



**STATEMENT OF THE DELEGATION OF THE STATE OF QATAR**

**BY**  
**HIS EXCELLENCY AMBASSADOR NASSER BIN ABDELAZIZ AL NASR**  
**PERMENENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE STATE OF QATAR**  
**TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**BEFORE**  
**THE FIFTY-SECOND SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF**  
**WOMEN**

**3 MARCH 2008**



**Mr. President,**

Allow me to congratulate you and the members of the Bureau on your election wishing you success in conducting the work of this important Commission. My delegation would like to associate itself with the statement made by Antigua and Barbuda on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

**Mr. President,**

We have read with great interest the various reports of the Secretary-General submitted to the fifty-second session of the Commission on the Status of Women. The State of Qatar agrees with the content and spirit of the recommendations contained in those reports.

**Mr. President,**

At the Millennium Summit in 2000, we have all committed ourselves to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women as effective means to fight poverty, hunger and diseases and to stimulate sustainable development. We have also renewed our commitments at the 2002 Monterrey Conference by stressing gender equality as an element for development and as a means to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. Despite the progress made to achieve this vital and important goal, the Secretary-General has indicated in his report that the implementation on the ground has not reached the level required due to the lack of resources and the need for more work to develop national capacity.

In this regard, we wish to express our support for the recommendation of the Secretary-General that the preparations for the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development, to be held in Qatar from 29 November to 2 December 2008, would be crucial to provide an opportunity to review the current situation and to give greater attention to addressing the gender perspectives in all six areas of action referred to in the Monterrey Consensus in order to ensure that the results of the follow-up process would promote financing for gender equality and empowerment of women.

**Mr. President,**

The political will of the wise leadership of the State of Qatar, represented by His Highness, Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al-Thani, Emir of the State of Qatar, and the full support of Her Highness Sheikha Mozah Bint Nasser Al-Misnad, Consort of His Highness the Emir of the State of Qatar, have paved the way for progress and achievements in the area of promoting gender equality and for creating an enabling environment for women, by reviewing the legislative and executive measures. Such review is necessary to find ways to increase women's access in the State of Qatar to the government sector funds allocated to implement the commitments to finance gender equality and the empowerment of women. For example, Law No. 2 of 2007 on Housing and Cabinet Decision No. 17 on the Priorities and Controls of Women's Access to the



Housing Benefit System, have provided an opportunity to benefit from Government subsidized housing. The 2002 Law No. 24 on Retirement and Pensions guarantees the rights of the working woman and provides her and her family with security. The Government allocates also financial resources to national mechanisms for the advancement of women in the State of Qatar, including the Supreme Council for Family Affairs, the higher coordination governmental body, and the Commission for Women Affairs, the national advisory body on women, and numerous governmental and non-governmental organizations. The Government has also allocated financial resources to provide for the implementation of the national strategy for the advancement of women in the State of Qatar until the year 2013.

**Mr. President,**

The State of Qatar is aware that education is one of the most valuable ways to achieve gender equality and empowerment of women. Qatar therefore believes in the principle of providing the funding necessary to improve education for all, particularly for women and the girls in order to achieve the goal of gender equality. International reports have shown that the little progress that has been achieved in the eradication of illiteracy in various regions of the world, notably in conflict affected areas, has exacerbated inequalities between men and women at the economic, political and social levels. Based on its belief in that approach, the Government has embarked on implementing an ambitious initiative to develop the public education in order to improve the quality of education, create new educational opportunities for all the members of society, and expand the choices in the stage of higher education, based on equal opportunities for men and women. Such objective could be achieved through the development of State universities, diversification of government grants to continue studies abroad, and providing opportunities for university enrolment in a group of the most prestigious universities located in the Education City.

The State of Qatar will continue her quest to highlight the issue of promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women as a strategic objective in her national and international efforts.

**I thank you Mr. President.**

