

DIPLOMATIC CONFERENCE ON WILLS  
Washington, D.C.      October 16-26, 1973

FINAL ACT  
OF  
THE DIPLOMATIC CONFERENCE ON WILLS  
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The Diplomatic Conference on the Uniform Law governing the Form of the International Will met at Washington, D.C., from 16 to 26 October 1973 at the invitation of the Government of the United States of America

The Governments of the following 42 States were represented at the Conference:

Australia  
Belgium  
Brazil  
Canada  
China, Republic of  
Czechoslovakia  
Ecuador  
France  
Germany, Federal Republic of  
Greece  
Guatemala  
Holy See  
Honduras  
Iran  
Iraq  
Ireland  
Italy  
Ivory Coast  
Japan  
Jordan  
Khmer Republic  
Laos  
Mexico  
Netherlands  
Nicaragua  
Panama  
Paraguay  
Philippines  
Poland  
Portugal  
San Marino  
Senegal  
Sierra Leone  
Spain  
Sweden  
Switzerland  
Thailand  
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics

United Kingdom of Great Britain and  
Northern Ireland  
United States of America  
Yugoslavia  
Zaire

The Governments of the following six States were represented by observers at the Conference:

Argentina  
Denmark  
Jamaica  
South Africa  
Trinidad and Tobago  
Viet-Nam, Republic of

Observers from the following intergovernmental organizations were present at the Conference:

Council of Europe  
Hague Conference on Private International Law  
International Institute for the Unification of  
Private Law (UNIDROIT)  
United Nations

Observers from the International Union of Latin Notaries were also present at the Conference.

The Conference elected the Honorable Richard D. Kearney (U.S.A.) as President.

The Conference elected Attorney General L. A. M. Brewah (Sierra Leone), Professor Elliseo Perez Cadalso (Honduras), Minister Toshio Yamazaki (Japan), Mr. Jonkheer T. Van Sasse Van Ysselt (Netherlands), and First Deputy Minister of Justice Aleksandre J. Sukharev (U.S.S.R.) as Vice-Presidents.

The Secretary General of the Conference was Mr. Francis J. Seidner, and the Deputy Secretary General was Mr. Jean-Pierre Plantard.

The Conference had before it:

- (1) the draft of a Uniform Law on the Form of the International Will, text prepared by the Committee of Governmental Experts, convened by UNIDROIT, with Explanatory Report;
- (2) the Observations presented by various Governments relating to the draft of a Uniform Law on the Form of the International Will;
- (3) a Draft Convention providing a Uniform Law on the Form of the International Will prepared for the Conference by the Committee of Governmental Experts, convened by UNIDROIT, with Explanatory Report.

The Conference also had before it other documentation prepared by the Secretariat.

The Conference set up the following Committees:

Credentials Committee:

Chairman: Professor Roberto Núñez Escalante (Mexico)

Members: Australia  
Italy  
Poland  
Sierra Leone

Drafting Committee:

Chairman: Professor Pierre Lalive (Switzerland)

Members: Brazil  
Canada  
France  
Germany, Federal Republic of  
Iran  
Ivory Coast  
Japan  
Mexico  
Nicaragua  
Philippines  
Spain  
United Kingdom of Great Britain and  
Northern Ireland  
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics  
United States of America

In addition, the Conference decided that a Rapporteur should be chosen to write a final report on the Convention and the Uniform Law. The Conference elected Mr. Jean-Pierre Plantard as Rapporteur.

As the result of its deliberations as recorded in the records of the Plenaries and the records of the Committees, the Conference has drawn up the following Convention:

Convention providing a Uniform Law on the Form of the International Will, with Annex.

The foregoing Convention was opened for signature on October 26, 1973, at the Department of State of the United States of America.

In addition, the Conference adopted a Resolution concerning the safekeeping and registration of wills, annexed to this Final Act.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the undersigned representatives have signed this Final Act.

DONE at Washington, D.C., this twenty-sixth day of October one thousand nine hundred and seventy-three, in the French, English, Russian and Spanish languages, each text being equally authentic. The original of this Final Act shall be deposited with the Government of the United States of America.

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