

ART. 55. — The present Convention, which bears the date of this day, is open to signature until February 12, 1950, in the name of the Powers represented at the Conference which opened at Geneva on April 21, 1949; furthermore, by Powers not represented at that Conference, but which are parties to the Xth Hague Convention of October 18, 1907, for the adaptation to Maritime Warfare of the principles of the Geneva Convention of 1906, or to the Geneva Conventions of 1864, 1906 or 1929 for the Relief of the Wounded and Sick in Armies in the Field.

Signature

ART. 56. — The present Convention shall be ratified as soon as possible and the ratifications shall be deposited at Berne.

Ratification

A record shall be drawn up of the deposit of each instrument of ratification and certified copies of this record shall be transmitted by the Swiss Federal Council to all the Powers in whose name the Convention has been signed, or whose accession has been notified.

ART. 57. — The present Convention shall come into force six months after not less than two instruments of ratification have been deposited.

*Coming into
force*

Thereafter, it shall come into force for each High Contracting Party six months after the deposit of the instruments of ratification.

ART. 58. — The present Convention replaces the Xth Hague Convention of October 18, 1907, for the adaptation to Maritime Warfare of the principles of the Geneva Convention of 1906, in relations between the High Contracting Parties.

*Relation to
the 1907
Convention*

ART. 59. — From the date of its coming into force, it shall be open to any Power in whose name the present Convention has not been signed, to accede to this Convention.

Accession

ART. 60. — Accessions shall be notified in writing to the Swiss Federal Council, and shall take effect six months after the date on which they are received.

*Notification
of accessions*

The Swiss Federal Council shall communicate the accessions to all the Powers in whose name the Convention has been signed, or whose accession has been notified.

ART. 61. — The situations provided for in Articles 2 and 3 shall give immediate effect to ratifications deposited and accessions notified by the Parties to the conflict before or after the beginning of hostilities or occupation. The Swiss Federal Council shall communicate by the quickest method any ratifications or accessions received from Parties to the conflict.

*Immediate
effect*