**Unofficial translation**

Contributions of the State of Qatar in response to the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery’s questionnaire

**Question no.2**

**The nature and extent of criminal groups’ involvement in contemporary forms of slavery**

a.  What is the nature and extent of the involvement of organised criminal groups in contemporary forms of slavery in your country?

b.  Is there information regarding individuals being exploited by organised criminal groups in criminal activities (e.g. drug production, theft, etc.)?

c.   Is there evidence of individuals being exploited in legitimate businesses run by organised criminal groups, such as agriculture, domestic work, construction and catering?

d.   Is there evidence of corruption (e.g. bribery) and obstruction of justice (e.g. witness & jury intimidation) committed by organised criminal groups? If so, in what way does this affect victims/survivors of contemporary forms of slavery?

e.   Does the involvement of organised criminal groups in contemporary forms of slavery pose additional challenges in the identification of victims? If so, please provide details.

**Comment:**

With regard to point (c) on evidence of individuals being exploited in legitimate businesses run by organised criminal groups, such as agriculture, domestic work, construction and catering, there is no indication of the presence of a criminal activity by organised criminal groups in the State of Qatar which ranks high in the world in terms of safety and security, and ranks first in the Arab world and 16th in the world in the safest and most peaceful countries index making Qatar one of the top twenty safest countries in the world, according to the Global Peace Index 2020.

In some cases, abusive practices against expatriate workers or other illegal acts may occur. But the law enforcement agents firmly confront these irregularities and refer the offenders to the competent courts for appropriate punishment, as will be explained below. The State of Qatar has sought to promote the rights of expatriate workers and to protect them from forced labour and from all forms of exploitation. To this end, Qatar has taken over the development of its legislative system to be compatible with international labour rights standards and the adoption of best practices in this area. It's worth mentioning the recent legislative amendments that abolished the sponsorship system “the kafala”, including the removal of the workers’ requirement to obtain an exit permit to leave the country, the No Objection Certificate to change jobs*,* in addition to the adoption of a non*-*discriminatory minimum wage that is the first of its kind in the region and that which applies to all workers regardless of their nationalities or their sector of employment. This also applies to sectors not covered by labour legislation, including domestic workers.

The Ministry of Administrative Development, Labour and Social Affairs endeavours to monitor foreign labour recruitment agencies that hire domestic workers and conducts periodic and unannounced visit to ensure that the recruited workers are not being exploited and their rights are safeguarded. The Ministry is making considerable efforts to enable workers to use complaint mechanisms and to accede to justice. The competent department receives complaints directly from domestic workers, through embassies or via the "AMERNI" application for smart phones. The Ministry endeavours to provide legal assistance, advice and guidance to workers during the complaint procedures.

The Ministry of Administrative Development, Labour and Social Affairs is also exerting continuous efforts to enhance the rights of domestic workers by adopting a new model contract that guarantees them equal rights with other workers under the Labour law, raises awareness among domestic workers of their rights, and educates employers about the rights of domestic workers and how to establish a fruitful working relationship with them. Relevant booklets have been published on the Ministry's website, a short awareness-raising tape was also prepared on the important role domestic workers play in caring for families during the Covid-19 crisis, and the need to pay attention to domestic workers’ health and safety and to protect their rights. Indeed, during the Covid-19 crisis, all necessary facilities have been provided to domestic workers to open bank accounts without a minimum balance, in order to facilitate bank transfers to their country and family under these difficult circumstances.

**3-Legislative Frameworks**

* 1. In addition to legislation relating to contemporary forms of slavery, does your country have any statutory frameworks criminalising the activities of organised criminal groups (e.g. participating, leading/directing, organising or being a member)? If so, please provide details, including statistical information on prosecutions/convictions if available.
  2. Do the legislative frameworks on contemporary forms of slavery stipulate the involvement of organised criminal group as an aggravating factor increasing penalties?
  3. Does your country have legislative frameworks to promote intelligence-led law enforcement (the use of special investigative techniques such as surveillance and interception of communications) to combat contemporary forms of slavery?
  4. Given the human rights implications arising from intelligence-led law enforcement (such as the rights to privacy and a fair trial), do these legislative frameworks provide for sufficient safeguards against abuse (e.g. judicial or other approval and oversight and grievance mechanisms in case of an abuse of process)?
  5. Does your country have legislative frameworks on money laundering and criminal asset recovery (or confiscation of criminal proceeds)?
  6. Does your country also support civil asset recovery without criminal conviction? If so, please provide details including any safeguards in place.
  7. How does your country deal with corruption and obstruction of justice committed by organised criminal groups in relation to contemporary forms of slavery?
  8. What legislative and other mechanisms are in place to protect witnesses in criminal proceedings involving organised criminal groups?

**Comment:**

All national legislation focuses on the protection of people from of all sectors of society, especially migrant workers, from exploitation or any practice that may expose them to permanent work, exploitation or discrimination, by criminalizing such practices and imposing heavy penalties on their perpetrators. The authorities shall also provide them with legal advice and assistance, including the right to legal counsel.

We shall consider hereunder the legal frameworks criminalising contemporary forms of slavery and human trafficking committed offences committed by organised crime groups.

### Law No. 15 of 2011, Combating Human Trafficking

1-Promulgation of the Law No. 15 of 2011 on combating human trafficking which has defined “human trafficking” in accordance with the provisions of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Organized Crime (the State of Qatar has ratified the Convention and the aforementioned Protocol under Decree No. 10 of 2009).

2- Promulgation of the Cabinet Decision No. 15 of 2017on establishing the National Committee for Combating Human Traffickingto act as the nationa**l** coordinator for monitoring, preventing and combating humantrafficking through coordination with relevant authorities in this regard.

3-- Law No. 15 of 2011 on combating human trafficking provides in it article no 2 that “Whoever deals in a coercive or transactional way with a natural person, including the use, transport, delivery, harbouring, reception or receipt, whether within the state territory or across its national borders; by means of force, violence, or threat thereof; or through abduction, fraud, deception, abuse of power, or exploitation of a position of vulnerability or need; or through a promise to give or receive payments or benefits in exchange for obtaining the consent of a person to traffic another person; if the purpose of the transactions was exploitation in whatever form, including; exploitation in acts of prostitution and all forms of sexual exploitation, exploitation of children in such acts and in pornography, begging, forced  labor or the forced rendering of services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of human organs, tissues or body parts; shall be committing the crime of human trafficking”.

4-The aforementioned definition of human trafficking is inclusive of the majority of acts that lead to human trafficking. It has elaborated on the description of the methods and means used, including threats of force, use of force, coercion, abduction, fraud, deception, abuse of power, or exploitation of a position of vulnerability; or through a promise to give or receive payments or benefits in exchange for obtaining the consent of a person having control over another person. As for the purpose of exploitation, the definition included most of the purposes of trafficking, including the acts of prostitution and all forms of sexual exploitation, forced labor or the forced rendering of services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of human organs.

5-- The consent of the victim of the crime of trafficking in human beings shall be considered as irrelevant.

6- The law provides numerous guarantees and rights for victims of human trafficking as the authorities shall preserve the personality and identity of the victim and not to disclose/reveal it to non-specialists, and shall also protect the victim's physical and psychological safety, health, social and educational care as well as his/her rehabilitation and integration into society.

7- The authorities shall also provide them with legal advice and assistance, including the right to legal counsel.

8- The law recognizes the victim’s right to obtain compensation for damages suffered.

9- Chapter 15 of the aforementioned anti-trafficking law listed the penalties for the perpetrator of an offence of human trafficking, which are severe penalties commensurate with the seriousness of these acts, ranging from seven years’ imprisonment and a fine not exceeding (250,000 Qatari riyals), to imprisonment for a period not exceeding fifteen (15) years and a fine not exceeding three hundred thousand (300,000) Riyals

10- Law No. 15 of 2011 on combating human trafficking has set sanctions against all criminals who practise exploitation, whether they are physical or legal persons such as companies. Article 22 of the mentioned law stipulates that "A person, who is responsible for the actual management of a juristic person shall be punished by imprisonment for a period not exceeding five (5) years and a fine not exceeding two hundred thousand (200,000) Riyals, If one of the offences as set forth by this Law has been committed by someone who works for the juristic person using its name and working for its advantage, if it’s proven he had knowledge of the offence or if the offence resulted from a breach of his job duties. A juristic person shall be jointly liable for the payment of financial penalties; if the offence was committed by one of the employees in its name and for its advantage. The court may order a cessation of activity of the juristic person for a period not exceeding two (2) years, revoke or withdraw its license as the case may be”.

**-Information on convictions and trials (section A)**

A recent judgment handed down by the Criminal Court of the Court of First Instance convicting two defendants for committing human trafficking against two domestic workers, in accordance with the Anti-Human Trafficking Law No. 15 of 2011. The court’s decision also stipulated that the defendants shall jointly and severally indemnify each civil plaintiff an amount of one million Qatari riyals as a compensation. The concerned authorities represented by the police, the public prosecution and the National Committee for Combating Human Trafficking initiated their investigation about the case and all measures were taken to provide the necessary care and protection to the victims before, during and after the investigation. The victims were accommodated in the Protection and Social Rehabilitation Centre (AMAN) after having received the necessary health care.

**The involvement of the organised crime group in contemporary forms of slavery is an aggravating factor that increases the penalty according to national legislation** (point B), as (Article 1) of the Law No.15 of 2011 on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, amended by Law No. 5 of 2020, defines the organised crime group as “a structured group composed of at least three persons, acting continuously or for a period of time with the aim of committing human-trafficking or crimes of migrant smuggling, on its own or with others, , in order to obtain, directly or indirectly a financial or other material benefit.

It also defines a crime of a transnational nature as “any crime which is committed in more than one state, or committed in one state but planned, prepared, directed, super­vised and financed in another state.  Crimes of a transnational nature may also be crimes committed in one state by an organized criminal group engaging in criminal activities in more than one state, or any crime committed in one state which grievously impacts another state."

Penalties are increased in In the event of human trafficking offences by organised criminal groups or if the crime is of a transnational nature under Article 15 of the Law No. 15 of 2011 on Combating Human Trafficking, which states that: “Whoever commits a human trafficking crime involving any of the following cases shall be punished by imprisonment for a period not to exceed fifteen years (15) and a fine not to exceed three-hundred thousand (300,000) Riyals:

1. If the crime was committed by an organized criminal group and the person committing this crime was one of its members.
2. If the crime was of a transnational nature.

- As for the legislative frameworks relating to money laundering and the recovery of assets of crime or the confiscation of the proceeds of human trafficking offences, and the legal safeguards concerning the recovery of civil assets without criminal charge (c and h), Article 23 of Law No. 15 of 2011 states that " Without prejudice to the rights of *bona fide* third parties, the court shall, in all cases, confiscate funds, possessions, means of transport or items illegally obtained from any of the offences stipulated in this Law or used in the commission thereof”.

It follows from the provision of the above-mentioned article that the confiscation of funds derived from crimes of human shall be pursuant to a judicial decision issued by the competent court, which guarantees respect for the rights of the defence and the requirements of a fair trial for the persons concerned by the confiscation of funds derived from these crimes.

Moreover, Law No. 20 of 2019 on combating Money Laundering and Terrorism Financing, which included several provisions enabling the State to efficiently and effectively address money laundering crimes and to provide the necessary institutional and practical foundations to address these crimes. The State has been keen to keep pace with the development of international standards and has conducted a comprehensive review of its national legislation in this area.

With regard to existing legislation and mechanisms to protect witnesses in criminal proceedings related to contemporary forms of slavery that involve organised criminal groups Article 16 of the Law No. 15 of 2011 Combating Trafficking in Human Beings states that “Whoever uses force, threats, or offers gifts or advantage of any kind or a promise thereof; to induce another person to provide false testimony or information, or conceal a matter during the course of evidence collection, investigation or trial relating to the commission of any of the crimes stipulated in this law; shall be punished by imprisonment for a period not exceeding five years and a fine not exceeding two-hundred-thousand (200,000) Riyals”.

1. **Victims’/survivors’ access to justice and to remedies**
   1. What types of assistance (e.g. legal, medical, social and financial) is provided to victims who have been enslaved by organised criminal groups?
   2. Is provision of such assistance linked to a formal victim identification process and/or cooperation in criminal investigations and proceedings?
   3. What mechanisms/channels exist for them to access justice and remedies, and in which ways are they able to participate in criminal proceedings?
   4. Can victims/survivors of slavery receive compensation in your country and if so, compensations to how many victims have been paid? Please provide details in this regard.
   5. Are confiscated criminal proceeds redistributed to enhance protection and assistance to victims and survivors? Please provide details.
   6. Does your country implement the non-punishment principle whereby the victims of contemporary forms of slavery are protected from criminal prosecutions even if they are allegedly involved criminal activities?

**Comment:**

- With regard to the assistance provided to victims. Chapter Three of Law No. 15 of 2011 regarding combating human trafficking has devoted a set of provisions for the protectionof victims. Article (5) states that “The Competent Authorities shall guarantee the protection and the physical and psychological wellbeing of the victims of human trafficking offences (HTOs) and shall provide them with appropriate medical, educational and social care such that these victims are able to be socially rehabilitated and integrated in a manner congruent to their needs, human dignity, age and gender. The CAs shall, in cooperation and coordination with the victims' homelands, or with countries, in which the victims have a permanent residence, ensure their safe return."

In the same context, Article (6) of the aforementioned law states that “The following rights of victims shall be guaranteed by the competent authorities:

1. The right to protect their inviolability and identity.
2. The opportunity to state their position and to be recognized in accordance with this position.
3. The right to counselling with regard to their rights, and the right to be kept informed of the judicial and administrative procedures in which they are involved.
4. The right to remain in the state's territory until the conclusion of legal investigations and any subsequent trial.
5. The right to access legal assistance including the counselling of an attorney.
6. The right to appropriate remedy for damages suffered.
7. The right of protection and security.

Article (7) also stipulates that " The Competent Authorities shall provide appropriate facilities for sheltering victims which allow them to receive their relatives, attorneys and representatives of the CAs, all without prejudice to the other safeguards provided for in any other law".

• Pursuant to the provisions of Article 8 of the same law, "the competent authorities shall be committed to keep confidential any information obtained in connection with crimes provided in this law and shall not disclose such information except to the extent required to enforce the provisions of the present law."

- Regarding victim identification process and/or cooperation in criminal investigations and proceedings:

Pursuant to Article 6 of the aforementioned Anti-Human Trafficking Law, the competent authorities Shall protect the victims inviolability and identity, provide them with the opportunity to state their position and to be recognized in accordance with this position in order to enable them to access to legal provisions protecting them. For this purpose, national programs are being implemented, in partnership with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the International Labor Organization, as well as the British and the American Embassies, ​​to train law enforcement personnel on human trafficking to enhance their capabilities to identify these crimes and to determine cases that amount to crimes of human trafficking, As will be explained later (in the conclusion of this report reviewing the efforts of the National Committee to Combat Human Trafficking over the recent period). In this context, all labor inspectors at the Ministry of Administrative Development, Labor and Social Affairs undergo training on forced labor and human trafficking, which includes how to identify these crimes, and some clear indications thereof, such as refraining from paying wages, withholding of passports, and others.

**-The mechanisms / channels available for them to access justice:**

Access to justice is a constitutional entitlement for everyone, as the Qatari constitution guarantees the right to litigate according to Article (135) which states that access to justice shall be guaranteed to all people. The Law shall specify the procedures and manner of exercising this right. It should be noted that no complaint or application shall be filed by the victim or guardian thereof, to initiate the criminal proceeding on any of the offences provided for in this Law(according to Article 26 of Law No. 15 of 2011 on combating human trafficking).

The competent authorities shall provide the opportunity for victims to state their position and obtain counselling with regard their rights, inform them of the followed legal and administrative procedures, and how to obtain legal assistance, including the counselling of an attorney, and provide them with the necessary security protection and appropriate facilities for sheltering victims, until the completion of the judicial and administrative procedures and their return to their countries is secured. (Pursuant to the provisions of Articles (6 and 7) of Law No. 15 of 2011 referred to).

Pursuant to these legal provisions, the appropriate mechanism has been set up in coordination with the concerned authorities of the State to receive the worker in case of complaint and the actions taken.

The worker can file a complaint via the website of the National Committee for Combating Human Trafficking, or through the security department in which he files the regular criminal complaint. There is also coordination with the competent authorities to present any case amounting to human trafficking crime to the National Committee for immediate legal action.

The State of Qatar is keen to provide appropriate accommodations for victims. In this respect, " Dar al-Aman” of the Social Protection and Rehabilitation Centre "Aman” was launched to provide Comprehensive services to victims. It is one of the centres affiliated to the Qatar Foundation for Social Work, which represents an integrated shelter and a comprehensive social and health environment for protection and rehabilitation services for target groups. Including victims of human trafficking (especially domestic workers). In addition, a "Humanitarian Care Home"was recently established in cooperation between the National Committee to Combat Human Trafficking and the Qatar Red Crescent. It aims to provide protection and social assistance to the workers who need it, provides assistance and protection needed by victims of human trafficking and works towards their rehabilitation and integration. It also provides temporary accommodation for the workers to take care of them until they leave the State. The home has an accommodation capacity of about 200 affected cases. The affected persons are received according to the assessments of their situation by the National Committee to Combat Human Trafficking.

**With regard to the possibility for victims/survivors of slavery to receive compensation in your country and if so, compensations to how many victims have been paid?**

The law recognizes the right of victim to obtain reparation for damages suffered.

Article 6 of the Anti-Trafficking in Human Beings Act No. (15) of 2011 states that the competent authorities shall ensure that the victims receive appropriate remedy for damages suffered: Also, Article 10 of the same Law states that "The competent criminal court having jurisdiction to consider and pursue criminal charges arising from any of the offences provided in this Law, shall also decide on instituting civil suits arising from such crimes".

The competent authorities are keen to implement these rulings on the ground. A recent judgment handed down by the Criminal Court of the Court of First Instance convicting two defendants for committing human trafficking against two domestic workers, in accordance with the Anti-Human Trafficking Law No. 15 of 2011. **The court’s decision also stipulated that the defendants shall jointly and severally indemnify each civil plaintiff an amount of one million Qatari riyals as a compensation**.

- **Concerning the application of the non-punishment principle:**

Law No. (15) of 2011 takes into account the situation of the victim who does not have free will in human trafficking. Article 3 of the aforementioned law stipulates that the consent of the victim to exploitation in any of the forms of human trafficking shall be irrelevant. The victim who has been exploited does not bear any responsibility. Liability is limited to the perpetrator, as the latter bears all responsibility and the penalties stipulated in the law are applied against him. Article 4 of Law No. (15) of 2011 on combating human trafficking states that “Victims of human trafficking offences shall not themselves be subject to criminal or civil liabilities arising from that crime so long as these liabilities directly relate to that Human trafficking offences”.

In addition to exempting victims from criminal or civil liability related to human trafficking crimes, victims are also exempted from the legal consequences of violation of the State of Qatar’s residence laws, in accordance with Article 25 of Law No.15 of 2011 on combating human trafficking, as amended by Law. No. 5 of 2020, which stipulates that victims of human trafficking and victims of migrant smuggling offences shall be exempted from penalties for violating the regulation of the entry, exit and residence of expatriates.

Accordingly, victims of human trafficking and victims of migrant smuggling crimes shall not be punished for staying in the country without a residence permit, overstaying the specified period of residence, not possessing valid travel documents or for other violations provided for by Law No. 21 of 2015 regulating the entry, exit and residence of expatriates.

Accordingly, Qatari legislation does not punish victims of human trafficking, It takes into account their status as victims and also provides them with protection in accordance with international standards.

1. **Other Questions**
   1. What are the key challenges in combating contemporary forms of slavery committed by organised criminal groups in your country?
   2. Does your country make use of international cooperation tools to tackle transnational organized crime as it relates to contemporary forms of slavery (e.g. Mutual Legal Assistance, joint investigations, extradition, etc…)? Please provide details.
   3. Has COVID-19 had an impact on the modus operandi of the organised criminal groups which operate in your country and if so, in what way?
   4. Please provide any additional information which you deem relevant with regard to the subject matter of this questionnaire.

Comment:

a- **Challenges:** Challenges that may be encountered are, in particular, the identification of victims of forced labour, as contemporary forms of slavery include disguised groups working illegally and undeclared, in which inspectors can identify victims by inspection. Since most victims do not bear visible signs of their being caught in exploitative traps, the authorities shall check whether they have been forced to work against their will, whether they are employed under terms agreed upon from the beginning and whether they risk punishment for leaving their jobs. In some cases, a victim of slavery may be working alongside a freely employed worker. This assessment calls for a high level of training and more resources to be made available to the authorities. In this regard, the State of Qatar is endeavouring to overcome these challenges, as all labour inspectors in the Ministry of Administrative Development, Labour and Social Affairs receive training on forced labour and human trafficking which includes methods on how to identify these crimes, and some clear guidance on the subject.

An intensive training has also been carried out for frontline officials and the prosecutors on combating human trafficking and forced labour. The State is working to build the capacity of labour inspectors and law enforcement officials by strengthening international cooperation, exchanging experiences in this area, and implementing several initiatives in partnership with governmental and non-governmental bodies. The National Committee for Combating Human Trafficking has organised several training courses and seminars aimed at raising the level of entities and individuals involved in combating human trafficking, in partnership with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the International Labour Organisation, as well as the British and the American Embassies.

Challenges also include workers' lack of awareness of their rights, of complaint mechanisms and of the legal protection provided by the State, which makes them fall into the cycle of exploitation or forced labour. The National Committee for Combating Human Trafficking raises awareness about the fight against forced labour. It has produced multilingual awareness-raising materials including brochures to raise awareness of legal provisions prohibiting passports confiscation, which have been distributed to employers and workers. The Ministry of Administrative Development, Labour and Social Affairs is exerting continuous efforts to inform workers and domestic workers of their basic rights, complaint mechanisms and of legal remedies. The Ministry has been keen to respond to their queries via the hotline and by holding direct meetings with workers and labour attachés in embassies, and through various media outlets or newspapers, television, and social networking sites such as (Facebook and Twitter). The Ministry also holds meetings with broadcasters speaking the languages of expatriate workers and the press for expatriate workers, in addition to holding several workshops to inform workers and domestic workers of their rights.

b - **International cooperation**: With regard to the bodies responsible for identifying, releasing and / or rehabilitating persons subjected to forced labor:

• The National Committee for Combating Human Trafficking (National Coordinator).

• Human Rights Department at the Ministry of Interior (law enforcement agency).

• Department of Search and Follow-up at the Ministry of Interior (Law Enforcement Authority).

• Protection and Social Rehabilitation Center (rehabilitation of victims).

It is worth noting that the Qatari government bilaterally cooperates with multilateral agencies and donors and / or with non-governmental organizations at the multilateral level on the elimination of forced labour, such as:

- The United Nations Regional Office for Drugs and Crime, technical cooperation to train law enforcement officials on forms of human trafficking and on the referral system

- A Memorandum of Understanding with the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, SDC, on cooperation in the field of migrant workers.

-A Memorandum of Understanding with Switzerland for training on combating human trafficking.

In accordance with Article 11 of Law No. 15 of 2011 on combating human trafficking, the competent judicial authorities cooperate with similar foreign bodies in combating human trafficking and prosecuting the perpetrators, including the exchange of information, conducting investigations, assistance, commissions rogatory, handing over of property, recovery of money, etc. All of that is carried out within the framework of the rules established by the Criminal Procedure Code, and the bilateral or multilateral agreements in force in the State or according to the principle of reciprocity, in a manner that does not contradict the basic principles of the legal system in the State.

**c-The impact of the Covid-19 pandemic:**

B- During the Covid 19 crisis, the State of Qatar has endeavoured to protect all workers. It has developed a clear and integrated policy to ensure social protection for all without exception by adopting a financial support programme for the private sector of 75 billion riyals to ensure the sustainability of businesses and jobs, and the implementation of the national guarantee programme through which Soft loans have been granted without surpluses of 5 billion riyals to ensure that workers' salaries continue to be paid. The Ministry of Administrative Development, Labour and Social Affairs has also worked to strengthen monitoring and inspection to ensure that workers' salaries and financial contributions continue to be regularly paid on time and that employers are committed to providing adequate food and housing for workers. In addition, the Ministry has regulated the relationship between employers and workers and defined the solutions to overcome the crisis, focusing on guaranteeing workers' rights and securing free food, housing and health care, in coordination with the competent authorities in the State.

**d۔ Further Information:**

**Efforts and activities undertaken by the National Committee for Combating Human Trafficking during 2019 until January 2021**:

1 Establishment of a Humanitarian Care Home (shelter), which provides necessary assistance and protection to victims of human trafficking, and works to rehabilitate and integrate them into society, as well as to accommodate temporary workers until they leave the country. The Care Home was inaugurated on 30.07.2019.

2- A special prosecution for human trafficking issues has been established in the Residency Affairs Prosecution Office of the Public Prosecution.

3- Incorporation of the human trafficking management in the Ministry of Interior within the competence of criminal investigations.

4- A memorandum of understanding was signed with the Red Crescent regarding the operation and management of the humanitarian care home.

5- Participation of the committee with the International Labour Organisation in celebrating the International Day against Trafficking in Human Beings.

6- A memorandum of understanding was signed with Qatar Charity to support victims of human trafficking with an amount of 3 million Qatari riyals for a period of 3 years.

**Training and qualification:**

In partnership with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the International Labour Organization as well as the British and the American Embassies, the National Committee for Combating Human Trafficking has organized several training courses and seminars aimed at raising the level of the bodies and individuals responsible for combating human trafficking, as follows:

First: Organisation of two training sessions in partnership with the British Embassy from 14 to17 December 2020 and from 25 to 28 January 2021 on conducting investigative and inquisitorial interviews according to the UK approved "PEACE" model. This aims at providing participants with practical skills necessary to conduct effective interviews with victims of Human trafficking and the ethics of first responders and their roles, the double risk of 1st: exposing vulnerable victims to further harm, and 2nd: collecting unreliable data in the absence of certain criteria when conducting interviews; perceptual models to remember; and the benefits of using modern technology for investigative interviewing, including the use of video evidence.

Third: Organisation of a training course in partnership with the International Organisation for Migration on 17 and 18.01.2021 on "Joint coordination in Dealing with Cases of Human Trafficking" with the aim of developing the capacities of workers and those involved in dealing with cases of human trafficking and the coordination mechanisms between them to become familiar with the elements of the crime of human trafficking, to identify methods and means of conducting interviews with victims of human trafficking and to implement measures and procedures aimed at the protection of victims and witnesses in the light of the National Referral System’s elements.

Fourth: In coordination with the British Embassy in Doha, a workshop was held in London in February 2020, in accordance with the Memorandum of Cooperation with the United Kingdom. The workshop was attended by members of the National Committee for Combating Human Trafficking, the Public Prosecutor's Office and the Supreme Judicial Council.

Fifth: Organization of a workshop on 01.12.2019 on dealing with victims and protecting them: it includes discussion of the legislative framework, procedures and processes followed in dealing and protecting victims, practical aspects of instituting lawsuits in cases of victims of trafficking and psychological support structures for victims of trafficking, based on the experience of the UK.

Sixth: Organisation of a workshop on 08.10.2019 on indicators of human trafficking and the identification of the crime, in the presence of three experts from law enforcement, the British border guard force and the charitable sector who represent the front line in identifying trafficking offences. Experts provided in-depth training on the indicators of trafficking offences, the first stages of the process of dealing with victims, stressing the importance of distinguishing between labour disputes and human trafficking issues.

Seventh: A workshop was held on 27-28 March 2019, in coordination with the US Embassy and the International Labour Organisation, with the participation of members from external bodies such as (Lebanon, Singapore and Taiwan) on the management of the shelter home (Humanitarian Care Home).

Eighth: In coordination with the British Embassy, a training workshop was organised in October 2019 and in March 2020 for the National Committee for Combating Human Trafficking and the Public Prosecution Service.

**Activities and participations**:

1- Participation in the virtual side event entitled " **Unlocking the potential of education in eradicating trafficking in persons** " organised by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime on 4 December 2020 on the margins of the Education for Justice Global Dialogue Series. - The event brought together national authorities in the area of education and anti-trafficking to discuss the key role that education can play in eliminating human trafficking and the importance of a multidisciplinary approach and cooperation with national authorities to combat trafficking.

2- The Qatari-American Working Group held in July 2020 its meeting via video call to discuss aspects of joint cooperation between the two parties within the framework of the Memorandum of Understanding signed with the United States of America in the field of combating human trafficking.

3- Participation of the National Committee for Combating Human Trafficking on 27-30 October 2019 in the Criminology Conference in cooperation with the Police Institute of the Ministry of Interior, as well as Qatar University.

4- Participation on 28.03.2019 in the inspection campaign organized by the Ministry of Interior under the name (Al-Sarayat) to educate and outreach all State inspectors on the law on human trafficking.

5-The participation of the National Committee for Combating Human Trafficking on 15.06.2019 in the International Visitors Program in the United States to visit a number of cities with the aim of strengthening cooperation and mutual understanding in the field of combating human trafficking, in accordance with the Qatari-American Memorandum of Understanding dated 15/06/2019.

6- The participation of the National Committee for Combating Human Trafficking in the Republic of Nepal on 12-14 November 2019 to talk about the new amendments and all the laws that have been amended during 2019.

7- Coordination with Qatar University: awarding prizes to the 4 best students in an essay-writing competition on human trafficking, during the celebration of the International Day against Human Trafficking.

8- Organising panel sessions. During the celebration of the International Day against Human Trafficking, with the participation of a number of judges, lawyers, representatives of trade unions and international organisations

**New initiatives**

1- The establishment of a global training and study centre in the field of combating human trafficking in cooperation with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime was approved.

2- Coordination with the Ministry of Education and Higher Education to inform students about the law on human trafficking at all academic levels.

3- Coordination with Qatar Charity to organize awareness campaigns, especially for the elderly, in several areas relating to violation of the law on domestic workers, and that fall under the penalty for human trafficking

# 4- Coordination with a lawyer to plead a Pakistani case before one of the competent courts.

# 5- Coordination with the Qatar Lawyers Association to sign a memorandum of understanding and cooperation with the association to plead human trafficking cases before the competent courts.

### 6- Coordination with the Judiciary Supreme Council to assign special courts to examine the human trafficking cases brought to the court.

# 7- Organizing a visit to the Social Rehabilitation Centre (AMAN) to review all the procedures in place with the aim of transferring the centre’s expertise and using it in the operation of the recently opened Humanitarian Care Home.

# 8- Qatar Charity was honoured for being a main partner and supporter in providing aid and assistance and in all matters related to labour and workers, according to the memorandum of cooperation protocol concluded between the two parties.