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**PREPARATORY CONFERENCE FOR THE COMMISSION  
FOR THE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF  
HIGHLY MIGRATORY FISH STOCKS IN THE WESTERN  
AND CENTRAL PACIFIC**

Fifth session  
Rarotonga, Cook Islands  
29 September – 3 October 2003

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WCPFC/BP.1/Rev.8\*  
1 October 2003

**AGENDA ITEM I : STATUS OF THE CONVENTION**

1. It will be recalled that, in accordance with its article 34, the Convention on the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific was open for signature by the States and entities listed in article 34, paragraph 1, for a period of 12 months from 5 September 2000. As at 4 September 2001, the Convention had been signed by 19 States. In addition, on 5 September 2000 a representative of Chinese Taipei signed an Arrangement for the Participation of Fishing Entities.

2. In accordance with article 36, the Convention will enter into force 30 days after the deposit of instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession by:

- (a) three States situated north of the 20° parallel of north latitude; and
- (b) seven States situated south of the 20° parallel of north latitude.

Alternatively, if, within three years of its adoption, the Convention has not been ratified by three of the States situated north of the 20° N, it will enter into force six months after the deposit of the thirteenth instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, whichever is the earlier.

3. The annex to the present paper provides information on the status of signatures and ratifications of the Convention as at 1 October 2003.

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Annex

COUNTRY	SIGNATURE	RATIFICATION OR ACCESSION <sup>(a)</sup>
Australia	30/10/2000	22/09/2003
Canada	02/08/2001	
China		
Cook Islands	05/09/2000	01/10/03
Federated States of Micronesia	05/09/2000	20/12/2002
Fiji Islands	05/09/2000	13/03/2001
France		
Indonesia	31/08/2001	
Japan		
Republic of Kiribati		09/06/2003 <sup>(a)</sup>
Republic of the Marshall Islands	05/09/2000	23/04/2001
Republic of Nauru	18/08/2001	26/08/2003
New Zealand	05/09/2000	
Niue	30/10/2000	
Republic of Palau	05/09/2000	
Independent State of Papua New Guinea	17/01/2001	17/10/2001
Republic of the Philippines	05/09/2000	
Republic of Korea		
Independent State of Samoa	05/09/2000	09/02/2001
Solomon Islands	23/04/2001	09/06/2003
Kingdom of Tonga	23/04/2001	
Tuvalu	05/09/2000	
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (for Pitcairn, Henderson, Ducie and Oeno Islands)		
United States of America	05/09/2000	
Republic of Vanuatu	05/09/2000	