

- I. General Assembly resolution 78/236 was adopted on 22 December 2023. It is entitled “Strengthening and promoting the international treaty framework”. Paragraph 15 reads as follows: “*Decides* to undertake a regular thematic debate in the Sixth Committee to foster a technical exchange of views on practice relating to the strengthening and promoting of the international treaty framework, and in that regard invites Member States to focus their comments during the debate at the eightieth session of the General Assembly on the subtopic “The role of technology in shaping treaty-making practice”, and requests the Secretary-General to invite Governments and international organizations to submit information on their practice in this regard, and to provide, at its eightieth session, a report with information on practice related to the subtopic taking into account these submissions;”.
- II. Registration and publication of treaties and international agreements: The United Nations has taken an interest in recording data on treaties electronically and registering and publishing international treaties and conventions pursuant to Article 102 of the Charter of the United Nations, which provides as follows: “Every treaty and every international agreement entered into by any Member of the United Nations after the present Charter comes into force shall as soon as possible be registered with the Secretariat and published by it”. No party to a treaty or international agreement that has not been registered in accordance with paragraph 1 of that article may insist on such a treaty or international agreement with any branch of the United Nations. Given the significant increase in the number of agreements and treaties over the past few years, the United Nations has tried to address delays in registration and publication in various ways, including resolutions that call for providing access via the Internet to the United Nations Treaty Series and the Multilateral Treaties Deposited with the Secretary-General websites.
- III. The leading position of Qatar in the technical field: The State of Qatar has advanced to second place in the Arab world and 24th globally in Global Finance magazine’s technological advancement index for the year 2023. That is compared to 25th globally in the 2022 rankings. In his speech at the seventy-eighth session of the United Nations General Assembly, His Highness the Emir stressed the importance of making use of information technology and the leading position of Qatar in the technical field at the regional and international levels. His Highness pointed out that rapid technological development and increasing adoption of it opened unprecedented prospects for human improvement, and that there could be no doubt that science and technology are the keys to increasing productivity and improving people’s quality of life. His Highness noted that a “web summit” would be held in Doha in February 2024. It would be an

important opportunity to review developments in the field of technology and create new opportunities for technological cooperation for the benefit of all humankind.

- IV.** The practices of the Ministry of Justice with regard to the role of technology in shaping treaty-making practices: The Ministry of Justice affirms its support for all initiatives and annual treaty events organized by the Secretary-General and for efforts made to develop and enhance the United Nations electronic treaty database. It supports the resolutions on strengthening and promoting the international treaty framework (resolution 73/210 dated 2 December 2018, resolution 75/144 dated 15 December 2020, resolution 76/120 dated 9 December 2021 and resolution 78/236 dated 22 December 2023). The Ministry of Justice is mindful of its obligations stemming from Article 102 of the Charter of the United Nations and the importance of treaties in the development of international law and the international legal order.

Establishment and development of the Qatari Legal Portal “Al Meezan”

The portal was established in line with the Qatar National Vision 2030, which is a comprehensive national vision that aims to achieve sustainable development across all sectors of the economy, and emphasizes the importance of innovation, technology and research in achieving sustainable development goals, building an advanced knowledge society and benefiting from modern expertise and technological best practices. The legal information portal was developed within the framework of the integrated e-government master plan. It was established and developed as one of the strategic projects of the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, in coordination with the Ministry of Justice in its capacity as the body charged with publicizing legislation. It archives, indexes and translates into English legal information, and makes this valuable information available to all categories of users inside the country and abroad through an electronic Internet portal. It is managed by the Ministry of Justice and updated regularly using the most up-to-date scientific and professional methods by outstanding qualified staff with the utmost professionalism armed with global best practices and experiences to keep pace with relentless march of technology, whether with respect to the technology used, the methodology for presenting legal information, or the mechanisms for searching it. It is a national project that documents the legislative and judicial history of the State of Qatar. Here is a brief summary of the portal’s history:

1. Opening and inauguration

- The project was officially launched on 4 December 2012 in an official ceremony at the headquarters of the Ministry of Justice attended by His Excellency the Minister of Justice.

Also present were His Excellency Mr. David Mao, head of the United States Library of Congress, along with legal experts from Congress. The Qatari legal portal on the Internet was officially launched with the link: <https://www.almeezan.qa/Default.aspx>.

2. Objectives of the legal portal

It aims to establish a national project consisting of documentation of the legislative and judicial history of the State of Qatar. Its objectives included the following:

- Make available electronic copies of legislation of the State of Qatar published in the Official Gazette since 1961;
- Provide citizens, residents, government institutions, the business sector and investors with access to legislation, international treaties joined by the State of Qatar, judicial rulings and other legal information via the Internet, through the government portal and the government communications centre;
- Provide electronic links between legislation, international treaties, court judgments, legal rulings, references, terminology and other legal information to deepen understanding and facilitate access to information;
- Translate legal information of interest to non-Arabic speaking users into English.

3. Portal contents

- The portal contains legislation, treaties and international agreements (from the Official Gazette), principles of disciplinary accountability, legal rulings, legal principles and rules, and indexes of some encyclopaedias and selected legal references.
- The portal contains judicial rulings from higher courts. Judicial rulings are transferred and entered into the system in coordination with the Supreme Judicial Council by type, number and date of judgment.
- Metadata and indexes are entered for the encyclopaedias and legal references.

4. International treaties on the portal

- The portal presents international agreements and treaties, whether international, regional or bilateral, according to the date of issue, topic, international organization and country.
 - International conventions and treaties are linked to Qatari legislation and judicial rulings.
 - The search mechanism on the international agreements pages of the legal portal is multi-faceted. The user can search using the main particulars of the agreement, such as a word from its title, the type of agreement or the year of issue. The site allows searches using a word or sentence from the agreement. It also allows searches using legal terms provided and classified on the site. The site has numerous overlapping databases. It shows examples of how to use the latest information technology methods in the field of law.
 - All files contained in the portal are in text and audio form suitable for persons with disabilities. Browsing on the site is compatible with programmes for persons with disabilities.
 - The site works on iPhone and Android systems. Phones with larger screens are preferred.
 - Link to the portal's agreements pages: <https://www.almeezan.qa/AgreementsByDate.aspx>.
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