



State of Qatar Statement

Delivered By

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Minister of State for Foreign Affairs

at

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United Nations Human Rights Council

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**Madame President,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

It is a great privilege for me to participate on behalf of the Government of the State of Qatar in this important session of the Human Rights Council. I also wish to express appreciation to the successive Presidents of this Council for their commendable endeavours to achieve its noble objective of promoting and protecting human rights, in particular Ambassador Laura Dupuy Lasserre, for the excellent manner in which she is guiding the work of this Council, her openness and her readiness to engage in constructive dialogue. I would also like to renew my country's support to Ms. Pillay, High Commissioner for Human Rights and her Office for the important role they play in the advancement of human rights around the world.

The promotion and protection of human rights has been a cornerstone of reforms in the State of Qatar since His Highness Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani came to power. In view of the importance of human rights, Qatar has paid particular attention to these rights, with a view to their consolidation, protection and promotion through the constitution and legislation in force in Qatar, in addition to cooperation with all international human rights mechanisms, the obligation to submit periodic reports to the various mechanisms and the implementation of relevant

recommendations. At the institutional level, a number of public and private institutions as well as government agencies and national committees have been established. They are all tasked with promoting and protecting human rights in Qatar.

Reaffirming its respect for human rights, the State of Qatar hosted several related conferences and meetings, including the Doha Conference on Interfaith Dialogue and the Doha Forum of Alliance of Civilizations.

Madame President,

It has been proven beyond doubt that there is a close relationship - between societies' development and evolution and the respect of human rights and their protection from all forms of aggression in these societies. Likewise, there is a close relationship between human rights violations in any society and the manifestations of ignorance, poverty and disease that lead to State institutions' backwardness and deterioration in that society.

This was affirmed in Qatar's National Vision 2030 that encompasses a comprehensive vision of development and identifies important actions for the promotion and protection of human rights. To achieve this vision, Qatar launched the National Development Strategy 2011-2016 which contains several national programmes for the protection of all human rights including effective woman's empowerment in all fields through capacity building and the lifting of restrictions facing them particularly at the level of decision making in the country.

The attention given by the State to its citizens and the need to ensure their full rights have been extended to all residents and persons subject to the jurisdiction of the State

Madame President,

The international community still faces a major challenge due to the worsening impact of racist practices, racial discrimination, acts of violence and related conflicts. These practices have become evident in the defamation and negative stereotyping of religions, as well as in the incitement to violence against people on the basis of their religion or belief. I refer here in particular to Arab and Muslim communities that are targeted by extremist political movements for personal goals. Combating this problem requires concerted efforts by the international community to take bold steps aimed at banning religious hatred, and criminalizing all methods of apartheid and policies based on racial superiority or hatred, because they violate international laws and standards.

In this regard, the State of Qatar presented its last periodic report to the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, which will be considered by the Committee on February 29th. We look forward to this interactive discussion with members of the Committee, and as usual, we express our openness to recommendations that may be issued on the report.

Madame President,

The occupied Palestinian territories are still witness to the suffering of the Palestinian people both in Gaza and the West Bank, with the continuous killing, destruction, confiscation of land and the serious threats posed to the Al Aqsa Mosque by the occupying authorities and Israeli extremists. Settlements throughout the Palestinian territories reveal the gravity of human rights violations against the Palestinian citizens, which represents a serious violation of international laws and standards. We therefore, reiterate our condemnation of Israeli unjust practices and deplore the failure of the international community and its disregard to exercise the necessary pressure on the occupying power in order to put an end to these violations.

It is unfortunate to see lack of substantial progress towards securing the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, including the right *to establish their independent State over their national territory* with Jerusalem as its capital, and their right to return to their homes and lands of origin in Palestine, in accordance with the most elementary rules of international law and human rights.

Therefore, it is our duty to invite international actors to assume their responsibilities and continue their efforts to end such

practices. This will only be possible through a commitment to legitimate international resolutions.

Madame President,

In light of the recent events in our Arab region calling for more freedom, dignity and fundamental human rights, it should be noted that the State of Qatar was among the first to call upon the international community to support these peoples in their legitimate quest. In this respect, His Highness the Emir has announced, on more than an occasion, that the State of Qatar shall continue standing by its Arab brotherly peoples in their just quest and in their struggle for-development and construction.

There is no doubt that practices and expectations of impunity from violations of international law of human rights or humanitarian law – have encouraged the perpetration of such abuses - and are among the main obstacles hindering full compliance with international legitimacy of human rights. This implies the necessity to disclose these violations and hold accountable their perpetrators, accomplices and collaborators.

In this context, the State of Qatar has followed with deep sadness and anger the escalating military operations in Syria, the killing of civilians and the increasing violence affecting even children, women and the elderly, in flagrant contradiction with the international law of human rights, international-standards and conventions as well as with the obligations under the resolutions of the Arab League Council.

As required by the duty of solidarity with the brotherly Syrian people, the State of Qatar has tirelessly sought since the outbreak of the crisis in Syria to stop all acts of violence and murder and called for the respect of human rights and a decent life for Syrian citizens.

We reaffirm the wish of the State of Qatar to find a peaceful way out of the crisis in Syria and to protect its sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence. We also stress the need for Syrian people cohesion, the unity of the entire *spectrum of the Syrian people*, and the protection of all ethnic, religious and social groups.

Finally, the State of Qatar renews its commitment to both cooperate with and support the Human Rights Council in its efforts to ensure full enjoyment by all of all human rights worldwide. We also welcome the outcome of the review of the work and functioning of the Council, and reaffirm the State of Qatar's commitment to continue its efforts aiming at strengthening human rights infrastructure as well as consolidating its cooperation with various international human rights mechanisms.

**Thank you for your kind attention and may
God's blessings be upon you.**