

**VIENNA CONVENTION  
ON THE REPRESENTATION OF STATES IN THEIR  
RELATIONS WITH  
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS  
OF A UNIVERSAL CHARACTER**

**The States Parties to the present Convention,**

**Recognizing** the increasingly important role of multilateral diplomacy in relations between States and the responsibilities of the United Nations, its specialized agencies and other international organizations of a universal character within the international community,

**Having in mind** the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations concerning the sovereign equality of States, the maintenance of international peace and security and the promotion of friendly relations and co-operation among States,

**Recalling** the work of codification and progressive development of international law applicable to bilateral relations between States which was achieved by the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations of 1961, the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations of 1963, and the Convention on Special Missions of 1969,

**Believing** that an international convention on the representation of States in their relations with international organizations of a universal character would contribute to the promotion of friendly relations and co-operation among States, irrespective of their political, economic and social systems,

**Recalling** the provisions of Article 105 of the Charter of the United Nations,

**Recognizing** that the purpose of privileges and immunities contained in the present Convention is not to benefit individuals but to ensure the efficient performance of their functions in connexion with organizations and conferences.

**Taking account** of the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations of 1946, the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the Specialized Agencies of 1947 and other agreements in force between States and between States and international organizations,

**Affirming** that the rules of customary international law continue to govern questions not expressly regulated by the provisions of the present Convention,

**Have agreed** as follows:—

**PART I**

**INTRODUCTION**

**Article 1**

**Use of terms**

1. For the purposes of the present Convention:

- (1) "international organization" means an intergovernmental organization;
- (2) "international organization of a universal character" means the United Nations, its specialized agencies, the International Atomic Energy Agency and any similar organization whose membership and responsibilities are on a world-wide scale;
- (3) "Organization" means the international organization in question;

(4) "organ" means:

- (a) any principal or subsidiary organ of an international organization, or
- (b) any commission, committee or sub-group of any such organ, in which States are members;

(5) "conference" means a conference of States convened by or under the auspices of an international organization;

(6) "mission" means, as the case may be, the permanent mission or the permanent observer mission;

(7) "permanent mission" means a mission of permanent character, representing the State, sent by a State member of an international organization to the Organization;

(8) "permanent observer mission" means a mission of permanent character, representing the State, sent to an international organization by a State not a member of the Organization;

(9) "delegation" means, as the case may be, the delegation to an organ or the delegation to a conference;

(10) "delegation to an organ" means the delegation sent by a State to participate on its behalf in the proceedings of the organ;

(11) "delegation to a conference" means the delegation sent by a State to participate on its behalf in the conference;

(12) "observer delegation" means, as the case may be, the observer delegation to an organ or the observer delegation to a conference;

(13) "observer delegation to an organ" means the delegation sent by a State to participate on its behalf as an observer in the proceedings of the organ;

(14) "observer delegation to a conference" means the delegation sent by a State to participate on its behalf as an observer in the proceedings of the conference;

(15) "host State" means the State in whose territory:

- (a) the Organization has its seat or an office, or
- (b) a meeting of an organ or a conference is held;

(16) "sending State" means the State which sends:

- (a) a mission to the Organization at its seat or to an office of the Organization, or
- (b) a delegation to an organ or a delegation to a conference, or
- (c) an observer delegation to an organ or an observer delegation to a conference;

(17) "head of mission" means, as the case may be, the permanent representative or the permanent observer;

(18) "permanent representative" means the person charged by the sending State with the duty of acting as the head of the permanent mission;

(19) "permanent observer" means the person charged by the sending State with the duty of acting as the head of the permanent observer mission;

(20) "members of the mission" means the head of mission and the members of the staff;

(21) "head of delegation" means the delegate charged by the sending State with the duty of acting in that capacity;