



**Statement
of the Delegation of the State of Qatar**

By

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Head of Qatar's delegation to the Fifty-fifth Session of the
Commission on the Status of Women**

**Before
Fifty-fifth Session of the Commission on the Status of
Women**

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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 very seriously the promotion of human rights of women at all levels. Our participation in the work of 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 importance of access of women and girls to education and employment on an equal footing. This is as part of the global policies on human rights of women and gender equality and the empowerment of women, and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly and the Millennium Development Goals.

The advancement of women and the exercise of all their rights receives attention from the government of Qatar led by His Highness 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 all levels.

The State of Qatar is based on the respect for human rights and the elimination of discrimination in all its forms, as well as on the empowerment of woman so they can play an active and essential role in society. The Qatari constitution did not distinguish between women and men in education, as set out in articles (25) and (49) thereof.

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 capacities and enabling them to participate in all fields, especially those related to decision-making. Furthermore, the State of Qatar's Population Policy aims particularly 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 the 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 girls and women through the measures taken by the State to combat the phenomenon of illiteracy. These measures consist of the strict application of the law of compulsory primary education and adult literacy programs, which resulted in the decrease of illiteracy rate among Qatari women from 27% in 1990 to 9.6 in 2007 and to 4.6 % in 2010. Also, the government is striving to encourage and organize scientific research through the allocation of 2.8% of government revenue in the state budget to support scientific research.

In the same vein, in April 2010, the Supreme Council of Information and Communication Technology (ICT QATAR) and Qatar Telecom (Qtel) have launched a pilot project entitled "women's work from home". This project aims to enable women to face the challenges they are confronting in order to combine their family obligations and their effective participation in the labor force. The proportion of Qatari women's use of Internet has increased in 2010, reaching 69.3%, compared to 38.2% in 2004.

Finally, the State of Qatar's efforts are not only limited to the field of education at the national level, rather they expanded to include initiatives at the regional and international levels through the role played by Her Highness Sheikha Moza 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, in the first Forum of the Alliance of Civilizations held in Madrid in 2008, Her Highness launched the international initiative "Silatech", which focuses on youth 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 reiterate our calls on the international community to

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

In conclusion, the State of Qatar will continue in its quest to turn 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.