

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ON PROCEDURAL AND LEGAL ASPECTS FOLLOWING THE ADOPTION OF THE RIYADH DESIGN LAW TREATY¹

How was the Riyadh Design Law Treaty (RDLT) adopted?

In accordance with the decision of the WIPO General Assembly, taken at its fifty-fifth (30th extraordinary) session in July 2022, to convene a Diplomatic Conference to Conclude and Adopt a Design Law Treaty, and following the preparations carried out by the Preparatory Committee and WIPO, as well as the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Diplomatic Conference was convened by WIPO and held in Riyadh from November 11 to 22, 2024.

After two-week negotiations, on November 22, 2024, the Diplomatic Conference adopted, by consensus, the [RDLT](#), the [Regulations under the RDLT](#) and a [Resolution](#) supplementary to the RDLT and the Regulations thereunder.

What is the final act? How many delegations signed the final act?

The Diplomatic Conference also adopted a final act. The final act of a diplomatic conference is a document distinct from the treaty adopted at the conference. It contains summary information such as the dates and venue of the diplomatic conference, the name of the adopted treaty, its date of adoption, and the names of the signatories of the final act.

The final act of the Diplomatic Conference to Conclude and Adopt a Design Law Treaty was signed by 135 delegations on November 22, 2024 (see document [DLT/DC/25](#)). Signature of the final act does not create legal obligations for the signatory or bind the signatory to sign, ratify, or accede to the RDLT.

How many countries signed the RDLT?

The RDLT was opened for signature on November 22, 2024, the date of its adoption. The list of countries that have signed the Treaty is available [here](#).

How long will the RDLT remain open for signature?

In accordance with Article 33(2) of the RDLT, it shall remain open for signature at the headquarters of WIPO for one year after its adoption, that is, until November 22, 2025.

Does signing the RDLT mean that the signatory is legally bound by it?

Signature of the RDLT, alone, does not establish the necessary consent to be bound by this Treaty. To be bound by the RDLT, an eligible party must become a party thereto by depositing an instrument of ratification or accession (see next Question on “How to become a party to the RDLT?”).

Pursuant to Article 18(a) of the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties, the signature of a treaty creates an obligation to refrain from acts that would defeat the object and purpose of that treaty.

¹ The information contained herein is for information purposes only and does not constitute legal advice.

How to become a party to the RDLT?

To become a party to the RDLT, an eligible party, as defined in Article 29 of the Treaty, must deposit an instrument of ratification if it has signed the RDLT, or an instrument of accession if it has not signed the RDLT.

As mentioned above, an instrument of ratification may be deposited only where the eligible party concerned has first signed the RDLT. If the eligible party has not signed the RDLT, it will need to deposit an instrument of accession to become a party thereto.

The instrument of ratification or accession must be deposited with the Director General of WIPO in Geneva. If the eligible party is a State, the instrument must be signed by the Head of State, the Head of Government, or the Minister for Foreign Affairs. The person depositing the instrument is not required to produce full powers authorizing them to do so. The Office of the Legal Counsel reviews the instrument prior to the deposit of the original copy with the Director General, to ensure it meets the legal requirements.

For illustrative purposes, examples of an instrument of ratification and an instrument of accession are attached as Annex A and Annex B, respectively.

When will the RDLT enter into force?

Under Article 30(2) of the RDLT, it shall enter into force three months after 15 eligible parties, as defined in Article 29(1) of the Treaty, have deposited their instruments of ratification or accession.

The entry into force of a treaty, as such, is to be distinguished from its entry into force in respect of a particular party. The RDLT shall bind the aforementioned 15 eligible parties from the date on which it enters into force (see Article 30(2) of the RDLT). For any eligible party depositing its instrument of ratification or accession after the Treaty has entered into force, the RDLT shall be binding three months after the date on which that party has deposited its instrument (see Article 30(3) of the RDLT).

Can reservations be made to the RDLT?

Under Articles 31(1) and 31(2) of the RDLT, reservations are permitted on Articles 5(2)(b), 7, 10(1), 16(2) and 19(2). No other reservations to the RDLT are permitted.

Contact

For further information, please contact the Office of the Legal Counsel at legalcounsel@wipo.int and/or the Brands and Designs Sector at sct.forum@wipo.int

[Annexes follow]

ANNEX A

INSTRUMENT OF RATIFICATION OF THE RIYADH DESIGN LAW TREATY

[To be deposited with the Director General of WIPO at Geneva]

The Government of [name of State] hereby declares that [name of State] ratifies the Riyadh Design Law Treaty adopted at Riyadh, on November 22, 2024.

Done at [place], on [date].

[Full Name]

[Signature][*]

[Title]

[Annex B follows]

* [The Instrument must be signed by the Head of State, the Head of Government, or the Minister for Foreign Affairs.]

ANNEX B

INSTRUMENT OF ACCESSION TO the RIYADH DESIGN LAW TREATY

[To be deposited with the Director General of WIPO at Geneva]

The Government of [name of State] hereby declares that [name of State] accedes to the Riyadh Design Law Treaty, adopted at Riyadh, on November 22, 2024.

Done at [place], on [date].

[Full Name]

[Signature][*]

[Title]

[End of Annex B and of document]

* [The Instrument must be signed by the Head of State, the Head of Government, or the Minister for Foreign Affairs.]