

SUMMARY OF MULTILATERAL TREATIES AND AGREEMENTS

MARRAKESH TREATY TO FACILITATE ACCESS TO PUBLISHED WORKS FOR PERSONS WHO ARE BLIND VISUALLY IMPAIRED, OR OTHERWISE PRINT DISABLED

Objective/s:

To enhance access to education, research, and information for persons with visual impairments or other print disabilities

Obligation/s of Parties:

Contracting parties shall provide for limitations and exemptions to the right of reproduction, distribution, and making available to the public to facilitate the availability of works in accessible format copies for visually impaired persons. These should permit changes to make the work accessible in the alternative format.

Effectivity:

The treaty was adopted on June 27, 2013 and entered into force in the Philippines on Mar. 18, 2019.

AGREEMENT ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE ASIAN FOREST COOPERATION ORGANIZATION (AFOCO)

Objective/s:

To contribute to the expansion of forestlands, the advanced study of forests, forestry, and forest rehabilitation, as well as to strengthen the capacities of the parties in coping with global climate change issues, and to recognize the significant roles of the parties in restoring and rehabilitation degraded lands,

promoting sustainable forest management, and combating desertification and land degradation.

Obligation/s of the Parties:

The parties agree to form the Asian Forest Cooperation Organization (AFoCO). Each party shall appoint one representative to the Assembly of the Organization. The Organization shall promote and undertake action-oriented forest cooperation programs in Asia. These include, but are not limited to, programs for sustainable forest management, biodiversity, climate change mitigation, reduction of deforestation, capacity building of stakeholders, education and exchange, and partnerships between the parties and other entities to carry out cooperative activities.

Effectivity:

The Treaty entered into force in the Philippines on Mar. 22, 2019.

**CONVENTION ABOLISHING THE REQUIREMENT OF LEGISLATION
FOR FOREIGN PUBLIC DOCUMENT (APOSTILE CONVENTION)**

Objective/s:

To abolish the requirement of diplomatic or consular legalization for foreign public documents.

Obligation/s of the Parties:

Contracting states shall exempt from legalization public documents which have to be produced in its territory. Legalization refers to the formality by which the diplomatic or consular agents of the country in which the document is to be produced certify the authenticity of the signature, the capacity of the signer, and the identity of the seal or stamp which it bears. The only formality that may be required to certify the preceding is the addition of a certificate from a competent authority so designated by the contracting state.

Contracting states shall take necessary steps to prevent legalizations by their diplomatic or consular agents in cases where the Convention provides for exemptions.

Effectivity:

The Treaty entered into force in the Philippines on May 14, 2019.

CONVENTION ON CLUSTER MUNITIONS

Objective/s:

To put an end for all time to the suffering and casualties caused by cluster munitions, and to contribute effectively in an efficient, coordinated manner to resolving the challenges of removing cluster munition remnants.

Obligation/s of the Parties:

The state parties shall never under any circumstance: use cluster munitions; develop, produce, otherwise acquire, stockpile, retain, or transfer cluster munitions; and assist, encourage, or induce anyone to engage in any activity prohibited to a state party under this Convention.

The Convention does not apply to mines.

Effectivity:

The Philippines deposited its instrument of ratification on Jan. 3, 2019, and the Treaty entered into force in the Philippines on July 1, 2019.

**STATUTES OF THE ASIAN-AFRICAN
LEGAL CONSULTATIVE ORGANIZATION
(REVISED AND ADOPTED AT THE BALI SESSION, 2004)**

Objective/s:

The Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization (“AALCO”) has the following objectives: to consider and deliberate issues on international law; to exchange views, experience, and information on matters of common concern; to communicate the views of AALCO on matters of international law referred to it; to examine subjects that are under consideration by the International Law Commission and to forward the views of AALCO to the Commission; and to consider the reports of the Commission and make recommendations thereon.

Obligation/s of the Parties:

The member states shall undertake activities that may be deemed appropriate for the fulfillment of the objectives of AALCO. The Organization shall meet once a year. Member states shall nominate a legal expert to serve AALCO as a member.

Effectivity:

The Treaty entered into force in the Philippines on July 27, 2019.