

# **Convention on the Political Rights of Women**



**Africa Legal Aid**

**Accra – The Hague – Pretoria**

**Opened for signature and ratification by General Assembly resolution 640(VII)  
of 20 December 1952**

***Entry into force 7 July 1954***

*The Contracting Parties,*

*Desiring to implement the principle of equality of rights for men and women contained in the Charter of the United Nations,*

*Recognizing that everyone has the right to take part in the government of his country directly or indirectly through freely chosen representatives, and has the right to equal access to public service in his country, and desiring to equalize the status of men and women in the enjoyment and exercise of political rights, in accordance with the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations and of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,*

*Having resolved to conclude a Convention for this purpose,*

*Hereby agree as hereinafter provided:*

***Article I***

Women shall be entitled to vote in all elections on equal terms with men, without any discrimination.

***Article II***

Women shall be eligible for election to all publicly elected bodies, established by national law, on equal terms with men, without any discrimination.

***Article III***

Women shall be entitled to hold public office and to exercise all public functions, established by national law, on equal terms with men, without any discrimination.

***Article IV***

1. This Convention shall be open for signature on behalf of any Member of the United Nations and also on behalf of any other State to which an invitation has been addressed by the General Assembly.
2. This Convention shall be ratified and the instruments of ratification shall be deposited with the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

### *Article V*

1. This Convention shall be open for accession to all States referred to in paragraph 1 of article IV.
2. Accession shall be effected by the deposit of an instrument of accession with the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

### *Article VI*

1. This Convention shall come into force on the ninetieth day following the date of deposit of the sixth instrument of ratification or accession.
2. For each State ratifying or acceding to the Convention after the deposit of the sixth instrument of ratification or accession the Convention shall enter into force on the ninetieth day after deposit by such State of its instrument of ratification or accession.

### *Article VII*

In the event that any State submits a reservation to any of the articles of this Convention at the time of signature, ratification or accession, the Secretary-General shall communicate the text of the reservation to all States which are or may become Parties to this Convention. Any State which objects to the reservation may, within a period of ninety days from the date of the said communication (or upon the date of its becoming a Party to the Convention), notify the Secretary-General that it does not accept it. In such case, the Convention shall not enter into force as between such State and the State making the reservation.

### *Article VIII*

1. Any State may denounce this Convention by written notification to the Secretary-General of the United Nations. Denunciation shall take effect one year after the date of receipt of the notification by the Secretary-General.
2. This Convention shall cease to be in force as from the date when the denunciation which reduces the number of Parties to less than six becomes effective.

### *Article IX*

Any dispute which may arise between any two or more Contracting States concerning the interpretation or application of this Convention, which is not settled by negotiation, shall at the request of any one of the parties to the dispute be referred to the International Court of Justice for decision, unless they agree to another mode of settlement.

### *Article X*

The Secretary-General of the United Nations shall notify all Members of the United Nations and the non-member States contemplated in paragraph 1 of article IV of this Convention of the following:

- (a) Signatures and instruments of ratification received in accordance with article IV;
- (b) Instruments of accession received in accordance with article V;
- (c) The date upon which this Convention enters into force in accordance with article VI;
- (d) Communications and notifications received in accordance with article VII;
- (e) Notifications of denunciation received in accordance with paragraph 1 of article VIII;
- (f) Abrogation in accordance with paragraph 2 of article VIII.

### *Article XI*

1. This Convention, of which the Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish texts shall be equally authentic, shall be deposited in the archives of the United Nations.
2. The Secretary-General of the United Nations shall transmit a certified copy to all Members of the United Nations and to the non-member States contemplated in paragraph 1 of article IV.