



Senate Approval of the Hague Convention on the
International Recovery of Child Support and Other Forms of
Family Maintenance

Remarks
Hillary Rodham Clinton
Secretary of State
Washington, DC
October 1, 2010

On Wednesday September 29, the U.S. Senate approved the Hague Convention on the International Recovery of Child Support and Other Forms of Family Maintenance. The United States has been active in the Convention's development since negotiations began in 2003, and we were the first country to sign the Convention in 2007. This week, we have taken another step toward ratification, again reaffirming our commitment to protecting the welfare of children around the world.

Protecting our most vulnerable citizens, especially children, is one of the primary duties of any government. When a child and one parent are in one country while the other parent is in a different country, recovering child support can be difficult and often impossible. The United States has a comprehensive system in place to establish, recognize, and enforce domestic and international child support obligations. The Convention requires that all treaty partners develop similar systems to facilitate the recovery of funds between nations. This will help more children around the world receive the support they need more expeditiously than ever before.

The Department of State will continue to work closely with the Department of Health and Human Services as we continue toward ratification by the full Senate and the United States becoming a party to the Convention.

We look forward to working with the Hague Conference and other countries to implement this important Convention worldwide.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE
DIPLOMACY IN ACTION

President Obama Signs Implementing Legislation for the Hague Convention on the International Recovery of Child Support and Other Forms of Family Maintenance

Press Statement
John Kerry
Secretary of State
Washington, DC
September 30, 2014

I was the Chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee when the Senate unanimously gave its advice and consent to ratify the Child Support Convention.

Back when I was a prosecutor, I saw how hard too many families had to scrape and claw just to receive their just support, and I saw how far the United States came in the last decades of fighting that wrong. It was the right thing to do to help families in the United States and other countries get what is rightfully theirs. I am grateful to Congress for passing this important implementing legislation; it's a reminder of how the Administration and Congress can work together across party lines to help lead the international community on issues that really matter in people's lives.

The United States was the first country to sign the Convention in 2007. Protection of our most vulnerable citizens—our children—is fundamental to who we are. We stick up for kids. We protect the innocent. Every child deserves to be supported by both parents. We know that recovering child support when the child and one parent are in one country and the other parent is in another is difficult and too often impossible. The United States has a comprehensive system to establish, recognize and enforce domestic and international child support obligations. The Convention just requires that all treaty partners have similar systems in place and as a result, more children in the United States and abroad will be receiving more support, more expeditiously than ever before.