

Environmental Modification Convention

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The **Environmental Modification Convention (ENMOD)**, formally the **Convention on the Prohibition of Military or Any Other Hostile Use of Environmental Modification Techniques** is an international treaty prohibiting the military or other hostile use of environmental modification techniques having widespread, long-lasting or severe effects. It opened for signature on 18 May 1977 in Geneva and entered into force on 5 October 1978.

The Convention bans weather warfare, which is the use of weather modification techniques for the purposes of inducing damage or destruction. The Convention on Biological Diversity of 2010 would also ban some forms of weather modification or geoengineering.^[2]

Many states do not regard this as a complete ban on the use of herbicides in warfare, such as Agent Orange, but it does require case-by-case consideration.^[3]

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Parties

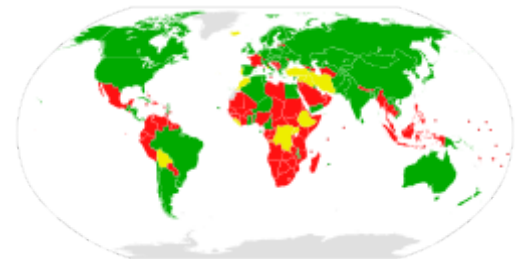
The Convention was signed by 48 states; 16 of the signatories have not ratified. As of June 2015, the Convention has 77 state parties.^[4]

History

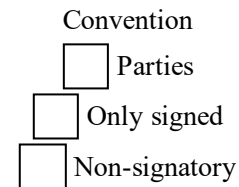
The problem of artificial modification of the environment for military or other hostile purposes was brought to the international agenda in the early 1970s. Following the US decision of July 1972 to renounce the use of climate modification techniques for hostile purposes, the 1973 resolution by the US Senate calling for an international agreement "prohibiting the use of any environmental or geophysical modification activity as a weapon of war", and

Environmental Modification (ENMOD) Convention

Convention on the Prohibition of Military or Any Other Hostile Use of Environmental Modification Techniques



Participation in the Environmental Modification Convention



Drafted	10 December 1976
Signed	18 May 1977
Location	Geneva, Switzerland
Effective	5 October 1978
Condition	Ratification by 20 states
Signatories	48
Parties	77 ^[1] (Complete List)
Depositary	Secretary-General of the United Nations
Languages	English, Arabic, Chinese, French, Russian, and Spanish
 Environmental Modification Convention at Wikisource	

an in-depth review by the Department of Defense of the military aspects of weather and other environmental modification techniques, US decided to seek agreement with the Soviet Union to explore the possibilities of an international agreement.

In July 1974, US and USSR agreed to hold bilateral discussions on measures to overcome the danger of the use of environmental modification techniques for military purposes and three subsequent rounds of discussions in 1974 and 1975. In August 1975, US and USSR tabled identical draft texts of a convention at the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament (CCD), Conference on Disarmament, where intensive negotiations resulted in a modified text and understandings regarding four articles of this Convention in 1976.

The Convention was approved by Resolution 31/72 of the General Assembly of the United Nations on 10 December 1976, by 96 to 8 votes with 30 abstentions.

Environmental Modification Technique

Environmental Modification Technique includes any technique for changing – through the deliberate manipulation of natural processes – the dynamics, composition or structure of the earth, including its biota, lithosphere, hydrosphere and atmosphere, or of outer space.

Structure of ENMOD

The Convention contains ten articles and one Annex on the Consultative Committee of Experts. Integral part of the Convention are also the Understandings relating to articles I, II, III and VIII. These Understandings are not incorporated into the Convention but are part of the negotiating record and were included in the report transmitted by the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament to the United Nations General Assembly in September 1976 Report of the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament, Volume I, General Assembly Official records: Thirty-first session, Supplement No. 27 (A/31/27), New York, United Nations, 1976, pp. 91–92.^[5]

See also

- Arms control agreements
- Environmental agreements
- Climate engineering
- Operation Popeye

References

1. "Convention on the prohibition of military or any other hostile use of environmental modification techniques". *United Nations*. Retrieved 19 June 2015.
2. <http://www.cbd.int/cop10>
3. "Practice Relating to Rule 76. Herbicides". International Committee of the Red Cross. 2013. Retrieved 24 August 2013.
4. <http://www.unog.ch>
5. The United Nations Office at Geneva. <http://www.unog.ch>

- [1] (<http://www.unog.ch>)

External links

- The text of the agreement (<http://www.un-documents.net/enmod.htm>) compiled by the NGO Committee on Education

- Ratifications (http://treaties.un.org/pages/ViewDetails.aspx?src=TREATY&mtdsg_no=XXVI-1&chapter=26&lang=en)
- A Political Primer on the ENMOD Convention (<http://www.sunshine-project.org/enmod/>) from the Sunshine Project.
- The United Nations Office at Geneva ([http://www.unog.ch/80256EE600585943/\(httpPages\)/1C87969B8C841FCAC1257B11005C3E61?OpenDocument/](http://www.unog.ch/80256EE600585943/(httpPages)/1C87969B8C841FCAC1257B11005C3E61?OpenDocument/))

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