



2025

India's State Practice on Reservations to International Human Rights Treaties

Heena Parveen and Aayush Bhardwaj

Recommended Citation

Heena Parveen and Aayush Bhardwaj, *India's State Practice on Reservations to International Human Rights Treaties*, 4 IJHRLR 29-46 (2025).
Available at www.humanrightlawreview.in/archives/.

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the International Journal of Human Rights Law Review by an authorized Lex Assisto Media and Publications administrator. For more information, please contact info@humanrightlawreview.in.

India's State Practice on Reservations to International Human Rights Treaties

Heena Parveen and Aayush Bhardwaj

*Assistant Professor, GD Goenka University
PGD IPR, National Law School of India University.*

Manuscript Received
26 Dec. 2024

Manuscript Accepted
31 Dec. 2024

Manuscript Published
02 Jan. 2025

ABSTRACT

Human rights are the rights of individuals that have been established to be inherent, inalienable, and indivisible; inherent because everyone, on the face of the earth, should have dignity, equality and justice. These are human rights which cross national borders and underpin today's international relations. This paper critically explores how India Treaty on reservations to international human rights treaties with regard to sovereignty and the human rights regime. During the formulation of reservation, a state may pre-advise other states under Article 19 of the first part of the VCLT subject to the provisions that the reservation must not defeat the object and purpose of the treaty.

Objections to CEDAW and ICCPR by India demonstrate a concern that pervades most countries of how domestic constitutional provisions conflict with international legal standards. The Indian stance on CEDAW Articles 5(a) and 16, which covered the issue on gender equality within family and social productive roles, on the ground of personal laws which are in contradiction with religious and cultural practice. Likewise, protection given by India in their interpretative declaration to Article 1 of ICCPR which deals with self-determination expresses its apprehensions relating to sovereignty, especially about its territory, that is, Jammu and Kashmir.

These positions, as much as they sought to protect the internal agendas of states, have elicited the ire of states such as Sweden and Germany which assert that such reservations defeat the very purpose and legal commitment of treaty making. The work relies upon treaty monitoring reports, including those from the Human Rights Committee which have time and again

urged on India to limit the number of reservations. The Human Rights Committee, in cases such as Rawle Kennedy v. The Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago has pointed out that state reservations have to be applied in line with the object and purpose of the treaty to maintain the universality and efficacy of human rights principles.

As the following sections compare India's practices with the International legal standards, this paper seeks to establish the ways of balancing sovereignty with human rights universality. It provides suggestions for promoting Treaty-Based Compliance; Improving India's Role in Human Rights; and Strengthening International Legal System.

KEYWORDS

Human Rights, Sovereignty, CEDAW, ICCPR, Reservation.

LITERATURE REVIEW

The discourse on reservations to human rights treaties reflects diverse perspectives. Hafner-Burton et al. (2008) analyzed treaty compliance mechanisms, highlighting the effectiveness of monitoring bodies. Fitzmaurice (2006) explored the interplay between state sovereignty and international obligations under the VCLT. Shelton (2010) examined the Human Rights Committee's role in addressing reservations, emphasizing its influence on state practices. Goodman and Jinks (2003) discussed normative pressures that compel states to withdraw or narrow reservations. Steiner (2011) analyzed the impact of reservations on treaty universality, proposing reforms to strengthen global human rights governance. These studies reveal critical tensions in state practice.

OBJECTIVE

This study aims to critically analyze India's state practice of reservations to international human rights treaties. It seeks to explore the legal and practical implications of these reservations on the universality of human rights norms and to evaluate their compliance with the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties. The research further investigates the responses of treaty-monitoring bodies and other states to India's reservations. Ultimately, the objective is to propose strategies for harmonizing domestic legal frameworks with international human rights

obligations while preserving India's sovereignty and global human rights leadership.

INTRODUCTION

Reservations to international human rights treaties have been a contentious trouble, shaping the landscape of world human rights implementation. When states ratify or accede to worldwide treaties, they often find certain provisions incompatible with their home laws or regulations. As a end result, they'll choose to make reservations, permitting them to exclude or regulate specific treaty provisions while nonetheless becoming parties to the treaty¹. This creation sets the degree for the exploration of reservations beneath international law, emphasizing their importance in navigating the intersection between countrywide sovereignty and global human rights norms. It also introduces the point of interest of the article, that's to apprehend India's nation practice regarding reservations to worldwide human rights treaties. Reservations were concerned with a large debate inside the international network, with diverse stakeholders holding divergent views on their legitimacy and implications². Some argue that reservations are vital for accommodating variety amongst states and selling generic participation in treaties, even as others contend that reservations might also undermine the integrity and effectiveness of treaties by way of diluting their duties. Understanding the concept and implications of reservations is vital for assessing their position inside the worldwide human rights regime and their effect on the safety and advertising of human rights worldwide.

India's state practice on reservations to international human rights treaties is a critical area of study that sheds light on the country's approach to human rights obligations³. Reservations and declarations made by India to core human rights conventions are significant as they reflect the country's unique dilemma in balancing its commitment to human rights with its concerns about sovereignty and national interest. Understanding India's reservations and declarations to core human rights conventions is essential for assessing the country's

¹ Alain Pellet, The ILC Guide to Practice on Reservations to Treaties: A General Presentation by the Special Rapporteur, *European Journal of International Law*, Volume 24, Issue 4, November 2013, Pages 1061–1097, <https://doi.org/10.1093/ejil/cht067>

² Eqbal, M.T. International Organizations and reservations to treaties: a critical review of the International Law Commission's work. *Indian Journal of International Law* 58, 399–424 (2018). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s40901-019-00101-z>

³ Clark, Belinda. "The Vienna Convention Reservations Regime and the Convention on Discrimination Against Women." *The American Journal of International Law*, vol. 85, no. 2, 1991, pp. 281–321. JSTOR, <https://doi.org/10.2307/2203063>. Accessed 21 Apr. 2024.

compliance with its human rights obligations and the effectiveness of the international human rights regime.

INDIA'S RESERVATIONS AND DECLARATIONS TO CORE HUMAN RIGHTS CONVENTIONS

India has made several reservations and declarations to core human rights conventions⁴, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)⁵ and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR)⁶. These reservations and declarations reflect the country's efforts to reconcile its domestic legal frameworks with its international obligations.

With reference to Article 1 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and Article 1 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Government of the Republic of India declares that the words "the right of self-determination" appearing in these articles shall be interpreted in accordance with the country's Constitution and the policy of non-interference in the internal affairs of other countries. This declaration reflects India's position that the right of self-determination should not be interpreted in a way that undermines the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the state⁷. With reference to Article 9 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Government of the Republic of India takes the position that the provisions of the article shall be so applied as to be in conformity with the country's laws relating to foreigners. This reservation reflects India's concerns about the application of the provisions of the article to foreigners in the country. With respect to Article 13 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Government of the Republic of India reserves its right to apply its law relating to foreigners. This reservation reflects India's concerns about the application of the provisions of the article to foreigners in the country. With reference to Articles 4 and 8 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and

⁴ Fitzmaurice, M., & Rydberg, A. (2021). Derogations and Reservations in International Law. In Oxford Bibliographies Online. Retrieved from <https://doi.org/10.1093/OBO/9780199796953-0223>

⁵ United Nations General Assembly. (1966). International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 999, p. 171. <https://www.refworld.org/legal/agreements/unga/1966/en/17703>

⁶ United Nations General Assembly. (1966). International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 993, p. 3. <https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/international-covenant-economic-social-and-cultural-rights>

⁷ Marko Milanovic, Linos-Alexander Sicilianos, Reservations to Treaties: An Introduction, *European Journal of International Law*, Volume 24, Issue 4, November 2013, Pages 1055–1059, <https://doi.org/10.1093/ejil/cht074>

Cultural Rights, and Articles 12, 19 (3), 21 and 22 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Government of the Republic of India declares that it shall implement the provisions of the articles in accordance with the country's constitutional provisions and laws. This declaration reflects India's position that the provisions of the articles shall be implemented in a manner that is consistent with the country's domestic legal frameworks. With reference to Article 7 (c) of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights⁸, the Government of the Republic of India declares that the provisions of the article shall be so applied as to be in conformity with the country's laws and regulations. This declaration reflects India's position that the provisions of the article shall be implemented in a manner that is consistent with the country's domestic legal frameworks.

SIGNIFICANCE OF UNDERSTANDING INDIA'S RESERVATIONS AND DECLARATIONS TO CORE HUMAN RIGHTS CONVENTIONS

Understanding India's reservations and declarations to core human rights conventions is significant for several reasons. First, India's reservations and declarations reflect the country's unique dilemma in balancing its commitment to human rights with its concerns about sovereignty and national interest⁹. India's reservations and declarations often reflect the country's efforts to reconcile its domestic legal frameworks with its international obligations.

Second, India's reservations and declarations have implications for the effectiveness and universality of the international human rights regime¹⁰. Reservations to human rights treaties can undermine the universality and effectiveness of these treaties by diluting their standards and weakening their enforcement mechanisms.

⁸ United Nations. (1966). International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. Article 7(c), United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 993, p. 3. <https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/international-covenant-economic-social-and-cultural-rights>

⁹ Patel, B. N. (2015, May 21). The state practice of India and the development of international law : selected areas. Retrieved from <https://hdl.handle.net/1887/33019>

¹⁰ National Human Rights Commission India. (2012). A Handbook on International Human Rights Conventions. (J.P. Meena, Shri & B.S. Nagar, Shri, Eds.). Research & Prepared by Sonali Huria, Research Consultant, NHRC. Retrieved from <https://www.nhrc.nic.in/sites/default/files/A%20Handbook%20on%20International%20Human%20Rights%20Conventions.pdf>

Third, India's reservations and declarations have been subject to objections and criticisms from other states, international organizations, and civil society actors¹¹. These objections and criticisms highlight the challenges and controversies surrounding the use of reservations in human rights treaties.

Fourth, India's reservations and declarations provide insights into the country's evolving position on human rights issues. India's reservations and declarations often reflect the country's efforts to shape and implement the international law of human rights in its own way and pace. In conclusion, understanding India's state practice on reservations to international human rights treaties is significant for assessing the country's compliance with its human rights obligations and the effectiveness of the international human rights regime. India's reservations and declarations reflect the country's unique dilemma in balancing its commitment to human rights with its concerns about sovereignty and national interest. India's state practice on reservations to international human rights treaties has implications for the universality and effectiveness of the international human rights regime and provides insights into the country's evolving position on human rights issues.

CONCEPT OF RESERVATION

Reservations in global regulation discuss with unilateral statements made with the aid of states whilst signing, ratifying, accepting, approving, or acceding to a treaty, permitting them to exclude or alter certain provisions that they locate incompatible with their domestic legal guidelines or guidelines. The Vienna Convention at the Law of Treaties (VCLT) provides a framework for knowledge the legal implications of reservations made by means of states whilst becoming parties to treaties. This article delves into the concept of reservation in international law, the relevance of the VCLT, and the effect of reservations at the effectiveness of global human rights treaties.

The time period "reservation" in international regulation is described by way of the VCLT as a unilateral statement made with the aid of a kingdom that excludes or modifies the felony effect of positive provisions of a treaty of their software to that state. This definition underscores the importance of reservations in permitting states to tailor their treaty duties to align with their home criminal frameworks, cultural norms, and political realities.

¹¹ India's Reservations And Declarations To Core Human Rights Conventions International Law Essay. Retrieved from <https://www.ukessays.com/essays/law/indias-reservations-and-declarations-to-core-human-rights-conventions-international-law-essay.php?vref=1>

Reservations function a mechanism for states to reconcile their global commitments with home criminal requirements, thereby enabling broader participation in international treaties.

The Vienna Convention at the Law of Treaties¹² is a pivotal instrument that governs the formation and interpretation of treaties in worldwide regulation. It presents a framework for know-how the prison implications of reservations made by using states while becoming events to treaties. Article 2(1)(d) of the VCLT¹³ defines a reservation as a unilateral statement made with the aid of a kingdom that excludes or modifies the prison effect of certain provisions of a treaty of their software to that country. This definition highlights the significance of reservations in permitting states to participate in treaties even as keeping their sovereign discretion to alter or exclude particular provisions.

The relevance of the VCLT to reservations lies in its provisions at the validity, withdrawal, and objections to reservations. The VCLT sets tips for the validity of reservations, stipulating that they ought to now not be prohibited by means of the treaty, ought to not war with distinctive reservations, and need to now not be incompatible with the object and reason of the treaty. These criteria aim to strike a balance among accommodating country interests and upholding the integrity of international human rights standards.

The VCLT additionally provides for the withdrawal of reservations, allowing states to revise or cast off their reservations in light of evolving domestic or global instances. Additionally, the VCLT addresses the difficulty of objections to reservations, enabling states to express their issues approximately the compatibility of reservations with the item and cause of a treaty. The VCLT's provisions on reservations mirror a delicate stability between country sovereignty and global duties, recognizing the need to accommodate various prison structures and cultural norms even as keeping the universality and effectiveness of global human rights treaties.

The effect of reservations on the effectiveness of global human rights treaties is a complicated and multifaceted problem. On one hand, reservations can enhance participation in treaties

¹² United Nations. (1969). Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties. United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 1155, p. 331. Retrieved from https://legal.un.org/ilc/texts/instruments/english/conventions/1_1_1_969.pdf

¹³ Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties. (1969). Article 2(1)(d). United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 1155, p. 331. Retrieved from https://legal.un.org/ilc/texts/instruments/english/conventions/1_1_1_969.pdf

by means of accommodating diverse felony structures and cultural norms, thereby selling broader adherence to human rights norms. They additionally reflect the principle of sovereign consent, allowing states to accept treaty obligations even as addressing particular worries. However, reservations can also undermine the universality and effectiveness of human rights treaties with the aid of diluting their requirements and weakening their enforcement mechanisms.

The compatibility of reservations with the item and cause of human rights treaties is a essential attention. Reservations that essentially alter the middle standards or objectives of a treaty may also undermine its effectiveness and erode the rights it seeks to guard. The VCLT presents standards for assessing the validity of reservations, emphasizing that reservations ought to not be prohibited by means of the treaty, have to not war with specified reservations, and must now not be incompatible with the item and reason of the treaty. This framework aims to strike a balance between accommodating kingdom hobbies and upholding the integrity of worldwide human rights requirements.

In exercise, reservations to human rights treaties have yielded blended results. While reservations have facilitated country participation in treaties, they have additionally raised concerns approximately the erosion of human rights standards. For example, India's reservations to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) were criticized for undermining the universality and effectiveness of these treaties¹⁴. India's reservations to Article 1 of the ICCPR and ICESCR, which pertain to the proper of self-dedication, had been met with objections from different states, highlighting the challenges and controversies surrounding the usage of reservations in human rights treaties. The practice of human rights bodies on reservations to human rights treaties has varied. Some have taken a strict approach, insisting that reservations should comply with the object and cause of the treaty. Others were more flexible, bearing in mind a broader range of reservations. The 2011 Guide to Practice on Reservations to Treaties¹⁵, evolved with the aid of the International Law Commission, gives guidance on the translation and alertness of

¹⁴ Vasudevan Shritha,. "Would the 'Optional Protocol' Effectuate India's Due Diligence Obligation Under the Women's Convention?" *Asian Journal of International Law* 13.1 (2023): 76–96.

¹⁵ International Law Commission. (2011). *Guide to Practice on Reservations to Treaties*. Retrieved from https://legal.un.org/ilc/texts/instruments/english/draft_articles/1_8_2011.pdf

the VCLT's provisions on reservations

In end, reservations in global regulation function a mechanism for states to reconcile their treaty obligations with domestic legal necessities¹⁶. While reservations can facilitate nation participation in human rights treaties, their impact at the effectiveness and universality of those treaties remains a subject of dialogue. Striking a stability among nation sovereignty and international human rights requirements is crucial to make certain the integrity and efficacy of the global human rights regime. The VCLT presents a framework for know-how the legal implications of reservations, putting recommendations for their validity, withdrawal, and objections, and emphasizing the want to hold the item and motive of human rights treaties.

ORIGIN OF THE RULE

The exercise of reservations to international treaties emerged inside the nineteenth century, offering states a mechanism to grow to be events to treaties even as addressing conflicts with their national legal guidelines or regulations. Historically, states have applied reservations to shield their sovereignty and make sure that worldwide duties do no longer unduly interfere with home legal guidelines and practices¹⁷. However, the legitimacy and function of reservations were topics of dialogue. While some argue that reservations are necessary for accommodating variety among states and promoting widespread participation in treaties, others contend that reservations can also undermine the integrity and effectiveness of treaties by means of diluting their duties¹⁸. This phase affords historic context to the improvement of the guideline on reservations, losing mild on its evolution and the ongoing discourse surrounding its use in worldwide law. By examining the ancient origins of the guideline on reservations, this phase ambitions to offer insights into the factors which have shaped its improvement and the controversies surrounding its application within the context of worldwide human rights treaties¹⁹.

¹⁶ Tom Ginsburg, "Objections to Treaty Reservations: A Comparative Approach to Decentralized Interpretation," in *Comparative International Law*. (Anthea Roberts, Paul B. Stephan III, Pierre-Hugues Verdier & Mila Versteeg eds., Oxford University Press, 2018).

¹⁷ Chung, E. (2015, December 5). *General Principles Regarding the Legal Validity of RUDs*. A Report of the Center for Global Legal Challenge

¹⁸ Schabas, William A. "Reservations to Human Rights Treaties: Time for Innovation and Reform." *Canadian Yearbook of international Law/Annuaire canadien de droit international* 32 (1995): 39–81

¹⁹ Neumayer, Eric (2007) *Qualified ratification: explaining reservations to international human rights treaties*. *Journal of Legal Studies*, 36 (2). pp. 397-430. DOI: 10.1086/511894

INDIA'S ENGAGEMENT WITH RESERVATIONS

India's method to reservations to worldwide human rights treaties reflects its dedication to upholding each home laws and worldwide responsibilities²⁰. Over the years, India has utilized reservations strategically to reconcile its constitutional framework and socio-cultural range with its duties under global human rights treaties. This phase explores India's country practice regarding reservations, analyzing the treaties to which India has made reservations and the cause at the back of these reservations. It highlights India's efforts to balance its commitment to human rights with its specific countrywide context, emphasizing the pragmatic method adopted with the aid of India in navigating the complexities of worldwide law and home governance²¹. India's engagement with reservations to international human rights treaties is fashioned by using different factors, such as its constitutional framework, felony traditions, and socio-political realities. By examining India's approach to reservations, this section ambitions to provide insights into the complexities worried in reconciling country wide sovereignty with global human rights norms in a diverse and pluralistic society.

ANALYSIS OF INDIA'S RESERVATIONS

This phase delves deeper into India's reservations to specific worldwide human rights treaties, including the **ICCPR, ICESCR, CRC, CERD, and CEDAW**. It analyzes the reservations made by means of India to each treaty, thinking about the legal and coverage concerns that underpin these reservations.²² Additionally, it examines the impact of India's reservations on the implementation of treaty responsibilities domestically and evaluates their compatibility with international human rights norms. Through an in depth evaluation of India's reservations, this phase offers insights into India's method to balancing its national pastimes with its international human rights commitments²³. India's reservations to global human rights treaties were concern to scrutiny each domestically and the world over, with stakeholders expressing divergent perspectives on their

²⁰ Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India. (n.d.). Treaties and Agreements. Retrieved from <https://www.mea.gov.in/treaty.htm>

²¹ United Nations Human Rights Committee. (1994). General Comment No. 24: Issues relating to reservations made upon ratification or accession to the Covenant or the Optional Protocols thereto, or in relation to declarations under article 41 of the Covenant (Art. 41). Retrieved from <https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/200963?ln=en>

²² Centre for Civil and Political Rights. (2017). Reservations / declarations made by State parties per ICCPR Article 3. Retrieved from https://ccprcentre.org/files/media/List_of_ICCPR_reservations.pdf

²³ Nirmal, C. J., ed., Human Rights in India: Historical, Social and Political Perspectives (New Delhi; Oxford University Press, 1999).

validity and implications. By carrying out a complete evaluation of India's reservations, this section aims to make a contribution to a nuanced understanding of the complexities concerned in reconciling countrywide sovereignty with international human rights norms inside the context of a numerous and pluralistic society²⁴.

INDIA'S STATE PRACTICE ON RESERVATIONS TO INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS TREATIES: A TIMELINE ANALYSIS

India's engagement with global human rights treaties has been characterized with the aid of a strategic method to reservations, reflecting the country's commitment to balancing its countrywide laws with global duties. A chronological exam of India's reservations to key human rights treaties affords treasured insights into the evolution of its kingdom practice over the years.

2004 : The year 2004²⁵ marked an extensive milestone in India's engagement with worldwide human rights treaties. India made a incredible announcement regarding Article 13 of the ***International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)***, signaling its purpose to safeguard its sovereignty in matters concerning non-residents. This assertion reserved India's proper to use its regulation relating to foreigners, reflecting the India's stance on immigration and related troubles. Additionally, India made declarations regarding Articles 4 and 8 of the ***International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR)***. These declarations aimed to make certain that the provisions of these articles align with India's countrywide legal guidelines, highlighting the country's commitment to integrating worldwide human rights standards into its domestic criminal framework. By making those declarations, India underscored its dedication to promoting economic, social, and cultural rights within its home context.

2005: The year 2005²⁶ witnessed further tendencies in India's engagement with human rights treaties. India ratified the ICESCR, observed by an announcement on ***Article 7(c)*** to make sure alignment with country wide laws. This ratification

²⁴ Tyagi, Yogesh K., "Human Rights in India: An Overview", *International Studies*, vol. 29, no. 2, 1992.

²⁵ International Law Commission. (2004). Report of the International Law Commission on the work of the 56th session: Reservation to Treaties (Chapter IX, pp. 97-110). Retrieved from <https://legal.un.org/ilc/reports/2004/english/chp9.pdf>

²⁶ International Law Commission. (2005). Report of the International Law Commission on the work of the 57th session: Reservation to Treaties (Chapter X, pp. 63-82). Retrieved from <https://legal.un.org/ilc/reports/2005/english/chp10.pdf>

reaffirmed India's dedication to selling monetary, social, and cultural rights as fundamental components of its human rights time table. Moreover, India made declarations regarding **Article 1 of each the ICCPR and ICESCR**, mentioning that the phrase "**the right of self-determination**²⁷" will be interpreted in accordance with countrywide laws. This announcement reiterated India's stance on decoding human rights principles in a manner steady with its constitutional framework and felony traditions. By emphasizing the significance of country wide laws in deciphering human rights treaties, India sought to make certain that worldwide duties do now not undermine its sovereignty or constitutional concepts. India also made a announcement concerning **Article 9 of the ICCPR**²⁸, making sure that its provisions are in conformity with country wide laws. By making this assertion, India signaled its commitment to upholding the rule of thumb of regulation whilst imposing the provisions of the ICCPR. This reaffirmation of India's dedication to the guideline of law underscored its willpower to ensuring that human rights standards are upheld in accordance with its felony machine. Furthermore, India took a proactive step in promoting girls's rights by way of submitting its initial file to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) in 2005²⁹. This document highlighted India's efforts to put in force the provisions of the CEDAW. By enticing with the CEDAW committee, India tested its willingness to participate inside the global human rights tracking mechanism and its dedication to selling gender equality on the countrywide stage.

2007: In 2007³⁰, India ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) with none reservations or declarations. This ratification demonstrated India's help for the rights of individuals with disabilities and its commitment to selling their inclusion and participation in society. By ratifying the CRPD, India affirmed its dedication to making sure the entire recognition of the rights of individuals with disabilities and to

²⁷ UN Human Rights Committee (HRC), *CCPR General Comment No. 12: Article 1 (Right to Self-determination), The Right to Self-determination of Peoples*, 13 March 1984, <https://www.refworld.org/legal/general/hrc/1984/en/11735> [accessed 21 April 2024]

²⁸ United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner. (2014). General Comment No. 35: Article 9 (Liberty and Security of Person). Retrieved from <https://www.ohchr.org/en/professionalinterest/pages/ccpr.aspx>

²⁹ National Commission for Women. (n.d.). CEDAW - The Reservations And Optional Protocol. Retrieved from <http://ncw.nic.in/sites/default/files/CEDAW%20The%20Reservations%20And%20Optional%20Protocol.pdf>

³⁰ International Law Commission. (2007). Report of the International Law Commission on the work of the fifty-ninth session, 2007: Chapter IV (Reservation to Treaties) (pp. 41-55). Retrieved from <https://legal.un.org/ilc/reports/2007/english/chp4.pdf>

promoting their equal participation in all aspects of life.

International Convention at the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD): India's ratification of the International Convention at the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD) in 1979 marked a sizable step in its commitment to combating racial discrimination globally. However, this ratification became accompanied by means of reservations and declarations, which sparked objections from other nations. **India's reservations included clauses on Articles 1, 9, and 13 of the ICERD³¹**, along with declarations on Articles 12, 19(3), 21, and 22, all made upon ratification, accession, or succession. These reservations and declarations aimed to align the treaty's provisions with India's home legal guidelines and constitutional framework. Notably, India's reservation on Article 1 emphasised that the right of self-determination implemented handiest to peoples underneath overseas domination, except sovereign impartial states or sections of a people or state bearing on national integrity. Additionally, India's declaration on Article 22 highlighted the need of the consent of all events to a dispute for reference to the International Court of Justice. However, objections have been raised by means of several countries, along with France, Germany, and Pakistan, primarily regarding the translation of the proper of self-determination and the compatibility of India's reservations with the object and purpose of the ICERD. These objections underscored the complexities surrounding reservations to human rights treaties and the importance of persisted talk and cooperation amongst states to address concerns and promote the typical application of human rights norms.

2019: In 2019³², India ratified the **Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR-OP2)**, aiming on the abolition of the demise penalty. However, India declared that it does now not recognize the competence of the Committee beneath Article 1 of the Optional Protocol regarding communications submitted with the aid of non-residents. This declaration reaffirmed India's role at the demise penalty while emphasizing its reservations concerning the jurisdiction of international our bodies over country wide matters. By ratifying the ICCPR-OP2, India verified its commitment to promoting the abolition of the dying penalty on the international

³¹ Chapter IV. (1966). Human Rights. In International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. Retrieved from https://treaties.un.org/pages/ViewDetails.aspx?chapter=4&clang=_en&mtds_g_no=IV-2&src=TREATY

³² International Law Commission. (2019). Report of the International Law Commission on the work of the seventy-first session (Chapter 7: State Responsibility). Retrieved from <https://legal.un.org/ilc/reports/2019/>

stage whilst maintaining its sovereignty in matters of crook justice. India also maintained its reservation to Article 1 of both the ICCPR and ICESCR, decoding "the right of self-willpower" according with countrywide laws. This reaffirmation of India's reservation underscored its dedication to safeguarding its sovereignty and maintaining its constitutional framework. By keeping this reservation, India sought to make sure that its interpretation of the right of self-dedication aligns with its national legal framework and constitutional standards. Additionally, India reaffirmed its function that the provisions of Article 9 of the ICCPR shall be implemented in conformity with national laws. This reaffirmation highlighted India's dedication to upholding the rule of thumb of law even as imposing the provisions of the ICCPR. By reaffirming its function on Article 9, India sought to ensure that its national legal guidelines stay constant with its global human rights duties. Furthermore, India continued its reservation on Article thirteen of the ICCPR regarding the utility of its law relating to foreigners. This continuity in reservation contemplated India's longstanding function in this count and its determination to preserve its jurisdiction over immigration and associated troubles. By continuing this reservation, India reaffirmed its commitment to safeguarding its sovereignty and retaining its national legal framework. In end, India's nation practice on reservations to global human rights treaties has advanced over time, reflecting a sensitive stability among its countrywide sovereignty and its international human rights commitments. Through a nuanced method to reservations, India has sought to reconcile its domestic laws with worldwide standards while safeguarding its constitutional framework and prison traditions. By enticing with international human rights treaties and participating within the tracking mechanisms, India has tested its commitment to selling and protective human rights at each the countrywide and global stages.

CRITICISMS AND OBJECTIONS TO INDIA'S RESERVATIONS

India's reservations to global human rights treaties have now not been with out complaint and objections from other states and global bodies³³. Germany, France, and the Netherlands have raised objections to India's reservations, specially to Article 1 of the Covenant, as they believe these reservations are opposite to the item and cause of the treaties. This objection highlights issues approximately the ability impact of India's reservations on the effectiveness and universality of human rights standards.

The Human Rights Committee, which monitors the

³³ http://www.bayefsky.com/html/india_t2_ccpr.php

implementation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, has addressed the issue of reservations. The Committee indicates tips for making use of the "object and cause" test, emphasizing that reservations to non-derogable provisions can be authorized but insisting that no reservation may be made to a standard norm covered inside a human rights treaty. This underscores the significance of making sure that reservations do no longer undermine the core principles and goals of human rights treaties.

IMPLICATIONS FOR THE FUTURE OF INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS TREATIES

India's kingdom exercise on reservations to worldwide human rights treaties has large implications for the destiny of these treaties³⁴. The objections and criticisms raised in opposition to India's reservations underscore the want for a more nuanced approach to reservations that guarantees they do not undermine the fundamental principles and objectives of human rights treaties. The ongoing debate surrounding India's reservations highlights the complexities of balancing countrywide hobbies with worldwide human rights standards.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS TREATIES

1. States must engage in consultations with other states and worldwide our bodies to clarify that means and scope of treaty provisions before making reservations.
2. Treaty bodies need to be empowered to pronounce at the legality of reservations and make guidelines to states concerning the withdrawal or change of unlawful reservations.
3. States ought to be recommended to ratify human rights treaties without reservations, declarations, or understandings that are opposite to the item and purpose of the treaties, promoting a more consistent and powerful implementation of global human rights standards.

In mild of the criticisms and objections raised towards India's reservations, it is essential to address these concerns to make sure the integrity and effectiveness of worldwide human rights treaties. By promoting transparency, speak, and adherence to the

³⁴ House of Commons, House of Lords, Joint Committee on Human Rights. (2019). Human Rights Protections in International Agreements: Seventeenth Report of Session 2017–19. Retrieved from <https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/jt201719/jtselect/jtrights/1833/1833.pdf>

core concepts of human rights, states can work closer to an improved and inclusive human rights framework that upholds the dignity and rights of all people globally.

CONCLUSION

In end, India's state exercise on reservations to global human rights treaties is a complicated and nuanced difficulty that calls for cautious consideration of the usa's precise context and the broader implications for the global human rights regime.

India's reservations to core human rights conventions, which includes the ICCPR, ICESCR, and CERD, reflect the usa's efforts to stability its commitment to human rights with its worries about sovereignty and national interest. While these reservations may be a legitimate approach of accommodating variety and making sure compatibility with domestic laws, they can also undermine the universality and integrity of treaties.

The criticisms and objections raised by different states and international our bodies, including Germany, France, and the Netherlands, highlight the demanding situations and controversies surrounding the usage of reservations in human rights treaties. These criticisms underscore the significance of making sure that reservations do not undermine the center concepts and targets of human rights treaties.

The implications of India's kingdom exercise on reservations for the destiny of global human rights treaties are massive. Reservations can undermine the universality, call into question states' motivations for becoming a celebration to a treaty, and, whilst several and considerable, threaten the integrity of treaties. However, reservations also can bolster human rights treaties with the aid of growing participation, which international agencies, like the United Nations, greatly cost. In addition, reservations verify a fundamental principle of global law: sovereign consent.

To enhance the effectiveness of international human rights treaties in mild of India's reservations and declarations, numerous tips can be made. First, states need to be advocated to ratify human rights treaties without reservations, declarations, or understandings which might be opposite to the item and motive of the treaties. Second, states need to be encouraged to interact in consultations with different states and worldwide our bodies to clarify the means and scope of treaty provisions before making reservations. Third, treaty bodies ought to be empowered to pronounce at the legality of reservations and to make pointers to states regarding the withdrawal or modification of illegal

reservations.

In end, India's country exercise on reservations to international human rights treaties highlights the challenges and controversies surrounding using reservations in human rights treaties. By selling transparency, speak, and adherence to the center ideas of human rights, states can paintings toward a stronger and inclusive human rights framework that upholds the glory and rights of all individuals globally.

The future of worldwide human rights treaties relies upon on the ability of states to balance their commitment to human rights with their worries approximately sovereignty and national hobby. By undertaking consultations, promoting transparency, and adhering to the core standards of human rights, states can work closer to a better and inclusive human rights framework that upholds the respect and rights of all individuals globally.

In end, India's kingdom practice on reservations to global human rights treaties is a complicated and nuanced difficulty that requires cautious consideration of the specific context and the wider implications for the international human rights regime. By promoting transparency, talk, and adherence to the center principles of human rights, states can work toward a higher and inclusive human rights framework that upholds the consideration and rights of all individuals globally.