

TAIWAN (REPUBLIC OF CHINA)

Ratification of the Two Covenants and Initial National Reports on Human Rights

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1. Introduction

On March 31, 2009,¹ the Legislative Yuan (Parliament) of the Republic of China (Taiwan) approved the ratification of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights² and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.³ At the same time, the Legislative Yuan enacted the “Act to Implement the Two Covenants” (hereinafter the Implementation Act),⁴ which sets out matters necessary for the implementation of the provisions of the two Covenants in the ROC municipal system. The President of the ROC promulgated the Act to Implement the Two Covenants into law on April 22, 2009, which entered into effect on December 10, 2009.

The instruments of ratification for the two Covenants⁵ were signed by the President in a formal ceremony on May 14, 2009, witnessed by the Premier, the Chairmen of the Legislative Yuan and Judicial Yuan, and the Ministers of Justice

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¹ See ROC Legislative Yuan Gazette, vol. 98, no. 14 (Apr. 7, 2009), available at http://lci.ly.gov.tw/LyLCEW/communique/final/pdf/98/14/LCIDC01_981401.pdf (last visited on May 22, 2013).

² See International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. G.A. Res. 2200A (XXI), 21 U.N. GAOR Supp. No. 16, at 52, U.N. Doc. A/6316 (Dec. 16, 1966), 999 U.N.T.S. 171 (No. 14668).

³ International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. G.A. Res. 2200A (XXI), 21 U.N. GAOR Supp. No. 16 at 49, U.N. Doc. A/6316 (Dec. 16, 1966), 993 U.N.T.S. 3 (No. 14531).

⁴ Act to Implement the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, available at http://treaties.un.org/untc/pages/ViewDetails.aspx?src=TREATY&mtmsg_no=IV-3&chapter=4&lang=en (last visited on May 22, 2013).

⁵ For texts, see the official websites of the ROC Ministry of Justice, available at <http://law.moj.gov.tw/LawClass/LawAll.aspx?PCode=Y0000050>; <http://law.moj.gov.tw/LawClass/LawContent.aspx?PCODE=Y0000052> (all last visited on May 22, 2013).