

No. 5158

**BELGIUM, DENMARK, FRANCE,
ISRAEL, NORWAY, etc.**

**Final Act of the United Nations Conference on the Status of
Stateless Persons. Done at New York, on 28 September
1954**

**Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons.
Done at New York, on 28 September 1954**

Official texts: English, French and Spanish.

Registered ex officio on 6 June 1960.

**BELGIQUE, DANEMARK, FRANCE,
ISRAËL, NORVÈGE, etc.**

**Acte final de la Conférence des Nations Unies sur le statut
des apatrides. Fait à New-York, le 28 septembre 1954**

**Convention relative au statut des apatrides. Faite à New-
York, le 28 septembre 1954**

Textes officiels anglais, français et espagnol.

Enregistrés d'office le 6 juin 1960.

No. 5158. FINAL ACT OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON THE STATUS OF STATELESS PERSONS.
DONE AT NEW YORK, ON 28 SEPTEMBER 1954

I

The Economic and Social Council, on 26 April 1954 at its seventeenth session, by resolution 526 A (XVII)¹ decided that a second conference of plenipotentiaries should be convened to revise in the light of the provisions of the Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees of 28 July 1951² and of the observations made by Governments the draft Protocol relating to the Status of Stateless Persons prepared by an *Ad Hoc* Committee of the Economic and Social Council in 1950 and to open the instrument for signature.

The Conference met at the Headquarters of the United Nations in New York from 13 to 23 September 1954.

The Governments of the following twenty-seven States were represented by delegates all of whom submitted satisfactory credentials or other communications of appointment authorizing them to participate in the Conference :

Australia	Federal Republic of	Norway
Belgium	Germany	Philippines
Brazil	Guatemala	Sweden
Cambodia	Holy See	Switzerland
Colombia	Honduras	Turkey
Costa Rica	Iran	United Kingdom of
Denmark	Israel	Great Britain and
Ecuador	Liechtenstein	Northern Ireland
El Salvador	Monaco	Yemen
France	Netherlands	Yugoslavia

The Governments of the following five States were represented by observers:

Argentina, Egypt, Greece, Indonesia, Japan.

A representative of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees participated, without the right to vote, in the deliberations of the Conference.

The Conference decided to invite interested specialized agencies to participate in the proceedings without the right to vote. The International Labour Organisation was accordingly represented.

¹ United Nations, *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Seventeenth Session, Supplement No. 1* (E/2596), p. 12.

² United Nations, *Treaty Series*, Vol. 189, p. 137; Vol. 190, p. 385; Vol. 191, p. 409; Vol. 199, p. 357; Vol. 200, p. 336; Vol. 201, p. 387; Vol. 202, p. 368; Vol. 214, p. 376; Vol. 223, p. 377; Vol. 230, p. 440; Vol. 237, p. 335; Vol. 252, p. 354; Vol. 253, p. 365; Vol. 254, p. 412; Vol. 261, p. 404; Vol. 270, p. 398; Vol. 278, p. 282; Vol. 346, p. 338, and Vol. 354, p. 402.

The Conference also decided to permit representatives of non-governmental organizations which have been granted consultative status by the Economic and Social Council as well as those entered by the Secretary-General on the Register to submit written or oral statements to the Conference.

Representatives of the following non-governmental organizations were present as observers :

Category A

International Confederation of Free Trade Unions
International Federation of Christian Trade Unions

Category B

Agudas Israel
Commission of the Churches on International Affairs
Consultative Council of Jewish Organizations
Friends' World Committee for Consultation
International Conference of Catholic Charities
International League for the Rights of Man
World Jewish Congress
World's Alliance of Young Men's Christian Associations

Organizations on the Register

Lutheran World Federation

The Conference elected Mr. Knud Larsen of Denmark as President and Mr. A. Herment of Belgium, and Mr. Jayme de Barros Gomes of Brazil as Vice-Presidents.

The Conference adopted as its agenda the Provisional Agenda drawn up by the Secretary-General (E/CONF.17/2). It also adopted the draft Rules of Procedure drawn up by the Secretary-General (E/CONF.17/2) excepting rule 5, which it decided to delete (E/CONF.17/2/Add.1). At its 12th meeting the Conference decided to amend rule 7 (E/CONF.17/2/Add.2).

The Conference appointed (i) a Drafting Committee on the Definition of the Term "Stateless Person", which was composed of the President of the Conference and the representatives of Australia, Belgium, Brazil, the Federal Republic of Germany, France, Israel and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland; (ii) an *Ad Hoc* Committee on the Question of the Travel Document for Stateless Persons composed of the President of the Conference and the representatives of Belgium, Brazil, France, the Federal Republic of Germany, the United Kingdom and Yugoslavia; and (iii) a Style Committee composed of the President of the Conference and the representatives of Belgium, France, Guatemala and the United Kingdom.

The Conference used as the basis of its discussions the Draft Protocol Relating to the Status of Stateless Persons prepared by the *Ad Hoc* Committee of the Economic and Social Council on Refugees and Stateless Persons at its second session held in Geneva in 1950 and the provisions of the Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees 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 main working document for the Conference was a memorandum by the Secretary-General, document E/CONF.17/3.

The Conference decided, by 12 votes to none with 3 abstentions, to prepare an independent convention dealing with the status of stateless persons rather than a protocol to the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees.

The Convention was adopted on 23 September 1954 by 19 votes to none with 2 abstentions, and opened for signature at the Headquarters of the United Nations.

The English, French and Spanish texts of the Convention, which are equally authentic, are appended to this Final Act.

II

The Conference unanimously decided that the titles of the chapters and of the articles of the Convention are included for practical purposes and do not constitute an element of interpretation.

III

The Conference adopted the following recommendation by 16 votes to 1 with 4 abstentions :

“ *The Conference,*

“ *Recommends* that each Contracting State, when it recognizes as valid the reasons for which a person has renounced the protection of the State of which he is a national, consider sympathetically the possibility of according to that person the treatment which the Convention accords to stateless persons; and

“ *Recommends further* that, in cases where the State in whose territory the person resides has decided to accord the treatment referred to above, other Contracting States also accord him the treatment provided for by the Convention. ”

IV

The Conference unanimously adopted the following resolution :

“ *The Conference,*

“ *Being of the opinion* that Article 33 of the Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees of 1951 is an expression of the generally accepted

principle that no State should expel or return a person in any manner whatsoever to the frontiers of territories where his life or freedom would be threatened on account of his race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion,

“ Has not found it necessary to include in the Convention Relating to the Status of Stateless Persons an article equivalent to Article 33 of the Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees of 1951. ”

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the President, the Vice-Presidents and the Executive Secretary of the Conference have signed this Final Act.

DONE at New York this twenty-eighth day of September one thousand nine hundred and fifty-four in a single copy in the English, French and Spanish languages, each text being equally authentic. Translations of this Final Act into Chinese and Russian will be prepared by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, who will, on request, send copies thereof to each of the Governments invited to attend the Conference.