**Unofficial translation**

**Reply to the Advisory Committee's questionnaire entitled: "Eliminating all forms of discrimination against women and girls"**

Greater and more in-depth attention is being paid to the social status of women in the legislative context. Laws and legislation in the State of Qatar have been evolving to support the cohesion of the Qatari family, protect its members, and preserve its traditional values while keeping pace with the progress and spirit of the age. In particular, human rights legislation has been updated and legislation protecting the rights of women has been introduced and developed. This attention has been extended to include the participation of Qatari women in the international human rights mechanisms.

After considering vacancies available at human rights bodies including the Advisory Committee, treaty bodies, and other international organizations, the Department of International Organizations at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs circulates them to government institutions and civil society institutions to nominate candidates in the relevant fields, bearing in mind the need to encourage women to submit their candidatures based on the above -mentioned national policies. The Department then mobilizes support for the candidate.

Qatari women hold diplomatic positions in the State’s Missions abroad, in addition to their membership in several international organizations, especially those working in the field of human rights and social development, including:

- The UN Special Rapporteur on Disability, Sheikha Hessa bint Khalifa Al Thani, from 2003 to 2005.

-The Special Envoy of the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States for Humanitarian Relief, Sheikha Hessa bint Khalifa Al Thani, from 2013 until today.

- Membership of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, Sheikha Ghalia Al Thani and HE Excellency Ambassador Alia Al-Thani, from 2003 to 2006.

- Membership of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, Noor Al*-*Malki Al-JEHANI, then Ms Dr. Ms. Bakhita Al-Dosari from 2003 to 2006.

- Membership of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Dr. Amna Al-Suwaidi, from 2009 to 2012.

- Membership of the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, Dr. Sheikha Al-Misnad, starting in January 2020.

In addition, the Permanent Missions of the State of Qatar and the Mission of New Zealand are Co-Facilitators of the intergovernmental consultations on a draft resolution on the format and organization of the UN General Assembly high-level meeting to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women (Beijing + 25) in September 2020, which was adopted by the General Assembly last month.

In keeping with its commitment to implement the Women, Peace and Security Agenda and the Youth, Peace and Security Agenda at the international level, the State of Qatar will host in Doha in 2020 the second International Symposium on Youth Participation in Mediation which will focus on exploring ways to enhance the role of young women in peace processes.

The Department of International Organizations is also considering in cooperation with the Permanent Missions of the State of Qatar and the competent department, to nominate a number of Qatari women for the available posts at the Committee on the Rights of the Child, the Advisory Committee of the Human Rights Council and the special procedures system among others.

Moreover, Qatari women hold senior leadership positions in civil society organizations. A number of women participate in the boards of supreme councils, government institutions and bodies, in addition to their membership of the permanent committees that develop policies and strategies such as the Permanent Population Committee and the temporary committees that develop various legislations.

One of the challenges the State of Qatar has faced in putting forward candidacies for international vacant positions is usually the political motivation of some member States of the United Nations that use regional disputes as a barrier to prevent the candidate from having access to international positions. In this respect, the State of Qatar invites the Advisory Committee to consider taking urgent solutions to enable Qatari women to have access to vacancies available.