

Reference: C.N.215.2019.TREATIES-IV.3 (Depositary Notification)

INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL
RIGHTS

NEW YORK, 16 DECEMBER 1966

UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND: OBJECTION TO THE
RESERVATION AND STATEMENT MADE BY QATAR UPON ACCESSION¹

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

The above action was effected on 21 May 2019.

(Original: English)

“The Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland has examined the reservation and declaration made by the State of Qatar on ratification of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (‘the Covenant’), done at New York on 16 December 1966, which read:

Reservation

The State of Qatar does not consider itself bound by the provisions of Article 3 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, for they contravene the Islamic Sharia with regard to questions of inheritance and birth.

Declaration

The State of Qatar shall interpret that what is meant by “trade unions” and their related issues stated in Article 8 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Right[s], is in line with the provisions of the Labor Law and national legislation. The State of Qatar reserves the right to implement that article in accordance with such understanding.

In respect of the reservation to Article 3, the Government of the United Kingdom understands this to mean that the State of Qatar considers itself bound by the provisions of Article 3, except with regard to questions of inheritance and birth, and will interpret the State of Qatar’s obligations under the Covenant accordingly.

¹ Refer to depositary notification C.N.260.2018.TREATIES-IV.3 of 21 May 2018 (Accession: Qatar).

The Government of the United Kingdom considers that the Government of the State of Qatar's declaration in respect of Article 8, which seeks to subject its obligations under the Covenant to the provisions of its own national legislation, is a reservation which seeks to limit the scope of the Covenant on a unilateral basis. The Government of the United Kingdom notes that a reservation to a convention which consists of a general reference to national law without specifying its contents does not clearly define for the other States Parties to the convention the extent to which the reserving State has accepted the obligations of the convention. The Government of the United Kingdom therefore objects to this reservation made by the Government of the State of Qatar.

This objection shall not preclude the entry into force of the Covenant between the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the State of Qatar.”

22 May 2019

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'A. h.' with a period at the end.