

Reference: C.N.228.2019.TREATIES-IV.3 (Depositary Notification)

INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL  
RIGHTS

NEW YORK, 16 DECEMBER 1966

GREECE: OBJECTION TO THE RESERVATION AND STATEMENT MADE BY QATAR UPON  
ACCESSION<sup>1</sup>

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 reservation and the statement made by the State of Qatar upon accession to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights of 16 December 1966 (hereinafter ‘the Covenant’).

In the above reservation, the State of Qatar states that it does not consider itself bound by the provisions of Article 3 of the Covenant ‘for they contravene the Islamic Sharia with regard to questions of inheritance and birth’.

Moreover, in the statement made upon accession to the Covenant, the Government of the State of Qatar declares that it shall implement Article 8 of the Covenant based on the understanding that ‘what is meant by ‘trade unions’ and their related issues [...] is in line with the provisions of the Labor Law and national legislation’. However, in the view of the Government of the Hellenic Republic, this statement in fact amounts to a reservation as it limits the scope of application of Article 8 solely to the extent that it does not contravene the relevant 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 States 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.

---

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

The Government of the Hellenic Republic, therefore, objects to the abovementioned reservations made by the State of Qatar upon accession to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural 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 cursive 'A' followed by a period and a cursive 'h' followed by a period.