



United Nations Human Rights Council

Universal Periodic Review

Adoption of the Final Outcome Report

of the State of Qatar

By

H.E. Mr. Ahmed bin Abdullah Al-Mahmoud

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Member of the Council of Ministers

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**Mr. President,
Honourable members,
Ladies and Gentlemen,
May Peace and God's Graciousness and Blessings be upon you**

I am very honoured to once again head the Delegation of the State of Qatar to present Qatar's UPR outcome report, four months after its first review in the framework of the Seventh Session of the UPR Working Group.

The State of Qatar pays significant attention to the UPR mechanism which provides all countries with a great opportunity to improve, strengthen and promote their commitments under international Human Rights law. During the review process, the fruitful Interactive dialogue contributes greatly to strengthening cooperation and helps benefit from other countries' experiences, which ultimately lead to the achievement of the Council's noble objectives.

Mr. President,

The State of Qatar participated in the review process in an open and transparent spirit and undertook to duly consider all the Working Group's recommendations. To this end, all categories and sections of society as well as relevant stakeholders were involved in the preparation process of commentaries and responses to the recommendations. Indeed, most of the recommendations formulated during the interactive dialogue last February enjoyed our support at that time. It is worth highlighting that out of a total of 112 recommendations made to Qatar, (76) were accepted at that time, while we decided to take note of (24) recommendations for detailed study, in-depth analysis and coordination with all stakeholders as well as with the Qatari National Human Rights Committee.

Mr. President,

Consequently, we found out that several recommendations were in fact already or currently being implemented, and that they were

consistent with the State's objectives and strategies. Moreover, Qatar's support of most of the recommendations as well as the many steps it has taken since last February both at national and international levels with a view to promoting fundamental human rights, stem from its endeavour to improve the situation of human rights and promote constructive cooperation with relevant human rights mechanisms. Accordingly, this was confirmed through its acceptance of the recommendation to extend an open and standing invitation to special procedures mandates holders.

Although in agreement with the overall content of a number of recommendations, the State could not accept them in full as they contained items that are incompatible with the provisions of Islamic law, the State's Constitution and laws, or contradict the national identity. We also would like to point out that some temporary difficulties, such as the lack of technical capacities prevent Qatar from acceding to other conventions at the present time.

In this context, I would briefly like to sum up the position of the State of Qatar regarding the 24 recommendations which the State requested to examine and provide responses before the adoption of the outcome report by the Council. These responses are included in the document **A/HRC/14/2/Add.1**, as follows:

- The State accepts 11 recommendations and considers that 8 out of them are either already implemented or in the process of implementation. These include recommendations: 7, 9, 10, 13, 14, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, and 24.

- 13 recommendations did not enjoy the State's support. These include recommendations: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 11, 12, 15, 16, 22a and 23.

Mr. President,

Though it has only been four months since our national report was reviewed by the UPR Working Group, the State of Qatar is pleased to report at this stage on the implementation of a number of constructive recommendations, as well as on its commitment to implement others in the near future.

We believe in Qatar that the process of follow-up on the recommendations accepted by the State during the UPR is no less important than preparing and discussing the report before the Working Group. We shall in this respect continue the work of the National Committee that prepared the national report as a mechanism of implementation. We shall also spare no efforts to build and strengthen capacities through our technical cooperation with the human rights mechanisms. In this context, Qatar aspires to benefit from the activities and programmes of the United Nations Human Rights Training and Documentation Centre for South-West Asia and the Arab Region in Doha, inaugurated in May 2009, and to contribute to training, developing and building capacities.

Mr. President,

We would like to thank all States and stakeholders for their interventions which we will listen to this morning, and we are looking forward to working with other Member States to make headway towards our common goals and to contribute to the advancement of both the Working Group's work and to that of the Human Rights Council

Last but not least, I would like to renew our appreciation to all participants in the review of our national report. I also express our gratitude and thanks to all states that made recommendations to my country.

Thank you Mr. President.