Supplementary Convention on the Abolition of Slavery, the Slave Trade, and Institutions and
Practices Similar to Slavery
Adopted by a Conference of Plenipotentiaries convened by Economic and Social Council
resolution 608(XXI) of 30 April 1956 and done at Geneva on 7 September 1956
Entry into force: 30 April 1957, in accordance with article 13
Preamble
The States Parties to the present Convention ,
Considering that freedom is the birthright of every human being,
Mindful that the peoples of the United Nations reaffirmed in the Charter their faith in the dignity and worth of the
human person,
Considering that the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, proclaimed by the General Assembly of the United Nations
as a common standard of achievement for all peoples and all nations, states that no one shall be held in slavery or
servitude and that slavery and the slave trade shall be prohibited in all their forms,
Recognizing that, since the conclusion of the Slavery Convention signed at Geneva on 25 September 1926, which was
designed to secure the abolition of slavery and of the slave trade, further progress has been made towards this end,
Having regard to the Forced Labour Convention of 1930 and to subsequent action by the International Labour
Organisation in regard to forced or compulsory labour,
Being aware , however, that slavery, the slave trade and institutions and practices similar to slavery have not yet been
eliminated in all parts of the world,
Having decided , therefore, that the Convention of 1926, which remains operative, should now be augmented by the
conclusion of a supplementary convention designed to intensify national as well as international efforts towards the
abolition of slavery, the slave trade and institutions and practices similar to slavery,
Have agreed as follows:
Section I. - Institutions and practices similar to slavery
Article 1
Each of the States Parties to this Convention shall take all practicable and necessary legislative and other measures to
bring about progressively and as soon as possible the complete abolition or abandonment of the following institutions
and practices, where they still exist and whether or not they are covered by the definition of slavery contained in article
1 of the Slavery Convention signed at Geneva on 25 September 1926:
(a) Debt bondage, that is to say, the status or condition arising from a pledge by a debtor of his personal services or
of those of a person under his control as security for a debt, if the value of those services as reasonably assessed is not
applied towards the liquidation of the debt or the length and nature of those services are not respectively limited and
defined;
(b) Serfdom, that is to say, the condition or status of a tenant who is by law, custom or agreement bound to live and
labour on land belonging to another person and to render some determinate service to such other person, whether for
reward or not, and is not free to change his status;
(c) Any institution or practice whereby:
(i) A woman

(d) Any institution or practice whereby a child or young person under the age of 18 years, is delivered by either or
both of his natural parents or by his guardian to another person, whether for reward or not, with a view to the
exploitation of the child or young person or of his labour.
Article 2
With a view to bringing to an end the institutions and practices mentioned in article 1 (c) of this Convention, the
States Parties undertake to prescribe, where appropriate, suitable minimum ages of marriage, to encourage the use of
facilities whereby the consent of both parties to a marriage may be freely expressed in the presence of a competent
civil or religious authority, and to encourage the registration of marriages.
Section II. - The slave trade
Article 3
1. The act of conveying or attempting to convey slaves from one country to another by whatever means of transport,
or of being accessory thereto, shall be a criminal offence under the laws of the States Parties to this Convention and
persons convicted thereof shall be liable to very severe penalties.
2. (a) The States Parties shall take all effective measures to prevent ships and aircraft authorized to fly their flags
from conveying slaves and to punish persons guilty of such acts or of using national flags for that purpose.
(b) The States Parties shall take all effective measures to ensure that their ports, airfields and coasts are not used for
the conveyance of slaves.
3. The States Parties to this Convention shall exchange information in order to ensure the practical co-ordination of the
measures taken by them in combating the slave trade and shall inform each other of every case of the slave trade, and
of every attempt to commit this criminal offence, which comes to their notice.
Article 4
Any slave who takes refuge on board any vessel of a State Party to this Convention shall ipso facto be free.
Section III. - Slavery and institutions and practices similar to slavery
Article 5
In a country where the abolition or abandonment of slavery, or of the institutions or practices mentioned in article 1 of
this Convention, is not yet complete, the act of mutilating, branding or otherwise marking a slave or a person of servile

(a) "Slavery" means, as defined in the Slavery Convention of 1926, the status or condition of a person over whom
any or all of the powers attaching to the right of ownership are exercised, and "slave" means a person in such
condition or status;
(b) "A person of servile status" means a person in the condition or status resulting from any of the institutions or
practices mentioned in article 1 of this Convention;
(c) "Slave trade" means and includes all acts involved in the capture, acquisition or disposal of a person with intent to
reduce him to slavery; all acts involved in the acquisition of a slave with a view to selling or exchanging him; all acts of
disposal by sale or exchange of a person acquired with a view to being sold or exchanged; and, in general, every act of
trade or transport in slaves by whatever means of conveyance.
Section V. - Cooperation between States Partiestae po

3.
 After the expiry of the twelve
-month period mentioned in the preceding paragraph, the States Parties concerned
shall inform the Secretary
-General of the results of the consultations with those non
-metropolitan territories for whose
international re