

Art. 25 Right to vote

With reference to Article 25 on the right to vote in the Chair's text of 1 December 2024, the European Union and its 27 Member States would like to share with delegates, for information purposes, the following excerpts from existing multilateral environmental agreements and international agreements on the right to vote by regional economic integration organizations (REIOs).

WHO Pandemic Agreement [2025]¹

Article 20 Right to vote

1. Each Party to the WHO Pandemic Agreement shall have one vote, except as provided for in paragraph 2 of this Article.
2. A regional economic integration organization that is Party to the WHO Pandemic Agreement, in matters within its competence, shall exercise its right to vote with a number of votes equal to the number of its Member States that are Parties to the WHO Pandemic Agreement. Such an organization shall not exercise its right to vote if any of its Member States exercises its right to vote, and vice versa.

Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and sustainable use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ Agreement) [2023]²

Article 64

Right to vote

1. Each Party to this Agreement shall have one vote, except as provided for in paragraph 2 below.
2. A regional economic integration organization Party to this Agreement, on matters within its competence, shall exercise its right to vote with a number of votes equal to the number of its member States that are Parties to this Agreement. Such an organization shall not exercise its right to vote if any of its member States exercises its right to vote, and vice versa.

Paris Agreement [2015]³

Article 25

1. Each Party shall have one vote, except as provided for paragraph 2 of this Article.
2. Regional economic integration organizations, in matters within their competence, shall exercise their right to vote with a number of votes equal to the number of their member States that are Parties to this Agreement. Such an organization shall not exercise its right to vote if any of its member States exercises its right, and vice versa.

Minamata Convention on Mercury [2013]⁴

Article 28

Right to vote

1. Each Party to this Convention shall have one vote, except as provided for in paragraph 2.
2. A regional economic integration organization, on matters within its competence, shall exercise its right to vote with a number of votes equal to the number of its member States that are Parties to this

¹ [WHO Pandemic Agreement](#).

² [XXI-10 CTC](#)

³ <https://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2015/cop21/eng/109r01.pdf>

⁴ [Minamata Convention on Mercury \(Text and Annexes\) | Minamata Convention on Mercury](#)

Convention. Such an organization shall not exercise its right to vote if any of its member States exercises its right to vote, and vice versa.

Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities [2007]⁵

Article 40

Regional integration organizations

4. Regional integration organizations, in matters within their competence, may exercise their right to vote in the Conference of States Parties, with a number of votes equal to the number of their member States that are Parties to the present Convention. Such an organization shall not exercise its right to vote if any of its member States exercises its right, and vice versa.

Convention Against Corruption [2003]⁶

Amendment

Article 69

2. Regional economic integration organizations, in matters within their competence, shall exercise their right to vote under this article with a number of votes equal to the number of their member States that are Parties to this Convention. Such organizations shall not exercise their right to vote if their member States exercise theirs and vice versa.

WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control [2003]⁷

Article 32

Right to vote

1. Each Party to this Convention shall have one vote, except as provided for in paragraph 2 of this Article.

2. Regional economic integration organizations, in matters within their competence, shall exercise their right to vote with a number of votes equal to the number of their Member States that are Parties to the Convention. Such an organization shall not exercise its right to vote if any of its Member States exercises its right, and vice versa.

Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants [2001]⁸

ARTICLE 23 Right to vote

1. Each Party to this Convention shall have one vote, except as provided for in paragraph 2.

2. A regional economic integration organization, on matters within its competence, shall exercise its right to vote with a number of votes equal to the number of its member States that are Parties to this Convention. Such an organization shall not exercise its right to vote if any of its member States exercises its right to vote, and vice versa.

⁵ [Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities | OHCHR.](#)

⁶ https://www.unodc.org/documents/brussels/UN_Convention_Against_Corruption.pdf

⁷ [Microsoft Word - WHO-FCTC-English-FOR PRINTING_FINAL.doc.](#)

⁸ <http://chm.pops.int/TheConvention/Overview/TextoftheConvention/tabid/2232/Default.aspx>

UN Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime [2000]⁹

Amendment

Article 39.

2. Regional economic integration organizations, in matters within their competence, shall exercise their right to vote under this article with a number of votes equal to the number of their member States that are Parties to this Convention. Such organizations shall not exercise their right to vote if their member States exercise theirs and vice versa.

Aarhus Convention [1998]¹⁰

ARTICLE 11.

Right to vote

- 1. Except as provided for in paragraph 2 below, each Party to this Convention shall have one vote.*
- 2. Regional economic integration organizations, in matters within their competence, shall exercise their right to vote with a number of votes equal to the number of their member States which are Parties to this Convention. Such organizations shall not exercise their right to vote if their member States exercise theirs, and vice versa.*

Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade [1998]¹¹

ARTICLE 23

VOTING

- 1. Each Party to this Convention shall have one vote, except as provided for in paragraph 2 below.*
- 2. A regional economic integration organization, on matters within its competence, shall exercise its right to vote with a number of votes equal to the number of its member States that are Parties to this Convention. Such an organization shall not exercise its right to vote if any of its member States exercises its right to vote, and vice versa.*
- 3. For the purposes of this Convention, "Parties present and voting" means Parties present and casting an affirmative or negative vote.*

United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa [1994]¹²

Article 32

Right to vote

- 1. Except as provided for in paragraph 2, each Party to the Convention shall have one vote.*
- 2. Regional economic integration organizations, in matters within their competence, shall exercise their right to vote with a number of votes equal to the number of their member States that are Parties to the Convention. Such an organization shall not exercise its right to vote if any of its member States exercises its right, and vice versa.*

⁹ <https://www.unodc.org/documents/treaties/UNTOC/Publications/TOC%20Convention/TOCebook-e.pdf>

¹⁰ <https://unece.org/DAM/env/pp/documents/cep43e.pdf>

¹¹ <http://www.pic.int/TheConvention/Overview/TextoftheConvention/tabid/1048/language/en-US/Default.aspx>

¹² [UNCCD Convention ENG 0 0.pdf](#)

Agreement establishing the World Trade Organization [1994]¹³

Article IX

Decision-Making

1. The WTO shall continue the practice of decision-making by consensus followed under GATT 1947. Except as otherwise provided, where a decision cannot be arrived at by consensus, the matter at issue shall be decided by voting. At meetings of the Ministerial Conference and the General Council, each Member of the WTO shall have one vote. Where the European Communities exercise their right to vote, they shall have a number of votes equal to the number of their member States¹⁴ which are Members of the WTO. Decisions of the Ministerial Conference and the General Council shall be taken by a majority of the votes cast, unless otherwise provided in this Agreement or in the relevant Multilateral Trade Agreement.

Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes [1992]¹⁵

Article 18

Right to Vote

1. Except as provided for in paragraph 2 of this article, each Party to this Convention shall have one vote.
2. Regional economic integration organizations, in matters within their competence, shall exercise their right to vote with a number of votes equal to the number of their member States which are Parties to this Convention. Such organizations shall not exercise their right to vote if their member States exercise theirs, and vice versa.

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change [1992]¹⁶

Article 18 Right to vote

1. Each Party to the Convention shall have one vote, except as provided for in paragraph 2 below.
2. Regional economic integration organizations, in matters within their competence, shall exercise their right to vote with a number of votes equal to the number of their member States that are Parties to the Convention. Such an organization shall not exercise its right to vote if any of its member States exercises its right, and vice versa.

Convention on Biological Diversity [1992]¹⁷

Article 31. Right to Vote

1. Except as provided for in paragraph 2 below, each Contracting Party to this Convention or to any protocol shall have one vote.
2. Regional economic integration organizations, in matters within their competence, shall exercise their right to vote with a number of votes equal to the number of their member States which are Contracting Parties to this Convention or the relevant protocol. Such organizations shall not exercise their right to vote if their member States exercise theirs, and vice versa.

¹³ https://www.wto.org/english/docs_e/legal_e/04-wto.pdf

¹⁴ The number of votes of the European Communities and their member States shall in no case exceed the number of the member States of the European Communities.

¹⁵ https://treaties.un.org/doc/treaties/1992/03/19920317%2005-46%20am/ch_xxvii_05p.pdf

¹⁶ http://unfccc.int/files/essential_background/convention/background/application/pdf/convention_text_with_annexes_english_for_posting.pdf

¹⁷ <https://www.cbd.int/doc/legal/cbd-en.pdf>

Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal [1989]¹⁸

ARTICLE 24

RIGHT TO VOTE

1. Except as provided for in paragraph 2 below, each Contracting Party to this Convention shall have one vote.
2. Political and/or economic integration organizations, in matters within their competence, in accordance with Article 22, paragraph 3, and Article 23, paragraph 2, shall exercise their right to vote with a number of votes equal to the number of their member States which are Parties to the Convention or the relevant protocol. Such organizations shall not exercise their right to vote if their member States exercise theirs, and vice versa.

Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer [1987]¹⁹

Voting -Rule 39

1. Except as provided for in paragraph 2 of this rule, each Party shall have one vote.
2. Regional economic integration organizations, in matters within their competence, shall exercise their right to vote with a number of votes equal to the number of their member States which are Parties. Such organizations shall not exercise their right to vote if their member States exercise theirs, and vice versa.

Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer [1985]²⁰

Article 15: Right to vote

1. Each Party to this Convention or to any protocol shall have one vote.
2. Except as provided for in paragraph 1 above, regional economic integration organizations, in matters within their competence, shall exercise their right to vote with a number of votes equal to the number of their member States which are Parties to the Convention or the relevant protocol. Such organizations shall not exercise their right to vote if their member States exercise theirs, and vice versa.

Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution [1979]²¹

Article 14 – Signature

2. In matters within their competence, such regional economic integration organizations shall, on their own behalf, exercise the rights and fulfil the responsibilities which the present Convention attributes to their member States. In such cases, the member States of these organizations shall not be entitled to exercise such rights individually.

Convention on the conservation of migratory species of wild animals [1979]²²

Article I

Interpretation

(...)

2. In matters within their competence, the regional economic integration organizations which are Parties to this Convention shall in their own name exercise the rights and fulfil the responsibilities which

¹⁸ <http://www.basel.int/Portals/4/Basel%20Convention/docs/text/BaselConventionText-e.pdf>

¹⁹ <http://ozone.unep.org/en/handbook-montreal-protocol-substances-deplete-ozone-layer/27568>

²⁰ <http://ozone.unep.org/en/handbook-vienna-convention-protection-ozone-layer/2205>

²¹ <http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/lrtap/full%20text/1979.CLRTAP.e.pdf>

²² <http://www.cms.int/en/convention-text>

this Convention attributes to their member States. In such cases the member States of these organizations shall not be entitled to exercise such rights individually.

Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora [1973]²³

Article XXI

Accession

(...)

5. In the fields of their competence, regional economic integration organizations shall exercise their right to vote with a number of votes equal to the number of their Member States which are Parties to the Convention. Such organizations shall not exercise their right to vote if their Member States exercise theirs, and vice versa.

(...)

²³ [Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora | CITES](#). The REIO provision was agreed in 1983 and entered into force on 2013.