

[ORIGINAL AGREEMENT]

VIEW TEXT [English](#) [French](#) [Other](#)
[Check Current Status](#)

Title: MULTILATERAL Convention on the prohibition of military or any other hostile use of environmental modification techniques (with annex) Adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on 10 December 1976 Came into force on 5 October 1978 for the following States, i e , upon deposit with the Secretary-General of the United Nations of instruments of ratification by 20 governments, in accordance with article IX (2) and (3) State Date of deposit of the instrument of ratification Yemen20 July1977 Cuba 10 April 1978 Cyprus 12 April 1978 Denmark19 April 1978 Hungary19 April 1978 Sri Lanka25 April 1978 Tunisia11 May 1978 Czechoslovakia 12 May 1978 Finland

Registration Number: 17119

REGISTERED EX-OFFICIO, DEPOSITED WITH THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

By: Ex officio

Date: 05 10 1978

Signed/Adopted:

10 12 1976, New York

Entry Into Force:

05 10 1978 DEFINITIVE

ICJ: No Authority

PARTICIPATION

PARTICIPANT	ACTION	DATE	WITH EFFECT
Akrotiri and Dhekelia	TERRITORIAL APPLICATION	16 05 1978	05 10 1978
Antigua	TERRITORIAL APPLICATION	16 05 1978	05 10 1978
Australia	SIGNATURE	31 05 1978	
Belarus	SIGNATURE	18 05 1977	
Belgium	SIGNATURE	18 05 1977	
Benin	SIGNATURE	10 06 1977	
Bolivia	SIGNATURE	18 05 1977	
Brazil	SIGNATURE	09 11 1977	
Brunei	TERRITORIAL APPLICATION	16 05 1978	05 10 1978
Bulgaria	RATIFICATION	31 05 1978	05 10 1978
Bulgaria	SIGNATURE	18 05 1977	
Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic	RATIFICATION	07 06 1978	05 10 1978

Canada	SIGNATURE	18 05 1977	
Cuba	SIGNATURE	23 09 1977	
Cuba	RATIFICATION	10 04 1978	05 10 1978
Cyprus	RATIFICATION	12 04 1978	05 10 1978
Cyprus	SIGNATURE	07 10 1977	
Czechoslovakia	RATIFICATION	12 05 1978	05 10 1978
Czechoslovakia	SIGNATURE	18 05 1977	
Denmark	RATIFICATION	19.04 1978	05.10 1978
Denmark	SIGNATURE	18 05 1977	
Dominica	TERRITORIAL APPLICATION	16.05 1978	05.10 1978
Ethiopia	SIGNATURE	18 05.1977	
Finland	RATIFICATION	12 05.1978	05.10.1978
Finland	SIGNATURE	18 05 1977	
German Democratic Republic	RATIFICATION	25 05.1978	05.10.1978
Germany	SIGNATURE (with Declaration)	18.05.1977	
Ghana	RATIFICATION	22 06 1978	05.10 1978
Ghana	SIGNATURE	21.03 1978	
Holy See	SIGNATURE	27 05 1977	
Hungary	RATIFICATION	19 04 1978	05 10 1978
Hungary	SIGNATURE	18 05 1977	
Iceland	SIGNATURE	18 05 1977	
India	RATIFICATION	15 12 1978	15 12 1978
India	SIGNATURE	15 12 1977	
Iraq	SIGNATURE	15 08 1977	
Ireland	SIGNATURE	18 05 1977	
Islamic Republic of Iran	SIGNATURE	18 05 1977	
Italy	SIGNATURE	18 05 1977	
Lao People's Democratic Republic	RATIFICATION	05 10 1978	05 10 1978
Laos	SIGNATURE	13 04 1978	
Lebanon	SIGNATURE	18 05 1977	
Liberia	SIGNATURE	18 05 1977	

Luxembourg	SIGNATURE	18 05 1977	
Malawi	ACCESSION	05 10 1978	05 10 1978
Mongolia	SIGNATURE	18 05 1977	
Mongolia	RATIFICATION	19 05 1978	05 10 1978
Morocco	SIGNATURE	18 05 1977	
Multilateral	ORIGINAL AGREEMENT		
Netherlands	SIGNATURE (with Declaration)	18.05 1977	
Nicaragua	SIGNATURE	11 08 1977	
Norway	SIGNATURE	18 05 1 77	
Poland	RATIFICATION	08 06 1978	05 10 1978
Poland	SIGNATURE	18 05 1977	
Portugal	SIGNATURE	18 05 1977	
Romania	SIGNATURE	18 05 1977	
Sierra Leone	SIGNATURE	12 04 1978	
Solomon Islands	TERRITORIAL APPLICATION	16 05 1978	05 10 1978
Spain	SIGNATURE	18 05 1977	
Spain	RATIFICATION	19 07 1978	05 10 1978
Sri Lanka	RATIFICATION	25 04 1978	05 10 1978
Sri Lanka	SIGNATURE	08 06 1977	
St Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla	TERRITORIAL APPLICATION	16 05 1978	05 10 1978
St Lucia	TERRITORIAL APPLICATION	16 05 1978	05 10 1978
St Vincent	TERRITORIAL APPLICATION	16 05 1978	05 10 1978
Syria	SIGNATURE	04 08 1977	
Tunisia	RATIFICATION	11 05 1978	05 10 1978
Tunisia	SIGNATURE	11 05 1978	
Turkey	SIGNATURE	18 05 1977	
Uganda	SIGNATURE	18 05 1 77	
Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic	RATIFICATION	13 06 1978	05 10 1978
Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic	SIGNATURE	18 05 1977	

Union of Soviet Socialist Republics	RATIFICATION	30 05 1978	05 10 1978
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics	SIGNATURE	18 05 1977	
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	SIGNATURE	18 05 1977	
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	RATIFICATION (with Declaration)	16 05 1978	05 10 1978
United Kingdom Territories	TERRITORIAL APPLICATION	16 05 1978	05 10 1978
United States of America	SIGNATURE	18 05 1977	
Viet Nam	SIGNATURE	18 05 1977	
Yemen	RATIFICATION	20 07 1977	05 10 1978
Yemen	SIGNATURE (with Declaration)	18 05 1977	
Zaire	SIGNATURE	28 02 1978	

No. 17119

MULTILATERAL

Convention on the prohibition of military or any other hostile use of environmental modification techniques (with annex). Adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on 10 December 1976

*Authentic texts: English, French, Arabic, Chinese, Russian and Spanish.
Registered ex officio on 5 October 1978.*

MULTILATÉRAL

Convention sur l'interdiction d'utiliser des techniques de modification de l'environnement à des fins militaires ou toutes autres fins hostiles (avec annexe). Adoptée par l'Assemblée générale de l'Organisation des Nations Unies le 10 décembre 1976

*Textes authentiques : anglais, français, arabe, chinois, russe et espagnol.
Enregistrée d'office le 5 octobre 1978.*

CONVENTION¹ ON THE PROHIBITION OF MILITARY OR ANY OTHER HOSTILE USE OF ENVIRONMENTAL MODIFICATION TECHNIQUES

The States Parties to this Convention,

Guided by the interest of consolidating peace, and wishing to contribute to the cause of halting the arms race, and of bringing about general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control, and of saving mankind from the danger of using new means of warfare,

Determined to continue negotiations with a view to achieving effective progress towards further measures in the field of disarmament,

Recognizing that scientific and technical advances may open new possibilities with respect to modification of the environment,

Recalling the Declaration of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, adopted at Stockholm on 16 June 1972,²

Realizing that the use of environmental modification techniques for peaceful purposes could improve the interrelationship of man and nature and contribute to the preservation and improvement of the environment for the benefit of present and future generations,

Recognizing, however, that military or any other hostile use of such techniques could have effects extremely harmful to human welfare,

¹ Came into force on 5 October 1978 for the following States, i.e., upon deposit with the Secretary-General of the United Nations of instruments of ratification by 20 governments, in accordance with article IX (2) and (3):

<i>State</i>	<i>Date of deposit of the instrument of ratification</i>	<i>State</i>	<i>Date of deposit of the instrument of ratification</i>
Yemen	20 July 1977	United Kingdom, as well as the Solomon Islands, the State of Brunei and the United Kingdom Sovereign Base Areas of Akrotiri and Dhekelia in the Island of Cyprus).	
Cuba	10 April 1978	Mongolia	19 May 1978
Cyprus	12 April 1978	German Democratic Republic	25 May 1978
Denmark	19 April 1978	Union of Soviet Socialist Republics	30 May 1978
Hungary	19 April 1978	Bulgaria	31 May 1978
Sri Lanka	25 April 1978	Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic	7 June 1978
Tunisia	11 May 1978	Poland	8 June 1978
Czechoslovakia	12 May 1978	Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic	13 June 1978
Finland	12 May 1978	Ghana	22 June 1978
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	16 May 1978	Spain	19 July 1978
(With a declaration of application in respect of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the associated States (Antigua, Dominica, St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla, St. Lucia and St. Vincent) and territories under the territorial sovereignty of the		Lao People's Democratic Republic	5 October 1978

Subsequently, the Convention came into force in respect of the following State on the date of deposit with the Secretary-General of the United Nations of its instrument of accession, in accordance with article IX (4):

<i>State</i>	<i>Date of deposit of the instrument of accession</i>
Malawi	5 October 1978
(With effect from 5 October 1978.)	

² Report of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, Stockholm, 3-16 June 1972, U.N.A./CONF. 1-14 1972, p. 1.

Desiring to prohibit effectively military or any other hostile use of environmental modification techniques in order to eliminate the dangers to mankind from such use, and affirming their willingness to work towards the achievement of this objective,

Desiring also to contribute to the strengthening of trust among nations and to the further improvement of the international situation in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

Have agreed as follows:

Article I. 1. Each State Party to this Convention undertakes not to engage in military or any other hostile use of environmental modification techniques having widespread, long-lasting or severe effects as the means of destruction, damage or injury to any other State Party.

2. Each State Party to this Convention undertakes not to assist, encourage or induce any State, group of States or international organization to engage in activities contrary to the provisions of paragraph 1 of this article.

Article II. As used in article I, the term "environmental modification techniques" refers to any technique for changing—through the deliberate manipulation of natural processes—the dynamics, composition or structure of the earth, including its biota, lithosphere, hydrosphere and atmosphere, or of outer space.

Article III. 1. The provisions of this Convention shall not hinder the use of environmental modification techniques for peaceful purposes and shall be without prejudice to the generally recognized principles and applicable rules of international law concerning such use.

2. The States Parties to this Convention undertake to facilitate, and have the right to participate in, the fullest possible exchange of scientific and technological information on the use of environmental modification techniques for peaceful purposes. States Parties in a position to do so shall contribute, alone or together with other States or international organizations, to international economic and scientific co-operation in the preservation, improvement and peaceful utilization of the environment, with due consideration for the needs of the developing areas of the world.

Article IV. Each State Party to this Convention undertakes to take any measures it considers necessary in accordance with its constitutional processes to prohibit and prevent any activity in violation of the provisions of the Convention anywhere under its jurisdiction or control.

Article V. 1. The States Parties to this Convention undertake to consult one another and to co-operate in solving any problems which may arise in relation to the objectives of, or in the application of the provisions of, the Convention. Consultation and co-operation pursuant to this article may also be undertaken through appropriate international procedures within the framework of the United Nations and in accordance with its Charter. These international procedures may include the services of appropriate international organizations, as well as of a Consultative Committee of Experts as provided for in paragraph 2 of this article.

2. For the purposes set forth in paragraph 1 of this article, the Depositary shall, within one month of the receipt of a request from any State Party to this Convention, convene a Consultative Committee of Experts. Any State Party may

appoint an expert to the Committee whose functions and rules of procedure are set out in the annex, which constitutes an integral part of this Convention. The Committee shall transmit to the Depositary a summary of its findings of fact, incorporating all views and information presented to the Committee during its proceedings. The Depositary shall distribute the summary to all States Parties.

3. Any State Party to this Convention which has reason to believe that any other State Party is acting in breach of obligations deriving from the provisions of the Convention may lodge a complaint with the Security Council of the United Nations. Such a complaint should include all relevant information as well as all possible evidence supporting its validity.

4. Each State Party to this Convention undertakes to co-operate in carrying out any investigation which the Security Council may initiate, in accordance with the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations, on the basis of the complaint received by the Council. The Security Council shall inform the States Parties of the results of the investigation.

5. Each State Party to this Convention undertakes to provide or support assistance, in accordance with the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations, to any State Party which so requests, if the Security Council decides that such Party has been harmed or is likely to be harmed as a result of violation of the Convention.

Article VI. 1. Any State Party to this Convention may propose amendments to the Convention. The text of any proposed amendment shall be submitted to the Depositary, who shall promptly circulate it to all States Parties.

2. An amendment shall enter into force for all States Parties to this Convention which have accepted it, upon the deposit with the Depositary of instruments of acceptance by a majority of States Parties. Thereafter it shall enter into force for any remaining State Party on the date of deposit of its instrument of acceptance.

Article VII. This Convention shall be of unlimited duration.

Article VIII. 1. Five years after the entry into force of this Convention, a conference of the States Parties to the Convention shall be convened by the Depositary at Geneva, Switzerland. The conference shall review the operation of the Convention with a view to ensuring that its purposes and provisions are being realized, and shall in particular examine the effectiveness of the provisions of paragraph 1 of article I in eliminating the dangers of military or any other hostile use of environmental modification techniques.

2. At intervals of not less than five years thereafter, a majority of the States Parties to this Convention may obtain, by submitting a proposal to this effect to the Depositary, the convening of a conference with the same objectives.

3. If no conference has been convened pursuant to paragraph 2 of this article within ten years following the conclusion of a previous conference, the Depositary shall solicit the views of all States Parties to this Convention, concerning the convening of such a conference. If one third or ten of the States Parties, whichever number is less, respond affirmatively, the Depositary shall take immediate steps to convene the conference.

Article IX. 1. This Convention shall be open to all States for signature. Any State which does not sign the Convention before its entry into force in accordance with paragraph 3 of this article may accede to it at any time.

2. This Convention shall be subject to ratification by signatory States. Instruments of ratification or accession shall be deposited with the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

3. This Convention shall enter into force upon the deposit of instruments of ratification by twenty Governments in accordance with paragraph 2 of this article.

4. For those States whose instruments of ratification or accession are deposited after the entry into force of this Convention, it shall enter into force on the date of the deposit of their instruments of ratification or accession.

5. The Depositary shall promptly inform all signatory and acceding States of the date of each signature, the date of deposit of each instrument of ratification or accession and the date of the entry into force of this Convention and of any amendments thereto, as well as of the receipt of other notices.

6. This Convention shall be registered by the Depositary in accordance with Article 102 of the Charter of the United Nations.

Article X. This Convention, of which the English, Arabic, Chinese, French, Russian and Spanish texts are equally authentic, shall be deposited with the Secretary-General of the United Nations, who shall send duly certified copies thereof to the Governments of the signatory and acceding States.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned, being duly authorized thereto by their respective Governments, have signed this Convention, opened for signature at Geneva on the eighteenth day of May, one thousand nine hundred and seventy-seven.

ANNEX TO THE CONVENTION

CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS

1. The Consultative Committee of Experts shall undertake to make appropriate findings of fact and provide expert views relevant to any problem raised pursuant to paragraph 1 of article V of this Convention by the State Party requesting the convening of the Committee.

2. The work of the Consultative Committee of Experts shall be organized in such a way as to permit it to perform the functions set forth in paragraph 1 of this annex. The Committee shall decide procedural questions relative to the organization of its work, where possible by consensus, but otherwise by a majority of those present and voting. There shall be no voting on matters of substance.

3. The Depositary or his representative shall serve as the Chairman of the Committee.

4. Each expert may be assisted at meetings by one or more advisers.

5. Each expert shall have the right, through the Chairman, to request from States, and from international organizations, such information and assistance as the expert considers desirable for the accomplishment of the Committee's work.