

No. 5715

**CEYLON, REPUBLIC OF CHINA, ECUADOR,
FRANCE, GUATEMALA, etc.**

**Convention concerning the Exchange of Official Publications
and Government Documents between States. Adopted
by the General Conference of the United Nations
Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization at
its Tenth Session, Paris, 3 December 1958**

Official texts: English, French, Russian and Spanish.

*Registered by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
on 15 June 1961.*

**CEYLAN, RÉPUBLIQUE DE CHINE, ÉQUATEUR,
FRANCE, GUATEMALA, etc.**

**Convention concernant les échanges entre États de publi-
cations officielles et documents gouvernementaux.
Adoptée par la Conférence générale de l'Organisation
des Nations Unies pour l'éducation, la science et la
culture à sa dixième session, Paris, 3 décembre 1958**

Textes officiels anglais, français, russe et espagnol.

*Enregistrée par l'Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'éducation, la science et la
culture le 15 juin 1961.*

No. 5715. CONVENTION¹ CONCERNING THE EXCHANGE OF OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS AND GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS BETWEEN STATES. ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION AT ITS TENTH SESSION, PARIS, 3 DECEMBER 1958

The General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, meeting in Paris from 4 November to 5 December 1958, at its tenth session,

Convinced that development of the international exchange of publications is essential to the free exchange of ideas and knowledge among the peoples of the world,

Considering the importance accorded to the international exchange of publications by the Constitution of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

Being aware of the provisions for the exchange of official publications set forth in the Convention for the International Exchange of Official Documents, Scientific and Literary Publications² and in the Convention for the Immediate Exchange of Official Journals, Public Parliamentary Annals and Documents,³ concluded in Brussels on 15 March 1886 and in various regional agreements for the exchange of publications.

¹ In accordance with article 17, the Convention came into force on 30 May 1961, twelve months after the date of deposit of the third instrument of ratification.

Following is the list of States which have deposited their instruments of ratification or acceptance (a) with the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, indicating the dates of deposit and the dates of entry into force of the Convention for each State :

State	Date of deposit	Date of entry into force	
Ceylon	7 December 1959	30 May	1961
Israel	4 January 1960	30 May	1961
France	30 May 1960	30 May	1961
Guatemala	23 November 1960	23 November	1961
Ecuador	8 February 1961	8 February	1962
Republic of China	26 April 1961	26 April	1962
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (with a declaration that the Convention shall extend to the following territories*) :	1 June 1961 (a)	1 June	1962

* Jersey, the Bailiwick of Guernsey and the Isle of Man; the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland; Malta; Seychelles; British Solomon Islands Protectorate; Gilbert and Ellice Islands Colony; British Guiana; Bahamas; Bermuda; British Virgin Islands; Jamaica; Trinidad and Tobago; Antigua; St. Lucia; Montserrat; Barbados; St. Vincent; Grenada; Dominica; St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla; and the State of Singapore.

² *British and Foreign State Papers*, Vol. 77, p. 888; and League of Nations, *Treaty Series*, Vol. XXIV, p. 213.

³ *British and Foreign State Papers*, Vol. 77, p. 886; and League of Nations, *Treaty Series*, Vol. XXIV, p. 211.

Recognizing the need for a new international convention concerning the exchange of official publications and government between States,

Having before it proposals concerning the exchange of official publications and government documents between States constituting item 15.4.1 on the agenda of the session,

Having decided, at its ninth session, that these proposals should be made the subject of international regulation by way of an international convention,

Adopts, this third day of December 1958, the present Convention.

Article 1

EXCHANGE OF OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS AND GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS

The Contracting States express their willingness to exchange their official publications and government documents, on a reciprocal basis, in accordance with the provisions of the present Convention.

Article 2

DEFINITION OF OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS AND GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS

1. For the purpose of the present Convention, the following are considered official publications and government documents when they are executed by the order and at the expense of any national governmental authority: parliamentary documents, reports and journals and other legislative papers; administrative publications and reports from central, federal and regional governmental bodies; national bibliographies, State handbooks, bodies of law, decisions of the Courts of Justice; and other publications as may be agreed.

2. However, in the application of the present Convention, the Contracting States shall be free to determine the official publications and government documents which shall constitute exchange material.

3. The present Convention does not apply to confidential documents, circulars and other items which have not been made public.

Article 3

BILATERAL AGREEMENTS

The Contracting States, whenever they deem it appropriate, shall enter into bilateral agreements for the purpose of implementing the present Convention and regulating matters of common concern arising out of its application.

Article 4

NATIONAL EXCHANGE AUTHORITIES

1. In each Contracting State, the national exchange service or, where no such service exists, the central authority or authorities designated for the purpose, shall carry out the functions of exchange.

2. The exchange authorities shall be responsible within each Contracting State for the implementation of the present Convention and of bilateral agreements as referred to in Article 3, whenever appropriate. Each Contracting State shall give its national exchange service or the central exchange authorities the powers required to obtain the material to be exchanged and sufficient financial means to carry out the functions of exchange.

Article 5

LIST AND NUMBER OF PUBLICATIONS FOR EXCHANGE

The list and number of official publications and government documents for exchange shall be agreed between the exchange authorities of the Contracting States. This list and the number of official publications and government documents for exchange may be modified by arrangements between such authorities.

Article 6

METHOD OF TRANSMISSION

Transmissions may be made directly to exchange authorities or to recipients named by them. The method of listing consignments may be agreed between exchange authorities.

Article 7

TRANSPORT CHARGES

Unless otherwise agreed, the exchange authority which undertakes the transmission shall bear the cost thereof as far as destination, but for transport by sea, the cost of packing and carriage shall be paid only as far as the customs office of the port of arrival.

Article 8

RATES AND CONDITIONS OF TRANSPORT

The Contracting States shall take all the necessary measures to ensure that the exchange authorities benefit from the most favourable existing rates and