
AGREEMENT FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE INDIAN OCEAN TUNA COMMISSION

The Agreement for the Establishment of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission was approved by the FAO Council (Rome, Hundred and Fifth Session, 25 November 1993), under Article XIV of FAO Constitution, by Resolution No. 1/105.

Pursuant to paragraph 1 of Article IV of the Agreement, membership in the Commission is open to Members and Associate Members of FAO (a) that are: (i) coastal States or Associate Members situated wholly or partly within the Area; (ii) States or Associate Members whose vessels engage in fishing in the Area for stocks covered by this Agreement; or (iii) regional economic integration organizations of which any State referred to in subparagraphs (i) or (ii) above is a member and to which that State has transferred competence over matters within the purview of this Agreement; and (b) that accept this Agreement in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 1 of Article XVII.

In accordance with paragraph 2 of Article IV of the Agreement, the Commission may, by a two-thirds majority of its Members, admit to membership any other States that are not Members of FAO, but are Members of the United Nations or of any of its Specialized Agencies or of the International Atomic Energy Agency, provided that such States (a) are (i) coastal States situated wholly or partly within the Area; or (ii) States whose vessels engage in fishing in the Area for stocks covered by this Agreement; and (b) have submitted an application for membership and a declaration made in a formal instrument that they accept this Agreement as in force at the time of acceptance in accordance with paragraph 2 of Article XVII.

In accordance with paragraph 1 of Article XVII of the Agreement, acceptance of the Agreement by any Member or Associate Member of FAO shall be effected by the deposit of an instrument of acceptance with the Director-General.

As provided for in Article XVIII, the Agreement entered into force on **27 March 1996**, date of deposit of the tenth instrument of acceptance. The Agreement was registered with the Secretariat of the United Nations on 3 June 1996 under No. 32888.

Vanuatu accepted the Agreement for the Establishment of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission on 25 October 2012. On 3 July 2014 it deposited an instrument of withdrawal, and its withdrawal became effective on 31 December 2015.

Belize accepted the Agreement for the Establishment of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission on 16 May 2007. On 22 April 2015 it deposited an instrument of withdrawal, and its withdrawal became effective on 31 December 2016

Parties to the Agreement

The following participants deposited their instruments of acceptance on the corresponding date indicated:

Participant	Acceptance
Australia	13 Nov 1996
China	14 Oct 1998
Comoros	14 Aug 2001
Eritrea	9 Aug 1994
European Union (Member Organization)	27 Oct 1995
France	3 Dec 1996
Guinea ¹	31 Jan 2005
India	13 Mar 1995
Indonesia	20 June 2007
Iran, (Islamic Republic of)	28 Jan 2002
Japan	26 Jun 1996
Kenya	29 Sep 2004
Korea, Republic of	27 Mar 1996
Madagascar	10 Jan 1996
Malaysia	22 May 1998
Maldives	13 July 2011
Mauritius	27 Dec 1994
Mozambique	13 Feb 2012
Oman	5 April 2000
Pakistan	27 Apr 1995
Philippines	9 Jan 2004
Seychelles	26 Jul 1995
Sierra Leone	1 July 2008
Somalia	22 May 2014
Sri Lanka	13 Jun 1994
South Africa	16 Feb 2016
Sudan	3 Dec 1996
Tanzania (United Republic of)	18 April 2007
Thailand	17 Mar 1997
United Kingdom	31 Mar 1995
Yemen	20 July 2012

¹ On 22 February 2016, the Director-General received a notification of withdrawal from the Republic of Guinea. In accordance with Article XXI (1) of the Agreement, the withdrawal shall become effective on 31 December 2017.