



UNITED
NATIONS



**Convention to Combat
Desertification**

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**STATUS OF RATIFICATION
OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION
(as at 24 August 2003)**

Note by the secretariat

1. The text of the Convention was adopted in Paris on 17 June 1994, at the Headquarters of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization; it was opened for signature in Paris on 14 and 15 October 1994, and thereafter at United Nations Headquarters in New York until 13 October 1995. By that date, the Convention had received 115 signatures. The Convention entered into force on 26 December 1996. Those States which have not signed the Convention may accede to it at any time.
2. For any States ratifying, accepting or approving the Convention or acceding thereto after the date of entry into force, the Convention shall enter into force on the ninetieth day after the date of deposit by such State of its instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession.
3. For the purpose of this document, all references to ratification include information on accession, acceptance and approval of the Convention.
4. This document contains information concerning dates of signature and ratification received by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, as Depositary, as at 24 August 2003.
5. The information is presented in two tables. All Parties to the Convention as at 20 August 2003 are listed in alphabetical order in table 1. The second table shows the general status of ratification of the Convention. The dates in the column on ratification are those of the receipt of the instrument of ratification or accession by the Depositary.

Table 1. Parties to the Convention
(as at 24 August 2003)

1. Afghanistan	60. Finland	119. Netherlands
2. Albania	61. France	120. New Zealand
3. Algeria	62. Gabon	121. Nicaragua
4. Andorra	63. Gambia	122. Niger
5. Angola	64. Georgia	123. Nigeria
6. Antigua and Barbuda	65. Germany	124. Niue
7. Argentina	66. Ghana	125. Norway
8. Armenia	67. Greece	126. Oman
9. Australia	68. Grenada	127. Pakistan
10. Austria	69. Guatemala	128. Palau
11. Azerbaijan	70. Guinea	129. Panama
12. Bahamas	71. Guinea-Bissau	130. Papua New Guinea
13. Bahrain	72. Guyana	131. Paraguay
14. Bangladesh	73. Haiti	132. Peru
15. Barbados	74. Honduras	133. Philippines
16. Belarus	75. Hungary	134. Poland
17. Belgium	76. Iceland	135. Portugal
18. Belize	77. India	136. Qatar
19. Benin	78. Indonesia	137. Republic of Korea
20. Bhutan*	79. Iran (Islamic Republic of)	138. Republic of Moldova
21. Bolivia	80. Ireland	139. Romania
22. Bosnia and Herzegovina	81. Israel	140. Russian Federation*
23. Botswana	82. Italy	141. Rwanda
24. Brazil	83. Jamaica	149. Saint Kitts and Nevis
25. Brunei Darussalam	84. Japan	143. Saint Lucia
26. Bulgaria	85. Jordan	144. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
27. Burkina Faso	86. Kazakhstan	145. Samoa
28. Burundi	87. Kenya	146. San Marino
29. Cambodia	88. Kiribati	147. Sao Tome and Principe
30. Cameroon	89. Kuwait	148. Saudi Arabia
31. Canada	90. Kyrgyzstan	149. Senegal
32. Cape Verde	91. Lao People's Democratic Republic	150. Seychelles
33. Central African Republic	92. Latvia	151. Sierra Leone
34. Chad	93. Lebanon	152. Singapore
35. Chile	94. Lesotho	153. Slovakia
36. China	95. Liberia	154. Slovenia
37. Colombia	96. Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	155. Solomon Islands
38. Comoros	97. Liechtenstein	156. Somalia
39. Congo	98. Lithuania*	157. South Africa
40. Cook Islands	99. Luxembourg	158. Spain
41. Costa Rica	100. Madagascar	159. Sri Lanka
42. Côte d'Ivoire	101. Malawi	160. Sudan
43. Croatia	102. Malaysia	161. Suriname
44. Cuba	103. Maldives	162. Swaziland
45. Cyprus	104. Mali	163. Sweden
46. Czech Republic	105. Malta	164. Switzerland
47. Democratic Republic of the Congo	106. Marshall Islands	165. Syrian Arab Republic
48. Denmark	107. Mauritania	166. Tajikistan
49. Djibouti	108. Mauritius	167. Thailand
50. Dominica	109. Mexico	168. The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
51. Dominican Republic	110. Micronesia (Federated States of)	169. Timor-Leste*
52. Ecuador	111. Monaco	170. Togo
53. Egypt	112. Mongolia	171. Tonga
54. El Salvador	113. Morocco	172. Trinidad and Tobago
55. Equatorial Guinea	114. Mozambique	173. Tunisia
56. Eritrea	115. Myanmar	174. Turkey
57. Ethiopia	116. Namibia	175. Turkmenistan
58. European Community	117. Nauru	176. Tuvalu
59. Fiji	118. Nepal	177. Uganda

178. Ukraine	183. Uruguay	188. Yemen
179. United Arab Emirates	184. Uzbekistan	189. Zambia
180. United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	185. Vanuatu	190. Zimbabwe
181. United Republic of Tanzania	186. Venezuela	
182. United States of America	187. Viet Nam	

*Countries which have acceded to the Convention but have not yet become Parties to it (see table 2).

Table 2. Status of ratification
(R=Ratification, Ac=Accession, At=Acceptance)

Country	Signature	Ratification	Entry into force
1. Afghanistan		01/11/95(Ac)	26/12/96
2. Albania		27/04/00(Ac)	26/07/00
3. Algeria	14/10/94	22/05/96(R)	26/12/96
4. Andorra		15/07/02(Ac)	13/10/02
5. Angola	14/10/94	30/06/97(R)	28/09/97
6. Antigua and Barbuda	04/04/95	06/06/97(R)	04/09/97
7. Argentina	15/10/94	06/01/97(R)	06/04/97
8. Armenia	14/10/94	02/07/97(R)	30/09/97
9. Australia	14/10/94	15/05/00(R)	13/08/00
10. Austria		02/06/97(Ac)	31/08/97
11. Azerbaijan		10/08/98(Ac)	08/11/98
12. Bahamas		10/11/00(Ac)	08/02/01
13. Bahrain		14/07/97(Ac)	12/10/97
14. Bangladesh	14/10/94	26/01/96(R)	26/12/96
15. Barbados		14/05/97(Ac)	12/08/97
16. Belarus		29/08/01(Ac)	27/11/01
17. Belgium		30/06/97(Ac)	28/09/97
18. Belize		23/07/98(Ac)	21/10/98
19. Benin	14/10/94	29/08/96(R)	26/12/96
20. Bhutan		20/08/03(Ac)	18/11/03
21. Bolivia	14/10/94	01/08/96(R)	26/12/96
22. Bosnia and Herzegovina		26/08/02(Ac)	24/11/02
23. Botswana	12/10/95	11/09/96(R)	26/12/96
24. Brazil	14/10/94	25/06/97(R)	23/09/97
25. Brunei Darussalam		04/12/02(Ac)	04/03/03
26. Bulgaria		21/02/01(Ac)	22/05/01
27. Burkina Faso	14/10/94	26/01/96(R)	26/12/96
28. Burundi	14/10/94	06/01/97(R)	06/04/97
29. Cambodia	15/10/94	18/08/97(R)	16/11/97
30. Cameroon	14/10/94	29/05/97(R)	27/08/97
31. Canada	14/10/94	01/12/95(R)	26/12/96
32. Cape Verde	14/10/94	08/05/95(R)	26/12/96
33. Central African Republic	14/10/94	05/09/96(R)	26/12/96
34. Chad	14/10/94	27/09/96(R)	26/12/96
35. Chile	03/03/95	11/11/97(R)	09/01/98
36. China	14/10/94	18/02/97(R)	19/05/97
37. Colombia	14/10/94	08/06/99(R)	06/09/99
38. Comoros	14/10/94	03/03/98(R)	01/06/98
39. Congo	15/10/94	12/07/99(R)	11/10/99
40. Cook Islands		21/08/98(Ac)	19/11/98
41. Costa Rica	15/10/94	05/01/98(R)	05/04/98
42. Côte d'Ivoire	15/10/94	04/03/97(R)	02/06/97
43. Croatia	15/10/94	06/10/00(At)	04/01/01

44. Cuba	15/10/94	13/03/97(R)	11/06/97
45. Cyprus		29/03/00(Ac)	27/06/00
46. Czech Republic		25/01/00(Ac)	24/04/00
47. Democratic Republic of the Congo	14/10/94	12/09/97(R)	11/11/97
48. Denmark	15/10/94	22/12/95(R)	26/12/96
49. Djibouti	15/10/94	12/06/97(R)	10/08/97
50. Dominica		08/12/97(Ac)	08/03/98
51. Dominican Republic		26/06/97(Ac)	24/09/97
52. Ecuador	19/01/95	06/09/95(R)	26/12/96
53. Egypt	14/10/94	07/07/95(R)	26/12/96
54. El Salvador		27/06/97(Ac)	25/09/97
55. Equatorial Guinea	14/10/94	27/06/97(R)	25/09/97
56. Eritrea	14/10/94	14/08/96(R)	26/12/96
57. Ethiopia	15/10/94	27/06/97(R)	25/09/97
58. Fiji		26/08/98(Ac)	24/11/98
59. Finland	15/10/94	20/09/95(At)	26/12/96
60. France	14/10/94	12/06/97(R)	10/09/98
61. Gabon		06/09/96(Ac)	26/12/96
62. Gambia	14/10/94	11/06/96(R)	26/12/96
63. Georgia	15/10/94	23/07/99(R)	21/10/99
64. Germany	14/10/94	10/07/96(R)	26/12/96
65. Ghana	15/10/94	27/12/96(R)	27/03/97
66. Greece	14/10/94	05/05/97(R)	03/08/97
67. Grenada		28/05/97(Ac)	25/09/97
68. Guatemala		10/09/98(Ac)	09/12/98
69. Guinea	14/10/94	23/06/97(R)	21/09/97
70. Guinea-Bissau	15/10/94	27/10/95(R)	26/12/96
71. Guyana		26/06/97(Ac)	24/09/97
72. Haiti	15/10/94	25/09/96(R)	26/12/96
73. Honduras	22/02/95	25/06/97(R)	23/09/97
74. Hungary		13/07/99(Ac)	11/10/99
75. Iceland		03/06/97(Ac)	01/09/97
76. India	14/10/94	17/12/96(R)	17/03/97
77. Indonesia	15/10/94	31/08/98(R)	29/11/98
78. Iran (Islamic Republic of)	14/10/94	29/04/97(R)	28/07/97
79. Ireland	15/10/94	31/07/97(R)	29/10/97
80. Israel	14/10/94	26/03/96(R)	26/12/96
81. Italy	14/10/94	23/06/97(R)	21/09/97
82. Jamaica		12/11/97(Ac)	12/03/98
83. Japan	14/10/94	11/09/98(At)	10/12/98
84. Jordan	13/04/95	21/10/96(R)	19/01/97
85. Kazakhstan	14/10/94	09/07/97(R)	07/10/97
86. Kenya	14/10/94	24/06/97(R)	22/09/97
87. Kiribati		08/09/98(Ac)	07/12/98
88. Kyrgyzstan		19/09/97(Ac)	18/12/97
89. Kuwait	22/09/95	27/06/97(R)	25/09/97

90. Lao People's Democratic Republic	30/08/95	20/09/96(At)	26/12/96
91. Latvia		21/10/02(Ac)	19/01/03
92. Lebanon	14/10/94	16/05/96(R)	26/12/96
93. Lesotho	15/10/94	12/09/95(R)	26/12/96
94. Liberia		02/03/98(Ac)	31/05/98
95. Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	15/10/94	22/07/96(R)	26/12/96
96. Liechtenstein		29/12/99(Ac)	28/03/00
97. Lithuania		25/07/03(Ac)	23/10/03
98. Luxembourg	14/10/94	04/02/97(R)	05/05/97
99. Madagascar	14/10/94	25/06/97(R)	23/09/97
100. Malaysia	06/10/95	25/06/97(R)	23/09/97
101. Malawi	17/01/95	13/06/96(R)	26/12/96
102. Maldives		03/09/02(Ac)	02/12/02
103. Mali	15/10/94	31/10/95(R)	26/12/96
104. Malta	15/10/94	30/01/98(R)	30/04/98
105. Marshall Islands		02/06/98(Ac)	31/08/98
106. Mauritania	14/10/94	07/08/96(R)	26/12/96
107. Mauritius	17/03/95	23/01/96(R)	26/12/96
108. Mexico	15/10/94	03/04/95(R)	26/12/96
109. Micronesia (Federated States of)	12/12/94	25/03/96(R)	26/12/96
110. Monaco		05/03/99(Ac)	03/06/99
111. Mongolia	15/10/94	03/09/96(R)	26/12/96
112. Morocco	15/10/94	07/11/96(R)	06/02/97
113. Mozambique	28/09/95	13/03/97(R)	11/06/97
114. Myanmar		02/01/97(Ac)	02/04/97
115. Namibia	24/10/94	16/05/97(R)	14/08/97
116. Nauru		22/09/98(Ac)	21/12/98
117. Nepal	12/10/95	15/10/96(R)	13/01/97
118. Netherlands ^a	15/10/94	27/06/95(At)	26/12/96
119. New Zealand ^b		07/09/00(Ac)	06/12/00
120. Nicaragua	21/11/94	17/02/98(R)	18/05/98
121. Niger	14/10/94	19/01/96(R)	26/12/96
122. Nigeria	31/10/94	08/07/97(R)	06/10/97
123. Niue		14/08/98(Ac)	12/11/98
124. Norway	15/10/94	30/08/96(R)	26/12/96
125. Oman		23/07/96(Ac)	26/12/96
126. Pakistan	15/10/94	24/02/97(R)	25/05/97
127. Palau		15/06/99(Ac)	13/09/99
128. Panama	22/02/95	04/04/96(R)	26/12/96
129. Papua New Guinea		06/12/00(Ac)	06/03/01
130. Paraguay	01/12/94	15/01/97(R)	15/04/97
131. Peru	15/10/94	09/11/95(R)	26/12/96
132. Philippines	08/12/94	10/02/00(R)	10/05/00
133. Poland		14/11/01(Ac)	12/02/02
134. Portugal	14/10/94	01/04/96(R)	26/12/96
135. Qatar		15/03/99(Ac)	13/06/99
136. Republic of Korea	14/10/94	17/08/99(R)	15/11/99

137. Republic of Moldova		10/03/99(Ac)	08/06/99
138. Romania		19/08/98(Ac)	17/11/98
139. Russian Federation		29/05/03(Ac)	27/08/03
140. Rwanda	22/06/95	22/10/98(R)	20/01/99
141. Saint Kitts and Nevis		30/06/97(Ac)	28/09/97
142. Saint Lucia		02/07/97(Ac)	30/09/97
143. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	15/10/94	16/03/98(R)	14/06/98
144. Samoa		21/08/98(Ac)	19/11/98
145. San Marino		23/07/99(Ac)	21/10/99
146. Sao Tome and Principe	04/10/95	08/07/98(R)	06/10/98
147. Saudi Arabia		25/06/97(Ac)	23/09/97
148. Senegal	14/10/94	26/07/95(R)	26/12/96
149. Seychelles	14/10/94	26/06/97(R)	24/09/97
150. Sierra Leone	11/11/94	25/09/97(R)	24/12/97
151. Singapore		26/04/99(Ac)	25/07/99
152. Slovakia		07/01/02(Ac)	07/04/02
153. Slovenia		28/06/01(Ac)	26/09/01
154. Solomon Islands		16/04/99(Ac)	15/07/99
155. Somalia		24/07/02(Ac)	22/10/02
156. South Africa	09/01/95	30/09/97(R)	29/12/97
157. Spain	14/10/94	30/01/96(R)	26/12/96
158. Sri Lanka		09/12/98(Ac)	09/03/99
159. Sudan	15/10/94	24/11/95(R)	26/12/96
160. Suriname		01/06/00(Ac)	30/08/00
161. Swaziland	27/07/95	07/10/96(R)	05/01/97
162. Sweden	15/10/94	12/12/95(R)	26/12/96
163. Switzerland	14/10/94	19/01/96(R)	26/12/96
164. Syrian Arab Republic	15/10/94	10/06/97(R)	08/09/97
165. Tajikistan		16/07/97(Ac)	14/10/97
166. Thailand		07/03/01(Ac)	05/06/01
167. The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia		06/03/02(Ac)	04/06/02
168. Timor-Leste		20/08/03(Ac)	18/11/03
169. Togo	15/10/94	04/10/95(At)	26/12/96
170. Tonga		25/09/98(Ac)	24/12/98
171. Trinidad and Tobago		08/06/00(Ac)	06/09/00
172. Tunisia	14/10/94	11/10/95(R)	26/12/96
173. Turkey	14/10/94	31/03/98(R)	29/06/98
174. Turkmenistan	27/03/95	18/09/96(R)	26/12/96
175. Tuvalu		14/09/98(Ac)	13/12/98
176. Uganda	21/11/94	25/06/97(R)	23/09/97
177. Ukraine		27/08/02(Ac)	25/11/02
178. United Arab Emirates		21/10/98(Ac)	19/01/99
179. United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland ^c	14/10/94	18/10/96(R)	16/01/97
180. United Republic of Tanzania	14/10/94	19/06/97(R)	17/09/97
181. United States of America	14/10/94	17/11/00(R)	15/02/01
182. Uruguay		17/02/99(Ac)	18/05/99

183. Uzbekistan	07/12/94	31/10/95(R)	26/12/96
184. Vanuatu	28/09/95	10/08/99(R)	08/11/99
185. Venezuela		29/06/98(Ac)	27/09/98
186. Viet Nam		25/08/98(Ac)	23/11/98
187. Yemen		14/01/97(Ac)	14/04/97
188. Zambia	15/10/94	19/09/96(R)	26/12/96
189. Zimbabwe	15/10/94	23/09/97(R)	22/12/97
Regional Economic Integration Organization			
190. European Community	14/10/94	26/03/98(R)	24/06/98
TOTAL	115	190	

Notes:

- ^a For the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Europe.
- ^b “New Zealand declares 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.”
- ^c 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.

Declarations:**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."

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

Understandings:

"(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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