions of the Contracting Parties."

Upon deposit of its instrument of ratification, the Government of Italy confirmed the declaration made upon signature.

(7) PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Upon ratification:

"The Government of the Independent State of Papua New Guinea declares its understanding that ratification of the Convention shall in no way constitute a renunciation of any rights under International Law

concerning State responsibility for the adverse effects of Biological Diversity as derogating from the principles of general International Law."

(8) SWITZERLAND

Upon signature:

"The Swiss Government wishes to emphasize particularly the progress made in establishing standard terms for cooperation between States in a very important field: research activities and activities for the transfer of technology relevant to resources from third countries.

The important provisions in question create a platform for even closer cooperation with public research bodies or institutions in Switzerland and for the transfer of technologies available to governmental or public bodies, particularly universities and various publicly-funded research and development centres.

It is our understanding that genetic resources acquired under the procedure specified in Article 15 and developed by private research institutions will be the subject of programmes of cooperation, joint research and the transfer of technology which will respect the principles and rules for the protection of intellectual property.

These principles and rules are essential for research and private investment, in particular in the latest technologies, such as modern biotechnology which requires substantial financial outlays.

On the basis of this interpretation, the Swiss Government wishes to indicate that it is ready, at the opportune time, to take the appropriate general policy measures, particularly under Articles 16 and 19, with a view to promoting and encouraging cooperation, on a contractual basis, between Swiss firms and the private firms and governmental bodies of other Contracting Parties.

With regard to financial cooperation, Switzerland interprets the provisions of Articles 20 and 21 as follows: the resources to be committed and the management system will have regard, in an equitable manner, to the needs and interests of the developing countries and to the possibilities and interests of the developed countries."

(9) SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC

Upon signature:

"It is being understood that the signing of this Convention shall not constitute recognition of Israel or leading to any intercourse with it."

Upon ratification:

"The Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland maintains the understandings in the declaration made at the time of signature of the Convention."