



Statement
of the Delegation of the State of Qatar

By

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Head of Qatar's Delegation to the Fifty-third Session of the
Commission on the Status of Women

Before

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Mr. President,

Allow me to congratulate you and the members of the Bureau on your election...I wish you luck and success in leading the work of this important Committee.

Mr. President,

The State of Qatar has taken upon itself a serious and prominent role in the promotion of human rights of women at all levels. The Committee shows our permanent commitment to implementing the provisions of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, particularly the important areas of access to justice, education and employment. It is an effective implementation of the global policies on human rights of women and gender equality, the empowerment of women and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly of the United Nations Development Goals.

The advancement of women and the exercise of all their rights, in particular, receives attention from the leadership of the State of Qatar. Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, the Emir of Qatar, and Her Highness Sheikha Moza Bint Nasser whose leadership has a great impact on the achievements related to the promotion of gender equality and the advancement of women at all levels.

The State of Qatar is renowned for its respect for human rights and the elimination of discrimination in all its forms. It has achieved the empowerment of women so they can play an active role in the development of society. The Qatari constitution distinguishes between men and women in education, as well as in employment, and in the field of

The Comprehensive Qatari Vision for development (the Qatar National Vision 2030), adopted in accordance with the Emiri Decree No. (44) of 2008, stressed the importance of enhancing women's capabilities and enabling them to participate in all fields, especially those related to decision-making. Furthermore, the Qatar Population Policy, which is participatory, aims to empower women and promote the values of justice and equity between genders. And the General Strategy for the Family seeks to empower women in all social, economic, educational and political fields.

Mr. President,

We would like to emphasize that the educational system in the State of Qatar has succeeded in raising the level of educational attainment and cognitive development of its women. Such progress has been achieved by the State to combat the phenomenon of illiteracy. These measures consist of the strict application of the law on compulsory primary education and adult literacy programs, which resulted in the decrease of illiteracy rate among Qatari women from 27% in 1990 to 4% in 2017 and to 4.8% in 2016. Also, the government is striving to encourage and organize scientific research through the creation of 100% government-funded research centers to support research.

In the same vein, in April 2010, the Supreme Council of Information and Communication Technology (ICT QATAR) and Qatar Telecom Doha have launched a pilot project aimed at women's work home. The project aims to enable women to face the challenges they are facing in order to enhance their family's economic situation and their participation in the labor force. The proportion of Qatari women's use of Internet has increased in 2010, to 62%, compared to 20% in 2004.

Finally, the State of Qatar's efforts to not only improve the quality of education at the national level, but also to expand to international initiatives at the regional and international levels through the role played by Her Highness Sheikha Mozah Bint Nasser in her different capacities, including in her capacity as the UNESCO Special Envoy for Basic and Higher Education. As such, she created the Foundation "Education Above All" in 2009, which focuses on the implementation of the right to education in times of crises and conflicts. In addition to that, she was the first woman to be elected to the Alliance of Civilizations held in Madrid in 2008. Her Highness has launched the international initiative "Shear" which focuses on women's employment.

Mr. President,

The persistence of conflicts in different parts of the world is a major obstacle to the elimination of violence and abuse suffered by women. From this podium, we would like to encourage all countries to work together to

save the Palestinian women and their families who live in areas under foreign occupation, and find urgent solutions to their tragic situation.

In conclusion, the State of Qatar will continue in its quest to push the issue of promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women into a strategic objective in its efforts at the national and international levels.

Thank you.