**Preliminary Contribution of the State of Qatar**

**The Mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Development**

**Regional Consultation for the Asia-Pacific States**

**Bangkok, Thailand, 12-13, December 2018**

1 The State of Qatar has the honor of sharing its experiences and practices of development plans and programson the practical implementation of the right to development. This preliminary contribution will provide concrete examples of policies, action plans and any other best practices concerning the efforts of Qatar to implement the right to development.

2 Human rights are cherished values meant to create more just societies and reduce social and economic inequalities. The realization of such lofty ideals and goals requires concrete steps and actions by Sates that address both development issues and promote human rights. States do this through medium and long term planning that design and identify programs and projects in various socio-economic and environmental fields. The contribution of such development plans to the realization and enhancement of human rights is evident, as attainment of human rights requires national policies, legislation and resources.

3 The State of Qatar had formulated and published in 2008 a rights-based long-term national vision, namely Qatar National Vision 2030 (NDS). To translate this vision into action, the State prepared two national development strategies. The first covered the period 2011-2016 and the second is for 2018-2022. The two strategies contained several programs and projects that deal with the three dimensions of development: social, economic and environmental whose outcomes would contribute directly or indirectly to the promotion and enhancement of human rights and raise public awareness about such vital rights for all. All projects are fully funded by Qatari government. Actually, the government allocates substantial portions of its annual budget to major sectors related to human rights, such as education, health care and social protection. The following are examples of projects that promote the enjoyment of human rights for all:

* 1. **Right to Education**. The main aim of the education and training sectors in the second NDS is “ to build a world-class education system that offers equitable access to high-quality education and training, equips all learners with the necessary skills and competencies to realize their potential in line with their ambitions and abilities to contribute to society, strengthens Qatar’s values and heritage, and calls for tolerance and respect for other cultures.

To achieve this outcome, the Education and training sector strategy is based on 15 intermediate outcomes that are broken down to three educational stages as well as the Education and Training Sector Planning and Quality. This includes four main pillars that are enrollment, attainment and achievement, citizenship and values, and labor force.

The NDS2 education and training sector strategy intermediate outcomes include but not limited to:

(a) Developing children’s cognitive, social, emotional and physical capacities in early years to improve readiness to move from home to compulsory education.

(b) Increasing all children’s awareness and pride of Qatar’s values and heritage, while promoting tolerance, understanding and respect for other cultures and people.

(c) Providing fair learning opportunities for all learners at all educational levels regardless of age , sex or abilities.

(d) Improving learners’ 21st century competencies necessary for life and employability.

(e) Improving student outcomes and graduation rates in tertiary and postgraduate programs as well as in post-secondary TVET programs, and (f) Improving governance, planning, policy- and decision-making, and accounting procedures in the ETS.

* 1. **Right to Health Care**. The main outcome of the health strategy is to achieve “ Improved health for Qatar’s population and meeting the needs of current and next generations through an integrated health system that aims to attain better health , better care and better value for all “. Actually, Qatar provides free health services to its citizens and to all expatriate residents. The health sector strategy has identified seven priority populations as the focus of health care in the next five years and designed projects that serve them. These populations and their relevant targets are healthy children and teenagers; Healthy women for health pregnancies; Healthy and safe workers; Mental health and wellbeing; Improved health for persons with chronic diseases; Improved health and wellbeing for persons with disabilities; and Healthy old-aged.
  2. **Right to Social Protection**. The QNV 2030 also calls for advancing effective social protection systems that protect citizens’ civil rights, value their contribution in developing their society, and ensure adequate income, care, and support to maintain a healthy and dignified life. The main outcome of this sector is to establish an integrated effective and sustainable protection system. The Qatari government had established a social protection system and programs that ensure decent living for all its citizens and provide special care for weak and vulnerable groups that protects them against falling into poverty. It provides social security and social services to the vulnerable social groups, pension, and social insurance for citizens employed in the public and private sectors. The nongovernmental organization (NGO) sector in Qatar is a second player and provides in-kind social care services for vulnerable Qatari families, children, and youth at risk. Qatar Foundation for Social Work, a civil society organization, provides several services through its affiliate centers. Several other charitable organizations provide support to relatively poor families. Several projects for prevention and protection from domestic violence are designed and implemented. Several other projects are designed and implemented to empower women and attain gender equality .Special care is provided to persons with disabilities, orphans, juveniles and the elderly. A strong partnership has been established between the government, civil society organizations and the private sector that contributes to social protection programs and projects. Finally, every Qatari family is well supported by government to own its own house. Each family is granted a piece of land and is given a generous building loan with no interest.
  3. **Right to live in a healthy environment**. The main aim of the environment sector strategy is to achieve balance between economic and social development, preserve the environment and natural heritage for securing a healthy living environment.

The Government encouraged the efficient use of natural resources, green initiatives and buildings by reducing waste production through reduction and recycling, and the development and implementation of solid waste and recycling programs and projects. The Solid Waste Management Center was opened in 2011, Construction waste decreased from about 9.6 million tons in 2011 to about 4.6 million tons in 2016. Total waste declined from about 12.1 million tons in 2011 to about 8.4 million tons in 2016.

**Medium outcomes are:**

* Create a less polluted environment that provides sound health through less polluted air, soil and water. The reduction of natural gas consumption due to the use of district cooling plants by 5 billion cubic feet in 2017 and is expected to reach 380 billion cubic feet by 2030. The Qatar Plumbing Code has been announced through "Rationalization" regulations and was applied to the Building Permits Complex starting in February 2016.
* Build a greenbelt around Doha and its suburbs. 40 integrated parks were established in various zones from 2010 to 2016 to become the number of parks so far 87 parks compared to only 48 parks in 2010).
* Preserve bio-diversity and expand protected areas. The area of protected areas increased from 11% to 23.6% with an area of 2744 km2 and 6.2% of the water area with an area of 720 km2. Thus, the total protected area (land and water) reached 3464 km2 representing 29.8% of the total area of Qatar, Which is one of the highest in the world.
* Promote environmental awareness and change behaviors and practices that harm the local environment. Opening of the KAHRAMAA Awareness Park in October 2017 to provide awareness lectures for students and researchers and conducting awareness lectures for various sectors, in order to promote a culture of reducing electricity consumption, water and environmental protection.
* TARSHID Program, which aims to rationalize consumption of water resources and electricity. The National Program for Rationalization and Energy Efficiency (Rationalization Law No. 20 of 2015 for the rationalization of electricity and water consumption), which reduced the per capita consumption of electricity by 18% and water by 20% from its inception in 2012 until the end of 2016.
* In addition to the two strategies, the Qatari government had introduced several programs in areas of combatting trafficking in people and teaching human rights in public schools and at the national university. Moreover, the government keeps reviewing and amending laws to make them compatible with international sustainable goals, which in turn strengthen the human rights component, such as labor and residence laws.

**4 The challenges or obstacles that Qatar face, or may face, in promoting and realizing all human rights including the right to development for all due to the lack of development:**

Due to the lack of development, countries will fall short in realizing all human rights including the right to development and will face challenges in areas of the right to health for all, the right to education for all and the right to live in a healthy environment and the right to social protection. This would result mainly from shortage of human and material resources or from unequal or unfair allocation of these resources between regions and populations, such as allocating unfair resources to rural areas and to poor neighborhoods that would definitely undermine human rights for all in such areas and among such populations.

**5 Qatar Government conclusions and recommendations drawn from challenges and best practices of ensuring contribution of development to the enjoyment of all human rights:**

* All States should strengthen good governance, including transparency and accountability.
* All States should widen or expand the network of social protection
* All States should increase their interventions to stop human rights violations.
* All States should intensify efforts in combatting trafficking in people, including forced labor, child labor, and sexual slavery.
* All States should support and encourage civil society organizations, especially those engaged in human rights advocacy and fighting corruption.

**6 other matters regarding the contribution of development to the enjoyment of all human rights that Qatar Government would recommend for mentioning in the report:**

* Fighting corruption in government and in the private sector.
* Widening and increasing the social responsibility of the private sector in national development and in promoting all human rights.
* Monitoring the private sector’s employment terms and conditions and increasing government arbitration in business- labor disputes.
* Granting more powers and competencies to national human rights committees.