



# TREATY EVENT 2012

## Strengthening the Rule of Law

FACT SHEET #4

### NEWLY ADOPTED TREATIES

The following are the two newest multilateral treaties deposited with the Secretary-General:

#### **Food Assistance Convention**

*(London, 25 April 2012)*

Not yet in force.<sup>1</sup>  
Signatories: 2.<sup>2</sup> Parties: 1.<sup>3</sup>

#### **OBJECTIVES**

The four main objectives of the Food Assistance Convention are set forth in Article 1. They are: to save lives, reduce hunger, improve food security and improve the nutritional status of the most vulnerable populations. As mentioned in the Preamble, these objectives shall be pursued in accordance with the established objectives of the 1999 Food Aid Convention and with World Trade Organization (WTO) obligations. Furthermore, they ought to be attained by strengthening international cooperation and coordination, in particular among the Parties and stakeholders.

#### **KEY PROVISIONS**

The Convention first establishes that the Parties, in providing and delivering food assistance, should adhere to several principles of food assistance, notably effectiveness and accountability. It then defines the different eli-

gible countries, vulnerable populations and products, as well as the scope of the eligible activities and the associated costs, before providing for annual commitments of food assistance by the Parties to the Convention.

Finally, the Convention institutes a Food Assistance Committee, consisting of all the Parties to the Convention, that shall be allowed to make decisions by consensus in order to carry out the provisions of the Convention. As such, the Committee should provide a forum for discussion among the Parties with respect to food assistance matters and should facilitate information-sharing with and dissemination to other stakeholders. The Committee shall hold both formal sessions and informal meetings.

#### **ENTRY INTO FORCE**

The Convention shall enter into force on 1 January 2013 if by 30 November 2012 five Signatories have deposited instruments of ratification, acceptance, or approval. In the absence of such deposit, the Signatories to this Convention that have deposited instruments of ratification, acceptance, or approval and States or the European Union that have deposited instruments of accession may

<sup>1</sup> Status as of 22 August 2012.

<sup>2</sup> European Union and Japan

<sup>3</sup> Japan



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decide by unanimous consent that it shall enter into force among themselves. As for any further instruments of ratification, approval, acceptance, or accession, after the entry into force of the Convention, they shall take effect and engender entry into force for the State concerned, on the date of the deposit of its instrument of ratification, approval, acceptance, or accession.

The Convention is open for participation by the following States: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, the European Union, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America, at United Nations Headquarters in New York from 11 June 2012 until 31 December 2012

**Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a Communications Procedure** (*New York, 19 December 2011*)

Not yet in force.<sup>1</sup>  
Signatories: 26.<sup>2</sup> Parties: 0.

**OBJECTIVES**

The Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a Communications Procedure (the “Optional Protocol”) supplements the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (the “Convention”) and the Optional Protocols on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography and on the involvement of children in armed conflict. It further grants competence to the Committee on the Rights of the Child to receive and consider communications from or on behalf of individuals or groups of individuals who have exhausted domestic remedies concerning alleged violations of any rights set forth in the Convention and the Optional Protocols thereto.

**KEY PROVISIONS**

The Optional Protocol establishes that in fulfilling its functions, the Committee should be guided by the principles of the best interest of the child and respect for the views of the child. Therefore, the Committee shall bring any admissible communication submitted to it under the Protocol confidentially to the attention of the Party concerned. It also provides for friendly settlement on the basis of respect for obligations set forth in the Convention and/or the Optional Protocols thereto.

The Committee may urgently request that a State party take such interim measures as may be necessary in exceptional circumstances to avoid possible irreparable damage to the victim or victims of the alleged violations. In any case, State parties shall take all appropriate measures to ensure that individuals under their jurisdiction are not subjected to any form of ill-treatment or intimidation as a consequence of communicating with the Committee pursuant to the Optional Protocol.

The Optional Protocol also permits the Committee to conduct inquiries into grave and systematic violations, by a State Party, of any of the rights set forth in the Convention and its Optional Protocols. Lastly, the Optional Protocol provides for, if necessary, a follow-up to the inquiry procedure by the Committee of the State party concerned.

**ENTRY INTO FORCE**

The Optional Protocol shall enter into force three months after deposit of the tenth instrument of ratification or accession.

The Optional Protocol is solely open for signature by States that have signed, ratified or acceded to the Convention, or either of its first two Optional Protocols.

<sup>1</sup> Status as of 22 August 2012.

<sup>2</sup> Argentina, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Cyprus, Finland, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritius, Montenegro, Morocco, Peru, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Uruguay.

