



**Decision of the *ad hoc* Conciliation Commission
on the termination of the proceedings concerning
the interstate communication Qatar v. the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia**

On 19 January 2022, during an online meeting¹, the *ad hoc* Conciliation Commission established by the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (the Committee), under article 12 (1) of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (the Convention), concerning the interstate communication submitted to the Committee by the State of Qatar against the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia,

Noting

(a) that the State of Qatar submitted an interstate communication to the Committee concerning the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on 8 March 2018, alleging a violation of articles 2, 4, 5 and 6 of the Convention, in the context of enforcement of coercive measures taken by the respondent State in 2017;

(b) that, on 27 August 2019, the Committee decided that it had jurisdiction on the matter, declared the communication admissible and requested its Chair “to appoint, in accordance with article 12(1) of the Convention, the members of an *ad hoc* Conciliation Commission, which shall make its good offices available to the States concerned with a view to an amicable solution of the matter”;

(c) that the Chair of the Committee, in consultations with the States parties concerned, appointed as Members of the *ad hoc* Conciliation Commission: Mr. Marc BOSSUYT (Belgium), Ms. Chinsung CHUNG (Republic of Korea), Mr. Makane Moïse MBENGUE (Senegal), Ms. Monica PINTO (Argentina) and Ms. Verene Albertha SHEPHERD (Jamaica);

(d) that, on 11 January 2021, Qatar submitted a note verbale, requesting the suspension of the proceedings regarding the communication, following the Al Ula agreement reached by both States parties to the dispute, on 5 January 2021;

¹ The following members of the *ad hoc* Commission attended the meeting: Mr. Marc Bossuyt, Ms. Chinsung Chung, Ms. Monica Pinto and Ms. Verene Albertha Shepherd. Mr Makane Moïse Mbengue was duly excused.



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(e) that, on 2 February 2021, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia consented to the suspension of the proceedings pursuant to the Al Ula Declaration, whose section 2 “sets out the terms of the settlement of legal disputes between the Parties”;

(f) that, on 5 March 2021, the Commission decided: “(1) to take note of Qatar’s request for suspension pursuant to the Al Ula Declaration, concerning the interstate communication submitted against the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia before the Committee; (2) to take note also of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia’s consent to the suspension of the proceedings, pursuant to the Al Ula Declaration; (3) to suspend the proceedings concerning the interstate communication submitted by Qatar against the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia before the Committee; (4) to invite any of the States parties concerned to inform the ad hoc Conciliation Commission via the Secretariat within one year of the adoption of the Al Ula Declaration whether it wishes to resume the consideration of the matter before the ad hoc Conciliation Commission or to provide any relevant information; and to remain seized of the matter”

Having regard to the terms of Section 2 of the Al Ula Declaration stating that: “[A]ll lawsuits, complaints, measures, protests, objections and disputes shall automatically terminate on the first anniversary of the signing of this Declaration, provided such lawsuits, complaints, measures, protests, objections and disputes under review by the relevant entities (domestic, regional, and international courts, bodies, committees, authorities, etc.) shall be suspended or stayed within one week from the date of signing this Declaration”.

Having noted that since the decision adopted by the *ad hoc* Conciliation Commission concerning the suspension of the proceedings on 5 March 2021 following the signing of the Al Ula Declaration on 5 January 2021, none of the States Parties concerned has expressed its wish to resume the consideration of the dispute before the *ad hoc* Conciliation Commission or provided any relevant information to remain seized of the matter:

Decides:

1. To terminate the proceedings concerning the interstate communication submitted by Qatar against the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia before the Committee taking note of the States Parties’ will to terminate the proceedings as per the Al Ula Declaration.
2. To request the Secretariat to transmit the present decision to the States Parties concerned and to the Committee.

19 January 2022