1925 Draft Convention

Whereas the signatories of the General Act of the Brussels Conference of 1889–90 declared that they were equally animated by the firm intention of putting an end to the traffic in African slaves;

Whereas the signatories of the Convention of Saint Germain-en-Laye of 1919, to revise the General Act of Berlin of 1885 and the General Act and Declaration of Brussels of 1890 affirmed their intention of securing the complete suppression of slavery in all its forms and of the slave trade by land and sea;

Desiring to complete and extend the work accomplished under the Brussels Act and to find a means of giving practical effect throughout the world to such intentions as were expressed in regard to slave trade and slavery by the signatories of the Convention of Saint Germain-en-Laye,

Have decided to conclude a Convention and have accordingly appointed as their Plenipotentiaries:

.................................................................

Who, having communicated their full powers, have agreed as follows:

ARTICLE 1

For the purpose of the present Convention, the following definitions are agreed upon:
1. Slavery is the status or condition of a person over whom any or all of the powers attaching to the right of ownership are exercised. […]

2. The slave trade includes all acts involved in the capture, acquisition or disposal of a person with intent to reduce him to slavery; all acts involved in the acquisition of a slave with a view to selling or exchanging him; all acts of disposal by sale or exchange of a slave acquired with a view to being sold or exchanged, and in general, every action of trade or transport of slaves.

ARTICLE 2

The High Contracting Parties undertake, each in respect of the territories placed under its sovereignty, jurisdiction, protection or tutelage, so far as they have not already taken the necessary steps:

(a) To prevent and suppress the slave trade;

(b) To bring about progressively and as soon as possible the disappearance of slavery in every form, notably in the case of domestic slavery and similar conditions.

ARTICLE 3

The High Contracting Parties undertake to adopt all appropriate measures with a view of preventing and suppressing the embarkation, disembarkation and transport of slaves in their territorial waters and upon all vessels flying their respective flags.

The High Contracting Parties further recognise the value of separate agreements between the Powers concerned conferring on their warships, in certain zones in which they may consider the existence of traffic in slaves to be a possibility, special rights enabling them to prevent and suppress the said traffic on vessels flying the flag of any of the Powers which are parties to such agreements. The High Contracting Parties undertake to communicate to each other agreements which may be concluded for this purpose.