

**UPR of QATAR - INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE**

**Feb 8, 2010; 1000-1300 hrs**

**INTERVENTION BY INDIA**

Mr. President,

India warmly welcomes the delegation of Qatar led by H.E. Ahmed bin Abdullah Al Mahmoud, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, and thanks them for their informative National Report and presentation. India appreciates the methodology and process adopted by Qatar in the preparation of its National Report, including the adoption of a multi-pronged Action Plan, which is indicative of the importance Qatar attaches to the review process.

Mr. President,

02. Qatar's notable achievements in human development and its progress in achieving the Millennium Development Goals prior to 2015 are reflective of its considerable and steady advancement towards all round development, especially in the field of education and health. India commends Qatar for its efforts to secure the right to education, resulting in the attainment of almost universal primary education, a significant rise in enrolment rates at various levels of education and the bridging of the gender divide across the country.

03. It is also noteworthy that while formulating a comprehensive policy of reform, due attention has been given to ensure that human rights are at the core of constitutional, political, economic, social and cultural reforms. The country's legislative and institutional human rights machinery has been strengthened by the establishment of a number of ministerial human rights departments, including the Office of Human Rights in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of the Interior and the Supreme Council for Family Affairs. In addition, some special public interest institutions have been established, like the Qatar Foundation to Combat Human Trafficking, the Qatar Foundation for the Protection of Women and Children and the National Human Rights Committee. In 2007, the ILO welcomed the measures taken by the country to prohibit and eliminate the trafficking of children. Also, it is creditable that, in 2009, the National Human Rights Committee of Qatar was accredited with 'A' status by the ICC for being in full compliance with the Paris Principles. India takes positive note of Qatar's accession to the CRPD in 2008 and CEDAW in 2009, and is further encouraged to learn that Qatar is considering accession to both the ICCPR and ICESCR.

Mr. President,

04. India takes note of the increased attention being devoted to the situation of migrant workers, including domestic workers, through the documentation of the violation of their rights and the redressal of their grievances by the National Human Rights Committee. Qatar has made considerable legislative and institutional efforts to promote and protect the rights of expatriate workers, including the signing of a number of bilateral agreements with countries of origin.

05. Lastly, Mr. President, we note the progress made, and the challenges remaining, with regard to empowerment of women. We recommend that Qatar continue to strengthen its efforts to enhance the role of women in its society, and to promote the right to education.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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