
INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC TUNAS

At its Thirteenth Session (1965), the FAO Conference authorized the Director-General of the Organization to call a Conference of Plenipotentiaries to prepare and adopt a convention for the purpose of establishing a commission for the conservation of tuna and tuna-like fishes in the Atlantic Ocean. The Conference of Plenipotentiaries (Rio de Janeiro, 2-14 May 1966) prepared and opened for signature the International Convention for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), setting up a Commission which operates independently of FAO.

In accordance with paragraph 3, Article XIV, the Convention entered into force on **21 March 1969**, date of receipt of the seventh instrument of ratification, approval or adherence. The Convention was registered with the Secretariat of the United Nations on 20 May 1969 under No. 9587. As detailed below, the Convention has been amended by the Protocol of Paris (entered into force on 19 January 1997) and by the Protocol of Madrid (entered into force on 10 March 2005).

Participants

The following are the participants that deposited their instruments on the corresponding date indicated:

Participant	Signature	Ratification	Adherence
Albania			31 March 2008
Algeria			16 Feb 2001
Angola			29 Jul 1976
Barbados			13 Dec 2000
Belize			19 Jul 2005
Benin ¹			9 Jan 1978
Brazil	14 May 1966	1 Apr 1969	
Canada			20 Aug 1968
Cape Verde			11 Oct 1979
China ²			24 Oct 1996
Côte d'Ivoire			6 Dec 1972
Croatia ³			20 Oct 1997

¹ On 22 December 1993, the Director-General received a notification of withdrawal from Benin. In accordance with Article XII.2 of the Convention, the withdrawal became effective on 31 December 1994. Therefore, Benin is no longer a Party to the Convention.

² It does not apply to the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of China (letter from the Permanent Representative of China to FAO to the Director-General of 25 June 1997).

³ Ceased to be a Party to the Convention as of 1 July 2013 as a consequence of its accession to the European Union.

Participant	Signature	Ratification	Adherence
Cyprus ⁴			20 Mar 2003
Cuba ⁵			15 Jan 1975
Dominican Republic	13 Feb 1968		
Egypt			3 Oct 2007
El Salvador			5 Dec 2014
Equatorial Guinea			13 May 1987
European Union (Member Organization) ⁶			14 Nov 1997
France ⁷			7 Nov 1968
Gabon	9 Aug 1967	19 Sep 1977	
Gambia			11 Feb 2019
Ghana			17 Apr 1968
Grenada			5 Oct 2017
Guatemala	17 Feb 2004	12 Nov 2004	
Guinea			5 Jun 1991
Guinea-Bissau			13 May 2016
Honduras			30 Jan 2001
Iceland			30 Oct 2002
Italy ⁸	9 Feb 1994	6 Aug 1997	
Japan	28 Oct 1966	24 Aug 1967	
Korea, Republic of	31 May 1966	28 Aug 1970	
Liberia			14 February 2014
Libya			27 Nov 1995
Malta ⁹			7 Aug 2003

⁴ Ceased to be a Party to the Convention as of 1 May 2004, date on which it became full member of the European Community (now European Union). See footnote 6.

⁵ On 31 December 1990, the Director-General received a notification of withdrawal from Cuba. In accordance with Article XII.2 of the Convention, the withdrawal became effective on 31 December 1991. Therefore, Cuba is no longer a Party to the Convention.

⁶ Pursuant to Article XIV (4) of the Convention (as amended by the Paris Protocol), the then European Community (now European Union) was entitled to become a Party to the Convention upon the deposit of its instrument of adherence. As a consequence, in accordance with Article XIV (6), the Member States of the European Community which were Members of ICCAT at that time (Cyprus, France, Italy, Malta, Portugal, Spain and the United Kingdom), ceased to be Parties to the Convention on the date on which they became full members of the European Community (now European Union), except in respect of their overseas territories.

⁷ Ceased to be a Party to the Convention as of 1 January 1998 (see footnote 6), except in respect of its overseas territories.

⁸ Ceased to be a Party to the Convention as of 1 January 1998. See footnote 6.

⁹ Ceased to be a Party to the Convention as of 1 May 2004, date on which it became full member of the European Community (now European Union). See footnote 6.

Participant	Signature	Ratification	Adherence
Mauritania			4 December 2008
Mexico			24 May 2002
Morocco			26 Sep 1969
Namibia	28 Apr 1999	10 Nov 1999	
Netherlands ¹⁰			6 February 2014
Nicaragua			11 Mar 2004
Nigeria			2 Aug 2007
Norway			5 Mar 2004
Panama			28 Dec 1998
Philippines			9 Jan 2004
Portugal ¹¹			3 Sep 1969
Russian Federation			7 Jan 1977
St. Vincent and the Grenadines			20 Nov 2006
Sao Tome and Principe			15 Sep 1983
Senegal ¹²			21 Dec 2004
Sierra Leone			13 October 2008
South Africa			17 Oct 1967
Spain ¹³	14 May 1966	21 Mar 1969	
Syrian Arab Republic			2 Sep 2005
Trinidad and Tobago			30 Mar 1999
Tunisia			16 Dec 1997
Turkey			4 Jul 2003
United Kingdom ¹⁴			10 Nov 1995
United States of America	14 May 1966	18 May 1967	
Uruguay			16 Mar 1983
Vanuatu ¹⁵			25 Oct 2002
Venezuela, Bolivarian Republic of	9 Jul 1970	17 Nov 1983	

¹⁰ Became a Party to the Convention in respect of Curaçao.

¹¹ Ceased to be a Party to the Convention as of 1 January 1998. See footnote 6.

¹² Senegal had become a party to the Convention on 25 August 1971. Subsequently, it withdrew effective 31 December 1988. On 21 December 2004, Senegal became a party to ICCAT again.

¹³ Ceased to be a Party to the Convention as of 1 January 1998. See footnote 6.

¹⁴ Ceased to be a Party to the Convention as of 1 January 1998 (see footnote 6), except in respect of its overseas territories.

¹⁵ On 3 May 2019, the Director-General received a notification of withdrawal from Vanuatu. In accordance with Article XII.2 of the Convention, the withdrawal will become effective on 31 December 2020.

The Paris Protocol

On 9 and 10 July 1984, a Conference of Plenipotentiaries of States Parties to the International Convention for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas met in Paris, France, and adopted a Protocol to amend Articles XIV, XV and XVI of the Convention.

In accordance with its Article III, the Protocol entered into force for all the Contracting Parties to the Convention on the thirtieth day following the deposit with the Director-General of FAO of the last instrument of approval, ratification or acceptance by all the Contracting Parties to the Convention. As the last instrument required was deposited on 20 December 1996, the Protocol entered into force on **19 January 1997**.

Participants

The following are the participants that deposited their instruments on the corresponding date indicated:

Participant	Signature	Ratification	Acceptance
Angola			29 Aug 1990
Brazil	10 Sep 1984	5 Oct 1988	
Canada	10 Sep 1984	3 Feb 1992	
Cape Verde			13 Mar 1986
Côte d'Ivoire			27 Jan 1993
Cuba ¹⁶			11 Jan 1989
Equatorial Guinea			7 Nov 1987
France ¹⁷			23 Oct 1984
Gabon			20 Dec 1996
Ghana			12 Dec 1988
Guatemala			12 Nov 2004
Guinea			6 Sep 1993
Italy ¹⁸		6 Aug 1997	
Japan			13 Jun 1985
Korea, Republic of			7 Dec 1984
Morocco			9 Dec 1996
Portugal ¹⁹			7 Apr 1988

¹⁶ See footnote 5.

¹⁷ See footnote 7.

¹⁸ See footnote 8.

Participant	Signature	Ratification	Acceptance
Russian Federation			9 Jun 1986
Sao Tome and Principe			1 Nov 1984
Senegal ²⁰			14 Jun 1985
South Africa			28 Mar 1985
Spain ²¹			21 Nov 1986
United Kingdom ²²			10 Nov 1995
United States of America	10 Sep 1984	10 Nov 1986	
Uruguay			10 May 1985
Venezuela, Bolivarian Republic of			7 Mar 1989

The Madrid Protocol

On 4 and 5 June 1992, a Conference of Plenipotentiaries of States Parties to the International Convention for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas met in Madrid, Spain and adopted a Protocol to amend paragraph 2 of Article X of the Convention.

In accordance with its Article 3, the Protocol of Madrid entered into force for all Contracting Parties to the Convention on the 90th day following the deposit with the Director-General of FAO of the last instrument of ratification, approval or acceptance by three-quarters of the Contracting Parties (the three-quarters included all the Parties classified as developed market economy countries by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development as at 5 June 1992). As the last instrument required was deposited on 10 December 2004, the Protocol entered into force on **10 March 2005**.

Participants

The following are the participants that deposited their instruments on the corresponding date indicated:

Participant	Signature	Ratification	Approval	Acceptance
Albania				31 March 2008
Angola				7 Mar 2006
Brazil	5 Jun 1992	15 Jan 1997		
Canada	22 Sep 1993	22 Sep 1993		
Cape Verde				27 Mar 2006

¹⁹ See footnote 11.

²⁰ See footnote 12.

²¹ See footnote 13.

²² See footnote 14.

Participant	Signature	Ratification	Approval	Acceptance
Côte d'Ivoire	5 Jun 1992			
Equatorial Guinea				10 Dec 2004
France ²³	5 Jun 1992		6 Mar 2000	
Gabon				26 Oct 2000
Ghana	5 Jun 1992	23 Nov 2001		
Guatemala				12 Nov 2004
Guinea				13 Apr 1995
Italy ²⁴				6 Aug 1997
Japan				27 May 1998
Korea, Republic of				11 June 1993
Libya				14 Jan 1998
Morocco	5 Jun 1992	9 Dec 1996		
Portugal ²⁵	5 Jun 1992	30 Nov 1995		
Russian Federation				14 Sep 1994
South Africa				30 Sep 1993
Spain ²⁶	5 Jun 1992	14 Feb 1994		
United States of America	22 Oct 1992	24 Aug 1994		
Uruguay				24 Jul 1997
Venezuela, Bolivarian Republic of				5 May 1998

²³ See footnote 7.

²⁴ See footnote 8.

²⁵ See footnote 11.

²⁶ See footnote 11.