

**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: 109.

TEXT: United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2131, p. 83.

Note: The Protocol was adopted by resolution /doc/source/docs/A_RES_54_4-Eng.pdf 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	Congo.....	29 Sep 2008	
Andorra.....	9 Jul 2001	14 Oct 2002	Cook Islands		27 Nov 2007 a
Angola		1 Nov 2007 a	Costa Rica.....	10 Dec 1999	20 Sep 2001
Antigua and Barbuda.....		5 Jun 2006 a	Côte d'Ivoire		20 Jan 2012 a
Argentina ¹	28 Feb 2000	20 Mar 2007	Croatia	5 Jun 2000	7 Mar 2001
Armenia		14 Sep 2006 a	Cuba.....	17 Mar 2000	
Australia.....		4 Dec 2008 a	Cyprus.....	8 Feb 2001	26 Apr 2002
Austria	10 Dec 1999	6 Sep 2000	Czech Republic.....	10 Dec 1999	26 Feb 2001
Azerbaijan.....	6 Jun 2000	1 Jun 2001	Denmark	10 Dec 1999	31 May 2000
Bangladesh.....	6 Sep 2000	6 Sep 2000	Dominican Republic	14 Mar 2000	10 Aug 2001
Belarus	29 Apr 2002	3 Feb 2004	Ecuador.....	10 Dec 1999	5 Feb 2002
Belgium	10 Dec 1999	17 Jun 2004	El Salvador	4 Apr 2001	
Belize.....		9 Dec 2002 a	Equatorial Guinea		16 Oct 2009 a
Benin.....	25 May 2000		Finland.....	10 Dec 1999	29 Dec 2000
Bolivia (Plurinational State of).....	10 Dec 1999	27 Sep 2000	France	10 Dec 1999	9 Jun 2000
Bosnia and Herzegovina	7 Sep 2000	4 Sep 2002	Gabon.....		5 Nov 2004 a
Botswana		21 Feb 2007 a	Georgia		1 Aug 2002 a
Brazil	13 Mar 2001	28 Jun 2002	Germany	10 Dec 1999	15 Jan 2002
Bulgaria	6 Jun 2000	20 Sep 2006	Ghana.....	24 Feb 2000	3 Feb 2011
Burkina Faso.....	16 Nov 2001	10 Oct 2005	Greece.....	10 Dec 1999	24 Jan 2002
Burundi	13 Nov 2001		Guatemala.....	7 Sep 2000	9 May 2002
Cabo Verde		10 Oct 2011 a	Guinea-Bissau.....	12 Sep 2000	5 Aug 2009
Cambodia.....	11 Nov 2001	13 Oct 2010	Hungary		22 Dec 2000 a
Cameroon.....		7 Jan 2005 a	Iceland	10 Dec 1999	6 Mar 2001
Canada		18 Oct 2002 a	Indonesia.....	28 Feb 2000	
Central African Republic		11 Oct 2016 a	Ireland.....	7 Sep 2000	7 Sep 2000
Chad.....	26 Sep 2012		Italy.....	10 Dec 1999	22 Sep 2000
Chile.....	10 Dec 1999		Kazakhstan.....	6 Sep 2000	24 Aug 2001
Colombia	10 Dec 1999	23 Jan 2007	Kyrgyzstan.....		22 Jul 2002 a
			Lesotho	6 Sep 2000	24 Sep 2004
			Liberia.....	22 Sep 2004	

<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>
Libya.....		18 Jun 2004 a	Sao Tome and Principe..	6 Sep 2000	23 Mar 2017
Liechtenstein.....	10 Dec 1999	24 Oct 2001	Senegal.....	10 Dec 1999	26 May 2000
Lithuania.....	8 Sep 2000	5 Aug 2004	Serbia.....		31 Jul 2003 a
Luxembourg.....	10 Dec 1999	1 Jul 2003	Seychelles.....	22 Jul 2002	1 Mar 2011
Madagascar.....	7 Sep 2000		Sierra Leone.....	8 Sep 2000	
Malawi.....	7 Sep 2000		Slovakia.....	5 Jun 2000	17 Nov 2000
Maldives.....		13 Mar 2006 a	Slovenia.....	10 Dec 1999	23 Sep 2004
Mali.....		5 Dec 2000 a	Solomon Islands.....		6 May 2002 a
Mauritius.....	11 Nov 2001	31 Oct 2008	South Africa.....		18 Oct 2005 a
Mexico.....	10 Dec 1999	15 Mar 2002	South Sudan.....		30 Apr 2015 a
Monaco.....		3 May 2016 a	Spain.....	14 Mar 2000	6 Jul 2001
Mongolia.....	7 Sep 2000	28 Mar 2002	Sri Lanka.....		15 Oct 2002 a
Montenegro ²		23 Oct 2006 d	St. Kitts and Nevis.....		20 Jan 2006 a
Mozambique.....		4 Nov 2008 a	Sweden.....	10 Dec 1999	24 Apr 2003
Namibia.....	19 May 2000	26 May 2000	Switzerland.....	15 Feb 2007	29 Sep 2008
Nepal.....	18 Dec 2001	15 Jun 2007	Tajikistan.....	7 Sep 2000	22 Jul 2014
Netherlands ³	10 Dec 1999	22 May 2002	Thailand.....	14 Jun 2000	14 Jun 2000
New Zealand ⁴	7 Sep 2000	7 Sep 2000	The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.....	3 Apr 2000	17 Oct 2003
Niger.....		30 Sep 2004 a	Timor-Leste.....		16 Apr 2003 a
Nigeria.....	8 Sep 2000	22 Nov 2004	Tunisia.....		23 Sep 2008 a
Norway.....	10 Dec 1999	5 Mar 2002	Turkey.....	8 Sep 2000	29 Oct 2002
Panama.....	9 Jun 2000	9 May 2001	Turkmenistan.....		20 May 2009 a
Paraguay.....	28 Dec 1999	14 May 2001	Ukraine.....	7 Sep 2000	26 Sep 2003
Peru.....	22 Dec 2000	9 Apr 2001	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland ⁵		17 Dec 2004 a
Philippines.....	21 Mar 2000	12 Nov 2003	United Republic of Tanzania.....		12 Jan 2006 a
Poland.....		22 Dec 2003 a	Uruguay.....	9 May 2000	26 Jul 2001
Portugal.....	16 Feb 2000	26 Apr 2002	Vanuatu.....		17 May 2007 a
Republic of Korea.....		18 Oct 2006 a	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).....	17 Mar 2000	13 May 2002
Republic of Moldova.....		28 Feb 2006 a	Zambia.....	29 Sep 2008	
Romania.....	6 Sep 2000	25 Aug 2003			
Russian Federation.....	8 May 2001	28 Jul 2004			
Rwanda.....		15 Dec 2008 a			
San Marino.....		15 Sep 2005 a			

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

BANGLADESH

“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

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

BELIZE

"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

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

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.

TAJIKISTAN

"... the Majlisi Oli (Parliament) of the Republic of Tajikistan ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women from 6 October 1999, without recognizing the competence of the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, provided in Articles 8 and 9 of the Protocol."

Notes:

¹ 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.

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

³ 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.

⁴ 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."

⁵ 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), 3160 (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).

