

Reference: C.N.221.2019.TREATIES-IV.4 (Depositary Notification)

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

BELGIUM: OBJECTION TO THE RESERVATIONS AND DECLARATIONS 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.

(Translation) (Original: French)

The Kingdom of Belgium has carefully examined the reservations and declarations made by the State of Qatar upon its accession, on 21 May 2018, to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

Reservations to articles 3 and 23 (4), as well as declarations 1 to 4 relating to articles 7, 18 (2), 22 and 23 (2), makes the provisions of the Covenant subject to their compatibility with Sharia or with the national legislation. The Kingdom of Belgium considers that these reservations and declarations tend to limit the responsibility of the State of Qatar under the Covenant by means of a general reference to the rules of national law and Sharia Law. This creates an uncertainty as to the extent to which the State of Qatar intends to fulfil its obligations under the Covenant and raises doubts about the State of Qatar's compliance with the object and purpose of the Covenant.

The Kingdom of Belgium recalls that under article 19 of the Vienna Convention on the law of treaties, a State cannot make a reservation incompatible with the object and purpose of a treaty. Moreover, article 27 of the Vienna Convention on the law of treaties stipulates that a party may not invoke the provisions of its internal law as justifying the non-fulfilment of a treaty.

Accordingly, the Kingdom of Belgium objects to the reservations made by the State of Qatar with regard to articles 3 and 23 (4) and to the declarations made by it in respect of articles 7, 18 (2), 22 and 23 (2) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

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

The Kingdom of Belgium specifies that this objection does not preclude the entry into force of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights between the Kingdom of Belgium and the State of Qatar.

22 May 2019

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'A' followed by a period and a lowercase 'h' followed by a period.