



Research Guide to The United Nations Treaty Collection

WHAT IS IT?

The United Nations Treaty Collection, a product of the United Nations, provides comprehensive, full-text access to a variety of international instruments on file with the U.N. Under [Article 102](#) of the Charter of the United Nations, "Every treaty and every international agreement entered into by any Member of the United Nations after the present Charter comes into force shall as soon as possible be registered with the Secretariat and published by it." The *United Nations Treaty Collection* provides access to the following instruments:

- Status of Multilateral Treaties Deposited with the Secretary-General
- The United Nations Treaty Series (complete text of treaties from 1946 to the most current available)
- Texts of Recently Deposited Multilateral Treaties
- Photographs of Treaty Signature Ceremonies
- Titles of the Multilateral Treaties Deposited with the Secretary-General in the U.N. official languages
- Summary of Practice of the Secretary-General as Depositary of Multilateral Treaties

United Nations Treaty Collection

Access to Databases

SELECT THE DATABASE YOU WISH TO ACCESS:

Quick Links

- [Status of Multilateral Treaties Deposited with the Secretary-General](#)
This publication contains the current status of 515 (as at 1 September 2005) multilateral treaties deposited with the Secretary-General. For your convenience, the links to the full texts are provided as well. For the texts of these agreements, you may also refer to the United Nations Treaty Series.
- [Depositary Notifications \(CNs\) by the Secretary-General](#)
▶ [Automated CN Subscription Service](#) ^{NEW}
The depositary is required to provide treaty related information to all interested parties on the treaties deposited with him. The Secretary-General, as depositary of multilateral treaties, provides this information by issuing depositary notifications.
- [Certified True Copies \(CTCs\) of Multilateral Treaties Deposited with the Secretary-General](#)
Since only a single original is established, it is the depositary's responsibility to prepare and transmit to the States concerned certified copies of the said original. This formality replaces the exchange of multiple original instruments that otherwise would have to take place between all the negotiating parties. The certified copies are normally used by Governments when submitting the agreement to their competent organs for whatever approval action is required under their particular constitutional procedures.
[Note: This database is under construction.](#)
- [United Nations Treaty Series \(14 December 1946 - April 2003\)](#)

Researchers looking for current and historical international instruments should consider adding the *The United Nations Treaty Collection* to their list of research tools. The majority of the information included in the database is available in both French and English, and many instruments are available in all of the official U.N. languages (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, Spanish).

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WHAT SHOULD I KNOW ABOUT IT?

- *The United Nations Treaty Collection* can be accessed from the DuFour Law Library home page (<http://law.cua.edu/library/>) or may be accessed directly at <http://untreaty.un.org>.
- *The United Nations Treaty Collection* DOES NOT provide access to treaties to which the United States is a party that have not been filed with the U.N. Many of these materials can be located by using other resources available in the Law Library (please see the research guide to *United States Treaties*).

In addition to having individual help screens for each database, *The United Nations Treaty Collection* provides the user with a useful *site map* and *FAQ*. All of these provide an outline of how materials in the database are organized and how to perform standard searches.

HOW DO I?

1. Begin Researching a Specific Topic?

In order to research treaties and other international instruments related to a specific topic it is probably best to start with either the *United Nations Treaty Series* (which is keyword and subject searchable), or the *Status of Multilateral Treaties* (which is arranged by broad subject areas, e.g. Telecommunications).

2. Search For a Specific Instrument?

If you already have the name of a particular treaty simply enter the title in the search box of the United Nations Treaty Series (a number of the most popular titles are listed on a pull down menu).

3. Search for Instruments Specific to a Country?

The United Nations Treaty Series provides a number of advanced searching options including locating instruments by signatory parties, by type of agreement (bilateral, multilateral, etc), adoption date, and by U.N. registration number.

4. Locate Recent Instruments?

Very recent multilateral treaties, those that have not yet been published as part of the UNTS, are loaded into the database. Check the "*Texts of Recently Deposited Multilateral Treaties*" section of the database for full-text availability. Also take a look at the "*Monthly Statement of Treaties and International Agreements*." This recent addition to the database provides information on any new instruments or amendments to existing instruments registered with the Secretariat of the U.N.

5. Determine the Status of a Multilateral Treaty?

The *Status of Multilateral Treaties* section of the database enables the researcher to determine whether a party has ratified a treaty, when it signed the treaty, or when the party acceded or succeeded to the convention.

If you encounter any difficulties using *The United Nations Treaty Collection* or have any questions related to this resource please contact a reference librarian in the 2nd floor Reference Room.