

The State of Qatar

Positions for the League of Arab States

1. Preserving and Promoting State Sovereignty Internationally

State Sovereignty is the ability of a nation to operate independently of external influence by another nation, it is a right guaranteed by both the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) and the Charter of the United Nations where it is clearly stated in Article II Section 1 that, “The Organization is based on the principle of the sovereign equality of all its Members”. Though clearly stated, it is a right that has been violated both in the past and during the present by various nations internationally. Freedom should not be determined by military might and the constantly shifting nature of international politics, but rather all Member States should protect it as it is an inalienable right. The importance of this right is proven by the United Nations history of ruling in its favor, such as in SC/RES/242 which following the six days war called for a, “respect for and acknowledgment of the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of every State in the area and their right to live in peace,” In General Assembly (GA) resolution 1514/(XV) it is stated that, “The subjection of peoples to alien subjugation, domination and exploitation constitutes a denial of fundamental human rights, is contrary to the Charter of the United Nations and is an impediment to the promotion of world peace and cooperation.”

State Sovereignty is not just an international right amongst nations it is a human right important for peace. It is the ability to develop separate but respecting cultures and nations governed by a truly free people determining a future that is appropriate for themselves. Qatar has itself worked hard protecting state sovereignty internationally, being an active member of the League of Arab States (LAS), a primary goal of which as stated in the Alexandria Protocol of 1944 is to, “Protect their (Member States) independence and sovereignty against every aggression by suitable means,” This goal was further reiterated in the Pact of the League of Arab States of March 22nd, 1945 and these concepts were upheld both in the 1967 Khartoum Resolutions following the six days war which condemned the Israeli seizure of foreign lands and the 2002 Arab Peace Initiative which called for an end to the Arab-Israel conflict and called for a return of both the Syrian Golan Heights and the Southern Lebanese Territories to both of their respective owners. The initiative also called for, “A just solution to the Palestinian Refugee problem to be agreed upon in accordance with UN General Assembly Resolution 194.” Only through these peaceful negotiations and an acceptance of individual national sovereignty was progress able to be promoted and advanced. Throughout the entire existence of the State of Qatar it has never participated in a single war for conquest, its borders are now the same as they were on the date of its independence. Qatar has also strived to protect its own form of Democracy, one ensured by *The Constitution of Qatar* which promises personal freedom of each of its citizens and equal protection under the law regardless of sex, race, language or religion.

Despite this, the State of Qatar is presently involved in an international crisis surrounding the illegal blockade of its lands by its surrounding neighbors who reside in the Gulf Cooperation Committee (GCC) which strictly violates the *Charter of the United Nations* and according to the report by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) following the technical mission to Qatar in November of 2017, it was reported the blockade made “no distinction between the Government of Qatar and its population” and “constitute(s) core elements of the definition of unilateral coercive measures as proposed by the Human Rights Council Advisory Committee”. In order for state sovereignty to be clearly established as a right and the parameters of what it entails clearly set, the Qatari Blockade must be peacefully resolved through the medium of the United Nations so that a state of peace and unity may exist amongst the Arab nations once more.

2. Combating Climate Change in Arab States

According to the October 2018 report by the intergovernmental panel on climate change (IPCC) if global temperatures continue to rise at current rates atmospheric temperature could go 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre industrial levels by 2040. This will inundate coastlines, intensify droughts, and increase the effect of natural disasters globally. This is the first report mandated by the 2015 Paris Agreement, which Qatar ratified, and has encouraged all Member States parties to fully implement. It works within the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in furthering the application of the agreement.

The IPCC reminds the world that the issue of climate change should be a growing concern for all member states, and especially in vulnerable regions such as the Middle East. That is why Qatar is also a strong advocate for

resolution GA/70/1 which establishes the “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” and its 17 sustainable development goals (SDGs) specifically goals 7: Affordable and Clean Energy, 13: Climate Action, 15: Life on Land, and goal 17: Partnerships to achieve the Goal. These build upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and seeking to address their unfinished business, with bolder objectives. Both the MDGs and SDGs have been aligned with Qatar National Vision (QNV) 2030 which was launched in 2008 to serve as a clear roadmap for Qatar’s future. It’s also important to note that the QNVs 2030 development assistance objectives are in line with Articles VI and VII of Qatar’s Permanent Constitution that stipulates that “the State shall respect international instruments and covenants and work to implement all international conventions, charters and covenants it is a part of. Although the Nation Development Strategies (NDSs) were launched in 2011, well before the SDA endorsement in 2015, the MDPS, in collaboration with different stakeholders, mobilized the national efforts to incorporate the SDGs into the NDS. Qatar takes international cooperation seriously, especially on climate change, which studies have shown will largely affect the Middle East and Africa. Highlighting resolution GA/71/229 on the “United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification”, Qatar was present for the Ministerial Meeting on Sand and Dust Storms held in Nairobi in February of 2013 on the margins of the twenty-seventh session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum of the United Nations Environment Programme (GC/GMEF). As well as the Islamic Republic of Iran's regional meeting of environment ministers in Tehran in September 2010 “Combating Sand and Dust Storms.” Qatar played a role in the Sendai Declaration and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (WCDRR) 2015–2030 which was adopted at the Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction and endorsed by GA resolution 69/283 in 2015. The effect of climate change on natural disasters has been, and will continue to be severely felt by those in Qatar and the region.. Over the past 30 years, climate disasters have affected 50 million people in the Arab world, costing about \$12 billion directly and many multiples of that indirectly. Recent trends suggest that dry regions are becoming drier and flash floods have become more frequent. The 2006 flooding of the Nile River Basin led to 600 deaths, with a further 118,000 people affected, while in 2008 a record five-year drought finally ended in the Jordan River Basin.

Qatar believes global warming must be tackled across international borders and despite previous animosity between member states. As both a member of the non-aligned movement (NAM) and maintaining productive relations with all member states in the Middle East since its independence in 1971. Qatar has established its commitment to tackling the issues of desertification, water security, and energy conservation regionally. Qatar itself has faced increased sand storms and increased irrational water consumption, in 2015 alone the per capita rate of drinking water consumption was 550 liter a day as a result of the increased population and consumption rates. In response the primary Electricity and Water Corporation of Qatar (Kahramaa) reduced the total and real waste of non-revenue desalinated water (NRW) to 10% in 2016 down from 30% in 2011. Conservation Law No. 26 of 2008 was amended through Conservation Law No. 20 of 2015 to stop water wastage and reduce the groundwater level. Also a total of 204 million m³ of sewage water was treated in 2016, about 51% of which was used to irrigate agricultural crops and landscapes. Qatar has also focused on funding renewable energy despite difficulties of providing the financial allocations necessary for solar energy projects to meet the increasing demand for energy in Qatar. Through deliberate planning the Qatar Solar Technologies (QSTec) generates solar energy through annually producing 8 thousand tons of high-quality polysilicon to meet the increasing global demand for solar energy sources. Every Member State has made its own strives in combating climate change, but ultimately a solution focusing on international cooperation and fiscal responsibility, Qatar believes, will best achieve the SDG environmental goals. Drawing attention to Res/SC/1631 of October 2005, as well as statements by the President of the Security Council which emphasized the importance of developing effective partnerships between the United Nations and regional and sub regional organizations, in accordance with the Charter. Qatar also reaffirms resolution 69/313 of July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which is an integral part of achieving the 2030 SDGs and lays out a model for comprehensive financing of environmental projects. Climate change is an issue that can be mitigated, but only through bold action and extending a hand of friendship regionally can real progressive be made.