

No. 117

**TRUSTEESHIP AGREEMENT FOR THE TERRITORY
OF RUANDA-URUNDI**

**Approved by the General Assembly of the United Nations on
13 December 1946**

English and French official texts. The registration ex officio by the Secretariat of the United Nations took place on 1 October 1947.

**ACCORD DE TUTELLE POUR LE TERRITOIRE
DU RUANDA-URUNDI**

**Approuvé par l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies le
13 décembre 1946**

Textes officiels anglais et français. L'enregistrement d'office par le Secrétariat de l'Organisation des Nations Unies a eu lieu le 1er octobre 1947.

No. 117. TRUSTEESHIP AGREEMENT¹ FOR THE TERRITORY OF RUANDA-URUNDI, APPROVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS ON 13 DECEMBER 1946

Whereas the Territory known as Ruanda-Urundi has been administered in accordance with Article 22 of the Covenant of the League of Nations under a mandate conferred upon Belgium;

Whereas Article 75² of the United Nations Charter, signed at San Francisco on 26 June 1945, provides for the establishment of an International Trusteeship System for the administration and supervision of such territories as may be placed thereunder by subsequent individual agreements;

Whereas under Article 77 of the said Charter the International Trusteeship System may be applied to territories now held under mandate;

Whereas the Belgian Government has indicated its desire to place Ruanda-Urundi under the International Trusteeship System; and

Whereas, under Articles 75 and 77 of the Charter, the placing of a territory under the International Trusteeship System is to be effected by means of a trusteeship agreement,

Now, therefore, the General Assembly of the United Nations hereby resolves to approve the following terms of Trusteeship for Ruanda-Urundi:

Article 1

The present Trusteeship Agreement shall apply to the whole of the Territory of Ruanda-Urundi as at present administered by Belgium and as defined by article 1 of the Belgian mandate and by the Treaty concluded in London on 22 November 1934³ by Belgium and the United Kingdom.

Article 2

By the present Agreement, the Belgian Government is designated as Administering Authority for Ruanda-Urundi in accordance with Article 75 of the Charter. The said Government shall assume responsibility for the administration of the said Territory.

¹ Came into force on 13 December 1946, date of approval of the Agreement by the General Assembly of the United Nations (resolution 63 (I)).

² For references to Articles 75 to 91 of the United Nations Charter, see pages 80 to 88 of this volume.

³ League of Nations, *Treaty Series*, Volume CXC, page 95.

Article 3

The Administering Authority undertakes to administer Ruanda-Urundi in such a manner as to achieve the basic objectives of the International Trusteeship System laid down in Article 76 of the United Nations Charter. The Administering Authority further undertakes to collaborate fully with the General Assembly of the United Nations and with the Trusteeship Council in the discharge of all their functions as defined in Article 87 of the United Nations Charter.

It likewise undertakes to facilitate such periodic visits to the Trust Territory as the General Assembly or the Trusteeship Council may decide to arrange, to decide, jointly with these organs, the dates on which such visits shall take place and also to agree jointly with them on all questions concerned with the organization and accomplishment of these visits.

Article 4

The Administering Authority shall ensure the maintenance of peace and order as well as the good government and defence of the Territory. The said Authority shall ensure that the Territory shall play its part in the maintenance of international peace and security.

Article 5

For the above-mentioned purposes, and in order to fulfill the obligations arising under the Charter and the present Agreement, the Administering Authority:

1. Shall have full powers of legislation, administration and jurisdiction in the Territory of Ruanda-Urundi and shall administer it in accordance with Belgian law as an integral part of Belgian territory, subject to the provisions of the Charter and of this Agreement;

2. Shall be entitled to constitute Ruanda-Urundi into a customs, fiscal or administrative union or federation with adjacent territories under its sovereignty and to establish common services between such territories and Ruanda-Urundi, provided that such measures are not inconsistent with the objectives of the International Trusteeship System and with the provisions of this Agreement;

3. May establish, on the Trust Territory, military bases, including air bases, erect fortifications, station its own armed forces and raise volunteer contingents therein.

The Administering Authority may likewise, within the limits laid down by the Charter, take all measures of organization and defence appropriate for ensuring:

- (a) The participation of the Territory in the maintenance of international peace and security;
- (b) The respect for obligations concerning the assistance and facilities to be given by the Administering Authority to the Security Council,
- (c) The respect for internal law and order;
- (d) The defence of the Territory within the framework of special agreements for the maintenance of international peace and security.

Article 6

The Administering Authority shall promote the development of free political institutions suited to Ruanda-Urundi. To this end the Administering Authority shall assure to the inhabitants of Ruanda-Urundi an increasing share in the administration and services, both central and local, of the Territory; it shall further such participation of the inhabitants in the representative organs of the population as may be appropriate to the particular conditions of the Territory.

In short, the Administering Authority shall take all measures conducive to the political advancement of the population of Ruanda-Urundi in accordance with Article 76 b of the Charter of the United Nations.

Article 7

The Administering Authority undertakes to apply to Ruanda-Urundi the provisions of all present or future international conventions and recommendations which may be appropriate to the particular conditions of the Territory and which would be conducive to the achievement of the basic objectives of the International Trusteeship System.

Article 8

In framing laws relating to the ownership of land and the rights over natural resources, and to their transfer, the Administering Authority shall take into consideration native laws and customs and shall respect the rights and safeguard the interests, both present and future, of the native population. No native land or native-owned natural resources may be transferred, except between natives, save with the previous consent of the competent public authority. No real rights over native land or native-owned resources of the sub-soil, in favour of non-natives, may be created except with the same consent.

Article 9

Subject to the provisions of the following article, the Administering Authority shall take all necessary steps to ensure equal treatment in social, economic, industrial and commercial matters for all States Members of the United Nations and their nationals and to this end:

1. Shall ensure to all nationals of Members of the United Nations the same rights as are enjoyed by its own nationals in respect of entry into and residence in Ruanda-Urundi, freedom of transit and navigation, including freedom of transit and navigation by air, the acquisition of property, both movable and immovable, the protection of person and property, and the exercise of professions and trades;

2. Shall not discriminate on grounds of nationality against nationals of any Member of the United Nations in matters relating to the grant of concessions for the development of natural resources of the Territory and shall not grant concessions having the character of a general monopoly;

3. Shall ensure equal treatment in the administration of justice to the nationals of all Members of the United Nations.

The rights conferred by this article on the nationals of States Members of the United Nations apply equally to companies or associations controlled by such nationals and formed in accordance with the law of any Member of the United Nations.

Article 10

Measures taken to give effect to the provisions of the preceding article shall be subject always to the overriding duty of the United Nations and of the Administering Authority to promote the political, economic, social and cultural advancement of the inhabitants of the Territory, and to pursue the other objectives of the Trusteeship System as laid down in Article 76 of the Charter of the United Nations.

The Administering Authority shall, in particular, be free:

1. To organize essential public services and works on such terms and such conditions as it thinks just;

2. To create, in the interests of Ruanda-Urundi, monopolies of a purely fiscal character in order to provide the Territory with the resources which seem best suited to local requirements;

3. Where the interest or the economic advancement of the inhabitants of the Territory may require it, to establish or permit to be established, for specific purposes, other monopolies or undertakings having in them an element of

monopoly, under conditions of proper public control, provided that, in the selection of agencies to carry out the purposes of this paragraph, other than agencies controlled by the Government or those in which the Government participates, the Administering Authority shall not discriminate on grounds of nationality against Members of the United Nations or their nationals.

Article 11

Nothing in this Agreement shall entitle any Member of the United Nations to claim for itself or for its nationals, companies or associations, the benefits of article 9 of this Agreement in any respect in which it does not give to the inhabitants, companies and associations of Ruanda-Urundi equality of treatment with the nationals, companies and associations of the State which it treats most favourably.

Article 12

The Administering Authority shall develop the system of elementary education in the Trust Territory in order to reduce the number of illiterates, to train the inhabitants in manual skill, and to improve the education of the population. The Administering Authority shall, so far as possible, provide the necessary facilities to enable qualified students to receive higher education, more especially professional education.

Article 13

The Administering Authority shall ensure, throughout the Trust Territory, complete freedom of conscience, freedom of religious teaching and the free exercise of all forms of worship which are consistent with public order and morality; all missionaries who are nationals of any State Member of the United Nations shall be free to enter, travel and reside in the Trust Territory, to acquire and possess property, to erect religious buildings and to open schools and hospitals therein. The provisions of the present article shall not, however, affect the duty of the Administering Authority to exercise such control as may be necessary for the maintenance of public order and good government and also the quality and progress of education.

Article 14

Subject only to the requirements of public order, the Administering Authority shall guarantee to the inhabitants of the Trust Territory freedom of speech, of the press, of assembly and of petition.

Article 15

The Administering Authority may, on behalf of the Trust Territory, accept membership in any advisory regional commission (regional authority), technical organization, or other voluntary association of States. It may co-operate with specialized agencies, whether public or private, and participate in other forms of international co-operation not inconsistent with the Charter.

Article 16

The Administering Authority shall make, to the General Assembly of the United Nations, an annual report on the basis of the questionnaire drawn up by the Trusteeship Council in accordance with Article 88 of the Charter of the United Nations.

Such reports shall include information regarding the measures taken in order to give effect to the suggestions and recommendations of the General Assembly and of the Trusteeship Council.

The Administering Authority shall appoint an accredited representative to attend the meetings of the Trusteeship Council at which the reports of the Administering Authority for Ruanda-Urundi will be examined.

Article 17

Nothing in this Agreement shall affect the right of the Administering Authority to propose at any future date the designation of the whole or part of the Territory as a strategic area in accordance with Articles 82 and 83 of the Charter.

Article 18

The terms of the present Trusteeship Agreement may not be altered or amended except as provided in Articles 79, 83 or 85 of the Charter.

Article 19

If any dispute whatever should arise between the Administering Authority and another Member of the United Nations relating to the interpretation or the application of the provisions of the present Trusteeship Agreement, such dispute, if it cannot be settled by negotiation or other means, shall be submitted to the International Court of Justice, provided for by Chapter XIV of the Charter of the United Nations.