

Reference: C.N.218.2019.TREATIES-IV.4 (Depositary Notification)

INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS
NEW YORK, 16 DECEMBER 1966

UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND: OBJECTION TO THE
RESERVATIONS AND STATEMENTS MADE BY QATAR UPON ACCESSION ¹

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 declarations made by the Government of the State of Qatar to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (“the Covenant”), done at New York on 16 December 1966, which read:

Declarations

1. The State of Qatar shall interpret the term “punishment” in Article 7 of the Covenant in accordance with the applicable legislation of Qatar and the Islamic Sharia.
2. The State of Qatar shall interpret Article 18, paragraph 2, of the Covenant based on the understanding that it does not contravene the Islamic Sharia. The State of Qatar reserves the right to implement such paragraph in accordance with such understanding.
3. The State of Qatar shall interpret that the term “trade unions” and all related matters, as mentioned in Article 22 of the Covenant, are in line with the Labor Law and national legislation. The State of Qatar reserves the right to implement such article in accordance with such understanding.
4. The State of Qatar shall interpret Article 23, paragraph 2, of the Covenant in a manner that does not contravene the Islamic Sharia. The State of Qatar reserves the right to implement such paragraph in accordance with such understanding.
5. The State of Qatar shall interpret Article 27 of the Covenant that professing and practicing one’s own religion require that they do not violate the rules of public order and public morals, the protection of public safety and public health, or the rights of and basic freedoms of others.

¹ Refer to depositary notification C.N.262.2018.TREATIES-IV.4 of 21 May 2018 (Accession: Qatar).

The Government of the United Kingdom considers that the Government of the State of Qatar's declarations in respect of Article 7; Article 18, paragraph 2; Article 22; Article 23 and Article 27 are reservations which seek 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 or a system of law without specifying its contents does not clearly define for the other States Parties to a convention the extent to which the reserving State has accepted the obligations of the convention. The Government of the United Kingdom therefore objects to the aforesaid reservations.

These objections 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.', located below the date.