

**1) In your view how and to what extent has the right to development been implemented and realized, at the national, regional and international levels?**

On the National level, many of the fundamental rights-based principles are embedded in Qatar's legal, institutional and development planning including Qatar National Vision 2030 (QNV) and, the National Development Strategy 2011-2016 (NDS). Moreover on the regional and international level, the world have to achieve greater expansion of Human Rights-Based Approach, and this would be through a high effort from the Office of High Commissioner for Human Rights OHCHR and other UN entities.

**2) In your view, what are the main obstacles to the implementation and realization of the right to development, at the national, regional, and international levels and what measures should be taken to overcome them?**

The continued existence of socio-economic inequalities, domestic violence and relatively low labour force participation rates. Also, challenges remain in ensuring women's equal access to employment and in their political empowerment. Lifestyle diseases such as diabetes, obesity and smoking have long-term effects on human development. Opportunities for persons with disabilities for their full economic participation remain limited.

10 broad recommendations emerge from the detailed analysis of Qatar's challenges and opportunities for the fuller realization of people's RtD:

- Review, amend and promulgate legislation to remove obstacles to exercising the RtD and human rights, and strengthen institutional capacity to implement and enforce them.
- Strengthen and expand civil society organisations' freedoms.
- Promote a culture of rights through improved communication and awareness raising on rights and obligations including through, inter alia, interactive internet forums.
- Address inequalities and exclusion among individuals and groups whose human rights have not been fully realised.
- Establish a centralised government agency with a strong mandate and adequate human and financial resources to coordinate the national machinery on gender equality and women's empowerment.

- Monitor and raise public awareness about all forms of violence and abuse affecting children, women and domestic workers and provide appropriate support for them.
- Incorporate a human rights perspective into the process of legislative reform in the laws and policies governing drugs, and respect and protect the human rights of those living with HIV/AIDS.
- Amend relevant legislation that negatively affect the well-being of older persons, including providing better social protection for older non-Qataris who have lived in and have contributed towards the development of the country for many years.
- Formulate a comprehensive international technical cooperation strategy detailing priority countries, areas of support and principles of engagement.
- Strengthen the collection and analysis of data on population subgroups so as to better monitor progress towards the RtD.

- 3) What steps including the formulation, adoption and implementation of policy, legislative and other measures, have been taken by your country at the national, regional, and international levels to implement the obligations enshrined in the United Nations Declaration on the Right to Development, inter alia, with regard to:
- a. Formulating appropriate national and international development policies;
  - b. Achieving international cooperation;
  - c. Undertaking appropriate reforms at the national and international levels;
  - d. Removing obstacles to development, including, inter alia, human rights violations; and
  - e. Promoting peace and disarmament and the redirecting of savings generated therefrom to development.

In partnership with the UNDP UAE, Qatar has consecrated its Fourth National Human Development Report to: Realizing Qatar National Vision 2030: The Right to Development. Progress made on The Right to Development is summarized in the following:

#### Human development and human rights

Qatar has made remarkable development progress. Its Human Development Index (HDI) value in 2013 places the country in United Nations Development Programme's (UNDP) very high human development category. Significant improvements in the standard of living as well as gains in life expectancy have contributed most to increases in the HDI

### Women's right to development

Qatar's accession to and monitoring of United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) emphasises the state's commitment to fulfil its obligations in realising women's rights to development. Qatar submitted its first Universal Periodic Review on its human rights obligations to the United Nations Human Rights Council in February 2014.

### Rights of persons with disabilities

Qatar places great importance on the rights of disabled persons. The 2006 United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) has been ratified by Qatar and a national report was submitted to the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in 2014 on implementation progress. Existing national legislation, especially Law 2 of 2004 relating to persons with special needs is being aligned with the CRPD provisions. Qatar's National Human Rights Committee has called on the government to speed up procedures for implementing proposed amendments to Law 2 of 2004.

### Children, youth and older persons

Qatar national legislation is being progressively aligned with the articles of the CRC. Several agencies and specialised organisations have been established to compliment the role of line ministries in helping to realise the rights of the child to development. Qatar supports the promotion of active ageing and empowerment of older persons through opportunities to participate in all spheres of life—social, economic, cultural and political. Giving older people a voice in the formulation of policies and the design of programmes, especially those affecting their rights, including age-appropriate health care and services, retirement pensions and an enabling physical environment, are becoming of increasing importance.

### Participation in development

Both QNV 2030 and NDS 2011-2016 were highly participatory involving an extensive and inclusive dialogue with government ministries and agencies, the private sector, civil society, and local as well as international experts.

During its 2014 Universal Periodic Review before the Human Rights Council, Qatar reaffirmed its commitment to freedom of expression in the media and on social networks, except in the case of violations of moral principles and Sharia law. Qatar's

Cybercrimes Law contains broad provisions that some contend do not meet best practice International standards.

4) + 5) + 6)

7) Is the Right to Development recognized in the constitution a bill of rights a basic law or other national legislation of your country and if so are there any limitations attached to it? If so please provide details.

Qatar's Permanent Constitution sets the tone for a society-based on the values of justice, benevolence, freedom, equality and high morals and equal opportunities for all citizens. The Constitution establishes social justice as the basis for the organization of economic enterprises and for employer-employee relations and sets out the state's commitment to improving education, health and effective social protection as well as to empowering women. Many of the fundamental rights-based principles are embedded in Qatar's legal, institutional and development planning including Qatar National Vision 2030 (QNV), the National Development Strategy 2011-2016, and its Midterm Review.

8) + 9)

10) Have you submitted information to regional or international human rights monitoring mechanism on the steps taken by your country in implementing the right to development?

The State of Qatar contributed to the working group on the Right to Development in Geneva, and many Right to Development events by OHCHR.

11) What statistical methods are being used by your country to assess progress made in the realization of the right to development?

Quantitative and qualitative statistical methods are used. The latter are used to help in measuring of issues such as changes in attitudes, behaviors and relationships, good governance, citizenship, and laws and their implementation.