The Secretary-General of the United Nations, acting in his capacity as depositary, communicates the following:

The above action was effected on 22 March 2019.

(Original: English)

“The Government of the Republic of Poland has reviewed the reservations made by the State of Qatar along with the ratification document to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, done in New York on December 16, 1966, with regard to Article 3 and Article 23(4), as well as the statements which the State of Qatar made with regard to Article 7, Article 18(2), Article 22, Article 23(2) and Article 27 of the Covenant.

The Government of the Republic of Poland is of the view that the application of the reservations and statements made by the State of Qatar will introduce too wide restrictions in the implementation of the provisions of the Covenant as regards the essential spheres of social life (among others equality between women and men in the exercise of their civil and political rights, freedom to marry, rights of a woman of marriageable age to marry, prohibition of inhuman or degrading punishment, freedom of religion and the right to form and to join trade unions).

Accordingly, the Government of the Republic of Poland considers these reservations and statements to be inconsistent with the object and purpose of the Covenant, which aims to create conditions that guarantee any person enjoyment of civil and political rights, and as such, to be unacceptable under Article 19(c) of the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties.

In its reservations, the State of Qatar has referred to the incompatibility of the provisions of the Covenant with its internal law (the Constitution) and Islamic law as justification for its intention to exclude the legal effects of certain provisions of the Covenant.

The Government of the Republic of Poland notes that pursuant to Article 27 of the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties, a State Party to a treaty may not invoke the provisions of its internal law as justification for its failure to perform a treaty. Conversely, the domestic law should, as a rule be brought into line with the provisions of a treaty by which given state is bound.

1 Refer to depositary notification C.N.262.2018.TREATIES-IV.4 of 21 May 2018 (Accession: Qatar).
In addition, while referring in its statements to Islamic law, national labor law and national legislation, as well as to the rights and fundamental freedoms of others, the State of Qatar does not indicate the specific content thereof that may apply to the implementation of the Covenant, which renders it impossible to determine the exact scope of application of the provisions of the Covenant in relation to the State of Qatar.

In view of the above, the Government of the Republic of Poland objects to the reservations of the State of Qatar with regard to Article 3 and Article 23(4), as well as to the statements of this State with regard to Article 7, Article 18(2), Article 22, Article 23(2) and Article 27 of the Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, done in New York on 16 December 1966.

This objection does not hinder entrance into force of the Covenant in the relations between the Republic of Poland and the State of Qatar.”

25 March 2019

[Signature]