International Copyright Treaties and Conventions

Protection against unauthorized use of a copyrighted work in a country depends primarily on the national laws of that country. Most countries offer protection to foreign works under the aegis of international copyright treaties and conventions.

Treaties and Conventions:

Berne Convention – the leading international agreement that sets standards for protecting literary and artistic works

Bilateral – a unique agreement on copyright protection between the United States and another country

Geneva Phonograms Convention – known as the Geneva Convention, sets standards for protection of sound recordings against piracy

Universal Copyright Convention (UCC) – an international agreement that sets standards for protecting literary and artistic works, largely superceded by Berne

WIPO Copyright Trreaty (WCT) – an international treaty setting standards for protection of works in digital format

WIPO Performances and Phonograms Treaty (WPPT) – an international agreement setting standards for protection of sound recordings

World Trade Organization (WTO) – the World Trade Organization's obligations regarding Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights, incorporating and expanding on Berne and adding enforcement obligations

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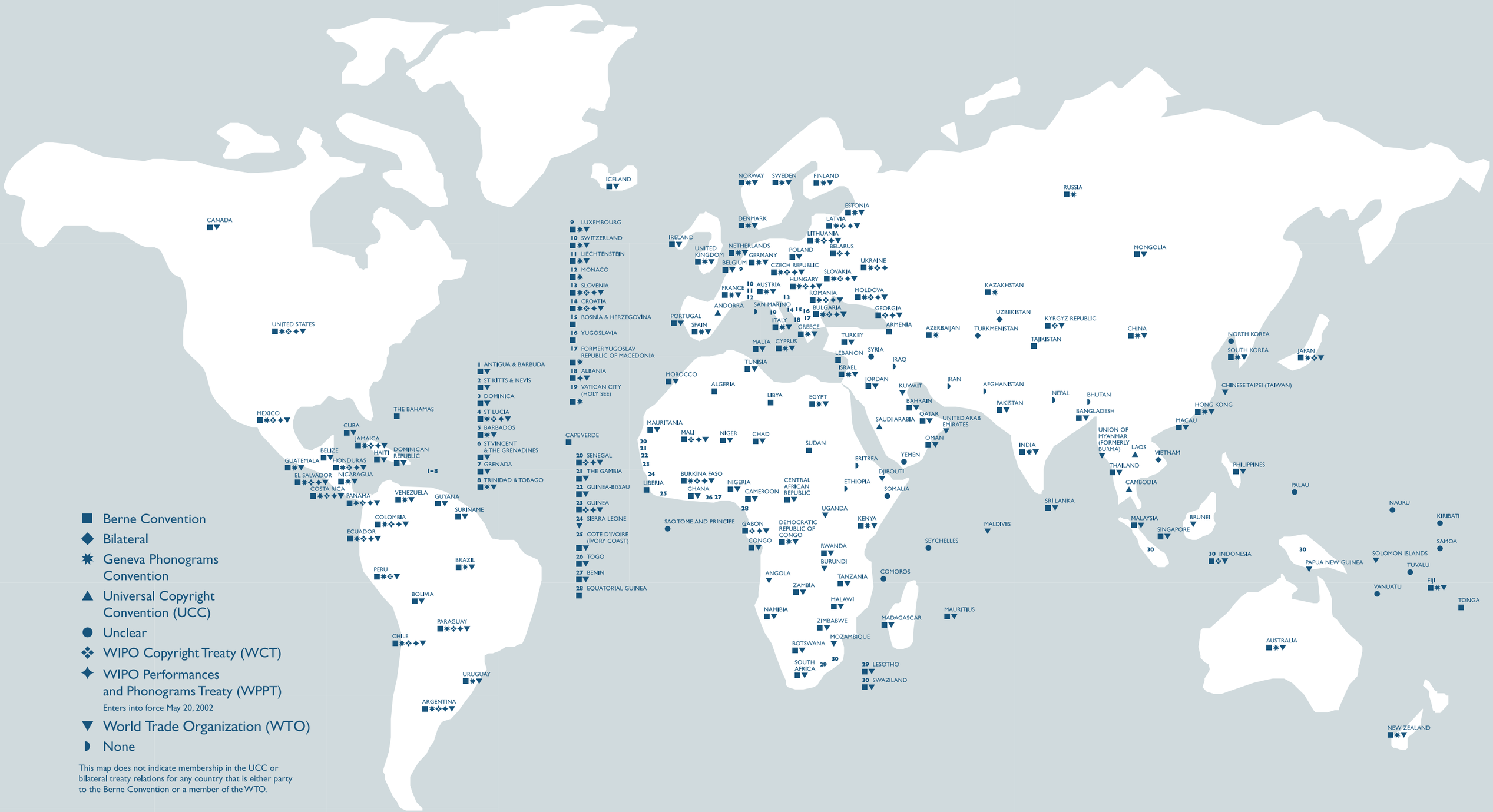

This map does not indicate membership in the UCC or bilateral treaty relations for any country that is either party to the Berne Convention or a member of the WTO.