

No. 942

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**AUSTRALIA, AUSTRIA, CANADA,  
DENMARK, EGYPT, etc.**

**International Convention relating to economic statistics, signed at  
Geneva on 14 December 1928, as amended by the Protocol signed  
at Paris on 9 December 1948**

*Official texts: English and French.  
Registered ex officio on 9 October 1950.*

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**AUSTRALIE, AUTRICHE, CANADA  
DANEMARK, ÉGYPTE, etc.**

**Convention internationale concernant les statistiques économiques,  
signée à Genève le 14 décembre 1928, sous sa forme amendée par  
le Protocole signé à Paris le 9 décembre 1948**

*Textes officiels anglais et français.  
Enregistrée d'office le 9 octobre 1950.*

No. 942. INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION<sup>1</sup> RELATING TO ECONOMIC STATISTICS, SIGNED AT GENEVA ON 14 DECEMBER 1928<sup>2</sup>, AS AMENDED BY THE PROTOCOL SIGNED AT PARIS ON 9 DECEMBER 1948<sup>3</sup>

*Article 1*

1. The High Contracting Parties undertake to compile and publish, in respect of every part of the territories under their administration to which the present Convention applies, the statistics mentioned in Article 2 below and at the intervals stated therein.

2. For the purposes of the statistics required by the present Convention, every territory possessing a separate statistical system for any class of statistics may be shown in such statistics as a separate unit. It shall be stated in all statistics published under the provisions of this Convention to what territories such statistics apply.

3. The obligations contained in the present Convention are subject to the interpretations and to the reservations which are set out in the Protocol to the present Convention and to the reservations which may be allowed hereafter under the provisions of Article 17 below.

*Article 2*

The classes of statistics referred to in the preceding article are the following:

*I. External Trade*

(a) Annual and monthly returns of the quantity and value of imports and exports;

(b) Annual, and if possible quarterly or preferably monthly, returns showing the net tonnage of vessels engaged in external trade entered at and cleared from the ports of the country concerned, according to their nationalities.

<sup>1</sup> Came into force on 9 October 1950, the date on which the amendments to the Convention, as set forth in the annex to the Protocol of 9 December 1948, entered into force in accordance with article V of the said Protocol.

*States Parties to the Convention as amended by the Protocol:*

Australia	France	Sweden
Austria	Greece	Union of South Africa
Canada	India	United Kingdom of Great
Denmark	Italy	Britain and Northern
Egypt	Netherlands	Ireland
Finland	Norway	Southern Rhodesia.

<sup>2</sup> League of Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. CX, p. 171; vol. CXVII, p. 330; vol. CXXII, p. 366; vol. CXXVI, p. 454; vol. CXXX, p. 463; vol. CXXXIV, p. 427; vol. CLVI, p. 222; vol. CLXXXI, p. 392; vol. CLXXXV, p. 395, and vol. CLXXXIX, p. 466. United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 54, p. 411.

<sup>3</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 20, p. 229; vol. 21, p. 336; vol. 24, p. 321; vol. 26, p. 417; vol. 30, p. 351; vol. 34, p. 424; vol. 42, p. 359; vol. 44, p. 340, and vol. 51, p. 329.

## II. Occupations

Returns of the population according to occupations to be compiled and published at least once in each decade, and to relate to the closing year of the decade (that is to say, the years 1930, 1940, 1950 and so on), or to a year as near as possible to such closing year.

## III. Agriculture, Live-Stock, Forestry and Fisheries

(A) General censuses of agriculture, to be taken if possible once in each decade, on the lines proposed and, if possible, for the year proposed by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

(B) Annual returns showing:

(1) The distribution of the cultivated area amongst the principal crops, stating if possible, in cases where such information is of importance, both the areas sown or planted and the areas harvested; and

(2) The quantities of such crops harvested.

(C) Periodical (if possible annual) returns of the numbers of the chief species of live-stock, showing sex and age where possible.

(D) In the case of countries to whose economy timber production is important, periodical returns of forest resources, showing forest area and, whenever possible, timber content, annual growth and annual cut; distinction to be made as far as possible according to the species of the timber.

(E) In the case of countries in which fisheries are an important and organised branch of economic activity, annual returns showing: (1) the products of the main sea fisheries landed and, if possible, of inland-water fisheries; (2) the nationalities of the boats by which such products are landed; (3) the numbers and classes of national boats engaged in fisheries; and (4) the number of persons employed on such boats.

Whenever it is not possible to render complete returns, an approximate indication of the extent to which such returns are defective shall be given.

## IV. Mining and Metallurgy

Returns (at least annual) of the quantities produced of any of the minerals and metals mentioned below, the production of which in the country concerned is of national importance:

(1) Non-Metallic Minerals:

Coal (bituminous or anthracite), lignite and coke,

Petroleum and natural gas,

Nitrates,

Phosphates,

Potash minerals,

Sulphur.

## (2) Metallic Minerals and Metals:

## (a) Ores of the following:

Iron,	Aluminium,	Tin,	Manganese,
Copper,	Lead,	Zinc,	Nickel.

## (b) Smelter production (actual or estimated) of the following:

Iron and Steel,	Tin,	Antimony,	Silver,
Copper,	Zinc,	Tungsten,	Gold,
Aluminium,	Manganese,	Molybdenum,	Platinum.
Lead,	Nickel,	Bismuth,	

## V. Industry

(A) Statistical surveys at regular intervals, and if possible at least once in every ten years, of:

(a) Industrial establishments, including at least all such establishments of any considerable importance: and

(b) If possible, commercial establishments.

Such surveys may be carried out in connection with a census of population or with a census of industrial production or independently, and shall show, *inter alia*:

(1) With regard to such establishments, the number of persons of each sex employed therein; and, so far as possible, such persons according to categories of their employment and distinguishing adults from young persons, the age at which this distinction is made being stated.

An estimate shall also be made, if possible, of the numbers of persons employed in establishments which are not included in the surveys.

(2) In the case of industrial establishments, the nominal capacity of the prime movers (if any) installed, distinguishing, if possible, between (i) steam engines, (ii) internal-combustion engines, and (iii) hydraulic engines; and the nominal capacity of the electric motors installed (if any), indicating whether the electric energy is generated in the establishment or elsewhere. In each of the above-mentioned classes, prime movers and electric motors normally in use should, if possible, be shown separately from those idle or in reserve.

(B) Returns of industrial production, as comprehensive as it may be possible in the case of each country to furnish with a sufficient degree of accuracy.

(C) Statistical series in the form either of absolute figures or relative figures referring to a period taken as a basis of comparison, at regular intervals, if possible quarterly or preferably monthly, showing the variations of the industrial activity of the most representative branches of production.

## VI. Index Numbers of Prices

Index numbers:

(a) Showing the general movement of wholesale prices, to be compiled and published monthly, and

(b) Showing the general movement of the cost of living, to be compiled and published at least quarterly.

The cost-of-living indices may be based on data relating to a single town or to several towns selected as being representative and taken either separately or collectively.

Each statement of index numbers mentioned above shall contain a reference to a short official publication showing the items the prices of which have been used, and the methods employed in the calculation of the indices.

In addition to the indices mentioned above, the wholesale prices, in absolute or relative form, of the principal individual commodities shall, so far as practicable, be published for the same periods.

#### *Article 3*

The High Contracting Parties, in order to facilitate comparison of the statistics of external trade of different countries, undertake to adopt for the purpose of the compilation of this class of statistics the principles set out in Annex I<sup>1</sup>, Part I.

The High Contracting Parties further undertake, as far as the means of investigation at their disposal permit, to prepare, for the purposes of experiment, the statistical tables specified in Annex I, Part III.

#### *Article 4*

The High Contracting Parties express their general acceptance of the principles set out in Annex II for the compilation of fishery statistics, and agree to apply them as far as possible in their respective fishery statistics.

#### *Article 5*

The High Contracting Parties express their general acceptance of the principles underlying Annex III for use, so far as practicable, as a basis for their statistics of the production of the minerals and metals referred to in Article 2—IV, whenever the production of such minerals and metals in the country concerned is considered to be of national importance, and agree, in the event of their compiling statistics of the production of other minerals and metals, to do so on similar lines.

#### *Article 6*

The High Contracting Parties express their general acceptance of the principles underlying Annex IV, which is attached as a model scheme of census of industrial

<sup>1</sup> The Protocol and annexes to the Convention of 1928 were not amended by the Protocol of 1948. The texts of this Protocol and annexes were published in the League of Nations *Treaty Series*, vol. CX, p. 171, and therefore are not reproduced here.

production, and agree to consider the question of giving effect to such of them as may be applicable when it becomes possible to contemplate a complete or partial census of the type indicated in that Annex.

*Article 7*

The High Contracting Parties express their general acceptance of the principles underlying Annex V which is attached as an illustration of a scheme for the compilation of indices of industrial activity, and agree to consider the question of giving effect to such of them as may be applicable when it becomes possible to contemplate the preparation of indices of industrial activity on a comprehensive scale.

*Article 8*

In addition to the particular functions which are entrusted to the Economic and Social Council under the provisions of the present Convention and the instruments annexed thereto, the Council may make any suggestions which appear to be useful, for the purpose of improving or amplifying the principles and arrangements laid down in the Convention concerning the classes of statistics dealt with therein. It may also make suggestions in regard to other classes of statistics of a similar character in respect of which it appears desirable and practicable to secure international uniformity. It shall examine all suggestions to the same end which may be submitted to it by the Governments of any of the High Contracting Parties.

The Economic and Social Council is requested, if at any time a desire to that effect is expressed by not less than half of the Parties to the present Convention, to convoke a conference for the revision and, if it seems desirable, the amplification of the present Convention.

*Article 9*

The High Contracting Parties undertake that their respective statistical services shall exchange with each other the statistical returns compiled and published by them in accordance with the provisions of the present Convention.

*Article 10*

Should a dispute arise between two or more High Contracting Parties as to the interpretation or application of the provisions of the present Convention, and should such dispute not be settled either directly between the parties or by the employment of other means of reaching agreement, the parties may, by mutual consent, submit the dispute, with a view to an amicable settlement, to the Economic and Social Council.

In such circumstances, the Council may request the parties to submit their observations either orally or in writing and shall give an advisory opinion on the question at issue.

*Article 11*

Any High Contracting Party may, at the time of signature, ratification or accession, declare that, in accepting the present Convention, he does not assume any obligations in respect of all or any of his colonies, protectorates, overseas territories or all Trust Territories for which he acts as Administering Authority, and the present Convention shall not apply to any territories named in such declaration.

Any High Contracting Party may give notice to the Secretary-General of the United Nations at any time subsequently that he desires that the Convention shall apply to all or any of his territories which have been made the subject of a declaration under the preceding paragraph, and the Convention shall apply to all the territories named in such notice one year after its receipt by the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

Any High Contracting Party may, at any time after the expiration of the five years' period mentioned in Article 16, declare that he desires that the present Convention shall cease to apply to all or any of his colonies, protectorates, overseas territories or all Trust Territories for which he acts as Administering Authority, and the Convention shall cease to apply to the territories named in such declaration six months after its receipt by the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

The Secretary-General of the United Nations shall communicate to all the Members of the United Nations and to non-member States to which he has communicated a copy of this Convention all declarations and notices received in virtue of this Article.

*Article 12*

The present Convention, of which French and English texts shall both be authentic, shall bear this day's date; it may, until the thirtieth day of September, nineteen hundred and twenty-nine, be signed on behalf of any Member of the League of Nations, or of any non-member State which was represented at the Conference of Geneva or to which the Council of the League of Nations shall have communicated a copy of the Convention for this purpose.

The present Convention shall be ratified. As from the date of entry into force of the Protocol signed at Paris to amend this Convention, the instruments of ratification shall be transmitted to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, who shall notify their receipt to all Members of the United Nations and to non-member States to which he has communicated a copy of this Convention.

*Article 13*

From the date of entry into force of the Protocol signed at Paris to amend this Convention, the present Convention may be acceded to on behalf of any Member of

the United Nations or any non-member State to which the Economic and Social Council may decide to communicate officially the present Convention.

The instruments of accession shall be transmitted to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, who shall notify their receipt to all Members of the United Nations and to non-member States to which he has communicated a copy of this Convention.

#### *Article 14*

The present Convention shall come into force on the ninetieth day following the receipt by the Secretary-General of the League of Nations of ratifications or accessions on behalf of not less than ten Members of the League of Nations or non-member States.

#### *Article 15*

Ratifications or accessions received after the entry into force of the Convention in accordance with Article 14 shall take effect as from the ninetieth day following the date of their receipt by the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

#### *Article 16*

After the expiration of five years from the coming into force of the present Convention in accordance with Article 14, it may be denounced by an instrument in writing, deposited with the Secretary-General of the United Nations. The denunciation shall take effect six months after its receipt by the Secretary-General and shall operate only as regards the Member of the United Nations or non-member State on whose behalf it has been deposited.

The Secretary-General shall notify all Members of the United Nations and non-member States to which he has communicated a copy of this Convention of any denunciations received.

If, as the result of simultaneous or successive denunciations, the number of Members of the United Nations and non-member States bound by the present Convention is reduced to less than ten, the Convention shall cease to be in force.

#### *Article 17*

The High Contracting Parties agree to accept the reservations to the application of the present Convention which are set forth in the Protocol to this Convention and in respect of the countries therein named.

The Governments of countries which are ready to accede to the Convention under Article 13, but desire to be allowed to make any reservations with regard to the application of the Convention, may inform the Secretary-General of the United



Nations to this effect, who shall forthwith communicate such reservations to all Parties to the present Convention and inquire whether they have any objection thereto. If within six months of the date of the communication of the Secretary-General no objections have been received the reservations shall be deemed to have been accepted.

*Article 18*

The present Convention shall be registered<sup>1</sup> by the Secretary-General of the League of Nations on the day of its entry into force.

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<sup>1</sup> The Convention was registered on 14 December 1930. See: League of Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. CX, p. 171.