

**8. b) Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of  
Discrimination against Women**

*New York, 6 October 1999*

**ENTRY INTO FORCE** 22 December 2000, in accordance with article 16(1)(see paragraph 16 of Resolution A/RES/54/4).  
**REGISTRATION:** 22 December 2000, No. 20378.  
**STATUS:** Signatories: 80. Parties: 104.  
**TEXT:** United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2131, p. 83.

*Note:* The Protocol was adopted by resolution A/RES/54/4 of 6 October 1999 at the fifty-fourth session of the General Assembly of the United Nations. In accordance with its article 15 (1), the Protocol will be open for signature by any State that has signed, ratified or acceded to the Convention at United Nations Headquarters in New York from 10 December 1999.

<i>Participant</i>	<i>Signature</i>	<i>Ratification, Accession(a), Succession(d)</i>	<i>Participant</i>	<i>Signature</i>	<i>Ratification, Accession(a), Succession(d)</i>
Albania.....		23 Jun 2003 a	Côte d'Ivoire .....		20 Jan 2012 a
Andorra.....	9 Jul 2001	14 Oct 2002	Croatia .....	5 Jun 2000	7 Mar 2001
Angola .....		1 Nov 2007 a	Cuba.....	17 Mar 2000	
Antigua and Barbuda.....		5 Jun 2006 a	Cyprus.....	8 Feb 2001	26 Apr 2002
Argentina <sup>1</sup> .....	28 Feb 2000	20 Mar 2007	Czech Republic.....	10 Dec 1999	26 Feb 2001
Armenia .....		14 Sep 2006 a	Denmark .....	10 Dec 1999	31 May 2000
Australia.....		4 Dec 2008 a	Dominican Republic .....	14 Mar 2000	10 Aug 2001
Austria .....	10 Dec 1999	6 Sep 2000	Ecuador.....	10 Dec 1999	5 Feb 2002
Azerbaijan.....	6 Jun 2000	1 Jun 2001	El Salvador .....	4 Apr 2001	
Bangladesh.....	6 Sep 2000	6 Sep 2000	Equatorial Guinea.....		16 Oct 2009 a
Belarus.....	29 Apr 2002	3 Feb 2004	Finland.....	10 Dec 1999	29 Dec 2000
Belgium .....	10 Dec 1999	17 Jun 2004	France .....	10 Dec 1999	9 Jun 2000
Belize.....		9 Dec 2002 a	Gabon.....		5 Nov 2004 a
Benin.....	25 May 2000		Georgia .....		1 Aug 2002 a
Bolivia (Plurinational State of).....	10 Dec 1999	27 Sep 2000	Germany .....	10 Dec 1999	15 Jan 2002
Bosnia and Herzegovina .....	7 Sep 2000	4 Sep 2002	Ghana.....	24 Feb 2000	3 Feb 2011
Botswana .....		21 Feb 2007 a	Greece.....	10 Dec 1999	24 Jan 2002
Brazil .....	13 Mar 2001	28 Jun 2002	Guatemala.....	7 Sep 2000	9 May 2002
Bulgaria .....	6 Jun 2000	20 Sep 2006	Guinea-Bissau.....	12 Sep 2000	5 Aug 2009
Burkina Faso.....	16 Nov 2001	10 Oct 2005	Hungary .....		22 Dec 2000 a
Burundi.....	13 Nov 2001		Iceland .....	10 Dec 1999	6 Mar 2001
Cabo Verde .....		10 Oct 2011 a	Indonesia.....	28 Feb 2000	
Cambodia.....	11 Nov 2001	13 Oct 2010	Ireland.....	7 Sep 2000	7 Sep 2000
Cameroon.....		7 Jan 2005 a	Italy.....	10 Dec 1999	22 Sep 2000
Canada .....		18 Oct 2002 a	Kazakhstan.....	6 Sep 2000	24 Aug 2001
Chad.....	26 Sep 2012		Kyrgyzstan.....		22 Jul 2002 a
Chile.....	10 Dec 1999		Lesotho .....	6 Sep 2000	24 Sep 2004
Colombia .....	10 Dec 1999	23 Jan 2007	Liberia.....	22 Sep 2004	
Congo.....	29 Sep 2008		Libya.....		18 Jun 2004 a
Cook Islands .....		27 Nov 2007 a	Liechtenstein.....	10 Dec 1999	24 Oct 2001
Costa Rica.....	10 Dec 1999	20 Sep 2001	Lithuania.....	8 Sep 2000	5 Aug 2004
			Luxembourg.....	10 Dec 1999	1 Jul 2003

<i>Participant</i>	<i>Signature</i>	<i>Ratification, Accession(a), Succession(d)</i>	<i>Participant</i>	<i>Signature</i>	<i>Ratification, Accession(a), Succession(d)</i>
Madagascar.....	7 Sep 2000		Serbia.....		31 Jul 2003 a
Malawi.....	7 Sep 2000		Seychelles.....	22 Jul 2002	1 Mar 2011
Maldives.....		13 Mar 2006 a	Sierra Leone.....	8 Sep 2000	
Mali.....		5 Dec 2000 a	Slovakia.....	5 Jun 2000	17 Nov 2000
Mauritius.....	11 Nov 2001	31 Oct 2008	Slovenia.....	10 Dec 1999	23 Sep 2004
Mexico.....	10 Dec 1999	15 Mar 2002	Solomon Islands.....		6 May 2002 a
Mongolia.....	7 Sep 2000	28 Mar 2002	South Africa.....		18 Oct 2005 a
Montenegro <sup>2</sup> .....		23 Oct 2006 d	Spain.....	14 Mar 2000	6 Jul 2001
Mozambique.....		4 Nov 2008 a	Sri Lanka.....		15 Oct 2002 a
Namibia.....	19 May 2000	26 May 2000	St. Kitts and Nevis.....		20 Jan 2006 a
Nepal.....	18 Dec 2001	15 Jun 2007	Sweden.....	10 Dec 1999	24 Apr 2003
Netherlands <sup>3</sup> .....	10 Dec 1999	22 May 2002	Switzerland.....	15 Feb 2007	29 Sep 2008
New Zealand <sup>4</sup> .....	7 Sep 2000	7 Sep 2000	Tajikistan.....	7 Sep 2000	
Niger.....		30 Sep 2004 a	Thailand.....	14 Jun 2000	14 Jun 2000
Nigeria.....	8 Sep 2000	22 Nov 2004	The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.....	3 Apr 2000	17 Oct 2003
Norway.....	10 Dec 1999	5 Mar 2002	Timor-Leste.....		16 Apr 2003 a
Panama.....	9 Jun 2000	9 May 2001	Tunisia.....		23 Sep 2008 a
Paraguay.....	28 Dec 1999	14 May 2001	Turkey.....	8 Sep 2000	29 Oct 2002
Peru.....	22 Dec 2000	9 Apr 2001	Turkmenistan.....		20 May 2009 a
Philippines.....	21 Mar 2000	12 Nov 2003	Ukraine.....	7 Sep 2000	26 Sep 2003
Poland.....		22 Dec 2003 a	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland <sup>5</sup> .....		17 Dec 2004 a
Portugal.....	16 Feb 2000	26 Apr 2002	United Republic of Tanzania.....		12 Jan 2006 a
Republic of Korea.....		18 Oct 2006 a	Uruguay.....	9 May 2000	26 Jul 2001
Republic of Moldova.....		28 Feb 2006 a	Vanuatu.....		17 May 2007 a
Romania.....	6 Sep 2000	25 Aug 2003	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).....	17 Mar 2000	13 May 2002
Russian Federation.....	8 May 2001	28 Jul 2004	Zambia.....	29 Sep 2008	
Rwanda.....		15 Dec 2008 a			
San Marino.....		15 Sep 2005 a			
Sao Tome and Principe..	6 Sep 2000				
Senegal.....	10 Dec 1999	26 May 2000			

### ***Declarations and Reservations***

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

#### **BANGLADESH**

*Declaration:*

“The Government of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh declares in accordance with Article 10 (1) thereof, that it would not undertake the obligations arising out of Articles 8 and 9 of the said Optional Protocol.”

#### **BELGIUM**

*Upon signature*

*Declaration:*

The Flemish, French and German-speaking Communities of Belgium are equally bound by this signature.

#### **BELIZE**

*Declaration:*

"WHEREAS, Article 10 of the Optional Protocol declares that at the time of acceding to the Optional Protocol, a State Party may declare that it does not recognize the competence of the Committee provided for in Articles 8 and 9 of the Optional Protocol

NOW THEREFORE, BELIZE, after having carefully considered Articles 8 and 9 of the Optional Protocol,

hereby declares that it does not recognize the competence of the Committee provided for in Articles 8 and 9."

## COLOMBIA

### *Declarations :*

1. The Government of Colombia, exercising the discretion provided for in article 10 of the Optional Protocol, and subject to the conditions set out therein, declares that it does not recognize the competence of the Committee provided for in articles 8 and 9 of the Protocol.

2. The Government of Colombia understands article 5 of the Protocol to mean that interim measures not only preclude "a determination on admissibility or on the merits of the communication", as established in article 5, paragraph 2, but that any measures involving the

enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights shall be applied in keeping with the progressive nature of these rights.

3. The Government of Colombia declares that no provision of the Optional Protocol and no recommendation of the Committee may be interpreted as requiring Colombia to decriminalize offences against life or personal integrity.

## CUBA

### *Upon signature:*

### *Declaration:*

The Government of the Republic of Cuba declares that it does not recognize the competence of the committee established by virtue of articles 8 and 9 of the Protocol.

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### *Notes:*

<sup>1</sup> With the following :

The Argentine Republic wishes to reiterate the content of its notes of 3 April 1989 and 18 January 2005, by which it rejected the extension of the territorial application of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and of the Optional Protocol thereto, respectively, to the Malvinas Islands, notified by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

The Argentine Republic recalls that the Malvinas Islands, South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands and surrounding maritime areas are an integral part of the territory of the Argentine Republic and are illegally occupied by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, being the subject of a sovereignty dispute.

Because of the illegal occupation by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the General Assembly of the United Nations adopted resolutions 2065 (XX), 316[0] (XXVIII), 31/49, 37/9, 38/12, 39/6, 40/21, 41/40, 42/19 and 43/25, in which a sovereignty dispute regarding the "Question of the Malvinas Islands" is recognized and the Governments of the Argentine Republic and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland are urged to resume negotiations in order to find as soon as possible a peaceful and lasting solution to the dispute.

The United Nations Special Political and Decolonization Committee has repeatedly affirmed this view, most recently in its resolution of 15 June 2006.

<sup>2</sup> See note 1 under "Montenegro" in the "Historical Information" section in the front matter of this volume.

<sup>3</sup> For the Kingdom in Europe and the Netherlands Antilles and Aruba. See also note 2 under "Netherlands" regarding Netherlands Antilles in the "Historical Information" section in the front matter of this volume.

<sup>4</sup> With a declaration to the effect that "consistent with the

constitutional status of Tokelau and taking into account its commitment to the development of self-government through an act of self-determination under the Charter of the United Nations, this ratification shall not extend to Tokelau unless and until a Declaration to this effect is lodged by the Government of New Zealand with the depositary on the basis of appropriate consultation with that territory."

<sup>5</sup> With a territorial application to the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) and the Isle of Man.

On 18 January 2005, the Secretary-General received, from the Government of Argentina, the following communication:

The Argentine Republic wishes to reiterate the content of its note of 3 April 1989, by which it rejected the extension of the territorial application of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women to the Malvinas (Falkland) Islands, South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands, notified by the Government of the United Kingdom upon its ratification of that instrument on 7 April 1986.

The Argentine Republic similarly rejects the declaration of territorial application made by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland upon its accession to the 1999 Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, with respect to the Malvinas (Falkland) Islands. The Government of Argentina wishes to reiterate that the Malvinas (Falkland) Islands, South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands and surrounding maritime areas are an integral part of the territory of the Argentine Republic and are illegally occupied by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, being the subject of a sovereignty dispute.

Because of the illegal occupation by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the General Assembly of the United Nations adopted resolutions 2065 (XX), 316 (XXVIII), 31/49, 37/9, 38/12, 39/6, 40/21, 41/40, 42/19 and 43/25, in which a sovereignty dispute regarding the "Question of the Malvinas (Falkland) Islands" is recognized and the Governments of the Argentine Republic and the United Kingdom of Great

Britain and Northern Ireland are urged to resume negotiations in order to find as soon as possible a peaceful and lasting solution to the dispute.

The United Nations Special Political and Decolonization Committee has repeatedly affirmed this view, most recently in its resolution of 18 June 2004 (A/59/23).

