Monoism and dualism is used to elaborate two distinctions of the relationship and interaction between international law and national law.

States that implement monoist system do not want to adopt or translate international law into national law. Ratification of any international agreement immediately adheres that international laws as national laws. Thus a direct application of international law is taken place in monoism.

But in dualism, an indirect application of international law will be taken place, in which the international laws must be first translated into national legislation before utilising them as national laws. Thus a mere ratification of international agreements does not make that international laws as national laws; rather a national implementing legislation is necessary.