

Geneva, May 15th 1935.

LEAGUE OF NATIONS

**NATIONALITY OF WOMEN**

**Convention on the Nationality of Women concluded on  
December 26th, 1933, at the Seventh International Conference of  
American States at Montevideo**

NOTE BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

1. The above-mentioned question was placed on the agenda of the present session of the Assembly, by a decision of the Assembly of September 25th, 1934, as the result of the following letter, dated September 21st, 1934, and addressed to the President of the Assembly by the delegations of the Argentine Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Czechoslovakia, the Dominican Republic, Haiti, Latvia, Mexico, New Zealand, Panama, Siam, Turkey, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and Yugoslavia :

“ In view of the worldwide restrictions upon the rights of women — the right to earn a living, the right to an education, to hold public office, to enter the professions — and in view of the interdependence of nationality and the right to work, the following delegations request that there be brought before the First Committee the Convention for Equality for Women in Nationality entered into at the recent Conference of American Republics at Montevideo.

“ Trusting that this action may be taken immediately, etc. :

“ (Signed) M. LITVINOFF (U.S.S.R.).	Phya Subarn SOMPATI (Siam).
Stefan OSUSKÝ (Czechoslovakia).	E. BRACHE, Jr. (Dominican Republic).
Cemal HÜSNÜ (Turkey).	James PARR (New Zealand).
F. CASTILLO NAJERA (Mexico).	W. MUNTERS (Latvia).
M. RIVAS-VICUÑA (Chile).	J. M. CANTILLO (Argentine).
A. NIETO-CABALLERO (Colombia).	Constantin MAYARD (Haiti).
Quo Tai-chi (China).	J. SUBBOTITCH (Yugoslavia).”
B. PORRAS (Panama).	

2. The text of the Convention referred to in the above letter is as follows :

CONVENTION ON THE NATIONALITY OF WOMEN.

“ The Governments represented in the Seventh International Conference of American States :

“ Wishing to conclude a Convention on the Nationality of Women, have appointed the following Plenipotentiaries :

[Here follow the names of the plenipotentiaries.]

“ Who, after having exhibited their full powers, which were found in good and due form, have agreed upon the following :

“ *Article 1.*

“ There shall be no distinction based on sex as regards nationality, in their legislation or in their practice.

“ *Article 2.*

“ The present Convention shall be ratified by the High Contracting Parties in conformity with their respective constitutional procedures. The Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uruguay shall transmit authentic certified copies to the Governments for the afore-mentioned purpose of ratification. The instrument of ratification shall be deposited in the archives of the Pan-American Union in Washington, which shall notify the signatory Governments of said deposit. Such notification shall be considered as an exchange of ratifications.

“ *Article 3.*

“ The present Convention will enter into force between the High Contracting Parties in the order in which they deposit their respective ratifications.

“ *Article 4.*

“ The present Convention shall remain in force indefinitely, but may be denounced by means of one year's notice given to the Pan-American Union, which shall transmit it to the other signatory Governments. After the expiration of this period, the Convention shall cease in its effects as regards the Party which denounces, but shall remain in effect for the remaining High Contracting Parties.

“ *Article 5.*

“ The present Convention shall be open for the adherence and accession of the States which are not signatories. The corresponding instruments shall be deposited in the archives of the Pan-American Union, which shall communicate them to the other High Contracting Parties.

“ IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the following Plenipotentiaries have signed this Convention in Spanish, English, Portuguese and French, and hereunto affix their respective seals in the city of Montevideo, Republic of Uruguay, this twenty-sixth day of December, 1933.”

[*Here follow the signatures.*]

3. The Convention was signed on December 26th, 1933, by the plenipotentiaries of the Argentine Republic, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras<sup>1</sup>, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Salvador<sup>2</sup>, the United States of America<sup>3</sup> and Uruguay.

4. In reply to an enquiry by the Secretary-General as to the effect of Article 5, the Director of the Pan-American Union has been good enough to inform him that, in virtue of an interpretation given by the Supervisory Committee of the Pan-American Union, the Convention may be considered to be open to accession by all States, including States not members of the Pan-American Union. In taking its decision, the Supervisory Committee placed on record that the interpretation adopted in the particular case was not to be considered a precedent for the interpretation of other treaties and conventions in which similar clauses appear.

5. In documents C.342.M.158, C.342(a).M.158(a) and C.342(b).M.158(b).1934.V, the Secretary-General has circulated to the Governments the information supplied by Governments down to the close of the fifteenth ordinary session of the Assembly (1934) in regard to the extent to which they have found it possible to adopt the principle of identical treatment of the sexes in the matter of nationality. A further document containing information received from Governments since the fifteenth ordinary session of the Assembly will be circulated in due course.



<sup>1</sup> With the following reservation :

“ The delegation of Honduras adheres to the Convention on Equality of Nationality, with the reservations and limitations which the Constitution and laws of our country determine.”

<sup>2</sup> With the following reservation :

“ Reservation to the effect that, in Salvador, the Convention cannot be the object of immediate ratification, but that it will be necessary to consider previously the desirability of reforming the existing Naturalisation Law, ratification being obtained only in the event that such legislative reform is undertaken, and after it may have been effected.”

<sup>3</sup> With the following reservation :

“ The delegation of the United States of America, in signing the Convention on the Nationality of Women, makes the reservation that the agreement on the part of the United States is, of course and of necessity, subject to Congressional action.”

It is understood that legislation of May 24th, 1934, has since brought the law of the United States into conformity with the Convention.