

No. 3850

**ARGENTINA, AUSTRIA, BELGIUM,
BOLIVIA, CAMBODIA, etc.**

**Final Act of the United Nations Conference on Maintenance
Obligations; and
Convention on the Recovery Abroad of Maintenance.
Done at New York, on 20 June 1956**

Official texts: Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish.

Registered ex officio on 25 May 1957.

**ARGENTINE, AUTRICHE, BELGIQUE,
BOLIVIE, CAMBODGE, etc.**

**Acte final de la Conférence des Nations Unies sur les obliga-
tions alimentaires; et
Convention sur le recouvrement des aliments à l'étranger.
Faits à New-York, le 20 juin 1956**

Textes officiels anglais, chinois, espagnol, français et russe.

Enregistrés d'office le 25 mai 1957.

No. 3850. FINAL ACT OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON MAINTENANCE OBLIGATIONS. DONE AT NEW YORK, ON 20 JUNE 1956

The Economic and Social Council of the United Nations, by resolution 572 (XIX) adopted on 17 May 1955,¹ decided to convene a conference of plenipotentiaries to complete the drafting of and to sign a Convention on the Recovery Abroad of Claims for Maintenance.

In accordance with the terms of that resolution the Secretary-General invited to the Conference all States Members of the United Nations, those States non-members of the United Nations which are members of any of the specialized agencies, interested specialized agencies in relationship with the United Nations, interested non-governmental organizations having consultative status with the Council, The Hague Conference on Private International Law and the International Institute for the Unification of Private Law.

The Conference met at the Headquarters of the United Nations in New York from 29 May to 20 June 1956.

The Governments of the following thirty-two States were represented by delegations :

Afghanistan	Denmark	Japan
Argentina	Dominican Republic	Korea
Austria	Ecuador	Mexico
Belgium	El Salvador	Monaco
Bolivia	France	Netherlands
Cambodia	Germany, Federal	Norway
Ceylon	Republic of	Philippines
China	Greece	Sweden
Colombia	Iran	Uruguay
Costa Rica	Israel	Vatican City
Cuba	Italy	Yugoslavia

The Governments of the following nine States were represented at the Conference by observers :

Canada	Lebanon	Turkey
Czechoslovakia	Peru	United Kingdom
Guatemala	Switzerland	Venezuela

¹ United Nations, *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Nineteenth Session, Supplement No. 1A* (E/2730/Add. 1), p. 5.

The following organizations participated in the Conference without the right to vote :

Specialized agencies :

The International Labour Organisation ;

Intergovernmental organizations :

Intergovernmental Committee for European Migration,
International Institute for the Unification of Private Law ;

Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Relationship with the Economic and Social Council :

Category A :

International Confederation of Free Trade Unions,
International Federation of Christian Trade Unions,
World Federation of Trade Unions ;

Category B and Register :

Catholic International Union for Social Service,
Commission of the Churches on International Affairs,
Co-ordinating Board of Jewish Organizations,
International Catholic Migration Commission,
International Conference of Catholic Charities,
International Council of Women,
International Federation of " Amies de la Jeune Fille ",
International Federation of University Women,
International Federation of Women Lawyers,
International Social Service,
International Union for Child Welfare,
Liaison Committee of Women's International Organizations,
Pan Pacific South-East Asia Women's Association,
Salvation Army,
World Alliance of Young Men's Christian Associations,
World Jewish Congresses,
World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations,
World Young Women's Christian Association.

The Conference elected Sir Senerat Gunewardene of Ceylon as President, and H.E. Rear Admiral A. O. Olivieri of Argentina and Dr. Mario Matteucci of Italy as Vice-Presidents.

The Conference established a Working Party consisting of representatives of China, Colombia, El Salvador, the Federal Republic of Germany, France, Israel, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Sweden, the observer from Canada and such other of the representatives attending the Conference as desired to participate in deliberations of the Working Party elected Dr. Mario Matteucci of Italy, Mme. Kræmer-Bach of France, Mr. Haim Cohn of Israel, and H.E. Dr. Miguel Urquía of El Salvador to act in rotation as chairmen during the discussion of the various articles of the Convention reviewed by the Working Party at the request of the Conference.

The Conference also set up a Drafting Committee, composed of representatives of El Salvador, France, Israel and the observer from Canada, and a Committee on Credentials composed of the President and the two Vice-Presidents of the Conference.

The Conference took as the basis of discussion the text of the Convention drawn up by a committee of experts convened by the Secretary-General in accordance with resolution 390 H¹ (XIII) of the Economic and Social Council. This committee met in Geneva from 18 to 28 August 1952, and submitted to the Council a report which contained the draft Convention of the Recovery Abroad of Claims for Maintenance. The Conference considered the draft Convention article by article, referring such articles where necessary to the Working Party and to the Drafting Committee for review.

The Conference adopted unanimously, and opened for signature at the Headquarters of the United Nations, in New York, the Convention on the Recovery Abroad of Maintenance, which is annexed to this Final Act. The Conference also adopted the resolution which is annexed² to this Final Act.

At the request of the delegation of Argentina, the following declaration is inserted in this Final Act :

“ As regards article 12 :

“ If another Contracting Party should extend the application of the Convention to territories under the sovereignty of the Argentine Republic, such extension will in no way affect the rights of that Republic.

“ As regards article 16 :

“ The Argentine Government reserves the right not to apply the procedure provided for in this article to any dispute which concerns, directly or indirectly, the territories mentioned in the declaration made by the said Government with respect to article 12.”

¹ United Nations, *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Thirteenth Session, Supplement No. 1* (E/2152), p. 47.

² See p. 10 of this volume.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned representatives and observers have signed this Final Act, reserving the position of their respective Governments as regards signature, ratification and accession to the Convention.

DONE at New York, this twentieth day of June, one thousand nine hundred and fifty-six, in one copy, in the Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish languages, each text being equally authentic. This Final Act and the Convention annexed thereto¹ shall be deposited with the Secretary-General of the United Nations who shall send certified true copies thereof to Members of the United Nations and to all other States referred to in article 13 of the Convention.

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE
ON MAINTENANCE OBLIGATIONS

The Conference,

Considering that, under article 7 of the Convention on the Recovery Abroad of Maintenance adopted by this Conference, rules are established regarding letters of request for further evidence if provision is made for such letters in the laws of the two Contracting Parties concerned,

Decides to request the Secretary-General of the United Nations to prepare and circulate to the States referred to in article 13 of the Convention a list showing the States whose laws provide for letters of request.

¹ See p. 32 of this volume.