

**No. 53043\***

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## **Multilateral**

**Agreement on the status and functions of the International Commission on missing persons.  
Brussels, 15 December 2014**

**Entry into force:** *14 May 2015, in accordance with article IX*

**Authentic text:** *English*

**Registration with the Secretariat of the United Nations:** *Netherlands, 1 October 2015*

**Note:** *See also annex A, No. 53043.*

*\*No UNTS volume number has yet been determined for this record. The Text(s) reproduced below, if attached, are the authentic texts of the agreement /action attachment as submitted for registration and publication to the Secretariat. For ease of reference they were sequentially paginated. Translations, if attached, are not final and are provided for information only.*

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## **Multilatéral**

**Accord sur le statut et les fonctions de la Commission internationale pour les personnes  
disparues. Bruxelles, 15 décembre 2014**

**Entrée en vigueur :** *14 mai 2015, conformément à l'article IX*

**Texte authentique :** *anglais*

**Enregistrement auprès du Secrétariat de l'Organisation des Nations Unies :** *Pays-Bas,  
1<sup>er</sup> octobre 2015*

**Note :** *Voir aussi annexe A, No. 53043.*

*\*Aucun numéro de volume n'a encore été attribué à ce dossier. Les textes disponibles qui sont reproduits ci-dessous sont les textes originaux de l'accord ou de l'action tels que soumis pour enregistrement. Par souci de clarté, leurs pages ont été numérotées. Les traductions qui accompagnent ces textes ne sont pas définitives et sont fournies uniquement à titre d'information.*

<b>Participant</b>	<b>Ratification</b>	
Sweden	14 Apr	2015
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	14 Apr	2015

**Note:** The texts of the declarations and reservations are published after the list of Parties -- Les textes des déclarations et réserves sont reproduits après la liste des Parties.

<b>Participant</b>	<b>Ratification</b>	
Royaume-Uni de Grande-Bretagne et d'Irlande du Nord	14 avr	2015
Suède	14 avr	2015

**Agreement on the status and functions of the International  
Commission on Missing Persons**

The Parties to this Agreement,

Concerned that in the world today large numbers of persons go missing every year as a result of armed conflicts, human rights abuses, natural and man-made disasters and other involuntary reasons;

Noting that the problem of missing persons does not respect borders and that the issue of the missing is increasingly viewed as a global concern, which warrants a structured and sustainable international response;

Understanding that in the last two decades there have been important advancements in addressing the issue, including law-based efforts to locate missing persons and the use of modern forensic methods to accurately account for them;

Aware of the cost to societies and families resulting from a failure to locate the missing, including the anguish suffered as a consequence of not knowing a loved-one's whereabouts or the circumstances of their disappearance;

Noting that predominantly men go missing, particularly as a result of armed conflicts and human rights abuses, and that those left behind, women and children, are especially vulnerable;

Acknowledging the efforts of governmental and nongovernmental organizations to address the issue of the missing around the world;

Affirming that States should take all practicable steps to locate the missing, as part of their commitments under international law, in particular human rights instruments and Articles 32-34 of Additional Protocol I to the Geneva Conventions;

Noting the extensive experience on issues of the missing that has been gained through the International Commission on Missing Persons, and expressing their commitment to improve on legal frameworks underpinning efforts to locate the missing;

Recalling that the International Commission was established at the initiative of US President Bill Clinton in 1996 at the G-7 Summit in Lyon, France, initially to secure the cooperation of governments to locate persons missing from the conflicts in the former Yugoslavia;

Further recalling that since 2004, the International Commission on Missing Persons has been a globally active organisation, assisting public authorities in locating and identifying missing persons, whether as a consequence of armed conflicts, human rights abuses, natural and man-made disasters and other involuntary reasons, and contributing to justice and the advancement of the rule of law, thus redressing omissions in humanitarian law;

Welcoming the initiatives taken at the International Conference “The Missing: An Agenda for the Future,” The Hague, 2013, including the establishment of a Global Forum on Missing Persons;

Recognising the successful work of, and wishing to establish a clear legal status for, the International Commission on Missing Persons as an international organisation in order to better enable it to carry out its functions internationally;

Have agreed as follows:

## Article I

### *Establishment and Status*

1. The International Commission on Missing Persons is hereby established as an international organisation, hereinafter referred to as “the Commission”.
2. The Commission shall possess full international legal personality and enjoy such capacities as may be necessary for the exercise of its functions and the fulfilment of its purposes.
3. The Commission shall operate in accordance with this Agreement.