

Date of most recent action: March 25, 2013

Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, Including the Moon and other Celestial Bodies

Done: Washington, London and Moscow January 27, 1967

Opened for signature: In accordance with Article XIV, paragraph 1, the Treaty was open to all States for signature and any State which did not sign the Treaty before its entry into force may accede to it at any time

Entry into force: October 10, 1967
In accordance with Article XIV, paragraph 2, the Treaty shall be subject to ratification by signatory States and instruments of ratification and instruments of accession shall be deposited with the designated Depositary Governments [Russian Federation, United Kingdom, United States]. In accordance with Article XIV, paragraph 3, the Treaty entered into force after the deposit of instruments of ratification by 5 Governments, including the Governments designated as Depositary Governments under the Treaty. In accordance with Article XIV, paragraph 4, for States whose instruments of ratification or accession are deposited subsequent to the entry into force of the Treaty, it shall enter into force on the date of deposit of their instruments of ratification or accession.

Notes: This status list reflects actions at Washington only.

The former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia signed the Treaty on January 27, 1967.

Legend: (no mark) = ratification; **A** = acceptance; **AA** = approval; **a** = accession; **d** = succession; **w** = withdrawal or equivalent action

Participant	Signature	Consent to be bound		Other Action	Notes
Afghanistan	January 27, 1967	March 21, 1988			
Algeria		January 27, 1992	a		
Antigua and Barbuda		November 16, 1988	d		1
Argentina	January 27, 1967	March 26, 1969			
Australia	January 27, 1967	October 10, 1967			
Austria	February 20, 1967	February 26, 1968			
The Bahamas		August 13, 1976	d		2
Bangladesh		January 17, 1986	a		
Barbados		September 12, 1968	a		
Belgium	February 2, 1967	March 30, 1973			

Benin		July 7, 1986	a	
Bolivia	January 27, 1967			
Botswana	January 27, 1967			
Brazil	February 2, 1967	March 5, 1969		3
Bulgaria	January 27, 1967	April 11, 1967		
Burkina Faso	March 3, 1967	June 18, 1968		
Burma	May 22, 1967	March 18, 1970		
Burundi	January 27, 1967			
Cameroon	January 27, 1967			
Canada	January 27, 1967	October 10, 1967		
Central African Republic	January 27, 1967			
Chile	January 27, 1967	October 8, 1981		
China		December 30, 1983	a	4
Colombia	January 27, 1967			
Congo (DROC)	January 27, 1967			
Cyprus	January 27, 1967	July 5, 1972		
Czech Republic		January 1, 1993	d	5
Denmark	January 27, 1967	October 10, 1967		
Dominican Republic	January 27, 1967	November 21, 1968		
Ecuador	January 27, 1967	March 7, 1969		
Egypt	January 27, 1967	October 10, 1967		
El Salvador	January 27, 1967	January 15, 1969		
Estonia		April 19, 2010	a	
Ethiopia	January 27, 1967			
Fiji		July 18, 1972	d	6
Finland	January 27, 1967	July 12, 1967		
France	September 25, 1967	August 5, 1970		
Germany	January 27, 1967	February 10, 1971		7
Ghana	January 27, 1967			
Greece	January 27, 1967			
Guyana	February 3, 1967			
Haiti	January 27, 1967			
Honduras	January 27, 1967			
Hungary	January 27, 1967	June 26, 1967		
Iceland	January 27, 1967	February 5, 1968		
India	March 3, 1967	January 18, 1982		
Indonesia	January 27, 1967			
Iraq	February 27, 1967			
Ireland	January 27, 1967	July 17, 1968		
Israel	January 27, 1967	February 18, 1977		
Italy	January 27, 1967	May 4, 1972		

Jamaica	June 29, 1967	August 6, 1970		
Japan	January 27, 1967	October 10, 1967		
Jordan	February 2, 1967			
Korea (ROK)	January 27, 1967	October 13, 1967		8
Kuwait		June 7, 1972	a	9
Laos	January 27, 1967	November 29, 1972		
Lebanon	February 23, 1967	June 30, 1969		
Lesotho	January 27, 1967			
Libya		July 3, 1968	a	
Lithuania		March 25, 2013	a	
Luxembourg	January 27, 1967	January 17, 2006		
Madagascar		August 22, 1968	a	10
Malaysia	February 20, 1967			
Mauritius		April 7, 1969	d	11
Mexico	January 27, 1967	January 31, 1968		
Morocco		December 22, 1967	a	
Nepal	February 3, 1967	November 22, 1967		
Netherlands	February 10, 1967	October 10, 1969		12
New Zealand	January 27, 1967	May 31, 1968		
Nicaragua	January 27, 1967			
Niger	February 1, 1967	May 3, 1967		
Norway	February 3, 1967	July 1, 1969		
Pakistan	September 12, 1967	April 8, 1968		
Panama	January 27, 1967			
Papua New Guinea		March 16, 1981	d	13
Peru	June 30, 1967	March 21, 1979		
Philippines	January 27, 1967			
Poland	January 27, 1967	January 30, 1968		
Qatar		March 13, 2012	a	
Romania	January 27, 1967	April 9, 1968		
Russian Federation	January 27, 1967	October 10, 1967		14
Rwanda	January 27, 1967			
San Marino	April 21, 1967	October 29, 1968		
Saudi Arabia		December 17, 1976		
Sierra Leone	May 16, 1967	July 14, 1967		
Singapore		September 10, 1976	a	
Slovak Republic		January 1, 1993	d	15
Somalia	February 2, 1967			
South Africa	March 1, 1967	September 30, 1968		
Spain		December 7, 1968	a	
Sri Lanka		November 18, 1986		16
Sweden	January 27, 1967	October 11, 1967		

Switzerland	January 27, 1967	December 18, 1969			
Thailand	January 27, 1967	September 10, 1968			
Togo	January 27, 1967	June 26, 1989			
Tonga		July 7, 1971			17
Trinidad and Tobago	September 28, 1967				
Tunisia	January 27, 1967	April 17, 1968			
Turkey	January 27, 1967	March 27, 1968			
Uganda		April 24, 1968	a		
United Arab Emirates		October 4, 2000	a		
United Kingdom	January 27, 1967	October 10, 1967			18
United States	January 27, 1967	October 10, 1967			
Uruguay	January 27, 1967	August 31, 1970			
Venezuela	January 27, 1967	March 3, 1970			
Vietnam					19
Zambia		August 20, 1973	a		

¹ Date of deposit of notification of succession to the Treaty by Antigua and Barbuda.

² The Embassy of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas transmitted to the Department of State, by note dated August 13, 1976, a note of the Minister of External Affairs of The Commonwealth of The Bahamas, dated July 16, 1976, stating that the Government of The Commonwealth of The Bahamas has examined the Treaty and “declares that it considers itself bound thereby by virtue of the signature of the United Kingdom and pursuant to customary international law. I would therefore request you to consider listing The Commonwealth of The Bahamas as a party to [the Treaty].”

³ The instrument of ratification of the Treaty by Brazil was accompanied by a note from the Brazilian Embassy, dated March 5, 1969, an unofficial translation of which, provided by the Brazilian Embassy, reads as follows:
 “The Brazilian Embassy presents its compliments to the Department of State and has the honor to forward herewith the instrument of ratification by the Brazilian Government of the Treaty on principles regulating the activities of the Countries in the exploration and use of cosmic space, to be deposited with the Government of the United States of America, according to the terms of Article XIV, paragraph 2, of same Treaty.
 “2. The Brazilian Embassy, upon depositing the aforementioned instrument, kindly requests the Department of State to take note and inform the signatory countries of the following declaration of the Brazilian Government:
 ‘The Brazilian Government interprets Article 10 of the Treaty as a declared recognition that the granting of tracking facilities by the parties of the Treaty shall depend upon agreement between the concerned Countries.’
 “3. The Brazilian Embassies in London and Moscow, on this same date, are forwarding other copies of the enclosed instrument of ratification of the above mentioned Treaty.
 “The Brazilian Embassy avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Department of State the assurances of its highest consideration.”

⁴ The Republic of China signed the Treaty on January 27, 1967 and deposited an instrument of ratification of the Treaty on July 24, 1970. Effective January 1, 1979, the United States recognized the People’s Republic of China as the sole legal government of China. The authorities on Taiwan state that they will

continue to abide by the provisions of the Treaty and the United States regards them as bound by its obligations.

On December 30, 1983, the People's Republic of China deposited an instrument of accession to the Treaty. Included in the text of the instrument of accession is a declaration, an English translation of which reads as follows:

"The Government of the People's Republic of China declares as illegal and null and void the signature on and ratification of the . . . Treaty on 27 January 1967 and 24 July 1970 respectively by the Taiwan authorities usurping the name of China."

The Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to the United States of America addressed a note, dated June 3, 1997, to the Secretary of State, an English translation of which reads as follows:

"Your Excellency,

"In accordance with the Joint Declaration of the Government of the People's Republic of China and the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland on the Question of Hong Kong signed on 19 December 1984, the People's Republic of China will resume the exercise of sovereignty over Hong Kong with effect from 1 July 1997. Hong Kong will, with effect from that date, become a Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China and will enjoy a high degree of autonomy, except in foreign and defense affairs which are the responsibilities of the Central People's Government of the People's Republic of China.

"In this connection, I am instructed by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China to make the following notification:

"The Treaty on the Principles Concerning the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, Including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies done on 27 January 1967 (hereinafter referred to as the 'Treaty') to which the Government of the People's Republic of China deposited its instrument of accession on 30 December 1983, will apply to the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region with effect from 1 July 1997.

"The Government of the People's Republic of China will assume responsibility for the international rights and obligations arising from the application of the Treaty to the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region. "It would be appreciated if the contents of this Note could be placed formally on record and brought to the attention of the other Parties to the Treaty.

"Please accept, Your excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration."

The Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to the United States of America addressed a note, dated December 9, 1999, to the Secretary of State, which reads as follows:

"Dear Madam Secretary,

"I have the pleasure to bring to your attention the underneath:

"In accordance with the Joint Declaration of the Government of the People's Republic of China and the Government of the Republic of Portugal on the Question of Macao signed on 13 April 1987, the Government of the People's Republic of China will resume the exercise of sovereignty over Macao with effect from 20 December 1999. Macao will, with effect from that date, become a Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China and will enjoy a high degree of autonomy, except in foreign and defense affairs which are the responsibilities of the Central People's Government of the People's Republic of China.

"In this connection, I am instructed by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China to inform Your Excellency of the following:

"The Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies, done on 27 January 1967 (hereinafter referred to as the Treaty) to which the Government of the People's Republic of China deposited its instrument of accession on [30 December 1983], will apply to the Macao Special Administrative Region with effect from 20 December 1999.

"The Government of the People's Republic of China will assume responsibility for the international rights and obligations arising from the application of the Treaty to the Macao Special Administrative Region.

"It would be appreciated if the contents of this Note could be placed formally on record and brought to the attention of the other Parties to the Treaty.

“Please accept, dear Madam Secretary, the assurances of my highest consideration.”

⁵ Effective date of succession to the Treaty by the Czech Republic is January 1, 1993; the former Czechoslovakia signed and ratified the Treaty on January 27, 1967 and May 22, 1967, respectively. On December 31, 1992, at midnight, Czechoslovakia ceased to exist and was succeeded by two separate and independent states, the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic.

⁶ The Chargé d’Affaires ad interim of Fiji transmitted to the Secretary of State, by note dated July 18, 1972, a note of the Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Fiji, dated July 14, 1972, stating that the Government of Fiji has examined the Treaty “and declares that it considers itself to be bound thereby by virtue of the signature of the United Kingdom and pursuant to customary international law.” The Prime Minister’s note further states “I would therefore request you to consider listing Fiji as a party” to the Treaty.

⁷ The instrument of ratification of the Treaty by Germany includes a statement that the Treaty will enter into force also for Land Berlin on the day on which it enters into force for the Federal Republic of Germany.

⁸ The Embassy of the Republic of Korea in Washington informed the Department of State, in a note dated January 27, 1967, in connection with the signature of the Treaty, as follows: “The signing and the ratification by the Government of the Republic of Korea of the present Treaty does not in any way mean or imply the recognition of any territory or regime which has not been recognized by the Government of the Republic of Korea as a state or government.”

⁹ The instrument of accession to the Treaty by Kuwait was accompanied by a declaration reading as follows:
“In acceding to the Treaty on Principles governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies, 1967, the Government of the State of Kuwait takes the view that its Accession to the said Treaty does not in any way imply its recognition of Israel nor does it oblige it to apply the provisions of the aforementioned Treaty in respect of the said country.”

¹⁰ The instrument of accession to the Treaty by Madagascar (formerly the Malagasy Republic) contains a statement, an English translation of which reads as follows:
“The Government of the Malagasy Republic understands that the provisions of Article 10 may in no way affect the principle of the national sovereignty of the State, which shall retain its freedom of decision with respect to the possible installation of foreign observation bases in its territory and shall continue to possess the right to fix, in each case, the conditions for such installation.”

¹¹ The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs of Mauritius informed the Secretary of State, by a note dated April 7, 1969, as follows:
“The Government of Mauritius declares that it considers itself bound [by the Treaty] as from the 12th March, 1968, the date on which Mauritius acceded to independence.”

¹² The Netherlands instrument of ratification of the Treaty states that the Treaty is approved “pour le Royaume en Europe, pour le Surinam et pour les Antilles Néerlandaises”.

Suriname became an independent state on November 25, 1975.

The Royal Netherlands Embassy in Washington transmitted to the Department of State a diplomatic note, dated January 9, 1986, which reads as follows:

“The Royal Netherlands Embassy presents its compliments to the Department of State and has the honor to request the Department’s attention for the following with respect to the Department’s capacity of depositary of [the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, Including the Moon and other Celestial Bodies].

“Effective January 1, 1986 the island of Aruba – formerly part of the Netherlands Antilles – obtained internal autonomy as a country within the Kingdom of The Netherlands. Consequently the Kingdom of The Netherlands as of January 1, 1986 consists of three countries, to wit: the Netherlands proper, the Netherlands Antilles and Aruba.

“Since the abovementioned event concerns only a change in internal constitutional relations within the Kingdom of The Netherlands, and as the Kingdom as such, under international law, will remain the subject with which treaties are concluded, the aforementioned change will have no consequences in international law with regard to treaties concluded by the Kingdom, the application of which (treaties) were extended to the Netherlands Antilles, including Aruba.

“These treaties, thus, will remain applicable for Aruba in its new status as autonomous country within the Kingdom of The Netherlands effective January 1, 1986.

“Consequently the [Treaty] to which the Kingdom of the Netherlands is a Party, and which [has] been extended to the Netherlands Antilles will as of January 1, 1986 apply to all three countries of the Kingdom of The Netherlands.

“The Embassy would appreciate if the other Parties concerned would be notified of the above.

“The Royal Netherlands Embassy avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Department of State the assurance of its highest consideration.”

The Royal Netherlands Embassy in Washington transmitted to the Department of State a diplomatic note, dated October 6, 2010, which reads in pertinent part as follows:

“The Kingdom of the Netherlands currently consists of three parts: the Netherlands, the Netherlands Antilles and Aruba. The Netherlands Antilles consists of the islands of Curaçao, Sint Maarten, Bonaire, Sint Eustatius and Saba.

“With effect from 10 October 2010, the Netherlands Antilles will cease to exist as a part of the Kingdom of the Netherlands. From that date onwards, the Kingdom will consist of four parts: the Netherlands, Aruba, Curaçao and Sint Maarten. Curaçao and Sint Maarten will enjoy internal self-government within the Kingdom, as Aruba and, up to 10 October 2010, the Netherlands Antilles do.

“These changes constitute a modification of the internal constitutional relations within the Kingdom of the Netherlands. The Kingdom of the Netherlands will accordingly remain the subject of international law with which agreements are concluded. The modification of the structure of the Kingdom will therefore not affect the validity of the international agreements ratified by the Kingdom for the Netherlands Antilles; these agreements will continue to apply to Curaçao and Sint Maarten.

“The other islands that have until now formed part of the Netherlands Antilles – Bonaire, Sint Eustatius and Saba – will become part of the Netherlands, thus constituting ‘the Caribbean part of the Netherlands’. The agreements that now apply to the Netherlands Antilles will also continue to apply to these islands; however, the Government of the Netherlands will now be responsible for implementing these agreements.”

¹³ Date of deposit of notification of succession to the Treaty by Papua New Guinea.

¹⁴ The Treaty was signed and ratified by the former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. By a note dated January 13, 1992, the Russian Federation informed the United States Government that it “continues to perform the rights and fulfil the obligations following from the international agreements signed by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.”

¹⁵ Effective date of succession to the Treaty by the Slovak Republic is January 1, 1993; the former Czechoslovakia signed and ratified the Treaty on January 27, 1967 and May 22, 1967, respectively. On December 31, 1992, at midnight, Czechoslovakia ceased to exist and was succeeded by two separate and independent states, the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic.

¹⁶ Sri Lanka signed the Treaty at London March 10, 1967.

¹⁷ The Tonga High Commission in London transmitted to the American Ambassador, by note dated July 7, 1971, a note dated June 22, 1971 from the Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Tonga stating as follows:

“The Government of Tonga has examined the Treaty . . . and declares that it considers itself to be bound thereby by virtue of the signature of the United Kingdom and pursuant to customary international law. I would therefore request you to consider listing Tonga as a party to this instrument.”

¹⁸ The instrument of ratification of the Treaty by the United Kingdom states that the Treaty is ratified “in respect of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the Associated States (Antigua, Dominica, Grenada, St. Christopher-Nevis-Anguilla and St. Lucia) and Territories under the territorial sovereignty of the United Kingdom, as well as the State of Brunei, the Kingdom of Swaziland, the Kingdom of Tonga and the British Solomon Islands Protectorate . . .”

The British Ambassador made the following declaration in a note to the Secretary of State, dated October 10, 1967: “In depositing with the Government of the United States the instrument of ratification by the United Kingdom of the Treaty . . ., I have the honour to declare on behalf of the Government of the United Kingdom that this Treaty will not be applicable in regard to Southern Rhodesia unless and until the Government of the United Kingdom informs the other depositary Governments that it is in a position to ensure that the obligations imposed by the Treaty in respect of that territory can be fully implemented.”

The British Ambassador to Washington addressed a note, dated June 11, 1997, to the Secretary of State which reads as follows:

“Secretary of State

“I am instructed by Her Britannic Majesty’s Principal Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs to refer to the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and other Celestial Bodies done at London/Moscow/Washington on 27 January 1967 (hereinafter referred to as the “Treaty”) which applies to Hong Kong at present.

“I am also instructed to state that, in accordance with the Joint Declaration of the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Government of the People’s Republic of China on the Question of Hong Kong signed on 19 December 1984, the Government of the United Kingdom will restore Hong Kong to the People’s Republic of China with effect from 1 July 1997. The Government of the United Kingdom will continue to have international responsibility for Hong Kong until that date. Therefore, from that date the Government of the United Kingdom will cease to be responsible for the international rights and obligations arising from the application of the Treaty to Hong Kong.

“I should be grateful if the contents of this Note could be placed formally on record and brought to the attention of the other Parties to the Treaty.

“I avail myself of this opportunity to renew to Your Excellency the assurances of my highest consideration.”

¹⁹ The former Republic of Vietnam signed the Treaty on January 27, 1967. The Socialist Republic of Vietnam deposited an instrument of accession to the Treaty at Moscow on June 20, 1980.