

## SPAIN

### CEDAW

#### **RESERVATIONS AND DECLARATIONS**

*(Unless otherwise indicated, the reservations and declarations were made upon ratification, accession or succession)*

Declaration:

The ratification of the Convention by Spain shall not affect the constitutional provisions concerning succession to the Spanish crown.

#### **OBJECTIONS MADE TO OTHER STATES PARTIES RESERVATIONS AND DECLARATIONS**

*(Ed. note: for the text targeted by the following objections, see the Reservations and Declarations of the State which is the subject of the objection)*

22 February 2001

With regard to the reservations made by Saudi Arabia upon ratification :

The Government of the Kingdom of Spain has examined the reservation made by the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women on [7] September 2000, regarding any interpretation of the Convention that may be incompatible with the norms of Islamic law and regarding article 9, paragraph 2.

The Government of the Kingdom of Spain considers that the general reference to Islamic law, without specifying its content, creates doubts among the other States parties about the extent to which the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia commits itself to fulfil its obligations under the Convention.

The Government of the Kingdom of Spain is of the view that such a reservation by the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is incompatible with the object and purpose of the Convention, since it refers to the Convention as a whole and seriously restricts or even excludes its application on a basis as ill-defined as the general reference to Islamic law.

Furthermore, the reservation to article 9, paragraph 2, aims at excluding one of the obligations concerning non-discrimination, which is the ultimate goal of the Convention.

The Government of the Kingdom of Spain recalls that according to article 28, paragraph 2, of the Convention, reservations that are incompatible with the object and purpose of the Convention shall not be permitted.

Therefore, the Government of the Kingdom of Spain objects to the said reservations by the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

This objection shall not preclude the entry into force of the Convention between the Kingdom of Spain and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

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5 July 2001

With regard to the reservations made by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea upon accession:

The Government of the Kingdom of Spain has examined the reservations made by the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to articles 2 (f) and 9 (2) of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, on 27 February 2001 in acceding to the Convention.

The Government of the Kingdom of Spain considers those reservations to be incompatible with the object and purpose of the Convention, since their intent is to exempt the Democratic People's Republic of Korea from committing itself to two essential elements of the Convention, one being the general requirement to take measures, including legislation, to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women (article 2 (f)) and the other being the requirement to address a specific form of discrimination with respect to the nationality of children (article 9(2)).

The Government of the Kingdom of Spain recalls that, under article 28 (2) of the Convention, reservations incompatible with the object and purpose of the Convention are not permitted.

Accordingly, the Government of the Kingdom of Spain objects to the above-mentioned reservations made by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

This objection does not prevent the Convention's entry into force between the Kingdom of Spain and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

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31 July 2003

With regard to the reservations made by the Syrian Arab Republic upon accession:

The Government of the Kingdom of Spain has examined the reservations made by the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic to article 2; article 9, paragraph 2; article 15, paragraph

4; and article 16, paragraph 1 (c), (d), (f) and (g) and paragraph 2 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, upon acceding to the Convention.

The Government of the Kingdom of Spain deems the above-mentioned reservations to be contrary to the object and purpose of the Convention, since they affect fundamental obligations of States parties thereunder. Moreover, the reservation to article 16, paragraph 2, of the Convention refers to the Islamic Shariah, without specifying its content, which raises doubts as to the degree of commitment of the Syrian Arab Republic in acceding to the Convention.

The Government of the Kingdom of Spain recalls that, under article 28, paragraph 2, of the Convention, reservations incompatible with the object and purpose of the Convention are not permitted.

Accordingly, the Government of the Kingdom of Spain objects to the reservations made by the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

This objection does not prevent the entry into force of the Convention between the Kingdom of Spain and the Syrian Arab Republic.

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6 October 2005

With regard to the reservations made by the United Arab Emirates upon accession:

The Government of the Kingdom of Spain has examined the reservations entered by the Government of the United Arab Emirates to article 2, subparagraph (f); article 9; article 15, paragraph 2; and article 16 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women upon its accession to that instrument on 6 October 2004.

The Government of the Kingdom of Spain considers that these reservations are incompatible with the object and purpose of the Convention, since they are intended to exempt the United Arab Emirates from obligations relating to essential aspects of the Convention: one of a general nature, namely the adoption of measures, including legislation, to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women (article 2, subparagraph (f)), and others concerning specific forms of discrimination in relation to nationality (article 9), legal capacity in civil matters (article 15, paragraph 2) and marriage and family relations (article 16).

The Government of the Kingdom of Spain recalls that, under article 28, paragraph 2, of the Convention, reservations incompatible with the object and purpose of the Convention are not permitted.

Moreover, the reservation to article 16 of the Convention makes a general reference to the

principles of Islamic law without specifying their content, with the result that the other States parties cannot precisely determine the extent to which the Government of the United Arab Emirates accepts the obligations set out in article 16 of the Convention.

Accordingly, the Government of the Kingdom of Spain objects to the reservations entered by the Government of the United Arab Emirates to article 2, subparagraph (f); article 9; article 15, paragraph 2; and article 16 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

This objection shall not preclude the entry into force of the Convention between the Kingdom of Spain and the United Arab Emirates.

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23 February 2007

With regard to the reservations made by Oman upon accession:

The Government of the Kingdom of Spain has examined the reservations made by the Sultanate of Oman upon accession to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women regarding all the provisions of the Convention which are incompatible with Islamic law and with the legislation in force in Oman and to articles 9 (2), 15 (4) and 16 of the Convention.

The Government of the Kingdom of Spain considers that the first part of the reservation which subordinates all the provisions of the Convention to conform to Islamic law and the legislation in force in Oman, to which it makes general reference, without specifying its content, does not permit clear determination as to the extent to which Oman has accepted the obligations derived under the Convention and, consequently, such reservation sheds doubt as to the extent to which the Sultanate of Oman is committed to the object and purpose of the Convention.

Furthermore, the reservations to articles 9 (2), 15 (4) and 16 are incompatible with the object and purpose of the Convention, which aim at exempting Oman from its commitment essential obligations of the Convention.

The Government of the Kingdom of Spain recalls that according to article 28 (2) of the Convention, reservations that are incompatible with the object and purpose of the Convention shall not be permitted.

Therefore, the Government of the Kingdom of Spain objects to the reservations made by the Sultanate of Oman to all the provisions of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women which are incompatible with Islamic law and with the legislation in force in Oman and to articles 9 (2), 15 (4) and 16 of the Convention.

This objection shall not preclude the entry into force of the Convention between the Kingdom of Spain and the Sultana of Oman.

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13 June 2007

With regard to the reservations made by Brunei Darussalam upon accession:

The Government of the Kingdom of Spain has examined the reservations made by Brunei Darussalam upon acceding to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women regarding all the provisions of the Convention that may be contrary to the Constitution of Brunei Darussalam and to the beliefs and principles of Islam, and regarding article 9.2 of the Convention.

The Government of the Kingdom of Spain believes that, by making the implementation of the provisions of the Convention subject to their compatibility with the Constitution of Brunei Darussalam and with the beliefs and principles of Islam, Brunei Darussalam has made a reservation which does not permit a clear determination of the extent to which it has accepted the obligations deriving from the Convention and that, consequently, the reservation raises doubts about the commitment of Brunei Darussalam to the object and purpose of the Convention. Moreover, the reservation regarding article 9.2 would exempt Brunei Darussalam from its commitment in relation to an essential element of the Convention and allow the continuation of a situation of de jure discrimination against women on grounds of sex which is incompatible with the object and purpose of the Convention.

The Government of the Kingdom of Spain recalls that, under article 28.2 of the Convention, reservations that are incompatible with the object and purpose of the Convention are not permitted.

Accordingly, the Government of the Kingdom of Spain objects to the reservations made by Brunei Darussalam regarding those provisions of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women that may be contrary to the Constitution of Brunei Darussalam and to the beliefs and principles of Islam and regarding article 9.2 of the Convention. This objection shall not preclude the entry into force of the Convention between the Kingdom of Spain and Brunei Darussalam.

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13 November 2009

With regard to the reservations made by Qatar upon accession:

The Government of the Kingdom of Spain has examined the reservations made by Qatar upon its

accession to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women with respect to article 9, paragraph 2, article 15, paragraphs 1 and 4, and article 16, paragraph 1 (a), (c) and (f) of the Convention, as well as the declarations made with respect to articles 1 and 5 (a) of the Convention.

The Government of the Kingdom of Spain believes that the aforementioned declarations relating to articles 1 and 5 (a) have no legal force and in no way exclude or modify the obligations assumed by Qatar under the Convention.

The Government of the Kingdom of Spain believes that the reservations made with respect to article 9, paragraph 2, article 15, paragraphs 1 and 4, and article 16, paragraph 1 (a), (c) and (f) are incompatible with the object and purpose of the Convention, since their intent is to exempt Qatar from committing itself to the elimination of specific forms of discrimination against women in such areas as nationality, equality with men before the law, free movement and residence, the right to enter into marriage, the matrimonial regime and filiation rights. These reservations affect essential obligations arising from the Convention and their observance is necessary in order to achieve the purpose of the Convention.

The Government of the Kingdom of Spain recalls that, according to article 28, paragraph 2, of the Convention, reservations that are incompatible with the object and purpose of the Convention shall not be permitted.

The Government of the Kingdom of Spain also believes that the reservations made by Qatar, which are based on inconsistency with Islamic law and incompatibility with existing domestic legislation, to which a general reference is made without specifying their contents, in no way excludes the legal effects of the obligations arising from the relevant provisions of the Convention.

Accordingly, the Government of the Kingdom of Spain objects to the reservations made by Qatar with respect to article 9, paragraph 2, article 15, paragraphs 1 and 4, and article 16, paragraph 1 (a), (c) and (f) of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

This objection shall not preclude the entry into force of the Convention between the Kingdom of Spain and Qatar.