

INTERNATIONAL REFUGEE ORGANIZATION: PREPARATORY COMMISSION

*Agreement opened for signature at Flushing Meadow, N.Y., December 15, 1946, and signed for the United States December 16, 1946
Entered into force December 31, 1946
Terminated September 16, 1948*¹

61 Stat. 2525; Treaties and Other
International Acts Series 1583

AGREEMENT ON INTERIM MEASURES TO BE TAKEN IN RESPECT OF REFUGEES AND DISPLACED PERSONS

The Governments which have signed the Constitution of the International Refugee Organization,

having determined that they will take all measures possible to accomplish expeditiously the entry into effective operation of that Organization, and to provide for an orderly transfer to it of the functions and assets of existing organizations;

having decided that, pending the entry into force of the Constitution of the Organization, a Preparatory Commission for the International Refugee Organization should be established for the performance of certain functions and duties;

Agree to the following measures:

1. There is hereby established a Preparatory Commission for the International Refugee Organization, which shall consist of one representative from each Government signatory to the Constitution. The Director of the Inter-governmental Committee on Refugees, the Director-General of UNRRA [United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration] and the Director of the International Labour Organization, or their representatives, shall be invited to sit with the Commission in a consultative capacity.

2. The Commission shall:

(a) take all necessary and practicable measures for the purpose of bringing the Organization into effective operation as soon as possible;

¹ Upon transfer of its property, assets, and records to the International Refugee Organization (*post*, p. 284).

(b) arrange for the convening of the General Council in its first session at the earliest practicable date following the entry into force of the Constitution of the Organization;

(c) prepare the provisional agenda for this first session as well as documents and recommendations relating thereto;

(d) suggest plans, in consultation with existing organizations and the control authorities, for the programme for the first year of the Organization;

(e) prepare draft financial and staff regulations, and draft rules of procedure for the General Council and the Executive Committee.

3. The Commission may, in its discretion and after agreement with existing organizations dealing with refugees and displaced persons, take over any of the functions, activities, assets and personnel of such organizations, provided that the Commission is satisfied that this is essential in order to accomplish the orderly transfer to the International Refugee Organization of such functions or activities.

4. The Commission shall be governed by the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations so far as these are applicable.

5. The Commission shall appoint an Executive Secretary, who shall serve the Commission in that capacity and perform such duties as the Commission may determine. He shall be responsible for the appointment and direction of such staff as may be required for the work of the Commission.

6. The expenses of the Commission may be met by advances from such Governments as choose to make advance contributions, which shall be deductible from their first contributions to the Organization; and from such funds and assets as may be transferred from existing organizations to meet the cases provided for in paragraph 3 of this Agreement.

7. The first meeting of the Commission shall be convened as soon as practicable by the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

8. The Commission shall cease to exist upon the election of the Director-General of the Organization, at which time its property, assets and records shall be transferred to the Organization.

9. This Agreement shall come into force as soon as it has been signed by the representatives of eight Governments signatories to the Constitution of the International Refugee Organization and shall remain open for signature by Members of the United Nations which sign the Constitution of the International Refugee Organization until the Commission is dissolved in accordance with paragraph 8 of this Agreement.

In faith whereof, the undersigned representatives, having been duly authorized for that purpose, sign this Agreement in the Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish languages, all five texts being equally authentic.

Done at Flushing Meadow, New York, this fifteenth day of December, one thousand nine hundred and forty-six.

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| For Afghanistan: | For Haiti: |
| For Argentina: | For Honduras:
TIBURCIO CARIAS, JR.
December 18, 1946 |
| For Australia: | |
| For the Kingdom of Belgium: | For Iceland: |
| For Bolivia: | For India: |
| For Brazil: | For Iran: |
| For the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist
Republic: | For Iraq: |
| For Canada:
PAUL MARTIN
Dec. 16, 1946 | For Lebanon: |
| For Chile: | For Liberia:
C. ABAYOMI CASSELL
31 December 1946 |
| For China: | For the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg: |
| For Colombia: | For Mexico: |
| For Costa Rica: | For the Kingdom of the Netherlands: |
| For Cuba: | For New Zealand: |
| For Czechoslovakia: | For Nicaragua: |
| For Denmark: | For the Kingdom of Norway: |
| For the Dominican Republic:
EMILIO GARCIA GODOY
December 17, 1946 | For Panama: |
| For Ecuador: | For Paraguay: |
| For Egypt: | For Peru: |
| For El Salvador: | For the Philippine Republic:
CARLOS P. ROMULO
December 18, 1946 |
| For Ethiopia: | For Poland: |
| For France:
ALEXANDRE PARODI
December 17, 1946 | For Saudi Arabia: |
| For Greece: | For Sweden: |
| For Guatemala:
JORGE GARCIA GRANADOS
December 16, 1946 | For Syria: |
| | For Turkey: |
| | For the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist
Republic: |
| | For the Union of South Africa: |
| | For the Union of Soviet Socialist
Republics: |

For the United Kingdom of Great
Britain and Northern Ireland:

For Uruguay:

For the United States of America:

For Venezuela:

WARREN R. AUSTIN
December 16, 1946

For Yugoslavia:

[The agreement was signed for Argentina on June 10, 1947; for Australia on May 13, 1947; for Belgium, ad referendum, on May 1, 1947; for Bolivia, ad referendum, on June 5, 1947; for Brazil on July 1, 1947; for China on April 29, 1947; for Denmark on August 20, 1948; for Iceland on May 12, 1947; for the Netherlands on January 28, 1947; for New Zealand on March 17, 1947; for Norway on February 4, 1947; for Panama on June 23, 1947; for Peru, subject to ratification, on July 25, 1947; for the United Kingdom on February 5, 1947; and for Venezuela, ad referendum, on June 28, 1948.]