

Reference: C.N.226.2019.TREATIES-IV.4 (Depositary Notification)

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

SWEDEN: COMMUNICATION WITH REGARD 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 22 May 2019.

(Original: English)

“The Government of Sweden has examined the statements and the reservation made by the State of Qatar upon accession to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. In this context the Government of Sweden would like to recall, that under well-established international treaty law, the name assigned to a statement whereby the legal effect of certain provisions of a treaty is excluded or modified, does not determine its status as a reservation to the treaty. Thus, the Government of Sweden considers that the statements in respect to Articles 7, 18.2, 22, 23.2 and 27 made by the State of Qatar concerning, in the absence of further clarification, in substance [constitute] reservations to the [Covenant].

The Government of Sweden notes that the interpretation and application of Articles 3, 7, 18.2, 22, 23.2 and 23.4 and 27 are made subject to general reservations by essentially referring to Islamic sharia and/or national legislation.

The Government of Sweden is of the view that such reservations, which do not clearly specify the extent of the derogations, [raise] doubt as to the commitment of the State of Qatar to the object and purpose of the [Covenant].

According to customary international law, as codified in the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties, reservations incompatible with the object and purpose of the [Covenant] shall not be permitted. It is in the common interest of states that treaties to which they have chosen to become parties are respected, as to their object and purpose, by all parties and that states are prepared to undertake any legislative changes necessary to comply with their obligations under the treaties.

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

For this reason, the Government of Sweden objects to the aforementioned reservations made by the Government of Qatar. The [Covenant] shall enter into force in its entirety between the two States, without Qatar benefitting from its reservations.”

24 May 2019

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be the initials 'A. h.' followed by a period.