

**10. UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION IN THOSE  
COUNTRIES EXPERIENCING SERIOUS DROUGHT AND/OR DESERTIFICATION,  
PARTICULARLY IN AFRICA**

*Paris, 14 October 1994*

**ENTRY INTO FORCE  
REGISTRATION:  
STATUS:  
TEXT:**

26 December 1996, in accordance with article 36(1).  
26 December 1996, No. 33480.  
Signatories: 114, Parties: 195.<sup>1</sup>  
United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1954, p. 3; depositary notification C.N.176.1995.TREATIES-6 of 27 July 1995 (procès-verbal of rectification of the authentic Chinese text); C.N.513.2000.TREATIES-9 of 19 July 2000 (procès-verbal of rectification of the authentic russian text); C.N.1490.2000.TREATIES-16 of 6 March 2001 (adoption of annex V) and C.N.866.2001.TREATIES-5 of 17 September 2001 (Entry into force of Annex V)<sup>2</sup>.

**Note:** The Convention was adopted on 17 June 1994 by the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for the elaboration of an international convention to combat desertification in those countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa (established pursuant to resolution 47/188<sup>3</sup> of the General Assembly dated 22 December 1992), during its Fifth session held at Paris. The Convention was open for signature at Paris by all States and regional economic integration organizations on 14 and 15 October 1994. Thereafter, it remained open for signature at the United Nations Headquarters in New York until 13 October 1995.

<i>Participant</i>	<i>Signature</i>	<i>Ratification, Accession(a), Acceptance(A)</i>	<i>Participant</i>	<i>Signature</i>	<i>Ratification, Accession(a), Acceptance(A)</i>
Afghanistan.....		1 Nov 1995 a	Bulgaria .....		21 Feb 2001 a
Albania.....		27 Apr 2000 a	Burkina Faso.....	14 Oct 1994	26 Jan 1996
Algeria .....	14 Oct 1994	22 May 1996	Burundi .....	14 Oct 1994	6 Jan 1997
Andorra.....		15 Jul 2002 a	Cabo Verde .....	14 Oct 1994	8 May 1995
Angola .....	14 Oct 1994	30 Jun 1997	Cambodia.....	15 Oct 1994	18 Aug 1997
Antigua and Barbuda .....	4 Apr 1995	6 Jun 1997	Cameroon.....	14 Oct 1994	29 May 1997
Argentina .....	15 Oct 1994	6 Jan 1997	Canada <sup>4</sup> .....	[14 Oct 1994]	[ 1 Dec 1995 ]
Armenia .....	14 Oct 1994	2 Jul 1997	Central African Republic .....	14 Oct 1994	5 Sep 1996
Australia.....	14 Oct 1994	15 May 2000	Chad.....	14 Oct 1994	27 Sep 1996
Austria .....		2 Jun 1997 a	Chile.....	3 Mar 1995	11 Nov 1997
Azerbaijan.....		10 Aug 1998 a	China.....	14 Oct 1994	18 Feb 1997
Bahamas.....		10 Nov 2000 a	Colombia .....	14 Oct 1994	8 Jun 1999
Bahrain.....		14 Jul 1997 a	Comoros.....	14 Oct 1994	3 Mar 1998
Bangladesh.....	14 Oct 1994	26 Jan 1996	Congo.....	15 Oct 1994	12 Jul 1999
Barbados .....		14 May 1997 a	Cook Islands .....		21 Aug 1998 a
Belarus .....		29 Aug 2001 a	Costa Rica.....	15 Oct 1994	5 Jan 1998
Belgium .....		30 Jun 1997 a	Côte d'Ivoire .....	15 Oct 1994	4 Mar 1997
Belize .....		23 Jul 1998 a	Croatia .....	15 Oct 1994	6 Oct 2000 A
Benin.....	14 Oct 1994	29 Aug 1996	Cuba.....	15 Oct 1994	13 Mar 1997
Bhutan.....		20 Aug 2003 a	Cyprus.....		29 Mar 2000 a
Bolivia (Plurinational State of).....	14 Oct 1994	1 Aug 1996	Czech Republic.....		25 Jan 2000 a
Bosnia and Herzegovina .....		26 Aug 2002 a	Democratic People's Republic of Korea ....		29 Dec 2003 a
Botswana .....	12 Oct 1995	11 Sep 1996	Democratic Republic of the Congo .....	14 Oct 1994	12 Sep 1997
Brazil .....	14 Oct 1994	25 Jun 1997	Denmark .....	15 Oct 1994	22 Dec 1995
Brunei Darussalam .....		4 Dec 2002 a			

<i>Participant</i>	<i>Signature</i>	<i>Ratification, Accession(a), Acceptance(A)</i>	<i>Participant</i>	<i>Signature</i>	<i>Ratification, Accession(a), Acceptance(A)</i>
Djibouti.....	15 Oct 1994	12 Jun 1997	Kyrgyzstan.....		19 Sep 1997 a
Dominica .....		8 Dec 1997 a	Lao People's Democratic Republic.....	30 Aug 1995	20 Sep 1996 A
Dominican Republic.....		26 Jun 1997 a	Latvia .....		21 Oct 2002 a
Ecuador.....	19 Jan 1995	6 Sep 1995	Lebanon.....	14 Oct 1994	16 May 1996
Egypt.....	14 Oct 1994	7 Jul 1995	Lesotho.....	15 Oct 1994	12 Sep 1995
El Salvador .....		27 Jun 1997 a	Liberia.....		2 Mar 1998 a
Equatorial Guinea.....	14 Oct 1994	27 Jun 1997	Libya.....	15 Oct 1994	22 Jul 1996
Eritrea .....	14 Oct 1994	14 Aug 1996	Liechtenstein.....		29 Dec 1999 a
Estonia .....		8 Feb 2012 a	Lithuania.....		25 Jul 2003 a
Ethiopia.....	15 Oct 1994	27 Jun 1997	Luxembourg.....	14 Oct 1994	4 Feb 1997
European Union.....	14 Oct 1994	26 Mar 1998	Madagascar.....	14 Oct 1994	25 Jun 1997
Fiji .....		26 Aug 1998 a	Malawi.....	17 Jan 1995	13 Jun 1996
Finland.....	15 Oct 1994	20 Sep 1995 A	Malaysia.....	6 Oct 1995	25 Jun 1997
France .....	14 Oct 1994	12 Jun 1997	Maldives .....		3 Sep 2002 a
Gabon.....		6 Sep 1996 a	Mali.....	15 Oct 1994	31 Oct 1995
Gambia.....	14 Oct 1994	11 Jun 1996	Malta.....	15 Oct 1994	30 Jan 1998
Georgia .....	15 Oct 1994	23 Jul 1999	Marshall Islands.....		2 Jun 1998 a
Germany .....	14 Oct 1994	10 Jul 1996	Mauritania.....	14 Oct 1994	7 Aug 1996
Ghana.....	15 Oct 1994	27 Dec 1996	Mauritius.....	17 Mar 1995	23 Jan 1996
Greece.....	14 Oct 1994	5 May 1997	Mexico .....	15 Oct 1994	3 Apr 1995
Grenada.....		28 May 1997 a	Micronesia (Federated States of).....	12 Dec 1994	25 Mar 1996
Guatemala.....		10 Sep 1998 a	Monaco .....		5 Mar 1999 a
Guinea.....	14 Oct 1994	23 Jun 1997	Mongolia.....	15 Oct 1994	3 Sep 1996
Guinea-Bissau.....	15 Oct 1994	27 Oct 1995	Montenegro.....		4 Jun 2007 a
Guyana.....		26 Jun 1997 a	Morocco.....	15 Oct 1994	7 Nov 1996
Haiti .....	15 Oct 1994	25 Sep 1996	Mozambique.....	28 Sep 1995	13 Mar 1997
Honduras.....	22 Feb 1995	25 Jun 1997	Myanmar.....		2 Jan 1997 a
Hungary .....		13 Jul 1999 a	Namibia .....	24 Oct 1994	16 May 1997
Iceland .....		3 Jun 1997 a	Nauru .....		22 Sep 1998 a
India .....	14 Oct 1994	17 Dec 1996	Nepal.....	12 Oct 1995	15 Oct 1996
Indonesia.....	15 Oct 1994	31 Aug 1998	Netherlands <sup>5</sup> .....	15 Oct 1994	27 Jun 1995 A
Iran (Islamic Republic of).....	14 Oct 1994	29 Apr 1997	New Zealand <sup>6</sup> .....		7 Sep 2000 a
Iraq.....		28 May 2010 a	Nicaragua.....	21 Nov 1994	17 Feb 1998
Ireland.....	15 Oct 1994	31 Jul 1997	Niger .....	14 Oct 1994	19 Jan 1996
Israel .....	14 Oct 1994	26 Mar 1996	Nigeria.....	31 Oct 1994	8 Jul 1997
Italy .....	14 Oct 1994	23 Jun 1997	Niue .....		14 Aug 1998 a
Jamaica .....		12 Nov 1997 a	Norway .....	15 Oct 1994	30 Aug 1996
Japan .....	14 Oct 1994	11 Sep 1998 A	Oman .....		23 Jul 1996 a
Jordan.....	13 Apr 1995	21 Oct 1996	Pakistan.....	15 Oct 1994	24 Feb 1997
Kazakhstan.....	14 Oct 1994	9 Jul 1997	Palau .....		15 Jun 1999 a
Kenya.....	14 Oct 1994	24 Jun 1997	Panama.....	22 Feb 1995	4 Apr 1996
Kiribati.....		8 Sep 1998 a	Papua New Guinea .....		6 Dec 2000 a
Kuwait .....	22 Sep 1995	27 Jun 1997			

<i>Participant</i>	<i>Signature</i>	<i>Ratification, Accession(a), Acceptance(A)</i>	<i>Participant</i>	<i>Signature</i>	<i>Ratification, Accession(a), Acceptance(A)</i>
Paraguay .....	1 Dec 1994	15 Jan 1997	Swaziland.....	27 Jul 1995	7 Oct 1996
Peru .....	15 Oct 1994	9 Nov 1995	Sweden.....	15 Oct 1994	12 Dec 1995
Philippines .....	8 Dec 1994	10 Feb 2000	Switzerland .....	14 Oct 1994	19 Jan 1996
Poland .....		14 Nov 2001 a	Syrian Arab Republic ....	15 Oct 1994	10 Jun 1997
Portugal.....	14 Oct 1994	1 Apr 1996	Tajikistan .....		16 Jul 1997 a
Qatar .....		15 Mar 1999 a	Thailand .....		7 Mar 2001 a
Republic of Korea.....	14 Oct 1994	17 Aug 1999	The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.....		6 Mar 2002 a
Republic of Moldova .....		10 Mar 1999 a	Timor-Leste .....		20 Aug 2003 a
Romania.....		19 Aug 1998 a	Togo.....	15 Oct 1994	4 Oct 1995 A
Russian Federation .....		29 May 2003 a	Tonga .....		25 Sep 1998 a
Rwanda .....	22 Jun 1995	22 Oct 1998	Trinidad and Tobago ....		8 Jun 2000 a
Samoa .....		21 Aug 1998 a	Tunisia .....	14 Oct 1994	11 Oct 1995
San Marino .....		23 Jul 1999 a	Turkey.....	14 Oct 1994	31 Mar 1998
Sao Tome and Principe..	4 Oct 1995	8 Jul 1998	Turkmenistan .....	27 Mar 1995	18 Sep 1996
Saudi Arabia .....		25 Jun 1997 a	Tuvalu .....		14 Sep 1998 a
Senegal.....	14 Oct 1994	26 Jul 1995	Uganda.....	21 Nov 1994	25 Jun 1997
Serbia .....		18 Dec 2007 a	Ukraine .....		27 Aug 2002 a
Seychelles .....	14 Oct 1994	26 Jun 1997	United Arab Emirates ....		21 Oct 1998 a
Sierra Leone.....	11 Nov 1994	25 Sep 1997	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland <sup>7</sup> ....	14 Oct 1994	18 Oct 1996
Singapore.....		26 Apr 1999 a	United Republic of Tanzania.....	14 Oct 1994	19 Jun 1997
Slovakia .....		7 Jan 2002 a	United States of America.....	14 Oct 1994	17 Nov 2000
Slovenia .....		28 Jun 2001 a	Uruguay .....		17 Feb 1999 a
Solomon Islands .....		16 Apr 1999 a	Uzbekistan .....	7 Dec 1994	31 Oct 1995
Somalia .....		24 Jul 2002 a	Vanuatu.....	28 Sep 1995	10 Aug 1999
South Africa.....	9 Jan 1995	30 Sep 1997	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) .....		29 Jun 1998 a
South Sudan.....		17 Feb 2014 a	Viet Nam.....		25 Aug 1998 a
Spain .....	14 Oct 1994	30 Jan 1996	Yemen.....		14 Jan 1997 a
Sri Lanka.....		9 Dec 1998 a	Zambia .....	15 Oct 1994	19 Sep 1996
St. Kitts and Nevis .....		30 Jun 1997 a	Zimbabwe .....	15 Oct 1994	23 Sep 1997
St. Lucia.....		2 Jul 1997 a			
St. Vincent and the Grenadines .....	15 Oct 1994	16 Mar 1998			
Sudan .....	15 Oct 1994	24 Nov 1995			
Suriname .....		1 Jun 2000 a			

### ***Declarations***

***(Unless otherwise indicated, the declarations were made upon ratification, accession or acceptance.)***

#### **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."

#### ESTONIA

"In accordance with paragraph 4 of Article 34 of the Convention, any additional regional implementation annex or an amendment to any regional implementation annex shall enter into force with respect to the Republic of Estonia only upon the deposit of its instrument of approval of such annex or amendment with the Depositary."

#### 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

" (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."

---

#### Notes:

<sup>1</sup> For the purpose of entry into force of the [Convention/Protocol] , any instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession deposited by a regional economic integration organization shall not be counted as additional to those deposited by member States of that Organization.

<sup>2</sup> At the fourth session of the Conference of the Parties to the above Convention, held in Bonn, Germany, from 11 to 22 December 2000, the Regional Implementation Annex for Central and Eastern Europe to the above Convention (Annex V) was adopted by decision 7/COP.4 of 22 December 2000 (12th Plenary meeting).

None of the Parties having submitted a notification in accordance with the provisions of article 31 (3) (a) or a

declaration in accordance with the provisions of article 31 (3) (b) of the Convention, the adoption of annex V became effective for all Parties to the Convention on the expiry of six months from the date of its notification ( 6 March 2001) in accordance with paragraph 3 of article 31, i.e. on 6 September 2001.

<sup>3</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 49 (A/47/49) (Vol.I), p. 137.*

<sup>4</sup> In accordance with article 38 (2) of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa , the Government of Canada notified the Secretary-General that it had decided to withdraw from the Convention as from the date indicated hereinafter:

<i>Participant:</i>	<i>Date of notification:</i>	<i>Date of effect:</i>
Canada	28 Mar 2013	28 Mar 2014

<sup>5</sup> For the Kingdom in Europe.

<sup>6</sup> With a declaration to the effect 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.”

<sup>7</sup> 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.

