

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



الوفد الدائم لدولة قطر



2019/0042140/5

الوفد الدائم لدولة قطر / جنيف

The Permanent Mission of the State of Qatar to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva, presents its compliments to the Special Procedure Branch (UNOG-OHCHR) in Geneva, and with reference to the Latter's note dated April 17th 2019, regarding the survey Questionnaire addressed to States on **Antisemitism**, prepared by the UN Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief, in contribution to his report to be presented to the UN General assembly in September 2019, in accordance with his mandate to identify existing and emerging obstacles to the enjoyment of the right to freedom of religion or belief.

The Permanent Mission of the State of Qatar is pleased to attach, herewith, a copy of the contributions received from **Doha International Centre for Interfaith Dialogue (DCID)** with regard to the above subject.

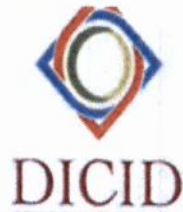
The Permanent Mission of the State of Qatar avails itself of this opportunity to the Special Procedure Branch (UNOG-OHCHR) in Geneva, the assurances of its highest consideration.

Geneva, May 30th 2019



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*Doha International Center
For Interfaith Dialogue*



مركز الدوحة الدولي للحوار بين الأديان

**Contributions of Doha International Center for
Interfaith Dialogue
To promote culture of peace
and protect and promote Religious freedom among
followers of religions.**

In line with the 2030 vision, Qatar views dialogue between religions and civilizations as an indispensable mechanism for establishing bridges of communication between societies and people, fostering mutual understanding and respect and promoting stability.

In this context the Doha international Centre for Interfaith Dialogue(DICID) has establish, in 2007, which strives to promote a culture of dialogue, acceptance of others and peaceful coexistence, among the followers of different religions.

Moreover Qatar has developed its legislation with view to promoting and protecting human rights while advancing religious freedom, both by amending existing laws and by issuing new ones.

**The freedom of Religion and Beliefs
in Qatari Legislation**

Qatar has acceded to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1948, and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1966, that all recognized the right to freedom of religion or belief, among other rights and freedoms.

In this context the Freedom of Religion and belief has being promoted within the Qatari national laws by the following points:

- **The Permanent Constitution of 2004, in the article 35 states:**

“All persons are equal before the Law and there shall be no discrimination whatsoever on grounds of gender, race, language or religion”.

- **The Law No. 8 of 1979 on Publications and Publishing, in the article 47 - f, states:**

Any ridicule of or contempt toward any of the religions or their doctrines, including any motivation of sectarian, racial or religious trends.

- **Article (2) of the Minister of Information and Culture No. 11 of 1992 on rules and rules of censorship states that:**

"No control body of the Ministry of Information and Culture shall devote itself printed, audio-visual or audio-visual works, or to post or announce an act, if the "representation of any human race" or an ethnic group is ridiculed, unless it is necessary to create a positive impression of a noble cause, such as "against racism".

- **The Penal code 2004 states as follow:**

➤ **Article 256**

“Whoever commits the following acts shall be punished with imprisonment for a term not exceeding seven years:

4- Cursing any of the divine religions according to the regulations of Islamic law.

5- Insulting any of the prophets through writing, drawing, gesturing or in any other way or through any other means.

6- Sabotaging, breaking, damaging or violating sites or their contents if they are made to perform religious rites for one of the divine religions according to the regulations of Islamic law”.

➤ **Article 263**

“Whoever produces, sells, exposes for sale or circulation, or possesses products, merchandise, prints or tapes, including drawings, slogans, words, symbols, signals or anything else that may offend the Islamic religion or other divine religions according to the dictates of Islamic law, shall be punished with imprisonment for a term not exceeding one year and a fine not exceeding one thousand Qatari Riyals (QR 1.000).

The same penalty shall be imposed on any person who uses disks, computer programs or magnetized tapes to offend Islam or other divine religions according to the dictates of Islamic law”.

DICID Activities

The Doha International Center for Interfaith Dialogue is a leading organization in Qatar, dealing with the dialogue between religions and cultures, and capacity building in the field of dialogue and culture of peace.

DICID strives to achieve a constructive dialogue among followers of religions; in order to better understand the religious principles and teachings. It also aims to promote culture of peace to serve humanity as a whole, on the basis of mutual respect and recognition of others.

DICID presents various activities dealing with interfaith fields such annual conferences, roundtable Discussions, or academic publications.

1- Annual conferences

Since the first conference, the subject of **“Spreading the Culture of Coexistence and Countering the Phenomenon of Hatred”** was discussed many times

We at DICID is convinced that can be achieved by preserving the value of humanity and human dignity, which all heavenly religions called upon in its sacred books.

- **Third Conference (2005): The Role of Religions in Building Human Civilization.**
- **Fourth Conference (2006): The Role of Religions in Building Human-Being.**
- **Fifth Conference (2007): Religious values between Pacifism and Life Respect.**
- **Sixth Conference (2008): Spiritual Values and World Peace.**
- **Seventh Conference 2009: Human Solidarity.**

- **The 12th Doha Interfaith Conference**, which was held in February 2016 discussed the issue of “**Intellectual and Spiritual safety in the Light of Doctrines**” . This conference came during the time when ISIS acting savagely in Syria and Iraq and many other places. When it recruited many Muslims and non Muslims from all over the world to fight its holly war. More than 500 participants from over 70 countries participated in this event. You can read more about it in the proceedings, which was posted on our website.
- **The 13th Doha Interfaith Conference**, which was held on 20 and 21 February 2018, addressed the theme of “**Religions and Human Rights**” in order to explore the interconnection between religions and human rights, and how we can build from this cooperation a strong preventive alliance against terrorism, violent extremism and radicalization. More than 400 participants from over 68 countries participated in that event. The outcome of this conference was highly accepted worldwide.

2- DICID Award:

DICID Award has been launched in 2013, which is a unique initiative in the domain of Interfaith Dialogue.

The goal of this Award is: to support and encourage the efforts and initiatives of individuals and institutions that have had a significant impact in strengthening and consolidating the culture of Dialogue and peace building.

3- Round Tables:

Local Roundtable Dialogue amongst expatriate communities living in Qatar, in particular, It aims to Strengthen the culture of constructive dialogue, and build bridges of understanding between the spectra of the Qatari society and acceptance of others; Humanitarian partnership based on ethical values across cultural and religious diversity; Develop a common culture founded on tolerance and peaceful coexistence, mutual respect and co-existence.

4- Publications

DICID publish and disseminate scientific research, publications as well as the translation of books and specialized studies about religions and dialogue.

The Center publishes a number of bulletins and periodicals and has an active media presence through radio, television and social networks.

Adyan (Religions) Magazine:

It is a semi-annual scholarly journal, published in Arabic and English.

A magazine specialized in religious studies, and focus on inter-religious dialogue, and relations between Islam and other religions.

- **The ninth Issue**, published in July 2016, focuses on the subject of Peace; under the title: **“Peace in a world of conflicts”**.

- **The eleventh issue published** in February 2018, on topic : **Religions and Human Rights**.

-**The twelfth issue addressed the topic : Tolerance in Religions**

5- Doha Meeting for Advancing Religious Freedom 2014 (Istanbul Process)

At its March 2011 session, the UN HRC adopted, by consensus, resolution 16/18, which focuses on concrete, positive measures that states can take to combat religious intolerance while protecting the freedoms of religion and of expression.

There is a series of international conferences seeking to promote implementation of the steps called for in the landmark UN Human Rights Council (HRC) resolution 16/18 on “Combating Intolerance, Negative Stereotyping and Stigmatization of, and Discrimination, Incitement to Violence and Violence Against, Persons Based on Religion or Belief.”

6- The DICI has participated to the interfaith international Conference, on July 24, 26 2018 , and hosted by the US Department of state as the first-ever Ministerial to Advance Religious Freedom.

7- Continues workshops for the young students in the Qatari governmental schools that deal with tolerance and coexistence.

8- Symposiums and conferences around the world in countries that faces challenges of radicalization, incoherent society, building bridges between religious groups.