



**TREATY SERIES 1955
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**Statute of The Hague Conference on
Private International Law**

**Drawn up at the Seventh Session of the Conference
held at The Hague, 9-31 October, 1951**

Irish Instrument of Acceptance deposited on 26 August 1955

Presented to Dáil Éireann by the Minister for External Affairs

(Translation)

STATUTE OF THE HAGUE CONFERENCE ON
PRIVATE INTERNATIONAL LAW

The Hague, October 9 -31, 1951

The Governments of the countries hereinafter specified:

the Federal Republic of Germany, Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Spain, Finland, France, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Norway, the Netherlands, Portugal, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Sweden and Switzerland;

Having regard to the permanent character of the Hague Conference on Private International Law;

Desiring to stress that character;

Having, to that end, deemed it desirable to provide the Conference with a Statute;

Have agreed upon the following provisions:-

Article 1

The purpose of the Hague Conference is to work for the progressive unification of the rules of private international law.

Article 2

Those States which have already participated in one or more sessions of the Conference and which accept the present Statute shall be Members of the Hague Conference on Private International Law.

Any other States the participation of which is of juridical importance for the work of the Conference may become Members. The admission of new Members shall be decided upon by the Governments of the participating States upon the proposal of one or more of them, by a majority of the votes cast, within a period of six months from the date on which that proposal is submitted to the Governments.

The admission shall become definitive upon the acceptance of the present Statute by the State concerned.

Article 3

The Netherlands Commission of State, instituted by Royal Decree of February 20, 1897, with a view to promoting the codification of private international law, shall be charged with the functioning of the Conference.

That Commission will assure such functioning through a Permanent Bureau the activities of which it shall direct.

It shall examine all proposals intended to be placed on the agenda of the Conference. It shall be at liberty to determine the action to be taken on such proposals.

The Commission of State shall, after consultation with the Members of the Conference, determine the date and the agenda of the sessions.

It shall arrange with the Netherlands Government for the convening of the Members.

The regular sessions of the Conference shall, in principle, be held every four years.

If necessary, the Commission of State may, with the approval of the Members, request the Netherlands Government to convene the Conference in special session.

Article 4

The Permanent Bureau shall have its seat at The Hague. It shall be composed of a Secretary General and two Secretaries of different nationalities, who shall be appointed by the Netherlands Government upon presentation by the Commission of State.

The Secretary General and the Secretaries must possess appropriate legal knowledge and practical experience.

The number of Secretaries may be increased after consultation with the Members of the Conference.

Article 5

Under the direction of the Commission of State the Permanent Bureau shall be charged with:-

- (a) the preparation and organisation of the sessions of the Hague Conference and the meeting of the special committees;
- (b) the work of the Secretariat of the sessions and meetings envisaged above;

- (c) all the tasks which are included in the activity of a secretariat.

Article 6

With a view to facilitating communication between the Members of the Conference and the Permanent Bureau, the Government of each of the Members shall designate a national organ.

The Permanent Bureau may correspond with all the national organs so designated and with the competent international organisations.

Article 7

The Conference and, in the interval between sessions, the Commission of State, may set up special committees to prepare draft conventions or to study all questions of private international law which come within the purpose of the Conference.

Article 8

The expenses of the operation and maintenance of the Permanent Bureau and special committees shall be apportioned among the Members of the Conference, with the exception of the travelling and subsistence expenses of the Delegates to the special committees, which expenses shall be payable by the Governments represented.

Article 9

The budget of the Permanent Bureau and the special committees shall be submitted each year to the Members' diplomatic representatives at The Hague for approval.

These representatives shall likewise apportion among the Members the expenses which are charged in that budget to the latter.

The diplomatic representatives shall meet for such purposes under the chairmanship of the Netherlands Minister for Foreign Affairs.

Article 10

The expenses resulting from the regular sessions of the Conference shall be borne by the Netherlands Government.

In case of special session, the expenses shall be apportioned among the Members of the Conference who are represented at the session.

In all cases, the travelling and subsistence expenses of the Delegates shall be payable by their respective Governments.

Article 11

The practices of the Conference shall continue to be followed for all matters which are not contrary to the present Statute or to the Regulations.

Article 12

Modifications may be made to the present Statute if they are approved by two-thirds of the Members.

Article 13

The provisions of the present Charter will be supplemented by a regulation for the purpose of assuring the execution thereof. The Regulation shall be drawn up by the Permanent Bureau and submitted to the Governments of the Members for approval.

Article 14

The present Statute shall be submitted for the acceptance of the Governments of States which participated in one or more sessions of the Conference. It shall enter into force as soon as it is accepted by the majority of the States represented at the Seventh Session.¹

The declaration of acceptance shall be deposited with the Netherlands Government, which shall inform the Governments referred to in the first paragraph of this Article.

The same shall apply, in the case of the admission of a new State, to the declaration of acceptance of that State.

Article 15

Each Member may denounce the present Statute after a period of five years from the date of its entry into force under the terms of Article 14, paragraph 1.

Notice of the denunciation shall be given to the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs at least six months before the expiration of the budgetary year of the Conference, and shall become effective at the expiration of the

¹ The Statute entered into force on 15 July 1955

said year, but only with respect to the Member which has given notice thereof.