
AGREEMENT FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A GENERAL FISHERIES COMMISSION FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN

The Agreement for the Establishment of a General Fisheries Council for the Mediterranean (GFCM) was approved by the FAO Conference at its 5th Session (November 1949). In accordance with Article IX,¹ the Agreement came into force on 20 February 1952, date of receipt of the fifth instrument of acceptance. The Agreement was registered with the Secretariat of the United Nations on 5 April 1952 under No. 1691.

At its 1st Special Session, GFCM adopted amendments to the Agreement which were approved by the FAO Conference at its 12th Session (November-December 1963). At its 13th Session (July 1976), the GFCM adopted further amendments to the Agreement which were approved by FAO Council at its 70th Session (November-December 1976).

The Council at its 113th Session approved amendments adopted by the GFCM, at its 22nd Session (October 1997). Some of these amendments have entered into force for all Contracting Parties, while others only with respect to the Contracting Parties that have actually accepted those amendments, as described below.

At present, and since 1997² there are two versions of the Agreement in force for two sets of Contracting Parties:

- A. The Agreement as approved in 1949 and amended in 1963, 1976 and 1997 (to allow regional economic integration organizations that are Members of FAO to become members of the GFCM and change in title) (see column A in the table of Contracting Parties below); and
- B. The Agreement as approved in 1949 and amended in 1963, 1976, 1997 (to allow regional economic integration organizations that are Members of FAO to become members of the GFCM, change in title and to introduce mandatory contributions)³. At its 38th Session (May 2014), the GFCM adopted additional amendments to this version of the Agreement, which were approved by the FAO Council, at its 150th Session (December 2014). For those Contracting Parties that provided their definitive signature or deposited the pertinent instrument of acceptance to it, the second version of the Agreement superseded the first version (see column B in the table of Contracting Parties below).

The first version of the Agreement, as amended in 1963, 1976 and 1997, and entered into force on 6 November 1997 is binding for 3 Contracting Parties.

With regard to the second version of the Agreement, 21 Contracting Parties have accepted it, as amended in 1963, 1976, 1997, and 2014 and entered into force on 20 May 2014. The second version of the Agreement remains open for acceptance by the remaining Contracting Parties.

There are in total 24 Parties to the Agreement.

¹ Corresponding to Article XII of the Agreement as amended in 1963, 1976 and 1997, and entered into force on 6 November 1997; and to Article 24 of the Agreement as amended in 1963, 1976, 1997, and 2014 and entered into force on 20 May 2014.

² Last update 24/04/2015.

³ The amendment introducing mandatory contributions created a new obligation for the Contracting Parties; and was accordingly subject to formal acceptance each Contracting Parties. The amendment remains open for acceptance by the remaining Contracting Parties.

Contracting Parties	A. Acceptance of the Agreement as amended in 1963, 1976 and 1997, and entered into force on 6 November 1997	B. Acceptance of the Agreement as amended in 1963, 1976, 1997, and 2014 and entered into force on 20 May 2014⁴ (with mandatory contributions)
Albania	10 Apr 1991	10 Oct 2003
Algeria	11 Dec 1967	26 April 2005
Bulgaria ⁵	3 Nov 1969	30 Oct 2002
Croatia	22 May 1995	29 Aug 2002
Cyprus	10 Jun 1965	23 Aug 2000
Egypt	19 Feb 1951	
European Union (Member Organization)	25 Jun 1998	27 Jul 2000
France	8 Jul 1952	30 Oct 2002
Greece	7 Apr 1952	29 Aug 2002
Israel	20 Feb 1952	
Italy	29 May 1950	23 Aug 2000
Japan	12 Jun 1997	30 July 2004
Lebanon	14 Nov 1960	4 Mar 2005
Libya	13 May 1963	23 Dec 2003
Malta	29 Apr 1965	23 Dec 1999
Monaco	14 May 1954	12 Jun 2001
Montenegro		31 Jan 2008
Morocco	17 Sep 1956	24 July 2006
Romania	19 Feb 1971	1 Oct 2003
(Serbia ⁶ - withdrawn)	27 April 1992	8 Jan 2003
Slovenia	25 May 2000	29 Apr 2004
Spain	19 Oct 1953	15 Feb 2002
Syrian Arab Republic	12 Dec 1975	
Tunisia	22 Jun 1954	30 Jun 2003

⁴ For those Contracting Parties that provided their definitive signature or deposited the pertinent instrument of acceptance to it, the second version of the Agreement superseded the first version.

⁵ Acceptance effected under the procedure provided for in paragraph 4, Rule XXI of the General Rules of the Organization, subject to the deposit of a formal instrument of acceptance. The formal instrument was deposited with the Director-General on 3 July 1972.

⁶ On 8 January 2003, the Director-General received a notification of succession from the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, as a successor State of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. Subsequently, on 6 February 2003, the Director-General received a new notification informing him that the name "Federal Republic of Yugoslavia" had been changed to "Serbia and Montenegro". On 12 June 2006, the Director-General received a further notification informing him that the Republic of Serbia was continuing the membership of "Serbia and Montenegro" in FAO and all its organs, on the basis of Article 60 of the Constitutional Charter of Serbia and Montenegro, activated by the Declaration of Independence adopted by the National Assembly of Montenegro on 3 June 2006, and that the name "Republic of Serbia" was to be used instead of the name "Serbia and Montenegro". On 18 April 2007, the Director-General received a notification of withdrawal by the Republic of Serbia. The withdrawal became effective three months after its deposit, i.e. on 18 July 2007. Accordingly, the Republic of Serbia is no longer a Party to the Agreement.

Contracting Parties	A. Acceptance of the Agreement as amended in 1963, 1976 and 1997, and entered into force on 6 November 1997	B. Acceptance of the Agreement as amended in 1963, 1976, 1997, and 2014 and entered into force on 20 May 2014⁴ (with mandatory contributions)
Turkey	6 Apr 1954	5 Jun 2000
(United Kingdom ⁷ - withdrawn)	20 Nov 1950	

⁷ The United Kingdom, which had become a Party to the Agreement on 20 November 1950, deposited a notification of withdrawal on 25 March 1968. In accordance with paragraph 1, Article XII of the Agreement, the notification of withdrawal became effective three months after the date of its receipt by the Director-General, i.e. on 25 June 1968. Accordingly, the United Kingdom is no longer a Party to the Agreement.