

Reference: C.N.227.2019.TREATIES-IV.4 (Depositary Notification)

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

GREECE: 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 Hellenic Republic has examined the reservations and the statements made by the State of Qatar upon accession to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights of 16 December 1966 (hereinafter ‘the Covenant’).

In the above reservations, the State of Qatar declares that it does not consider itself bound by the provisions of Articles 3 and 23.4 of the Covenant, for they contravene, respectively, the provisions of Article 8 of the [Constitution] of Qatar and the Islamic Sharia.

Moreover, in the statements made upon accession to the Covenant, the State of Qatar *inter alia* declares that it shall interpret Articles 7, 18.2, 22 and 23.2 thereof, ‘in accordance with the applicable legislation of Qatar’ and/or ‘in a manner that does not contravene the Islamic Sharia’. However, in the view of the Government of the Hellenic Republic, these statements in fact amount to a reservation as they limit the scope of application of the relevant provisions of the Covenant solely to the extent that they do not contravene the Islamic Sharia and the national legislation of Qatar.

The Government of the Hellenic Republic notes that the above reservations are of a general and indeterminate scope, as they purport to subject the application of the aforementioned provisions of the Covenant to the Islamic Sharia and national legislation, without, however, specifying the content thereof, and are, accordingly, contrary to the object and purpose of the Covenant, since they do not clearly define for the other State Parties the extent to which Qatar has accepted the obligations of the Covenant.

For the above reasons, the Government of the Hellenic Republic considers the aforesaid reservations of Qatar impermissible as contrary to the object and purpose of the Covenant, according to customary international law, as codified by the Vienna Convention on the Law of the Treaties.

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

The Government of the Hellenic Republic, therefore, objects to the abovementioned reservations by the State of Qatar upon accession to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

This objection shall not preclude the entry into force of the Covenant between the Hellenic Republic and the State of Qatar.”

24 May 2019

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