Mission permanente
de l'État du Qatar
auprès de l'Office
des Nations-Unies à Genève

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الوفد الدائم لدولة قطر / جنيف

الوفـــد الدائـــم لدولـة قطـــر
لدى مكتب الأمم المتحدة
جنيـــــف

The Permanent Mission of the State of Qatar to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva, presents its compliments to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in Geneva, and is pleased to refer to the latter note dated September 27th 2018 – and its attachment, the call for inputs by the Special Rapporteur on the issue of human rights obligations relating to the enjoyment of a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment, pursuant to Human Right Council resolution 37/8, has the honor to attach, herewith, **the responses on the SR questionnaire**, as received from the Ministry of Municipality and Environment [MME] of the State of Qatar.

The Permanent Mission of the State of Qatar avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in Geneva, the assurances of its highest consideration.

Geneva, November 30th 2018

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First: Air Quality Monitoring[1]: The Ministry was keen to issue the executive regulations No. (4) for the year 2005 with the existence of law No. 30 of 2002. The criteria for ambient air quality were determined. In response to these regulations:

a. Establishment of monitoring stations: Ambient air quality monitoring stations have been established for continuous monitoring and to ensure that the standards established by law are not exceeded. Some of these stations belong to the ministry directly, others are affiliated to external parties and where these stations are established in implementation of the recommendations and requirements of the ministry. In 2007, the Ministry's stations were upgraded and supported by a mobile air quality monitoring station, and there were three fixed stations and one mobile station (1) to monitor air quality. Then in 2012 these stations were updated by adding other elements and developing the mobile station by adding more elements being monitored and knowing the air quality in a more comprehensive way.
b. Integration of all the ambient air monitoring stations in One National Network: In 2014, all stations for monitoring the quality of the ambient air in the Country and belonging to the various external bodies were surveyed and a plan for integrating these stations was started with the Ministry of Municipality and Environment since 2014, and some of them have been completed. The Ministry currently has 4 air quality monitoring stations operated and managed by the Ministry. In addition to the presence of seven (7) stations operated and managed by Qatar Petroleum – Ras Laffan of which (6) fixed stations

[1] This report is not for publishing purpose.

have been completed and fully linked with the Ministry in the third quarter of 2016, the total (10) stations directly linked to the Ministry of them (9) fixed stations and one mobile. There are eleven (11) other stations operating regularly and belonging to different parties, including eight (8) fixed stations are being linked to three (3) mobile stations, the total will be twenty-one stations (21).

c. The modernization and continuous improvement of the stations of the ambient air monitoring: The modernization and improvement of air quality monitoring stations is ongoing and either by adding new elements to the stations are monitored and ensure that they do not exceed the specified standards or take advantage of the new technologies that provide new solutions to keep pace with developments and monitor changes. Where the installation of new measuring devices and modern in these stations, for example:

    - Add a hydrogen fluoride (HF) measurement device to measure and monitor air pollution that may result from industrial and pharmaceutical activities
    - Add a hydrogen sulphide measuring device (H2S) to measure and monitor air pollution that may result from wastewater and industry
    - Instruments for the measurement of fine bodies of various sizes are being added and using reference methods that will help to better read and analyze the chemical content of the samples being measured in order to distinguish the industrial origin from the natural origin of the fine particles.

Second: Monitoring and Determining Industrial Emissions: The Ministry also issued the executive regulations No. (4) for the year 2005 with the existence of Law No. 30 of 2002. The limits, standards and emissions of the various industrial activities have been determined and the Ministry has detailed regulations for emission standards for various industries They are periodically monitored and controlled and the relevant authorities are obliged to determine their emissions according to these regulations and to ensure that these standards are not exceeded. Plans, techniques and strategies are implemented depending on the nature and sizes of the emissions to reduce certain emissions such as nitrogen oxides or the installation of equipment to monitor them and ensure that they do not exceed the permissible limits according to the regulations adopted. In implementation of this and in response to these regulations set forth by the law:

a. Determination of Nitrogen Oxide Emissions: The industrial sector started operation in 2015 and the emissions of nitrogen oxides from all different sources are still under work in the work permits issued by the Ministry of Municipality and Environment to identify emission sources according to the criteria identified.
b. Detection of Infusion: The Department of Environment and Sustainable Development with the operations departments of Qatar Petroleum has been working on the development of standards for the detection and repair of gas leaks to reduce the emissions of volatile organic compounds, which may turn into ground level ozone when the availability of sunlight, especially in the summer, Petroleum Company to contract with specialized companies and through specialists, technicians and experts at

Qatar Petroleum to detect, repair and treat corrosion and reduce these leaks in best practices.

c. Reduction of gas burning: The industrial sector has also developed a strategy to reduce the rate of burning of gases and to progress in the process and identify the sources of the problem that require specific interventions, some of which have been completed as in the operations of smoke and others will begin work very soon.

d. Implementation of the Continuous Emission Monitoring System: There are also efforts by Qatar Petroleum to use the continuous emission control system, and this will improve emissions monitoring and increase the level of confidence in the data monitored and reach the Ministry.

   In addition, sulphur processing units have been established and these units are very important in reducing sulphur dioxide emissions.

Third: Preparation and approval of air quality indicators: In order to know the quality of the air accurately and concept at the daily level has been prepared air quality indicators (i.e., indexes) recently adopted by the Ministry to present the current status of air quality and to give a more accurate description of the statistical figures used previously that do not fit the nature of the region because the large percentage of suspended particles of natural origin due to desert nature and sand storms.

The indicators that have been developed depend primarily on the system adopted by the US Environmental Protection Agency (US-EPA). Accordingly, six levels of air quality (as an indicator of ambient air quality)

were adopted with a characterization with colours for each level as shown in the table below:

Description of Air Quality Indicator	وصف تقييم جودة الهواء	AQI المؤشر
Clean	نظيف	50 - 0
Normal	طبيعي	100 - 51
Less than Normal	أقل من الطبيعي	150 - 101
Limited Polluted	تلوث محدود	200 - 151
Polluted	تلوث	300 - 201
Extremely Polluted	تلوث شديد	500 – 301

The air quality index, according to the system adopted by the US Environmental Protection Agency, is a number without a unit within a range of 0 to 500, which represents a measure of the extent of pollution in the ambient air. The larger the number, the more pollution it is divided into color and digital levels for easy identification and pollution detection. In the surrounding air more accurately, making it easier to display information that is comprehensible to the public and to know the level of air quality with transparency and clarity.

Fourth: Developing the Environmental Monitoring Emergency Response System: During the first quarter of 2017, a plan was adopted to respond to environmental complaints and communications for certain minor environmental conditions such as odors / fumes / dust emissions and other cases classified as less than the level of environmental disasters, Its own procedures and an emergency committee specialized in this field.

The plan is concerned with simple cases and environmental complaints. Upon receipt of any complaint or communication by the concerned

authorities, the team leader will receive the response from his / her team composed of members of different departments within the environmental sector, immediate response within one hour and the team arriving at the site within 4 hours maximum with all required equipment such as portable monitoring devices and a mobile station dedicated to monitoring air quality.

This plan will contribute to increasing the level of monitoring and control pollution in order to achieve a more comfortable and reassuring environment for the human being and to improve the quality of the air so that the environment is free from all that bothers the human even if it smells unpleasant and not only detrimental to the environment and living organisms.

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