

# HOW TO SIGN AND RATIFY THIS CONVENTION

which provides the legal framework  
for the use of telecommunications  
in international humanitarian assistance



## HOW TO SIGN AND RATIFY this Convention

Proper **full powers** are required by all persons seeking to sign a treaty deposited with the Secretary-General of the United Nations or to make a reservation upon signature, except Heads of State or Government, or Ministers of Foreign Affairs.

**Full powers** should:

- bear the signature of the Head of State or Government, or the Minister of Foreign Affairs
- specify clearly the title of the instrument to be signed
- state the full name of the person authorized to sign the instrument concerned.

As already stated, **full powers** are not required where the Head State or Government or the Minister of Foreign Affairs signs in person. Furthermore, where general **full powers** have been issued to a person and have been deposited with the Secretariat in advance, specific **full powers** are not required.

It is advised that, whenever possible, **full powers** should be submitted for verification to the Treaty Section of the United Nations in advance of the intended date of signature.

Here is a sample of an instrument of **full powers**:

I	<u>[name and title of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Head of Government or Head of State]</u>	
HEREBY AUTHORIZE	<u>[name and title]</u>	
to	<u>[sign*/ratify/denounce/effect the following declaration in respect of]</u>	
the TAMPERE CONVENTION on the Provision of Telecommunication Resources for Disaster Mitigation and Relief Operations on behalf of the Government of <u>[name of State]</u>		
Done at	<u>[place]</u>	on <u>[date]</u>
		<u>[signature]</u>

\* Subject to the provisions of the treaty, one of the following alternatives is to be chosen: **[subject to ratification]** or **[without reservation as to ratification]**.

Reservations made upon signature must be authorized by the full powers granted to the signatory.

*For further information on depositary matters (signature, ratification, acceptance, approval or accession), please contact:*

United Nations  
Treaty Section, Office of Legal Affairs (OLA)  
New York, United States  
Tel.: +1 212 963 3918/5047  
Fax: +1 212 963 3693

*On operational matters (application and implementation), please contact:*

United Nations  
Mr H. Zimmermann  
Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)  
Geneva, Switzerland  
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# The Tampere Convention

- Provides the legal framework for the use of telecommunications in international humanitarian assistance
- Puts in place a structure for managing requests for telecommunication assistance and for minimizing the impediments to that assistance before disasters occur
- Reduces regulatory barriers during disasters
- Protects providers of telecommunication assistance while safeguarding the interests of the host country

The United Nations Secretary-General is the Depositary of the Convention.

The United Nations Emergency Relief Coordinator is the Operational Coordinator under the Convention, working closely with the International Telecommunication Union.



**Tarja Halonen**

President of the Republic of Finland.  
Patron of the 2nd Tampere Conference  
on Disaster Communications, 28-30 May 2001.

"Information on what has happened, how much damage there has been and what kind of help is needed, are key questions in disaster situations. To be able to answer them, we need a communications system that can be set up quickly and will guarantee a flow of information even when the local systems are inoperative. This is the focus of the Tampere Convention adopted in 1998."



**Kofi A. Annan**

Secretary-General of the United Nations.  
An extract from the ICET-98 Guide, Tampere, 16-18 June 1998.

"Humanitarian work is one of the most important, but also one of the most difficult tasks of the United Nations. Human suffering cannot be measured in figures, and its dimensions often surpass our imagination, even at a time when news about natural and other disasters reaches every corner of the globe in next to real time. An appropriate response depends upon the timely availability of accurate data from the often remote and inaccessible sites of crises. From the mobilization of assistance to the logistics chain, which will carry assistance to the intended beneficiaries, reliable telecommunication links are indispensable."

"The Ministers

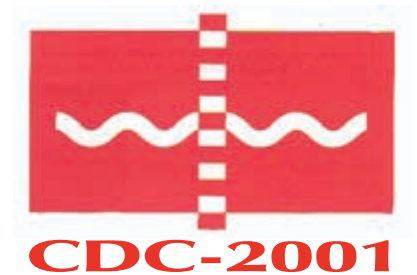
Recommend the Member States of the EUROPA Major Hazards Agreement to sign and ratify the Tampere Convention, as follow-up to Resolution 36 of the Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union (Minneapolis, November 1998)."

Extract from the Declaration adopted at the 8th Ministerial meeting of the EUROPA Major Hazards Agreement.  
Athens-Vouglia, Greece 21-22 February 2000.



# The Second Tampere Conference on Disaster Communications (CDC-2001)

Tampere, Finland, 28-30 May 2001



## OPINION OF THE CONFERENCE

The Second Tampere Conference on Disaster Communications (CDC-2001),  
Tampere, Finland, 28-30 May 2001,

*recognizing*

the vital role of telecommunications in international humanitarian assistance,

*concerned*

that the magnitude, complexity, frequency and impact of disasters continue to increase at a dramatic rate, especially in the developing world,

*acknowledging*

the vital role of the Tampere Convention on the Provision of Telecommunications Resources for Disaster Mitigation and Relief Operations,

*shares*

the intent of ITU Resolution 36 (Rev. Minneapolis, 1998), which

*"urges Member States*

to work towards the earliest possible ratification, acceptance, approval or final signature of the Tampere Convention by the appropriate national authorities,

*further urges member States Parties to the Tampere Convention*

to take all practical steps for the application of the Tampere Convention and to work closely with the operational coordinator ...",

*appreciates*

the role played by volunteers, in particular those of the Amateur Radio Service, and encourages administrations to facilitate their work in emergency telecommunications,

*encourages*

partnerships with the private sector and other non-State partners in securing the aims of the Tampere Convention,

*invites*

international and regional organizations to include in their agenda the application of the Tampere Convention by their member states,

*invites*

the ITU to study

- a) the use of public mobile networks for early warning and the dissemination of emergency information;
- b) operational aspects of emergency telecommunications such as call prioritization,

*invites*

the administrations and regional organizations, in their preparations for WRC-2003, to consider

- a) the recognized need of disaster relief organizations to use their existing radiocommunication equipment under disaster relief situations;
- b) the need to conclude frequency arrangements for such equipment in emergency situations;
- c) the possibility of designating the frequencies currently used by disaster relief organizations for non-critical purposes, which allow them to be utilized also for disaster relief in cases of emergency,

*expresses*

its gratitude to the Finnish Government for its continuous support of the Tampere Convention.