

# ***Geneva Conventions and Additional Protocols***

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## **Geneva Conventions for the protection of war victims of 12 August 1949 and Additional Protocols of 8 June 1977 ratifications, accessions and successions as at 31 December 1997**

### **1. Abbreviations**

**Ratification (R):** a treaty is generally open for signature for a certain time following the conference which has adopted it. However, a signature is not binding on a State unless it has been endorsed by ratification. The time limits having elapsed, the Conventions and the Protocols are no longer open for signature. The States which have not signed them may at any time accede or, in the appropriate circumstances, succeed to them.

**Accession (A):** instead of signing and then ratifying a treaty, a State may become party to it by the single act called accession.

**Succession (S):** a newly independent State may declare that it will abide by a treaty which was applicable to it prior to its independence. A State may also declare that it will provisionally abide by such treaties during the time it deems necessary to examine their texts carefully and to decide on accession or succession to some or all of the said treaties (declaration of provisional application of the treaties). At present no State is bound by such a declaration.

**Reservation/Declaration (R/D):** unilateral statement, however phrased or named, made by a State when ratifying, acceding or succeeding to a treaty, whereby it purports to exclude or to modify the legal effect of certain provisions of the treaty in their application to that State (provided that such reservations are not incompatible with the object and purpose of the treaty).

**Declaration provided for under article 90 of Protocol I (D90):** prior acceptance of the competence of the International Fact-Finding Commission.

## 2. Dates

The dates indicated are those on which the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs received the official instrument from the State that was ratifying, acceding to or succeeding to the Conventions or Protocols or accepting the competence of the Commission provided for under Article 90 of Protocol I. They thus represent neither the date on which ratification, accession, succession or acceptance of the Commission was decided upon by the State concerned nor that on which the corresponding instrument was sent.

N.B.: The dates given for succession to the Geneva Conventions by Congo, Jamaica, Madagascar, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Zaire used to be those on which the corresponding instruments had been officially adopted. They have now been replaced by the dates on which the depositary received those instruments.

## 3. Entry into force

Except as mentioned in footnotes at the end of the tables, for all States the entry into force of the Conventions and of the Protocols occurs six months after the date given in the present document; for States which have made a declaration of succession, entry into force takes place retroactively, on the day of their accession to independence.

The **1949 Geneva Conventions** entered into force on 21 October 1950.

The **1977 Additional Protocols** entered into force on 7 December 1978.

## 4. Names of countries

The name given in the following list may differ from the official name of the concerned State.

## 5. Update since 31 December 1996

Ratifications, accessions or successions to Additional Protocol I:

Chad                      17.01.1997

Lebanon                 23.07.1997

Ratifications, accessions or successions to Additional Protocol II:

Chad 17.01.1997

Lebanon 23.07.1997

Declaration provided for under article 90 of Protocol I:

Tajikistan 10.09.1997

## 6. Notes

**Djibouti.** Djibouti's declaration of succession in respect of the First Convention was dated 26.01.1978.

**France.** On accession to Protocol II, France made a communication concerning Protocol I.

**Ghana.** Entry into force of Protocols I and II on 07.12.1978.

**Namibia.** An instrument of accession to the Geneva Conventions and their additional Protocols was deposited by the United Nations Council for Namibia on 18.10.1983. In an instrument deposited on 22.08.1991, Namibia declared its succession to the Geneva Conventions, which were previously applicable pursuant to South Africa's accession on 31.03.1952.

**Palestine.** On 21 June 1989, the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs received a letter from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations Office at Geneva informing the Swiss Federal Council "that the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization, entrusted with the functions of the Government of the State of Palestine by decision of the Palestine National Council, decided, on 4 May 1989, to adhere to the Four Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 and the two Protocols additional thereto".

On 13 September 1989, the Swiss Federal Council informed the States that it was not in a position to decide whether the letter constituted an instrument of accession, "due to the uncertainty within the international community as to the existence or non-existence of a State of Palestine".

**Philippines.** The First Geneva Convention was ratified on 7.03.1951.

**Republic of Korea.** The Geneva Conventions entered into force on 23.09.66, the Republic of Korea having invoked Art. 62/61/141/157 common respectively to the First, Second, Third and Fourth Conventions (immediate effect).

**Sri Lanka.** Accession to the Fourth Geneva Convention on 23.02.1959 (Ceylon had signed only the First, Second, and Third Conventions).

**Switzerland.** Entry into force of the Geneva Conventions on 21.10.1950.

**Trinidad and Tobago.** Accession to the First Geneva Convention on 17.03.1963.

**7. Total**

Number of States party to the 1949 Geneva Conventions	<b>188</b>
Number of States party to the 1977 Additional Protocol I	<b>148</b>
Number of States having made the declaration under Article 90	<b>50</b>
Number of States party to the 1977 Additional Protocol II	<b>140</b>
Number of States members of the United Nations	<b>185</b>

States members of U.N. or parties to the Statute of the International Court of Justice, not being party to the 1949 Geneva Conventions: Eritrea, Marshall, Nauru.

COUNTRY	GENEVA CONVENTIONS		PROTOCOL I			PROTOCOL II	
	R/A/S	R/D	R/A/S	R/D	D90	R/A/S	R/D
Afghanistan	26.09.1956	R					
Albania	27.05.1957	R X	16.07.1993	A		16.07.1993	A
Algeria	20.06.1960; A		16.08.1989	A X	16.08.1989	16.08.1989	A
Andorra	17.09.1993	A					
Angola	20.09.1984	A X	20.09.1984	A X			
Antigua and Barbuda	06.10.1986	S	06.10.1986	A		06.10.1986	A
Argentina	18.09.1956	R	26.11.1986	A X	11.10.1996	26.11.1986	A X
Armenia	07.06.1993	A	07.06.1993	A		07.06.1993	A
Australia	14.10.1958	R X	21.06.1991	R X	23.09.1992	21.06.1991	R
Austria	27.08.1953	R	13.08.1982	R X	13.08.1982	13.08.1982	R X
Azerbaijan	01.06.1993	A					
Bahamas	11.07.1975	S	10.04.1980	A		10.04.1980	A
Bahrain	30.11.1971	A	30.10.1986	A		30.10.1986	A
Bangladesh	04.04.1972	S	08.09.1980	A		08.09.1980	A

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Barbados	10.09.1968	S X	19.02.1990	A		19.02.1990	A
Belarus	03.08.1954	R X	23.10.1989	R	23.10.1989	23.10.1989	R
Belgium	03.09.1952	R	20.05.1986	R X	27.03.1987	20.05.1986	R
Belize	29.06.1984	A	29.06.1984	A		29.06.1984	A
Benin	14.12.1961	S	28.05.1986	A		28.05.1986	A
Bhutan	10.01.1991	A					
Bolivia	10.12.1976	R	08.12.1983	A	10.08.1992	08.12.1983	A
Bosnia- Herzegovina	31.12.1992	S	31.12.1992	S	31.12.1992	31.12.1992	S
Botswana	29.03.1968	A	23.05.1979	A		23.05.1979	A
Brazil	29.06.1957	R	05.05.1992	A	23.11.1993	05.05.1992	A
Brunei							
Darussalam	14.10.1991	A	14.10.1991	A		14.10.1991	A
Bulgaria	22.07.1954	R	26.09.1989	R	09.05.1994	26.09.1989	R
Burkina Faso	07.11.1961	S	20.10.1987	R		20.10.1987	R
Burundi	27.12.1971	S	10.06.1993	A		10.06.1993	A
Cambodia	08.12.1958	A					
Cameroon	16.09.1963	S	16.03.1984	A		16.03.1984	A
Canada	14.05.1965	R	20.11.1990	R X	20.11.1990	20.11.1990	R X
Cape Verde	11.05.1984	A	16.03.1995	A	16.03.1995	16.03.1995	A
Central African Republic	01.08.1966	S	17.07.1984	A		17.07.1984	A
Chad	05.08.1970	A	17.01.1997	A		17.01.1997	A
Chile	12.10.1950	R	24.04.1991	R	24.04.1991	24.04.1991	R
China	28.12.1956	R X	14.09.1983	A X		14.09.1983	A
Colombia	08.11.1961	R	01.09.1993	A	17.04.1996	14.08.1995	A
Comoros	21.11.1985	A	21.11.1985	A		21.11.1985	A
Congo	04.02.1967	S	10.11.1983	A		10.11.1983	A
Congo (Dem. Rep.)	24.02.1961	S	03.06.1982	A			
Costa Rica	15.10.1969	A	15.12.1983	A		15.12.1983	A
Côte d'Ivoire	28.12.1961	S	20.09.1989	R		20.09.1989	R
Croatia	11.05.1992	S	11.05.1992	S	11.05.1992	11.05.1992	S
Cuba	15.04.1954	R	25.11.1982	A			
Cyprus	23.05.1962	A	01.06.1979	R		18.03.1996	A
Czech Republic	05.02.1993	S X	05.02.1993	S	02.05.1995	05.02.1993	S
Denmark	27.06.1951	R	17.06.1982	R X	17.06.1982	17.06.1982	R
Djibouti	06.03.1978	S	08.04.1991	A		08.04.1991	A
Dominica	28.09.1981	S	25.04.1996	A		25.04.1996	A
Dominican Republic	22.01.1958	A	26.05.1994	A		26.05.1994	A
Ecuador	11.08.1954	R	10.04.1979	R		10.04.1979	R
Egypt	10.11.1952	R	09.10.1992	R X		09.10.1992	R X
El Salvador	17.06.1953	R	23.11.1978	R		23.11.1978	R
Equatorial Guinea	24.07.1986	A	24.07.1986	A		24.07.1986	A
Estonia	18.01.1993	A	18.01.1993	A		18.01.1993	A
Ethiopia	02.10.1969	R	08.04.1994	A		08.04.1994	A
Fiji	09.08.1971	S					
Finland	22.02.1955	R	07.08.1980	R X	07.08.1980	07.08.1980	R
France	28.06.1951	R				24.02.1984	A X
Gabon	26.02.1965	S	08.04.1980	A		08.04.1980	A

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Gambia	20.10.1966	S	12.01.1989	A		12.01.1989	A
Georgia	14.09.1993	A	14.09.1993	A		14.09.1993	A
Germany	03.09.1954	A X	14.02.1991	R X	14.02.1991	14.02.1991	R X
Ghana	02.08.1958	A	28.02.1978	R		28.02.1978	R
Greece	05.06.1956	R	31.03.1989	R		15.02.1993	A
Grenada	13.04.1981	S					
Guatemala	14.05.1952	R	19.10.1987	R		19.10.1987	R
Guinea	11.07.1984	A	11.07.1984	A	20.12.1993	11.07.1984	A
Guinea-Bissau	21.02.1974	A X	21.10.1986	A		21.10.1986	A
Guyana	22.07.1968	S	18.01.1988	A		18.01.1988	A
Haiti	11.04.1957	A					
Holy See	22.02.1951	R	21.11.1985	R X		21.11.1985	R X
Honduras	31.12.1965	A	16.02.1995	R		16.02.1995	R
Hungary	03.08.1954	R X	12.04.1989	R	23.09.1991	12.04.1989	R
Iceland	10.08.1965	A	10.04.1987	R X	10.04.1987	10.04.1987	R
India	09.11.1950	R					
Indonesia	30.09.1958	A					
Iran (Islamic Rep.of)	20.02.1957	R X					
Iraq	14.02.1956	A					
Ireland	27.09.1962	R					
Israel	06.07.1951	R X					
Italy	17.12.1951	R	27.02.1986	R X	27.02.1986	27.02.1986	R
Jamaica	20.07.1964	S	29.07.1986	A		29.07.1986	A
Japan	21.04.1953	A					
Jordan	29.05.1951	A	01.05.1979	R		01.05.1979	R
Kazakhstan	05.05.1992	S	05.05.1992	S		05.05.1992	S
Kenya	20.09.1966	A					
Kiribati	05.01.1989	S					
Korea (Dem. People's Rep.)	27.08.1957	A X	09.03.1988	A			
Korea (Republic of)	16.08.1966	A X	15.01.1982	R X		15.01.1982	R
Kuwait	02.09.1967	A X	17.01.1985	A		17.01.1985	A
Kyrgyzstan	18.09.1992	S	18.09.1992	S		18.09.1992	S
Lao People's Dem.Rep.	29.10.1956	A	18.11.1980	R		18.11.1980	R
Latvia	24.12.1991	A	24.12.1991	A		24.12.1991	A
Lebanon	10.04.1951	R	23.07.1997	A		23.07.1997	A
Lesotho	20.05.1968	S	20.05.1994	A		20.05.1994	A
Liberia	29.03.1954	A	30.06.1988	A		30.06.1988	A
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	22.05.1956	A	07.06.1978	A		07.06.1978	A
Liechtenstein	21.09.1950	R	10.08.1989	R X	10.08.1989	10.08.1989	R X
Lithuania	03.10.1996	A					
Luxembourg	01.07.1953	R	29.08.1989	R	12.05.1993	29.08.1989	R
Macedonia	01.09.1993	S X	01.09.1993	S X	01.09.1993	01.09.1993	S
Madagascar	18.07.1963	S	08.05.1992	R	27.07.1993	08.05.1992	R
Malawi	05.01.1968	A	07.10.1991	A		07.10.1991	A
Malaysia	24.08.1962	A					
Maldives	18.06.1991	A	03.09.1991	A		03.09.1991	A

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Mali	24.05.1965	A	08.02.1989	A		08.02.1989	A
Malta	22.08.1968	S	17.04.1989	A	X	17.04.1989	17.04.1989 A X
Mauritania	30.10.1962	S	14.03.1980	A			14.03.1980 A
Mauritius	18.08.1970	S	22.03.1982	A			22.03.1982 A
Mexico	29.10.1952	R	10.03.1983	A			
Micronesia	19.09.1995	A	19.09.1995	A			19.09.1995 A
Moldova (Republic of)	24.05.1993	A	24.05.1993	A			24.05.1993 A
Monaco	05.07.1950	R					
Mongolia	20.12.1958	A	06.12.1995	R	X	06.12.1995	06.12.1995 R
Morocco	26.07.1956	A					
Mozambique	14.03.1983	A	14.03.1983	A			
Myanmar	25.08.1992	A					
Namibia	22.08.1991	S	17.06.1994	A		21.07.1994	17.06.1994 A
Nepal	07.02.1964	A					
Netherlands	03.08.1954	R	26.06.1987	R	X	26.06.1987	26.06.1987 R
New Zealand	02.05.1959	R X	08.02.1988	R	X	08.02.1988	08.02.1988 R
Nicaragua	17.12.1953	R					
Niger	21.04.1964	S	08.06.1979	R			08.06.1979 R
Nigeria	20.06.1961	S	10.10.1988	A			10.10.1988 A
Norway	03.08.1951	R	14.12.1981	R		14.12.1981	14.12.1981 R
Oman	31.01.1974	A	29.03.1984	A	X		29.03.1984 A X
Pakistan	12.06.1951	R X					
Palau	25.06.1996	A	25.06.1996	A			25.06.1996 A
Panama	10.02.1956	A	18.09.1995	R			18.09.1995 R
Papua New Guinea	26.05.1976	S					
Paraguay	23.10.1961	R	30.11.1990	A			30.11.1990 A
Peru	15.02.1956	R	14.07.1989	R			14.07.1989 R
Philippines	06.10.1952	R					11.12.1986 A
Poland	26.11.1954	R X	23.10.1991	R		02.10.1992	23.10.1991 R
Portugal	14.03.1961	R X	27.05.1992	R		01.07.1994	27.05.1992 R
Qatar	15.10.1975	A	05.04.1988	A	X	24.09.1991	
Romania	01.06.1954	R X	21.06.1990	R		31.05.1995	21.06.1990 R
Russian Federation	10.05.1954	R X	29.09.1989	R	X	29.09.1989	29.09.1989 R X
Rwanda	05.05.1964	S	19.11.1984	A		08.07.1993	19.11.1984 A
Saint Kitts and Nevis	14.02.1986	S	14.02.1986	A			14.02.1986 A
Saint Lucia	18.09.1981	S	07.10.1982	A			07.10.1982 A
Saint Vincent Grenadines	01.04.1981	A	08.04.1983	A			08.04.1983 A
Samoa	23.08.1984	S	23.08.1984	A			23.08.1984 A
San Marino	29.08.1953	A	05.04.1994	R			05.04.1994 R
Sao Tome and Principe	21.05.1976	A	05.07.1996	A			05.07.1996 A
Saudi Arabia	18.05.1963	A	21.08.1987	A	X		
Senegal	18.05.1963	S	07.05.1985	R			07.05.1985 R
Seychelles	08.11.1984	A	08.11.1984	A		22.05.1992	08.11.1984 A
Sierra Leone	10.06.1965	S	21.10.1986	A			21.10.1986 A
Singapore	27.04.1973	A					

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Slovakia	02.04.1993	S X	02.04.1993	S	13.03.1995	02.04.1993	S
Slovenia	26.03.1992	S	26.03.1992	S	26.03.1992	26.03.1992	S
Solomon Islands	06.07.1981	S	19.09.1988	A		19.09.1988	A
Somalia	12.07.1962	A					
South Africa	31.03.1952	A	21.11.1995	A		21.11.1995	A
Spain	04.08.1952	R	21.04.1989	R X	21.04.1989	21.04.1989	R
Sri Lanka	28.02.1959	R					
Sudan	23.09.1957	A					
Suriname	13.10.1976	S X	16.12.1985	A		16.12.1985	A
Swaziland	28.06.1973	A	02.11.1995	A		02.11.1995	A
Sweden	28.12.1953	R	31.08.1979	R X	31.08.1979	31.08.1979	R
Switzerland	31.03.1950	R	17.02.1982	R X	17.02.1982	17.02.1982	R
Syrian Arab Republic	02.11.1953	R	14.11.1983	A X			
Tajikistan	13.01.1993	S	13.01.1993	S	10.09.1997	13.01.1993	S
Tanzania (United Rep.of)	12.12.1962	S	15.02.1983	A		15.02.1983	A
Thailand	29.12.1954	A					
Togo	06.01.1962	S	21.06.1984	R	21.11.1991	21.06.1984	R
Tonga	13.04.1978	S					
Trinidad and Tobago	24.09.1963	A					
Tunisia	04.05.1957	A	09.08.1979	R		09.08.1979	R
Turkey	10.02.1954	R					
Turkmenistan	10.04.1992	S	10.04.1992	S		10.04.1992	S
Tuvalu	19.02.1981	S					
Uganda	18.05.1964	A	13.03.1991	A		13.03.1991	A
Ukraine	03.08.1954	R X	25.01.1990	R	25.01.1990	25.01.1990	R
United Arab Emirates	10.05.1972	A	09.03.1983	A X	06.03.1992	09.03.1983	A X
United Kingdom	23.09.1957	R X					
United States of America	02.08.1955	R X					
Uruguay	05.03.1969	R X	13.12.1985	A	17.07.1990	13.12.1985	A
Uzbekistan	08.10.1993	A	08.10.1993	A		08.10.1993	A
Vanuatu	27.10.1982	A	28.02.1985	A		28.02.1985	A
Venezuela	13.02.1956	R					
Viet Nam	28.06.1957	A X	19.10.1981	R			
Yemen	16.07.1970	A X	17.04.1990	R		17.04.1990	R
Yugoslavia	21.04.1950	R X	11.06.1979	R X		11.06.1979	R
Zambia	19.10.1966	A	04.05.1995	A		04.05.1995	A
Zimbabwe	07.03.1983	A	19.10.1992	A		19.10.1992	A

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