



# Summary of the Antarctic Treaty

**1** Military activities in Antarctica are prohibited (e.g. military manoeuvres), although military personnel and equipment may be used for scientific research or other peaceful purposes.

**2** Freedom of scientific investigation and cooperation in Antarctica shall continue.

**3** Free exchange of information on scientific programmes and scientific data, and scientists to be exchanged between expeditions and stations when practicable.

**4** Existing territorial sovereignty claims are set aside. Territorial claims are not recognised, disputed or established by the Treaty. No new territorial claims can be made whilst the Treaty is in force.

**5** Nuclear explosions and radioactive waste disposal are prohibited in Antarctica.

**6** The Treaty applies to all land and ice shelves south of latitude 60°S, but not to the high seas within the area.

**7** All Antarctic stations, and all ships and aircraft operating in Antarctica, have to be open to inspection by designated observers from any Treaty nation.

**8** Personnel working in Antarctica shall be under the jurisdiction only of their own country.

**9** Treaty nations will meet regularly to consider ways of furthering the principles and objectives of the Treaty. Attendance at these meetings will be limited to countries showing substantial scientific research activity in Antarctica (e.g. by the establishment of a scientific station or the despatch of a scientific expedition). Unanimous approval will be necessary at these meetings for any new measures to become effective.

**10** All Treaty nations will try to ensure that no one engages in any activity in Antarctica contrary to the principles or purposes of the Treaty.

**11** Any dispute between Treaty nations, if not settled by agreement in some form, shall be determined by the International Court of Justice.

**12** The Treaty may be modified at any time by unanimous agreement. After 30 years (e.g. after June 1991) any Consultative Party may call for a conference to review the operation of the Treaty. The Treaty may be modified at such a conference by a majority decision.

**13** The Treaty must be ratified by any nation wishing to join. Any member of the United Nations may join, as well as any other country invited to do so by the Treaty nations. All notices of accession and ratification are deposited with the Government of the United States of America, which is designated as the Depositary Government.

**14** The Treaty, translated into English, French, Russian and Spanish was signed on 1st December 1959.