

TITLE X

Approval, Effective Dates,
and Definitions

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Section 1001. (a) This Agreement will be [promptly] submitted to the Mariana Islands District Legislature for its approval. Within [150] days after its approval by the Mariana Islands District Legislature, this Agreement will be submitted to the people of the Mariana Islands District for approval in a plebiscite to be called by the United States. All residents of the Northern Mariana Islands who would be eligible to vote in elections in the Mariana Islands District if such elections were held on the day of the plebiscite will be eligible to vote in the plebiscite. This Agreement will be approved if a majority of the valid votes cast in the plebiscite favor approval. The results of the plebiscite will be certified [by the Secretary of the Interior] to the President of the United States.

(b) Approval by the United States will be given when this Agreement has been enacted into law in accordance with the constitutional processes of the United States.

Section 1002. The Constitution of the Northern Mariana Islands will be drafted and approved by the people of the Northern Mariana Islands in a manner to be determined by the Mariana Islands District Legislature.

(b) Within thirty days after the approval of the Constitution by the people of the Northern Mariana Islands, copies of the Constitution will be transmitted to the President and the Congress of the United States. Not less than thirty nor more than 120 days thereafter, the President will issue a proclamation stating that the Constitution is approved by the United States, unless he finds that the Constitution is not consistent with this Agreement or those portions of the United States Constitution and federal laws which will apply to the Northern Mariana Islands pursuant to this Agreement. If the President finds that the Constitution of the Northern Mariana Islands is not so consistent, he will transmit it together with a statement of the reasons for his determination to the Mariana Islands District Legislature.

Section 1003. [Effective dates; like U.S. 10/11/74
Section 1003]

Section 1004. (a) The application of any law of the United States or provision of the United States Constitution which would otherwise apply to the Northern Mariana Islands may be suspended until termination of the Trusteeship Agreement if the President finds and declares that the application of such law or provision prior to termination would be inconsistent with the Trusteeship Agreement.

(b) The Constitution of the Northern Mariana Islands will become effective in accordance with its terms on the same day that the provisions of this Agreement specified in Section 1003(b) become effective, provided that if the President finds and declares that the effectiveness of any provision of the Constitution of the Northern Mariana Islands prior to termination of the Trusteeship Agreement would be inconsistent with the Trusteeship Agreement, such provision will be ineffective until termination of the Trusteeship Agreement. Upon the establishment of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Constitution will become effective in its entirety in accordance with its terms, as the Constitution of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Section 1005. The United States will make all good faith efforts to terminate the Trusteeship Agreement at the earliest practicable date, in its entirety or insofar as it affects the Northern Mariana Islands. Any determination by the President of the United States that the Trusteeship Agreement is or will be terminated on a certain day will be final and will not be subject to review by any authority of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, the Northern Mariana Islands or the United States, including the courts of or established thereby.