

No. 14668

---

## MULTILATERAL

### **International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.**

**Adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on 19 December 1966**

### **Optional Protocol to the above-mentioned Covenant.**

**Adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on 19 December 1966**

*Authentic texts: English, French, Chinese, Russian and Spanish.*

*Registered ex officio on 23 March 1976.*

---

## MULTILATÉRAL

### **Pacte international relatif aux droits civils et politiques.**

**Adopté par l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies le 19 décembre 1966**

### **Protocole facultatif se rapportant au Pacte susmentionné.**

**Adopté par l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies le 19 décembre 1966**

*Textes authentiques : anglais, français, chinois, russe et espagnol.*

*Enregistrés d'office le 23 mars 1976.*

## INTERNATIONAL COVENANT<sup>1</sup> ON CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS

The States Parties to the present Covenant,

Considering that, in accordance with the principles proclaimed in the Charter of the United Nations, recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world,

<sup>1</sup> The Covenant, with the exception of article 41,\* came into force on 23 March 1976 in respect of the following States, i.e., three months after the date of deposit with the Secretary-General of the United Nations of the thirty-fifth instrument of ratification or accession, in accordance with article 49 (1):\*\*

<i>State</i>	<i>Date of deposit of the instrument of ratification or accession (a)</i>	<i>State</i>	<i>Date of deposit of the instrument of ratification or accession (a)</i>
Barbados***	5 January 1973 <sup>a</sup>	Iraq***	25 January 1971
Bulgaria***	21 September 1970	(Signature affixed on 18 February 1969.)	
Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic***	12 November 1973	Jamaica	3 October 1975
(Signature affixed on 19 March 1968.)		(Signature affixed on 19 December 1966.)	
Chile	10 February 1972	Jordan	28 May 1975
(Signature affixed on 16 September 1969.)		(Signature affixed on 30 June 1972.)	
Colombia	29 October 1969	Kenya	1 May 1972 <sup>a</sup>
(Signature affixed on 21 December 1966.)		Lebanon	3 November 1972 <sup>a</sup>
Costa Rica	29 November 1968	Libyan Arab Republic***	15 May 1970 <sup>a</sup>
(Signature affixed on 19 December 1966.)		Madagascar	21 June 1971
Cyprus	2 April 1969	(Signature affixed on 17 September 1969.)	
(Signature affixed on 19 December 1966.)		Mali	16 July 1974 <sup>a</sup>
Czechoslovakia***	23 December 1975	Mauritius	12 December 1973 <sup>a</sup>
(Signature affixed on 7 October 1968.)		Mongolia***	18 November 1974
Denmark***	6 January 1972	(Signature affixed on 5 June 1968.)	
(Signature affixed on 20 March 1968.)		Norway*****	13 September 1972
Ecuador	6 March 1969	(Signature affixed on 20 March 1968.)	
(Signature affixed on 4 April 1968.)		Romania***	9 December 1974
Finland*,***	19 August 1975	Rwanda	16 April 1975 <sup>a</sup>
(Signature affixed on 11 October 1967.)		Sweden*****	6 December 1971
German Democratic Republic***	8 November 1973	(Signature affixed on 29 September 1967.)	
(Signature affixed on 27 March 1973.)		Syrian Arab Republic***	21 April 1969 <sup>a</sup>
Germany, Federal Republic of***	17 December 1973	Tunisia	18 March 1969
(With a declaration of application to Berlin (West).)†		(Signature affixed on 30 April 1968.)	
(Signature affixed on 9 October 1968.)		Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic***	12 November 1973
Hungary***	17 January 1974	(Signature affixed on 20 March 1968.)	
(Signature affixed on 25 March 1969.)		Union of Soviet Socialist Republics***	16 October 1973
Iran	24 June 1975	(Signature affixed on 18 March 1968.)	
(Signature affixed on 4 April 1968.)		Uruguay	1 April 1970
		(Signature affixed on 21 February 1967.)	
		Yugoslavia	2 June 1971
		(Signature affixed on 8 August 1967.)	

*(Continued on page 173)*

Recognizing that these rights derive from the inherent dignity of the human person,

Recognizing that, in accordance with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the ideal of free human beings enjoying civil and political freedom and freedom from fear and want can only be achieved if conditions are created whereby everyone may enjoy his civil and political rights, as well as his economic, social and cultural rights,

Considering the obligation of States under the Charter of the United Nations to promote universal respect for, and observance of, human rights and freedoms,

Realizing that the individual, having duties to other individuals and to the community to which he belongs, is under a responsibility to strive for the promotion and observance of the rights recognized in the present Covenant,

Agree upon the following articles:

## PART I

*Article 1.* 1. All peoples have the right of self-determination. By virtue of that right they freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development.

2. All peoples may, for their own ends, freely dispose of their natural wealth and resources without prejudice to any obligations arising out of international economic co-operation, based upon the principle of mutual benefit, and international law. In no case may a people be deprived of its own means of subsistence.

3. The States Parties to the present Covenant, including those having responsibility for the administration of Non-Self-Governing and Trust Territories, shall promote the realization of the right of self-determination, and shall respect that right, in conformity with the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations.

## PART II

*Article 2.* 1. Each State Party to the present Covenant undertakes to respect and to ensure to all individuals within its territory and subject to its jurisdiction the rights recognized in the present Covenant, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status.

2. Where not already provided for by existing legislative or other measures, each State Party to the present Covenant undertakes to take the necessary steps, in accordance with its constitutional processes and with the provisions of the present

(Footnote continued from page 172)

\*See p. 300 of this volume for the texts of the declarations recognizing the competence of the Human Rights Committee under article 41.

\*\*Several of the 35 instruments deposited were accompanied by reservations, about which the Covenant is silent. In this regard, the Secretary-General, on the basis of the consultations that he held in the same circumstances with respect to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (see No. I-14531 of volume 993), has considered that the States concerned did not object to the entry into force of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights on 23 March 1976.

\*\*\*See p. 288 of this volume for the texts of the declarations and reservations made upon ratification or accession.

†The following countries made declarations regarding the declaration made upon ratification by the Federal Republic of Germany: France, German Democratic Republic, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America. For the texts of the said declarations, see No. I-14531 in volume 993.