



# States Parties to the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and the 1967 Protocol

Date of entry into force:  
22 April 1954 (Convention)  
4 October 1967 (Protocol)

*As of 1 March 2006*

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| Total number of States Parties to the 1951 Convention: | 143 |
| Total number of States Parties to the 1967 Protocol:   | 143 |
| States Parties to both the Convention and Protocol:    | 140 |
| States Parties to one or both of these instruments:    | 146 |

*States Parties to the 1951 Convention only:*

Madagascar, Monaco, Saint Kitts and Nevis

*States Parties to the 1967 Protocol only:*

Cape Verde, United States of America, Venezuela

The Convention was adopted by the United Nations Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the Status of Refugees and Stateless Persons, held at Geneva from 2 to 25 July 1951. The Conference was convened pursuant to resolution 429 (V)<sup>1</sup>, adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on 14 December 1950.

The dates indicated are the dates of deposit of the instrument of ratification or accession by the respective States Parties with the Secretary-General of the United Nations in New York. In accordance with article 43(2), the Convention enters into force on the ninetieth day after the date of deposit. The Protocol enters into force on the date of deposit (article VIII (2)). Exceptions are indicated below.

*Most recent ratification:*

|             |               |               |
|-------------|---------------|---------------|
| Afghanistan | 30 Aug 2005 a | 30 Aug 2005 a |
|-------------|---------------|---------------|

| <b>Country</b>      | <b>Convention</b> | <b>Protocol</b> |
|---------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| Afghanistan         | 30 Aug 2005 a     | 30 Aug 2005 a   |
| Albania             | 18 Aug 1992 a     | 18 Aug 1992 a   |
| Algeria             | 21 Feb 1963 s     | 08 Nov 1967 a   |
| Angola              | 23 Jun 1981 a     | 23 Jun 1981 a   |
| Antigua and Barbuda | 07 Sep 1995 a     | 07 Sep 1995 a   |
| Argentina           | 15 Nov 1961 a     | 06 Dec 1967 a   |
| Armenia             | 06 Jul 1993 a     | 06 Jul 1993 a   |
| Australia           | 22 Jan 1954 a     | 13 Dec 1973 a   |
| Austria             | 01 Nov 1954 r     | 05 Sep 1973 a   |
| Azerbaijan          | 12 Feb 1993 a     | 12 Feb 1993 a   |
| Bahamas             | 15 Sep 1993 a     | 15 Sep 1993 a   |



|                               |                |               |
|-------------------------------|----------------|---------------|
| Belarus                       | 23 Aug 2001 a  | 23 Aug 2001 a |
| Belgium                       | 22 Jul 1953 r  | 08 Apr 1969 a |
| Belize                        | 27 Jun 1990 a  | 27 Jun 1990 a |
| Benin                         | 04 Apr 1962 s  | 06 Jul 1970 a |
| Bolivia                       | 09 Feb 1982 a  | 09 Feb 1982 a |
| Bosnia and Herzegovina        | 01 Sep 1993 s  | 01 Sep 1993 s |
| Botswana                      | 06 Jan 1969 a  | 06 Jan 1969 a |
| Brazil                        | 16 Nov 1960 r  | 07 Apr 1972 a |
| Bulgaria                      | 12 May 1993 a  | 12 May 1993 a |
| Burkina Faso                  | 18 Jun 1980 a  | 18 Jun 1980 a |
| Burundi                       | 19 Jul 1963 a  | 15 Mar 1971 a |
| Cambodia                      | 15 Oct 1992 a  | 15 Oct 1992 a |
| Cameroon                      | 23 Oct 1961 s  | 19 Sep 1967 a |
| Canada                        | 04 Jun 1969 a  | 04 Jun 1969 a |
| Cape Verde (P)                |                | 09 Jul 1987 a |
| Central African Republic      | 04 Sep 1962 s  | 30 Aug 1967 a |
| Chad                          | 19 Aug 1981 a  | 19 Aug 1981 a |
| Chile                         | 28 Jan 1972 a  | 27 Apr 1972 a |
| China                         | 24 Sep 1982 a  | 24 Sep 1982 a |
| Colombia                      | 10 Oct 1961 r  | 04 Mar 1980 a |
| Congo                         | 15 Oct 1962 s  | 10 Jul 1970 a |
| Congo, Democratic Republic of | 19 July 1965 a | 13 Jan 1975 a |
| Costa Rica                    | 28 Mar 1978 a  | 28 Mar 1978 a |
| Côte d'Ivoire                 | 08 Dec 1961 s  | 16 Feb 1970 a |
| Croatia                       | 12 Oct 1992 s  | 12 Oct 1992 s |
| Cyprus                        | 16 May 1963 s  | 09 Jul 1968 a |
| Czech Republic                | 11 May 1993 s  | 11 May 1993 s |
| Denmark                       | 04 Dec 1952 r  | 29 Jan 1968 a |
| Djibouti                      | 09 Aug 1977 s  | 09 Aug 1977 s |
| Dominica                      | 17 Feb 1994 a  | 17 Feb 1994 a |
| Dominican Republic            | 04 Jan 1978 a  | 04 Jan 1978 a |
| Ecuador                       | 17 Aug 1955 a  | 06 Mar 1969 a |
| Egypt                         | 22 May 1981 a  | 22 May 1981 a |
| El Salvador                   | 28 Apr 1983 a  | 28 Apr 1983 a |
| Equatorial Guinea             | 07 Feb 1986 a  | 07 Feb 1986 a |
| Estonia                       | 10 Apr 1997 a  | 10 Apr 1997 a |
| Ethiopia                      | 10 Nov 1969 a  | 10 Nov 1969 a |
| Fiji                          | 12 Jun 1972 s  | 12 Jun 1972 s |
| Finland                       | 10 Oct 1968 a  | 10 Oct 1968 a |
| France                        | 23 Jun 1954 r  | 03 Feb 1971 a |
| Gabon                         | 27 Apr 1964 a  | 28 Aug 1973 a |
| Gambia                        | 07 Sep 1966 s  | 29 Sep 1967 a |
| Georgia                       | 09 Aug 1999 a  | 09 Aug 1999 a |
| Germany                       | 01 Dec 1953 r  | 05 Nov 1969 a |
| Ghana                         | 18 Mar 1963 a  | 30 Aug 1968 a |
| Greece                        | 05 Apr 1960 r  | 07 Aug 1968 a |
| Guatemala                     | 22 Sep 1983 a  | 22 Sep 1983 a |
| Guinea                        | 28 Dec 1965 s  | 16 May 1968 a |
| Guinea-Bissau                 | 11 Feb 1976 a  | 11 Feb 1976 a |



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| Haiti                                      | 25 Sep 1984 a  | 25 Sep 1984 a  |
| Holy See                                   | 15 Mar 1956 r  | 08 Jun 1967 a  |
| Honduras                                   | 23 Mar 1992 a  | 23 Mar 1992 a  |
| Hungary                                    | 14 Mar 1989 a  | 14 Mar 1989 a  |
| Iceland                                    | 30 Nov 1955 a  | 26 Apr 1968 a  |
| Iran, Islamic Republic of                  | 28 Jul 1976 a  | 28 Jul 1976 a  |
| Ireland                                    | 29 Nov 1956 a  | 06 Nov 1968 a  |
| Israel                                     | 01 Oct 1954 r  | 14 Jun 1968 a  |
| Italy                                      | 15 Nov 1954 r  | 26 Jan 1972 a  |
| Jamaica                                    | 30 Jul 1964 s  | 30 Oct 1980 a  |
| Japan                                      | 03 Oct 1981 a  | 01 Jan 1982 a  |
| Kazakhstan                                 | 15 Jan 1999 a  | 15 Jan 1999 a  |
| Kenya                                      | 16 May 1966 a  | 13 Nov 1981 a  |
| Kyrgyzstan                                 | 08 Oct 1996 a  | 08 Oct 1996 a  |
| Korea, Republic of                         | 03 Dec 1992 a  | 03 Dec 1992 a  |
| Latvia                                     | 31 Jul 1997 a  | 31 Jul 1997 a  |
| Lesotho                                    | 14 May 1981 a  | 14 May 1981 a  |
| Liberia                                    | 15 Oct 1964 a  | 27 Feb 1980 a  |
| Liechtenstein                              | 08 Mar 1957 r  | 20 May 1968 a  |
| Lithuania                                  | 28 Apr 1997 a  | 28 Apr 1997 a  |
| Luxembourg                                 | 23 Jul 1953 r  | 22 Apr 1971 a  |
| Macedonia, The Former Yugoslav Republic of | 18 Jan 1994 s  | 18 Jan 1994 s  |
| Madagascar (C)                             | 18 Dec 1967 a  |                |
| Malawi                                     | 10 Dec 1987 a  | 10 Dec 1987 a  |
| Mali                                       | 02 Feb 1973 s  | 02 Feb 1973 a  |
| Malta                                      | 17 Jun 1971 a  | 15 Sep 1971 a  |
| Mauritania                                 | 05 May 1987 a  | 05 May 1987 a  |
| Mexico                                     | 07 June 2000 a | 07 June 2000 a |
| Moldova, Republic of                       | 31 Jan 2002 a  | 31 Jan 2002 a  |
| Monaco (C)                                 | 18 May 1954 a  |                |
| Morocco                                    | 07 Nov 1956 s  | 20 Apr 1971 a  |
| Mozambique                                 | 16 Dec 1983 a  | 01 May 1989 a  |
| Namibia                                    | 17 Feb 1995 a  | 17 Feb 1995 a  |
| Netherlands                                | 03 May 1956 r  | 29 Nov 1968 a  |
| New Zealand                                | 30 Jun 1960 a  | 06 Aug 1973 a  |
| Nicaragua                                  | 28 Mar 1980 a  | 28 Mar 1980 a  |
| Niger                                      | 25 Aug 1961 s  | 02 Feb 1970 a  |
| Nigeria                                    | 23 Oct 1967 a  | 02 May 1968 a  |
| Norway                                     | 23 Mar 1953 r  | 28 Nov 1967 a  |
| Panama                                     | 02 Aug 1978 a  | 02 Aug 1978 a  |
| Papua New Guinea                           | 17 Jul 1986 a  | 17 Jul 1986 a  |
| Paraguay                                   | 01 Apr 1970 a  | 01 Apr 1970 a  |
| Peru                                       | 21 Dec 1964 a  | 15 Sep 1983 a  |
| Philippines                                | 22 Jul 1981 a  | 22 Jul 1981 a  |
| Poland                                     | 27 Sep 1991 a  | 27 Sep 1991 a  |
| Portugal                                   | 22 Dec 1960 a  | 13 Jul 1976 a  |
| Romania                                    | 07 Aug 1991 a  | 07 Aug 1991 a  |
| Russian Federation                         | 02 Feb 1993 a  | 02 Feb 1993 a  |
| Rwanda                                     | 03 Jan 1980 a  | 03 Jan 1980 a  |



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| Saint Kitts and Nevis (C)                            | 01 Feb 2002 a |               |
| Saint Vincent and the Grenadines                     | 03 Nov 1993 a | 03 Nov 2003 a |
| Samoa  | 21 Sep 1988 a | 29 Nov 1994 a |
| Sao Tome and Principe                                | 01 Feb 1978 a | 01 Feb 1978 a |
| Senegal  | 02 May 1963 s | 03 Oct 1967 a |
| Serbia and Montenegro ***                            | 12 Mar 2001 s | 12 Mar 2001 s |
| Seychelles   | 23 Apr 1980 a | 23 Apr 1980 a |
| Sierra Leone   | 22 May 1981 a | 22 May 1981 a |
| Slovakia   | 04 Feb 1993 s | 04 Feb 1993 s |
| Slovenia   | 06 Jul 1992 s | 06 Jul 1992 s |
| Solomon Islands                                      | 28 Feb 1995 a | 12 Apr 1995 a |
| Somalia  | 10 Oct 1978 a | 10 Oct 1978 a |
| South Africa   | 12 Jan 1996 a | 12 Jan 1996 a |
| Spain  | 14 Aug 1978 a | 14 Aug 1978 a |
| Sudan  | 22 Feb 1974 a | 23 May 1974 a |
| Suriname   | 29 Nov 1978 s | 29 Nov 1978 s |
| Swaziland  | 14 Feb 2000 a | 28 Jan 1969 a |
| Sweden   | 26 Oct 1954 r | 04 Oct 1967 a |
| Switzerland  | 21 Jan 1955 r | 20 May 1968 a |
| Tajikistan   | 07 Dec 1993 a | 07 Dec 1993 a |
| Tanzania, United Republic of                         | 12 May 1964 a | 04 Sep 1968 a |
| Timor-Leste  | 07 May 2003 a | 07 May 2003 a |
| Togo   | 27 Feb 1962 s | 01 Dec 1969 a |
| Trinidad and Tobago                                  | 10 Nov 2000 a | 10 Nov 2000 a |
| Tunisia  | 24 Oct 1957 s | 16 Oct 1968 a |
| Turkey   | 30 Mar 1962 r | 31 Jul 1968 a |
| Turkmenistan   | 02 Mar 1998 a | 2 Mar 1998 a  |
| Tuvalu   | 07 Mar 1986 s | 07 Mar 1986 s |
| Uganda   | 27 Sep 1976 a | 27 Sep 1976 a |
| Ukraine  | 10 Jun 2002 a | 04 Apr 2002 a |
| United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland | 11 Mar 1954 r | 04 Sep 1968 a |
| United States of America (P)                         |               | 01 Nov 1968 a |
| Uruguay  | 22 Sep 1970 a | 22 Sep 1970 a |
| Venezuela (P)  |               | 19 Sep 1986 a |
| Yemen  | 18 Jan 1980 a | 18 Jan 1980 a |
| Zambia   | 24 Sep 1969 s | 24 Sep 1969 a |
| Zimbabwe   | 25 Aug 1981 a | 25 Aug 1981 a |

**Limitations:**

Article 1 B(1) of the 1951 Convention provides: “For the purposes of this Convention, the words ‘events occurring before 1 January 1951’ in article 1, Section A, shall be understood to mean either (a) ‘events occurring in Europe before 1 January 1951’; or (b) ‘events occurring in Europe or elsewhere before 1 January 1951’, and each Contracting State shall make a declaration at the time of signature, ratification or accession, specifying which of these meanings it applies for the purposes of its obligations under this Convention.”



The following States adopted alternative (a), the geographical limitation: Congo, Madagascar, Monaco and Turkey. Turkey expressly maintained its declaration of geographical limitation upon acceding to the 1967 Protocol. Madagascar and Monaco have not yet adhered to the Protocol.

All other States Parties ratified, acceded or succeeded to the Convention without a geographical limitation by selecting option (b), ‘events occurring in Europe or elsewhere before 1 January 1951’.

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**Notes:**

\* Ratification (r), Accession (a), Succession (s)

\*\* (C) denotes States Parties to the 1951 Convention only; (P) denotes States Parties to the 1967 Protocol only.

\*\*\* As of 4 February 2003, following the adoption and promulgation of the Constitutional Charter of Serbia and Montenegro by the Assembly of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, the official name of “The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia” has been changed to “Serbia and Montenegro”.