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Draft report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review*

Qatar

* The annex to the present report is circulated as received

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Introduction

1. The Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review (UPR), established in accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 5/1 of 18 June 2007, held its nineteenth session from 28 April to 9 May 2014. The review of Qatar was held at the 15th meeting on 7 May 2014. The delegation of Qatar was headed by His Excellency Mr. Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al-Thani, Minister's Assistant for International Cooperation Affairs. At its 18th meeting held on 9 May 2014, the Working Group adopted the report on Qatar.
2. On 15 January 2014, the Human Rights Council selected the following group of rapporteurs (troika) to facilitate the review of Qatar: Cuba, India and Italy.
3. In accordance with paragraph 15 of the annex to resolution 5/1 and paragraph 5 of the annex to resolution 16/21, the following documents were issued for the review of Qatar:
 - (a) A national report submitted/written presentation made in accordance with paragraph 15 (a) (A/HRC/WG.6/19/QAT/1);
 - (b) A compilation prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (b) (A/HRC/WG.6/19/QAT/2);
 - (c) A summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c) (A/HRC/WG.6/19/QAT/3).
4. A list of questions prepared in advance by Belgium, the Czech Republic, Germany, Liechtenstein, Mexico, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland was transmitted to Qatar through the troika. These questions are available on the extranet of the UPR.

I. Summary of the proceedings of the review process

A. Presentation by the State under review

5. The head of delegation expressed their pleasure to meet the Universal Periodic Review Working Group. He reiterated that Qatar look favourably to the important role carried out by the Working Group in helping States to improve, strengthen and promote their commitments stemming from the International Human Rights Law. Qatar believed that the periodic review process is a valuable opportunity for them to carry out a self-criticism and proper analysis of the situation, in order to improve and advance their internal practices.
6. Qatar informed of the Council of Ministers decision in 2010, requesting the continuity of the committee that prepared the initial report, to be entrusted with the preparation of the following reports and to act as a follow-up mechanism on recommendations. The committee was formed under the chairmanship of the Minister of Foreign Affairs and a membership of 10 other members of ministries and councils. Qatar also described the broad consultative process, and of coordination, cooperation with related stakeholders.
7. Qatar pledged that the promotion and protection of human rights is a strategic choice as it constitutes the backbone of the comprehensive reform policy (constitutional, economic, social and cultural reforms) as this was emphasized through the comprehensive development vision (Qatar National Vision 2030) which included important topics related to key human rights issues in the areas of education, health, environment, rights of

expatriate workers, women's empowerment and child rights. As well as through the National Development Strategy (2011-2016), which aims to transform the objectives of the National Vision 2030 into reality, in the years to come.

8. The head of delegation described that Qatar has become in a short period of time, a State of law and institutions that preserves the rights of all and maintains their dignity. The Government responded quickly and effectively to all human rights issues and concerns, which has supported their endeavors to keep up with the civilization, human, and democratic development, and maintained the prosperity and well-being enjoyed by Qatar. It considered that many of the recommendations presented during the interactive dialogue of its first review had already been implemented or are in the process of being implemented.

9. The head of delegation highlighted the most significant developments since the adoption of the initial report: Qatar amended the Criminal Code by the introduction of an explicit definition of torture that is fully consistent with Article 1 of CAT. Qatar enacted the Act No. 15 of 2011, to combat human trafficking, to protect the victims in addition to efforts in the field of international cooperation on the fight against human trafficking and through embracement of the Arab Initiative for Building National Capacities to Combat Human Trafficking. These efforts were also manifested in Qatar's financial support to this initiative amounting to 6 million U.S. dollars. It ratified the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions. Qatar established the National Committee of the International Humanitarian Law, as it recognized the importance of applying the principles of International Humanitarian Law and its role in protecting the victims of conflict. It also established the National Committee for Occupational Health and Safety in cooperation with experts from the International Labour Organization. In addition to establishing the Committee of Climate Change and Clean Development, the Qatar Committee for Alliance of Civilizations, the Qatar Foundation for Protection and Social Rehabilitation, which is a private foundation of public utility that includes three foundations; the Qatar Foundation for Protection of Children and Women, the Qatar Foundation for Combating Human Trafficking and the Social Rehabilitation Centre.

10. The head of delegation informed that Qatar has continued its policy of openness towards hosting international conferences and forums on development, democracy, human rights and the promotion of a culture of peace. It hosted every year the "Doha Forum", the "Conference for Interfaith Dialogue", as well as the "US - Islamic world Forum". It also hosted the "Fourth Global United Nations Alliance of Civilizations Forum in 2011". Additionally, it hosted in April 2014, the Preparatory Conference of the Forum on the UN Sixth World Alliance of Civilizations, to be held next August in Indonesia. In addition, Qatar hosted the international "Climate Conference COP18", and "the UNCTAD 13 Conference". Moreover, Qatar will host the 13th United Nations Congresses on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice due to be held from 12 to 19 April 2015 in Doha.

11. Qatar attached great importance to international cooperation and deploys human and financial resources in this field. Qatar has been taking initiatives of offering assistance for development to developing countries around the world. In 2011 and 2012, Qatar provided humanitarian and development assistance (governmental and non-governmental) amounting to 3,001,764,00 Qatari Riyals. Assistance was provided to 100 countries, in particular to the LDCs, to help them achieve the MDGs by 2015. Qatar's contributions are extended to include humanitarian and development initiatives, such as "Hope For", to improve the effectiveness and coordination of military and civil defences in response to natural disasters; "Protecting Education in Insecurity and Armed Conflict", to support and promote the right to education in crisis, conflict and war zones; "Al-Fakhurah", to support and protect students and schools in conflict zones in particular in Gaza; "Silatek" to expand employment and business opportunities for young people in the whole Arab world and

“ROTA” to support communities in Asia to overcome obstacles and find links that allow the realization of education for all.

12. The head of delegation emphasized that Qatar has taken serious steps to implement the recommendations of the Working Group since February 2010 at the national and the international levels in order to promote human rights, based on its enduring desire to improve the human rights situation in Qatar and to strengthen constructive cooperation with the relevant special procedures. This was confirmed when Qatar accepted the recommendation to extend an open and standing invitation to special procedures mandate holders. Qatar received a visit from the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants in November 2013. Moreover, in January 2014 Qatar welcomed the visit of the Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers. In addition, it has received the visit of members of the Delegation of the European Parliament’s Subcommittee on Human Rights in March 2014. Moreover, Qatar received the visit of numerous non-governmental organizations dealing with human rights. Qatar has also continued to strengthen its relationship with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights through bilateral consultations since May 2010. Moreover, Qatar continues to support the United Nations Human Rights Training and Documentation Centre for South-West Asia and the Arab region in Doha.

13. Qatar informed of the challenges as its going through a distinctive phase in its history and pressing rapidly towards complete and comprehensive development. As a result, Qatar has recorded unprecedented rates of growth and economic recovery. Qatar was given a prestigious first rank among the countries of North Africa and the Middle East as it was ranked 18th on the global scale by the World Economic Forum in the Human Capital Report 2013. Although Qatar has witnessed numerous developments with regard to the promotion and protection of human rights in terms of legislation, institutions and awareness, there are however some temporary remaining obstacles. These include the large and unprecedented population increase of over 100 per cent in recent years, the fact that legislative and institutional developments are recent and that Qatar has only recently dealt with international human rights mechanisms.

14. Qatar emphasized that they highly appreciate the expatriate workers’ contribution and they consider them real partners in the development and advancement project.

15. In the context of enhancing and strengthening the legislative structure, Qatar are currently conducting a comprehensive review of labor laws, as well as pursued procedures and policies to promote and protect the rights of workers, citizens and residents, in conformity with international standards. The competent authorities are also considering a draft on domestic workers regulating mechanisms. Moreover, the law on entry, exit, residence and sponsorship (kafala system) of migrants as well as the Labour Code are presently under review with the aim of developing them.

16. Qatar pointed out that they are considering accession to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights as well as the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

17. The head of delegation shared their readiness to work to develop appropriate strategies and mechanisms to follow up on the recommendations to be put forward by the Working Group. Qatar realized that much more needs to be done. Therefore, they will continue their work to promote these achievements and improve their performance through the exchange of experiences, taking advantage of international best practices. Finally, the head of delegation emphasized the existing political will and supportive environment for the promotion and protection of human right.

B. Interactive dialogue and responses by the State under review

18. During the interactive dialogue, 84 delegations made statements. Recommendations made during the dialogue are to be found in section II of the present report.

19. Slovenia welcomed progress made with regard to women's rights in Qatar but remained concerned about discrimination in law and violence against them, including within the family. Slovenia shared concerns about the promotion and protection of migrant rights.

20. Somalia noted the progress made in Qatar since the first cycle. Somalia welcomed the economic development and the successful policies related to the legislative, institutional and other sectors.

21. Spain congratulated Qatar for establishing its National Human Rights Committee and other human rights institutions. It noted legislation introduced to protect private sector workers and migrant workers. It welcomed the de facto moratorium on the death penalty since 2003.

22. The State of Palestine welcomed the withdrawal of the general reservation to articles 21 and 22 and the reservations to articles 1 and 16 of the CAT. It encouraged Qatar to take the NHRI's recommendation into account. It welcomed the programmes of awareness campaigns on women and children.

23. The Sudan applauded steps to implement previous universal periodic review recommendations. It appreciated Qatar's efforts to help Arab countries in the implementation of development projects such as "ROTA" initiative to support communities in Asia. Sudan commended the role it played to support peace in Darfur.

24. Sweden welcomed Qatar's ratification of CEDAW, the establishment of an institution for empowering women and efforts to promote gender equality. The 2013 media law to combat cybercrime could restrict freedom of expression. Migrant workers were in a vulnerable position towards their employers, as a result of the kafala sponsor system.

25. Switzerland was concerned that migrant workers were still subject to human rights violations. Although 28 per cent of women in Qatar were victims of domestic violence, there were no laws to protect them.

26. The Syrian Arab Republic noted a lack of objectivity in reporting. It expressed concerns regarding the role of Qatar's charitable institutions in the absence of transparency and delays in the ratification of international treaties.

27. Thailand applauded steps taken to promote human rights in Qatar and the assistance it had offered to other countries, including in its role as a migrant-receiving State. It welcomed the country's commitment to providing affordable health care and the establishment of the Qatari Foundation for the Protection of Women and Children.

28. Tunisia welcomed steps taken by Qatar since 2009 to establish a standing committee to prepare the UPR national report and improve its legislative framework. It took note of the establishment of different national plans and national strategies such as Qatar National Vision 2030.

29. Turkey commended Qatar's progress in human rights as part of its reform process and the National Vision 2030. It highlighted measures to improve gender equality and to strengthen the status of women in society and the lively debate held on expatriate employee rights.

30. Turkmenistan noted the establishment of the Supreme Council for Family Affairs, the adoption of legislative and policy measures to combat domestic violence and the exploitation of women and children.
31. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland noted the progress made in combating human trafficking, protection against torture and increasing opportunities for women. While welcoming efforts to promote the rights of migrant workers, it urged Qatar to reform the sponsorship system. It remained concerned that there was no specific law criminalizing domestic violence.
32. Portugal welcomed the establishment of the National Human Rights Committee and its standing invitation to the special procedures. It noted that the Qatar National Vision 2030 reaffirmed the need to strengthen women's capacities and to empower them.
33. Uruguay recognized Qatar's cooperation with the special procedures of the Human Rights Council.
34. Uzbekistan noted Qatar's achievements in promoting human, social and economic rights and welcomed the adoption of the National Development Strategy 2011–2016. It noted the strengthening of the role of women in society and protection of children's rights.
35. Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) recognized the progress made in implementing the recommendations of the first cycle of the universal periodic review. It noted legislative and governance measures to improve social development and welcomed the Education and Training Strategy 2011–2016.
36. Viet Nam noted measures taken to address human trafficking, prevent torture and improve health care and education. It noted with satisfaction the creation of a committee to consider accession to the ICESCR.
37. Yemen welcomed the improvement of the human rights legislative framework, including the adoption of the Social Health Insurance Act, the penal code and the Act to combat human trafficking. It also welcomed initiatives to protect women, persons with disabilities and children, in addition to its humanitarian and developmental support to the LDC.
38. Afghanistan noted the establishment of the Qatar Foundation for Social Action to monitor foundations created to enhance human rights, and the efforts to raise public awareness of human rights and protect the rights of migrant workers.
39. Albania noted the adoption of legal and administrative measures, including the Human Trafficking Act and the Health and Education Fund Act, and different sectoral strategies in the area of integrated social development.
40. Algeria welcomed the improvement of the legislative framework, including the adoption of acts to prevent human trafficking. It also welcomed the launch of national strategies to promote human rights.
41. Angola noted progress in education, health and employment, as well as in the protection of children's rights. It asked about measures taken to prohibit all forms of corporal punishment.
42. Argentina congratulated Qatar on the creation of the National Human Rights Committee; implementation of the National Development Strategy 2011–2016 and improvements in women's rights. It encouraged Qatar to provide more legal protection for migrant workers.
43. Armenia appreciated the legislative and institutional initiatives taken by Qatar to improve human rights, its policy of promoting tolerance and diversity and its human rights

awareness-raising programmes. It was concerned that Qatar had not yet ratified some international human rights instruments, including the Genocide Convention.

44. Australia commended Qatar on issuing a standing invitation to all special procedures mandate holders. It welcomed Qatar's efforts to improve the situation of migrant workers and the interest it had shown in acceding to the ICCPR and the ICESCR.

45. Austria commended Qatar on its efforts to ratify human rights treaties, its cooperation with the United Nations, and its promotion of press freedom. It remained concerned that migrant workers risked being prevented from leaving the country by their employers.

46. Azerbaijan noted that Qatar had strengthened its normative and institutional human rights framework. It appreciated Qatar's endorsement of the Strategic Plan of the National Human Rights Committee 2011–2014 and the Human Trafficking Act 2011.

47. Bangladesh praised the progress made by Qatar in empowering women, its legislation on health and education and the protection of the family and children under the Overall Family Strategy. It wished to know how Qatar aimed to improve the situation of foreign workers.

48. Belgium welcomed Qatar's follow-up on implementation of the recommendations of the first cycle of the universal periodic review and its cooperation with the HRC. It continued to be concerned by the situation of migrant workers.

49. Benin congratulated Qatar on its efforts to implement the recommendations of the first cycle of the universal periodic review notably combating human trafficking, creating the Health and Education Fund and adopting the Health and Social Security Act.

50. Brazil noted the withdrawal of reservations to the CAT as a follow-up to a recommendation of the previous review and encouraged additional progress in women's rights and gender equality. It expressed concern at the situation of migrant workers.

51. Brunei Darussalam welcomed Qatar's continued commitment to human rights, legislative measures taken, the development of the National Vision 2030 and the National Development Strategy 2011–2016.

52. Burkina Faso noted Qatar's progress in implementing the recommendations it had accepted in 2010, including the Human Trafficking Act of 2011, and the introduction of a definition of torture in the Criminal Code. It noted the contribution of Qatar's development aid to combating poverty.

53. Canada asked about concrete steps taken to implement the accepted recommendations of the previous review regarding women's rights and preventing discrimination and violence against women. It encouraged Qatar to continue its efforts to prevent and punish domestic violence to meet targets by 2016.

54. Chad welcomed the adjustments made by Qatar to human rights in follow-up to the recommendations of the first cycle of the universal periodic review, including the introduction of anti-human trafficking legislation and the creation of a national committee for the implementation of international humanitarian law.

55. Chile commended Qatar's commitment to promoting and protecting human rights and the efforts it had made to implement the resolutions of the Human Rights Council.

56. China appreciated Qatar's efforts to promote and protect human rights in the framework of sustainable social development, the establishment of its National Vision 2030, and its active provision of assistance to developing countries.

57. Comoros commended Qatar's awareness-raising campaigns on human rights, abrogation of laws that discriminated against women, promotion of a culture of peace, financial support of human rights organizations and assistance to developing countries.

58. Costa Rica commended Qatar on the measures it had taken to improve human rights. In preparing for the Football World Cup 2022, it encouraged Qatar to ensure the protection of all workers. It was concerned that a draft law would prohibit homosexuals and transvestites from living or working in Qatar.

59. Côte d'Ivoire welcomed Qatar's implementation of a strategic plan to strengthen human rights and its awareness-raising campaigns. It noted the promotion of the rights of women, children, persons with disabilities and the elderly.

60. Cuba commended Qatar's National Vision 2030, the provision of free health care, education, water and electricity and steps taken to improve the living conditions of children with disabilities. It noted assistance provided to developing countries.

61. The head of delegation wished to respond to the allegations and accusations of the representative of Syria in their statement.

62. Point of order by Syria: Syria believed that the Syrian statement had been objective and had in fact displayed restraint and adhered to UPR principles, since no mention had been made of the inhuman role played by Qatar in Syria. She requested the President to urge Qatar to refrain from using provocative language and to respond objectively to Syria's statement.

63. The President reminded delegations that the UPR procedure required them to focus on the human rights situation in the country under review. The procedure was based on reports and recommendations and it was essential to avoid confrontation regarding bilateral issues.

64. The delegation informed that the Qatar Foundation for Protection and Social Rehabilitation provided legal guidance and counselling to victims of violence against women as well as assistance in filing complaints. Special offices had been set up in health centres and hospitals to receive complaints of violence and to provide support. Victims were also provided with free legal support. Women and child victims could seek refuge in special shelters. A hotline for victims of violence operated 24 hours a day. The Foundation recorded such cases in a database, preserving confidentiality. The services provided to victims were taken into account in formulating policies and conducting research with a view to promoting reform and enhancing rehabilitation and legal assistance.

65. The delegation stated that workers could file complaints with the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs against employers who failed to comply with working conditions. If an amicable settlement could not be achieved, the case was referred to the competent court. Some 8,000 complaints had been filed in 2012; about 6,500 had been settled and around 600 had been referred to the courts. The corresponding figures for 2013 were about 10,000, 8,000 and 600 respectively. The Labour Code contained the basic rules governing the establishment of trade unions. The demographic composition of the country and the ratio of migrant to Qatari workers were taken into account. Forced labour was prohibited by article 43 of the Labour Code. Qatar had ratified the ILO Forced Labour Convention and the Abolition of Forced Labour Convention. Act No. 15 of 2011 on combating human trafficking prohibited forced labour and contemporary forms of slavery. It proscribed penalties of up to 15 years' imprisonment and fines of up to 300,000 riyals.

66. The delegation informed that the Ministerial Decision No. 15 of 2005 and articles 104 and 105 of the Labour Code required employers to provide a first aid kit for every 25 employees. If the number of employees exceeded 100, a medical service should be

provided. Routine tests should be conducted free of charge for employees engaged in hazardous work.

67. The delegation noted that the Law on Nationality was applied in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution. The legal status of Qatari women married to foreigners in no way interfered with their enjoyment of human rights. The Law on Nationality accorded priority in the acquisition of citizenship to a person whose mother was a Qatari national. The Law also recognized the Qatari nationality of children born of unknown parents.

68. The delegation emphasised again that serious steps were being taken at the highest level to amend the law on the sponsorship system (kafala) in order to align it with international human rights law and the rights of migrants.

69. With regard to the age of criminal responsibility, which was seven years of age, the delegation clarified that cases involving minors were heard by juvenile courts, which applied juvenile legislation. Special police officers and prosecutors also dealt with such cases.

70. The delegation explained that with regard to sexual freedoms and same-sex marriage, Sharia was the main source of Qatari legislation pursuant to article 1 of the Constitution. The corresponding principles were reflected in articles 279 to 289 of the Criminal Code.

71. On death penalty the delegation noted that death penalty was applicable to anyone who wilfully killed another person under the very specific circumstances defined in articles 300 and 302 of the Criminal Code. However, it had not been imposed since 2003.

72. The Czech Republic commended Qatar on its efforts to advance human rights, notably for extending a standing invitation to all special procedures.

73. Denmark encouraged strengthened independent monitoring systems, especially for detention facilities. It expressed concern about the lack of rights for and legal protection of immigrant workers and about reported exploitation and abuse of domestic and construction workers.

74. Ecuador welcomed mechanisms created to protect women, children, and the elderly and institutions created for social assistance, the importance attached to developing human rights plans, programmes and strategies together with civil society and national public and private institutions and to sharing experiences and information nationally and internationally.

75. France welcomed the delegation of Qatar and made several recommendations.

76. Germany acknowledged the first steps taken by Qatar to heed the recommendations of the previous cycle, most notably the recent adoption of labour welfare standards aimed at protecting workers' rights.

77. Ghana commended Qatar for programmes promoting a human rights culture, for issuing a standing invitation and for amending its Criminal Code to align its definition of torture with that of CAT.

78. Greece noted positively Qatar's numerous efforts to promote women's rights and asked about the next steps to advance women's participation in public life. Recognizing measures taken, Greece asked about the implementation results of the Act and National Plan to combat human trafficking.

79. India welcomed reforms and measures, including on human trafficking, health, education, environment, greater protection for children and empowering women. India looked forward to further initiatives on protecting and promoting migrant workers' rights and noted Qatar's commitment to human rights through its provision of aid and assistance.

80. Indonesia welcomed measures to promote a culture of human rights, family values and for the rights of migrants, particularly female domestic workers, and hoped Qatar would continue promoting family values internationally.
81. Ireland welcomed Qatar's cooperation with special procedures but was concerned at widespread reported violations of the rights of migrant workers in the preparation for the FIFA World Cup, at the kafala sponsorship system and denial of freedom of movement and at restrictions faced by civil society organizations.
82. Iran (Islamic Republic of) commended Qatar's integrated social development. It noted the attention paid to improving the situation of women, children and persons with disabilities and measures to consolidate the family and its essential role in the community.
83. Italy particularly appreciated the medium term perspective adopted by Qatar, including through its Vision 2030 and measures to reform and debate the current sponsorship system, especially in view of the projects related to FIFA 2022 World Cup. Italy welcomed Qatar's de facto moratorium on capital punishment and progress achieved on freedom of expression, but was concerned at the current debate on a new Media Law.
84. Japan noted measures taken to promote women's participation and protect children's rights. It encouraged continued efforts to advance the legal and social status of women. Japan appreciated Qatar's cooperation with international human rights mechanisms, and its commitment to improve the living conditions of migrant workers.
85. Jordan noted the positive progress in economic, social and cultural rights particularly the right to health and education. It welcomed the adoption of laws to strengthen the legal and institutional framework of human rights by adoption and amending laws such as those on torture, trafficking and health.
86. Kuwait appreciated the commitment, efforts and achievements in the field of migrant workers' rights, including the adoption of laws and procedures in this regard. It commended the measures to enforce the minimum wage for migrant workers and the awareness programmes.
87. Lebanon appreciated the efforts made in promoting human rights through the progress made on the legislative and institutional level and in the implementation of previous accepted recommendations.
88. Libya recognized Qatar's progress towards improving human rights through ratification of a number of international treaties. It noted progress in protecting the rights of children and persons with disabilities within its national strategic plan.
89. Malaysia commended the enactment and amendment of legislation on human rights and welcomed progress made in combating human trafficking. It encouraged continued implementation of policies and programmes to enhance and promote human rights.
90. Maldives congratulated Qatar on measures taken to combat trafficking in persons and protect trafficking victims. It welcomed amendments to the Criminal Code, particularly inclusion of a definition of torture, and efforts towards climate change mitigation.
91. Mauritania noted progress made in protecting the rights of women, children and migrant workers and steps taken to combat human trafficking. Mauritania welcomed the establishment of national institutions to promote human rights.
92. Norway shared concerns over the working and living conditions of foreign workers, particularly female domestic workers in private households, and discrimination against women. It appreciated that no executions had been carried out since 1995.
93. Montenegro noted the establishment of the National Human Rights Committee and legislative reforms to eliminate discrimination against women and promote gender equality.

It asked about the plans on criminalizing all forms of violence against women, including marital rape.

94. Morocco commended achievements in improving the human rights situation, initiatives to protect women and children, and the strengthening of human rights legislation and institutional framework, particularly the establishment of the Judicial High Council and the institution to combat trafficking and the prevention of torture.

95. Nepal appreciated the legislative and institutional measures undertaken by Qatar noting their linkage to the National Vision 2030 and National Development Strategy. Nepal commended efforts made to improve economic, social, cultural rights, in particular empowerment of women, protection of the rights of the child and persons with disabilities.

96. The Netherlands welcomed the cooperation Qatar had extended to the UN special procedures. The greatest human rights challenge would be the position and rights of migrant workers in Qatar, an issue that commanded worldwide attention.

97. Nicaragua commended progress made and measures taken to implement the recommendations from the first review, particularly in the areas of combating human trafficking, improving health, education and social assistance and furthering development.

98. The Niger welcomed measures taken to promote gender equality, guarantee women's rights, strengthen the family and protect children's rights. It encouraged Qatar to continue institutional and legislative development.

99. Nigeria noted the establishment of the Foundation for Social Action urging Qatar to broaden its mandate to include public awareness-raising of human rights. Nigeria invited Qatar to expedite the incorporation of international conventions into domestic legislation.

100. Mexico welcomed the country's cooperation with international human rights protection mechanisms, including withdrawal of reservations to the CAT and the recent visits by the Special Rapporteurs on the human rights of migrants and the independence of judges and lawyers, as well as the amendment of the Criminal Code to include a definition of torture.

101. Oman welcomed improvements in the legislative and administrative frameworks based on Qatar's Vision 2030 and other strategies. Oman noted efforts in the fields of education and health and the rights of persons with disabilities.

102. Pakistan appreciated incorporation of key socio-economic indicators in Qatar's Vision 2030 and development strategy. It noted efforts to protect the rights of women and migrant workers, combat domestic violence and cooperate with international human rights protection mechanisms.

103. The Philippines highlighted the assistance provided by Qatar to developing countries. It encouraged Qatar to continue supporting international and regional partners to combat human trafficking. It urged Qatar to step up implementation of policies and programmes aimed at promoting workers' rights in accordance with international standards.

104. The United States of America urged action against the violation of labour laws and to strengthen workers' rights. It was concerned about individuals imprisoned simply for exercising their freedom of expression, media restrictions and censorship.

105. The Republic of Moldova asked what measures had been taken to provide migrant workers with legal protection and access to justice. While welcoming legal and institutional developments, it noted treaty body concerns about gaps in fully addressing the issue of human trafficking.

106. Romania asked about steps being taken to revise education laws to protect and ensure the right to education for all in accordance with the National Vision 2030 and National Development Strategy 2011-2016.
107. The Russian Federation noted some progress achieved since the first review. It noted existing inconsistencies with the international human rights norms, including in the area of gender equality.
108. Rwanda noted progress made in human rights, especially legislation adopted on human trafficking, education and health care. Rwanda commended the National Vision 2030 and appreciated that it included women's empowerment and children's rights.
109. Senegal noted Qatar's accession to several international and regional human rights instruments and its efforts to ensure socioeconomic rights and to combat human trafficking. It encouraged continued positive efforts.
110. Sierra Leone commended legislation and awareness-raising campaigns to combat human trafficking. It urged further efforts to protect migrant workers' rights, particularly female domestic workers, and to strengthen accountability mechanisms to dissuade perpetrators of violence against women.
111. Singapore noted significant progress in advancing the role of women in society and measures taken to ensure the inclusion of persons with disabilities in society.
112. Sri Lanka noted developments in human rights and asked what efforts were being made to protect and ensure the right to health for all. Sri Lanka noted progress in promoting migrant workers' rights, including female domestic workers.
113. Eritrea congratulated Qatar on discharging its obligations in promoting and protecting the basic human rights of its people and its focus on UPR as the main mechanism towards achieving that goal.
114. The delegation stated that human rights principles were incorporated in school curricula at all levels as subjects, exercises or illustrative examples. International instruments such as those aimed at combating discrimination against women were used as reference material. A framework for inculcating values such as tolerance, rejection of violence, democracy and freedom of expression and a framework for family education focusing on health had been prepared. Workshops and symposia had been organized for teaching and administrative personnel, and leaflets and handbooks for teachers and students had been disseminated. Measures had been taken to ban corporal punishment in schools. A Ministerial Decree adopted in 2013 prohibited the use of violence of any kind in schools.
115. The delegation informed that two hundred inspectors were employed in eight regional offices to ensure that workers' rights, including those of migrant workers, were respected in all workplaces. The authorities were coordinating with the Central Bank to ensure that appropriate wages were paid. A hotline had been set up for workers wishing to complain or obtain information and a guide for migrant workers had been published. Full social and medical protection was provided.
116. The delegation reiterated that Act No. 15 of 2011 on combating human trafficking provided for the protection and rehabilitation of victims. Victims and witnesses were also protected in the event of legal proceedings. The National Plan 2010 to 2015 provided for 25 programmes, 85 per cent of which had been completed. The National Strategy to Combat Trafficking in Persons had also been updated. A further initiative was aimed at training criminal justice and enforcement personnel and at forging links between all stakeholders involved in combating human trafficking.
117. The delegation clarified that Qatar had withdrawn its general reservation to OP-CRC-SC, and limited its general reservation to CRC only to articles 2 and 14. It had also

withdrawn its reservations to articles 21 and 22 of CAT and amended its general reservation on this convention to be linked with articles 1 and 16 of the convention, and completely refrained from general reservations when accessed to CEDAW.

118. The delegation emphasized that Qatar believed in freedom of expression in the media and on social networks except in the case of violations of moral principles and Sharia law.

119. The delegation clarified that all measures taken against the poet were consistent with international rules. He was given a fair trial and allowed to appeal the judgement to the Court of Appeal and the Court of Cassation.

120. The head of delegation stated that some statements and recommendations had violated UPR principles, as the interactive dialogue should be conducted in a transparent manner and should not be selective or politicized.

121. Finally, the delegation assured that the comments and recommendations presented today will be taken into consideration, and reiterated the State of Qatar's commitment and full readiness to move forward for enhanced cooperation and consultation with all UN human rights mechanisms and for the support of the Human Rights Council's efforts to realize its noble objectives.

II. Conclusions and/or recommendations**

122. **The recommendations formulated during the interactive dialogue/listed below enjoy the support of Qatar:**

122.1. **Continue its ongoing review of national laws to ensure that they are in line with its international human rights law obligations (Turkmenistan);**

122.2. **Continue efforts in the field of legislative and institutional developments (Iran (Islamic Republic of));**

122.3. **Strengthen its national human rights institutions (Somalia);**

122.4. **Give continuity to strengthening of national human rights mechanisms (Nepal);**

122.5. **Enhance efforts in promoting human rights (Sudan);**

122.6. **Continue further improvement of the protection and promotion of human rights in the country (Azerbaijan);**

122.7. **Continue its efforts in strengthening the normative and institutional framework for the protection and promotion of human rights (Azerbaijan);**

122.8. **Continue the implementation of the National Development Strategy 2011-2016 in order to realize the objectives of the Qatar National Vision 2030 (Somalia);**

122.9. **Continue actions for the implementation of the objectives/targets of Qatar National Vision 2030, which plans the evolution, in practice, the economic, social, cultural, human and environmental development of the State during the next few years (Cuba);**

**Conclusions and recommendations will not be edited

- 122.10. Continue to conduct outreach activities to raise the awareness of its people in human rights (Afghanistan);
- 122.11. Continue with its practice to spread human rights awareness throughout the country (Pakistan);
- 122.12. Continue and further expand its human rights awareness-raising programmes (Armenia);
- 122.13. Continue to train law enforcement officials and Human Rights teachers and to raise awareness of the need of tolerance and harmony among races and ethnic groups, and intercultural relations (State of Palestine);
- 122.14. Organise more human rights education activities for staff of public services, particularly law enforcement officers (Viet Nam);
- 122.15. Continue efforts to amend national laws and legislations in order to ensure that they are in conformity with the recommendations made by treaty bodies (Lebanon);
- 122.16. Continue and strengthen the relation with the Office of the High Commission for Human Rights (Kuwait);
- 122.17. Continue its efforts in promoting and protecting the rights of vulnerable groups, particularly women and children (Brunei Darussalam);
- 122.18. Continue its endeavors to promote and protect the rights of children and women (Iran (Islamic Republic of));
- 122.19. Further strengthen the promotion of right of women and girls (Maldives);
- 122.20. Continue to promote gender equality and eliminate discrimination against women and girls in accordance with its obligations under CEDAW (Singapore);
- 122.21. Improve legislation in order to better implement the provisions of CEDAW (Russian Federation);
- 122.22. Continue making efforts to improve the normative framework for the protection of women in Qatar (Nicaragua);
- 122.23. Continue the efforts in improving gender equality and strengthening women's status in the society (Turkey);
- 122.24. Follow-up government action aimed to empower women and fight against its stereotyping forms (Lebanon);
- 122.25. Continue efforts towards female empowerment and gender equality (Eritrea);
- 122.26. Denounce gender discrimination (Nigeria);
- 122.27. Continue measures aimed to improve status of women in society and protect them from all forms of discrimination (Algeria);
- 122.28. Further promote gender equality so that women play a greater role in economic and social development (China);
- 122.29. Continue its efforts to enhance women's role in society and their effective involvement in the development process, as well as enabling women participation in economic, political and business activities in the country (Romania);

- 122.30. Continue to take necessary measures to enable women to be equal partners in development and decision making (India);
- 122.31. Continue efforts to improve the status of women in society, promote gender equality at all levels, thereby enhancing their contribution to the development process (Sri Lanka);
- 122.32. Continue its commendable efforts to empower women in social, political, economic and public life, including by continuing its positive campaigning to raise awareness on women's rights (Malaysia);
- 122.33. Continue efforts to ensure the representation of women at all levels of the political process and their participation in public life (Chile);
- 122.34. Address the issue of the election of women to parliament (the Shura Council) (Ghana);
- 122.35. Take concrete steps to enhance women's awareness of their rights and guarantee and increase women's public and political participation (Czech Republic);
- 122.36. Strengthen measures to ensure gender equality, particularly in the transmission of nationality to the children of women married to non-citizens (Argentina);
- 122.37. Continue its efforts to end discrimination against women by taking all necessary measures to eliminate obstacles for women to access all fields of society, including the justice system (Sweden);
- 122.38. Facilitate women's access to justice and mainstream a gender-based approach to justice and employment (Sierra Leone);
- 122.39. Continue improving women empowerment programs and address issues of discrimination and domestic violence by intensifying awareness-raising campaigns and providing better access to remedy for all victims of domestic violence, including migrant workers irrespective of legal status (Philippines);
- 122.40. Follow-up efforts made toward protecting children from violence (Jordan);
- 122.41. Take measures to combat intra-family violence (Cote d'Ivoire);
- 122.42. Strengthen efforts to combat violence against women (Ecuador);
- 122.43. Strengthen efforts to prevent violence against women (Rwanda);
- 122.44. Strengthen its efforts to prevent violence against women and ensure accountability of all perpetrators while assuring victims are provided with adequate redress, reparations and access to full rehabilitation (Slovenia);
- 122.45. Setting up an awareness campaign to prevent violence against women (Jordan);
- 122.46. Work to encourage both Qatari and expatriate women to report incidences of sexual violence, such as rape, to authorities and increase awareness of police forces, prosecutors and judges about the seriousness of the issue (Canada);
- 122.47. Continue with efforts to fight against human trafficking (Pakistan);

- 122.48. Continue to strengthen measures to combat human trafficking and child labour (Sri Lanka);
- 122.49. Continue to improve on efforts pointed at combatting human trafficking (Nigeria);
- 122.50. Continue providing protection to victims of trafficking in human beings and to ensure systematic procedures for the identification of these victims. (Republic of Moldova);
- 122.51. Continue to make efforts to combat trafficking in human beings, including through expanding/strengthening international, regional and bilateral cooperation (Uzbekistan);
- 122.52. Ensure the implementation of the existing legislation on combating trafficking (Albania);
- 122.53. Ensure the effective implementation of the National Plan of Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (Cote d'Ivoire);
- 122.54. Continue implementation of the national plan to combat human trafficking (Turkey);
- 122.55. Continue strengthening the family and family values (Malaysia);
- 122.56. Continue to protect the family as the basic social unit (Eritrea);
- 122.57. Continue/Persevere in the adoption and implementation of legislative or administrative measures aiming at the promotion and protection of the rights of the child (Chile);
- 122.58. Provide all the necessities needed to implement the national strategy for family cohesion and empowerment of women (State of Palestine);
- 122.59. Encourage the freedom of expression of opinion and strengthen cooperation and coordination with civil society and non-governmental organizations (Norway);
- 122.60. Continue to improve the social security system so as to provide better safeguards for the elderly, persons with disabilities and migrants (China);
- 122.61. Take necessary measures and steps to improve legislations on the right to health and ensure access for all persons to health services without discriminations (Pakistan);
- 122.62. Strengthen its cooperation with the civil society organisation for the promotion and protection of human rights in the area of health services (Angola);
- 122.63. Continue measures to improve education system and ensure universal access to quality education (Uzbekistan);
- 122.64. Continue strengthening the cooperation of the State with civil and social organizations working in the promotion and protection of human rights in the area of education (Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of));
- 122.65. Continue to step up its efforts to integrate the human rights approach in the study plans and programmes of the education system of the country (Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of));
- 122.66. Prioritize the education of the girl child (Nigeria);

- 122.67. Continue its efforts to provide Education for the disabled people and integrate them into society (Oman);
- 122.68. Continue to undertake measures to support and protect the rights of persons with disabilities (Singapore);
- 122.69. Pay particular attention to children belonging to vulnerable groups including disabled and minority communities (India);
- 122.70. Implement necessary measures to ensure adequate labor conditions and to combat human rights trafficking (Japan);
- 122.71. Continue the on-going work on labour sector reform (Benin);
- 122.72. Strengthen measures to protect and promote the rights of foreign workers (Cote d'Ivoire);
- 122.73. Take further measures to protect the rights of migrant workers (Portugal);
- 122.74. Expand the efforts to protect and promote the rights of the migrant workers (Somalia);
- 122.75. Take the necessary measures to improve the situation of foreign workers (Algeria);
- 122.76. Take the necessary measures to eliminate the discrimination suffered by immigrants, particularly migrant workers (Argentina);
- 122.77. Step up efforts to provide protection to migrant workers, ensuring/guaranteeing their full access to justice (Chile);
- 122.78. Continue to improve the working conditions of low-paid migrant labourers, especially those working as domestic help and on infrastructure projects (Canada);
- 122.79. Continue with actions aimed at the protection of migrant workers, especially domestic workers from mistreatment and abuse (Ecuador);
- 122.80. Step up its efforts to strengthen the compliance with the Labor Law no. 14 of 2014 and take actions to strengthen the effective protection of migrant workers (Spain);
- 122.81. Continue its efforts to pursue its development and humanitarian aids for LDCs (Yemen);
- 122.82. Strengthen its international cooperation for the sustainable development of the countries of the South (Somalia);
- 122.83. Continue its humanitarian role and its role in development (Kuwait);
- 122.84. Continue to play an affective and positive role at the regional and international levels (Sudan).
123. The following enjoy the support of Qatar which considers that they are already implemented or in the process of implementation:
- 123.1. Strengthen the independence of the National Human Rights Committee by limiting the role of government appointees (Ghana);
- 123.2. Strengthen the capacity of the National Human Rights Commission in the area of impartial monitoring, investigation, and reception of denunciations of torture or ill treatment (Mexico);

- 123.3. Significantly improve the implementation of protective measures contained in the labour law, in particular through the increase in the number of labour inspectors (Belgium);
- 123.4. Make adequate labour conditions and decent work an important criterion for granting building contracts and permits, and to actively improve the enforcement of its labour laws, including by applying penalties for, and blacklisting of, contractors in case of violation of the relevant laws and decrees (Netherlands);
- 123.5. Adopt the necessary measures to guarantee the access of migrant workers to civil, criminal and labour justice, as well as to assistance and consular protection (Mexico);
- 123.6. Step up its efforts to protect the rights of migrant workers and fight against exploitation, ill-treatment and abuse by their employers (Slovenia);
- 123.7. Ensure that the established hotline to respond to migrant workers' complaints provide, as much as possible, appropriate interpretation to migrant workers (Thailand);
- 123.8. Harmonize the work of charitable organizations with the International Conventions for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism (Syrian Arab Republic).
124. The following recommendations will be examined by Qatar which will provide responses in due time, but no later than the 27th session of the Human Rights Council in September 2014:
- 124.1. Ratify the ICCPR & ICESCR, the Rome Statute, the International Convention on Enforced Disappearance, the OP-CAT and the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (France);
- 124.2. Consider the ratification of those international human rights instruments, to which it is not yet a State Party (Nicaragua);
- 124.3. Consider accession to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Turkmenistan);
- 124.4. Consider acceding to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and adopt a new media law that respects freedom of expression (United States of America);
- 124.5. Consider ratifying the ICCPR and its Optional Protocols (Rwanda);
- 124.6. Consider ratifying ICCPR and ICESCR as recommended in the first cycle (Slovenia);
- 124.7. Consider early ratification of the ICCPR & ICESCR (Japan);
- 124.8. Ratify the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Montenegro);
- 124.9. Ratify the ICESCR & ICCPR (Tunisia);
- 124.10. Ratify the ICCPR and ICESCR as fundamental documents in the area of human rights (Russian Federation);
- 124.11. Accede to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural (ICESCR) (Germany);

- 124.12. **Accede to the ICCPR and ICESCR (Australia);**
- 124.13. **Ratify the ICESCR and its Optional Protocol, the Optional Protocol to the CRC on a Communications Procedure and the ICCPR and its Optional Protocols (Portugal);**
- 124.14. **Ratify the ICCPR and ICESCR as well as the Rome Statute of the ICC (Austria);**
- 124.15. **Ratify the ICCPR, ICESCR and Optional Protocol of the CAT (Maldives);**
- 124.16. **Consider ratifying the following international instruments: the ICCPR and its second optional protocol; CPED and OP-CAT, implementing the national preventive mechanism (Uruguay);**
- 124.17. **Ratify the human rights treaties listed in section I A of the compilation of the OHCHR notably ICCPR, ICESCR, International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families (ICRMW) as also the respective optional protocols to the CAT, ICCPR, CRC, CRPD, CEDAW (Ghana);**
- 124.18. **Ratify the OP-CAT (Costa Rica);**
- 124.19. **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture (OP-CAT) as also recommended by the Qatari National Human Rights Committee (Denmark);**
- 124.20. **Ratify the optional protocol to the convention against torture, and The Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Tunisia);**
- 124.21. **Consider ratifying the ICRMW (Albania);**
- 124.22. **Consider ratification to the ICRMW (Indonesia);**
- 124.23. **Consider ratifying the ICRMW (Rwanda);**
- 124.24. **Ratify the ICRMW to a better harmonization of their national legislation with international norms (Senegal);**
- 124.25. **Accede to core human rights treaties that it is not yet a party to including the ICRMW (Philippines);**
- 124.26. **Implement measures on strengthening women's capacities and empowering them to participate in political and economic life and that it ratifies the Optional Protocol to CEDAW (Portugal);**
- 124.27. **Ratify the third Optional Protocol to the CRC (Montenegro);**
- 124.28. **Ratify the core ILO Conventions, including ILO Convention concerning Decent work for Domestic Workers and reform the Sponsorship Law, removing the requirement for foreign nationals to obtain the permission of their current employer before moving jobs or leaving the country (Austria);**
- 124.29. **Ratify the three remaining fundamental ILO conventions, to enforce effectively the ratified conventions and relevant labour laws, with a special focus on the elimination of forced labour (convention 29), while continuing to work in close and active cooperation with the ILO and other international organizations (Netherland);**
- 124.30. **Ratify ILO Conventions No. 169 (on indigenous and tribal peoples) and No. 189 (on domestic workers) (Sierra Leone);**

- 124.31. **Accede to ILO Convention 189 (Philippines);**
- 124.32. **Accede to the International Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (Armenia);**
- 124.33. **Equip the Committee within the Government to consider accession to the ICESCR with adequate power and resources so that the consideration process can accelerate and result in practical outcome (Viet Nam);**
- 124.34. **Integrate the Rabat Plan of Action on the prohibition of advocacy of national, racial or religious hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence in their national legislation, which organize the work of the media and religious institutions, and ensure the actual application of the Plan (Syrian Arab Republic);**
- 124.35. **Continue strengthen protective measures and legal rights for women, and that full citizenship rights be provided to children of Qatari mothers and non-Qatari fathers (Norway);**
- 124.36. **Consider granting the Qatari nationality to children of Qatari women who are married to foreign nationals (Greece);**
- 124.37. **Get real advances for the rights of women through reform the nationality law to ensure gender equality and give Qatari women the right to pass their nationality to their children and Withdraw reservations to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and its Optional Protocol. (France);**
- 124.38. **Amend the legislation to avoid discrimination against women with respect to the transfer of nationality to their children, and the celebration/registration of civil acts (Mexico);**
- 124.39. **Amend the Law of 22 of 2006 regarding family and personal status matters to eliminate those provisions that lead to discrimination against women, for example that marital rape is not a crime (Spain);**
- 124.40. **Take the necessary measures to amend national laws that allow for the discrimination of women, so that those laws are in conformity with international human rights norms, and criminalize domestic violence (Switzerland);**
- 124.41. **Take effective actions to ensure full protection of women from discrimination and violence including by criminalizing domestic violence against women, adopt legal measures to guarantee full gender equality, and recommends in this context that Qatar consider withdrawing its reservations to CEDAW (Germany);**
- 124.42. **Adopt specific legislation to criminalize all forms of violence against women (Czech Republic);**
- 124.43. **Criminalize domestic violence and ensure that a broad definition of the crime is applied so as to ensure the protection of all persons concerned, including domestic workers (Belgium);**
- 124.44. **Continue to build the capacity of an independent judiciary that would process court cases more effectively and independently (Canada);**
- 124.45. **Strengthen its judicial framework, including due process, freedom of expression and freedom of association (Australia);**

- 124.46. **Guarantee exercise of freedom of religion or agreement authorizing the opening of places of worship for people who are neither Muslims nor Christians. (France);**
- 124.47. **Respect the rights and freedom of opinion and expression, as accepted during the previous UPR cycle, and that the State refrains from any undue restriction to this right, including with regard to the new draft media law. (Germany);**
- 124.48. **Implement fully legal guarantees for freedom of expression as stipulated in the Constitution, thus allowing Qatari citizens to exercise their freedom of expression and opinion and enabling independent media in the country (Slovenia);**
- 124.49. **Guarantee freedom of expression by protecting journalists, bloggers and media professionals against arbitrary arrest and detention and against censorship, including amending pertinent provision of the Criminal Code and the draft media law that are inconsistent with international standards of freedom of expression. (France);**
- 124.50. **Decriminalize defamation as recommended by UNESCO (Ghana);**
- 124.51. **Refrain from adopting any laws providing for censorship or undue control over the content of the media (Czech Republic);**
- 124.52. **Amend those articles of its draft media law and the draft cybercrime law that are inconsistent with international standards of freedom of expression (Austria);**
- 124.53. **Take immediate measures to ensure that the national regulations concerning the Internet guarantees freedom of expression (Sweden);**
- 124.54. **Ensure that the judicial and law enforcement system is not abused to harass individuals for expressing their political or religious views, including on the Internet (Czech Republic);**
- 124.55. **Amend relevant national legislation, including the Law on Associations and Institutions, to reduce restrictions on procedures for establishing associations (Ireland);**
- 124.56. **Revise Law No. 18 of 2004 in order to remove restricting conditions for acquiring permission for a public demonstration and undertake other steps to guarantee the full enjoyment of the rights to freedom of assembly and association (Czech Republic);**
- 124.57. **Continue its efforts to achieve full universal health coverage, including for non-nationals as part of its National Health Strategy (Thailand);**
- 124.58. **Extend the benefits of its health insurance, currently limited to only Qataris and citizens of the Gulf Cooperation Council, to any citizen residing in its territory (Comoros);**
- 124.59. **Reform the Labour Law so that it ensures the protection of labour rights of all workers – including domestic and construction workers – and put in place mechanisms to improve the enforcement of the law (Denmark);**
- 214.60. **Revise the labour law to protect the rights of all workers without discrimination and ensure their effective access to justice, in cooperation with the International Labour Organisation (Belgium);**

- 124.61. May soon adopt a new Labour Law, or further amend the existing one, so to improve the conditions and rights of migrant and foreign workers (Italy);
- 124.62. Take active steps to reform its labour laws in order to improve working conditions for foreign workers, to give female domestic workers the necessary legal protection and to address the recent ruling by ILO on forced labour and freedom of association and collective bargaining (Norway);
- 124.63. Continue efforts to ensure the safety, security and dignity of the migrant workers and protection of their interests through requisite institutional and legislative measures (Nepal);
- 124.64. Take measures to ensure access of migrants and non-citizens, especially children, to justice, employment, education, housing and health services (Czech Republic);
- 124.65. Continue its efforts to promote and protect the rights of migrants, particularly those pertaining to female domestic workers (Indonesia);
- 124.66. Adopt all necessary measures, including legislative measures in order to apply a policy on migrants with a human rights perspective, in particular with regard to the detention of migrants, especially women and children (Uruguay);
- 124.67. Guarantee the respect of the rights of migrant workers, in particular by strengthening the capacity of the labor inspectorate. Carry out the reform of the system *kafala* and ratify International Labor Organization (ILO) convention of Domestic Workers (France);
- 124.68. Consider abolishing the system of *Kafala* sponsorship for all migrant workers eliminating the exit permits system (Costa Rica);
- 124.69. Review the *kafala* sponsorship system in order to comply with international standards (Sweden);
- 124.70. Establish a timetable for reform of the system of sponsorship-based employment (Brazil);
- 124.71. Abolish or reform the restrictive sponsorship law, which derives potential labour exploitation and human trafficking; strengthen enforcement of the labor law; continue to increase awareness of human rights of migrant workers; and expand legal protections (United States of America);
- 124.72. Reform the sponsorship system, removing the requirement for foreign workers to obtain permission before leaving Qatar or moving jobs (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);
- 124.73. Abolish the exit visa system for foreign workers (Brazil);
- 124.74. Abolish the “exit visa” system for migrant workers (Ireland);
- 124.75. Remove the requirement in the Sponsorship Law for foreign nationals to obtain the permission of their current employer before moving jobs or leaving the country and ensure that the rights of migrant workers are protected (Australia);
- 124.76. Improve the legal protection of migrant workers, apply the provisions of the labour laws that prohibit the retention of passports of migrant workers, strengthen institutional controls for the protection of migrant

workers, and remove or amend the requirement of the sponsor's consent for obtaining exit visas (Switzerland);

124.77. Ghana notes that Qatar has enacted legislative measures to make it illegal for sponsors to confiscate the passport of foreign workers and combat human trafficking. Nevertheless, concerning the recruitments and treatment of foreign workers and migrants, Ghana urges Qatar to take further urgent steps to address the concerns raised in the relevant report before this session (Ghana);

124.78. Abolish the laws on sponsorship and include domestic workers in laws that protect workers (Spain);

124.79. Ensure that the draft law on domestic workers, which we hope will be adopted very soon, is in line with ILO Convention no. 189 concerning decent work for domestic workers (Uruguay);

124.80. Develop a specific strategy to ensure that domestic workers can file complaints in cases of violence and abuse without fear of reprisal or harassment (Belgium);

124.81. Reform the Labour laws to ensure domestic workers are legally protected and to improve the enforcement of these laws ensuring the rights of foreign workers in Qatar are guaranteed (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);

124.82. Adopt legal provisions that guarantee the right to migrant workers to trade union association (Spain);

124.83. Hold regular meetings of agreed institutional mechanism to address issues pertaining to migrants workers and ensure dialogue under such arrangements (India);

124.84. Continue maintaining its commitment to devote 0.7 per cent of its GNI to overseas development assistance to assist in the economic and social rights of poor countries (Sierra Leone).

125. The recommendations below did not enjoy the support of Qatar:

125.1. Examine the possibility of introducing a formal moratorium on the death penalty (Switzerland);

125.2. Establish a formal moratorium on the use of the death penalty with a view to ratifying the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR (Australia);

125.3. May soon consider the possibility to adopt a de jure moratorium on executions, with a view to abolish the death penalty (Italy);

125.4. All death sentences be commuted and that Qatar declare a moratorium on executions and move towards abolition (Norway);

125.5. Abolish the death penalty (Portugal);

125.6. Initiate a public debate with the view to abolish the death penalty in law, after more than ten years of de facto moratorium on executions (France);

125.7. Release all prisoners of conscience, including poet Mohammad al-Ajami and respect the rights of all individuals to freedom of expression (United States of America).

126. **All conclusions and/or recommendations contained in the present report reflect the position of the submitting State(s) and/or the State under review. They should not be construed as endorsed by the Working Group as a whole.**

Annex

Composition of the delegation

The delegation of Qatar was headed by His Excellency Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al-Thani, Assistant of the Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, and composed of the following members:

- H.E. Mr. Faisal Abdulla Al-Henzab, Permanent Representative of the State of Qatar to the United Nations Office in Geneva;
- H.E. Sheikh Khaled bin Jassim Al-Thani, Director of Human Rights Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
- H.E. Mr. Mohammed Khalid Al-Maadeed, Member of the Advisory Council, the Advisory Council;
- Dr. Mohammed Ebrahim Shahbeck, Legal Expert, the Advisory Council;
- Colonel. Abdulla Al-Muhannadi, Director of Human Rights Bureau, Ministry of Interior;
- Ms. Maryam Yousuf ARAB, Assistant to the Director of Juridical Studies Department, Ministry of Justice;
- Sheikha Hind Al-Thani, Legal specialist, Department of Management conventions and international cooperation, Ministry of Justice;
- Mr. Saleh Saeed Al-Marri, Director of the Labour Relations Dept. Ministry of Labour & Social Affairs;
- Mr. Mohamed Ali Al-Meer, Assistant to the Director of Inspection Department, Ministry of Labour & Social Affairs;
- Mr. Saleh Ali Al-Khaldi, First specialist, Ministry of Labour & Social Affairs;
- Dr. Hamda Hassan Al-Sulaiti, Councillor, Supreme Education Council;
- Ms. Mona Sabah S. Al-Kuwari, Expert analysis, Office of policy analysis, The Supreme Education Council;
- Ms. Wafaa Anbar Al-Nuaimi, First Legal specialist, Supreme council of Health;
- Mr. Mohammed Ahmed Al-Saadi, Director of International Cooperation Department, Ministry of Culture, Arts and Heritage;
- Mr. Youssuf Al-Mulla, Executive Director of the Social Rehabilitation Center;
- Ms. Mariam Al-Maliki, Councilor, the Social Rehabilitation Center;
- Ms. Fareeda Al-Obaidly, the Social Rehabilitation Center;
- Ms. Noor Al-Hur, Legal Expert, the Social Rehabilitation Center;
- Ms. Manal Yousuf Al-Mahmoud, Councilor, Supreme Council of Family Affairs;
- Ms. Hanadi Nedham Al-Shafai, Political Researcher, Human Rights Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
- Ms. Aisha Saleh Al-Sulaiti, Third International affairs researcher, Human Rights Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs;

- Ms. Alanoud Kassim Mohammad Al-Tamimi, Third Secretary, Human Rights Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
 - Mr. Almuhammad Ali Al-Hammadi, Second Secretary, Permanent Mission of Qatar in Geneva;
 - Ms. Noor Al-Sada, Second Secretary, Permanent Mission of Qatar in Geneva;
 - Mr. Jassim Al-Maawda, Third Secretary, Permanent Mission of Qatar in Geneva;
 - Mr. Saad bin Ali Al-Kharji, Office of the Minister's Assistant for International Cooperation Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
 - Mr. Mishaal Saeed Al-Mazroey, Office of the Minister's Assistant for International Cooperation Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
 - Ms. Mounira Mohamed Al-Rumaihi, Third International affairs researcher, Office of the Minister's Assistant for International Cooperation Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
 - Mr. Ali Abdulrazzaq Marafi, Assistant of the Director of International Cooperation Department, Ministry of Culture, Arts and Heritage;
 - Ms. Noora Mohammed Al-Marzouqi, International Organization Desk Officer, Ministry of Culture, Arts and Heritage;
 - Dr. Mohamed Saeed Mohamed Eltayeb, Legal Expert, Human Rights Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
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