Part III

Indirect Responsibility for Terrorist Acts
CHAPTER 6  THE CRIMINALISATION OF TERRORIST FINANCING

6.1.  The Role of the Terrorist Financing Convention

The International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism was adopted in New York on 9 December 1999, just one year after France had informally submitted the first proposal;¹ and following four weeks of negotiations that began in March 1999 and were completed in September 1999.¹ The Convention was adopted by consensus, but two years later, in September 2001 only 43 states had signed the Convention and four had ratified it.³ As is well known, this relative lack of enthusiasm on the part of states to adhere to the Convention was to change quickly after the terrorist attacks of 11 September 2001: the international community of states turned its attention to the threat of terrorism and the expeditious ratification of the Convention was made one of the top priorities in the fight against terrorism. Most notably, UN Security Council Resolution 1373(2001) required, using the language of the Convention in a slightly modified version,

² The negotiations began in the Ad Hoc Committee established by resolution 51/210 in accordance with a decision taken by the UNGA in 1998, see A/RES/53/108, para. 12. For the establishment of the Ad Hoc Committee, see Chapter 1.1. The Committee held its session from 15 to 26 March 1999; see UN GAOR 54th session, Supplement No. 37 (A/54/37) (March Report).
⁴ The Convention was opened for signature on 10 January 2000. By September 2001, it had been ratified by Botswana, Sri Lanka, Uzbekistan and the United Kingdom.