

The State of Qatar Positions for the G-77

I. Addressing the Role of Climate Change in Economic Development

According to the international journal of Nature and Climate Change, it is estimated Qatar's deserts will reach a temperature intolerable to human adaptation before the end of the century due to global warming and climate change. Within 2016, global atmospheric carbon dioxide levels reached a record high of 400 parts per million, where the safe zone for carbon dioxide levels is under 350 parts per million. The State of Qatar recognizes the global nature of climate change, and how every Member State is experiencing the impacts of this issue. It is imperative the UN explore the most effective means Member States can reduce national greenhouse gas emissions (GHG's) to regulate the global release of GHG's into the atmosphere. This issue is one that can only be addressed through international cooperation and ingenuity in creating both long term and short-term solutions that can be implemented without endangering the development of developing Member States.

Qatar publicly recognized the global impact climate change causes within Resolutions 43/53, 42/186, 42/187 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The state of Qatar is recognized as a Non-Annex I party, and is thus not required to participate in the global reduction of GHG emissions. However, environmental sustainability and protection are a major part of Qatar's constitution, and Qatar recognizes it is necessary Qatar be included within all relevant global policies surrounding this issue. Qatar established the National Committee for Climate Change (NCCC), joined the World Bank GHG reduction program through Qatar's Global Gas Flaring Reduction Partnership and formulated the Qatar National Plan for Energy, Efficiency, Optimization and Resource (QPEERU), a national plan prioritizing energy efficiency and GHG reduction. Qatar also took on an international leadership role regarding climate change by hosting the Doha Carbon and Energy Forum (DCEF). Qatar serves as a member of the UNFCCC, attended the 21st Session of the Conference of Parties (COP21) and the UN Climate Change Conference in 2015 and is also a ratified party of the Paris Agreement. Through the Qatar Foundation's National Research Fund (QNRF), research is being conducted on various technologies and frameworks for cleaner energy use and waste disposal on a global level, such as Carbon Capture and Sequestration, a process by which carbon dioxide waste is deposited underground rather than into the atmosphere. The QNRF also created the Belmont Forum, a collaboration of major international funding agencies to facilitate the global effort to find an efficient, cleaner means to use energy while fueling the global economy and allowing for sustainable growth. Qatar has also sought to address the issue of GHG reduction nationally by using the Global Sustainability Assessment System to design buildings that release less CO₂, and has applied this structural design to numerous structures within the metropolis, neighborhoods and parks.

Qatar acknowledges the difficulties associated with Member States attempting to reduce GHG emissions without placing the stability of their economies in danger. Qatar also acknowledges every effort towards reducing the emission of GHG's makes a measurable difference in the pursuit to impede the global effects of climate change. According to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), over 6% of the global GHG emission results from buildings. Qatar recommends Member States follow in Qatar's footsteps and seek to build and incorporate more energy efficient architecture, as well as renovating pre-existing structures to limit their carbon emission and maximize their ability to self-sustain with less energy. A renovation of architectural structures and housing as a global action would serve to cut a substantial percentage of GHG emissions without overtly harming the economic sustainability of developing Member States. Although a global action of this scale would financially cost Member States, the initial expenditure would be offset by lower operational costs within the long term. Qatar's success within rebuilding energy efficient buildings reveals a significantly improved environmental performance on a national scale can be constructed with only a minimal increase in capital.

Qatar looks forward to working with each Member State, as well as offering support to the global effort to reduce the effects of climate change.

II. Improving Access to Healthcare in Developing Member States

Within recent years, the World Health Organization (WHO) has estimated the average availability of essential medicines to be at 60% within low income developing Member States, and 56% within lower-middle income Member States. This is just the first of many indications that global healthcare coverage is insufficient in many developing Member States and that the improvement of accessibility to healthcare is paramount for sustainable economies and thriving global citizens.

Qatar acknowledges the importance of providing accessible healthcare on a national level within Qatar's National Vision 2030 and Decree-Law No. 16 of 1996. Through this national vision, Qatar established an affordable and high-quality system of healthcare that promotes the physical and mental health of all citizens. This, in turn, provides a skilled and sustainable workforce that stimulates and stabilizes the national economy while achieving individual economic prosperity, establishing a long-life expectancy and maintaining a high quality of life. In addition, Qatar's Decree Number 7 of the year 2013 established a council for healthcare practitioners to promote high quality service nationwide. This creates accountability for healthcare providers and ensures the healthcare Qatari citizens do have access to is that of a world-class medical system. Globally, Qatar recognizes the disparity in health care priorities between the North and South as well as the disparity in healthcare related needs between the various global regions. Qatar is committed to bridging these gaps through the development of frameworks such as the Havana Program, the Marrakech Declaration on South-South Cooperation and the Doha Plan of Action. The development of these frameworks would lead to an improvement in the regional implementation of healthcare to address the diverse needs of developing Member States, as well as the maintenance of the United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goals. Additionally, the Marrakech Declaration highlights the importance of global cooperation to achieve the SDGs and is a call for unity in striving to make goal number 3 a reality. Also embodied by the UN's Universal Declaration on Human Rights in Article 25 which states, "Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care." Relatedly, the UN resolution on universal health coverage further emphasizes the UN's commitment to this issue's resolution by directing Member States to provide affordable healthcare to its citizens, thereby increasing access. Qatar recognizes the necessity of developing global healthcare within the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and is committed to its fulfillment.

In the process of doing so, Qatar has made significant efforts to collaborate and develop frameworks and funds to address humanitarian needs such as healthcare. The Second South Summit in 2005 was held in Doha, Qatar as a means to promote cooperation between the Global South and establish collective efforts to work towards the SDGs, like the Doha Plan of Action. This plan displayed Qatar's commitment to addressing the needs of developing Member States by providing a framework for humanitarian support. In addition, the creation of the South Fund for Development and Humanitarian Assistance, to which Qatar committed \$20 million, was another step toward a collaborative effort that would allow for the development of a proposal to implement healthcare in a way that would be cost effective and equally beneficial to all regions. This committee must further the development and applications of these frameworks and funds in order to support and solve the global effort for accessible healthcare. In addition, the creation of a council dedicated to healthcare practitioners, similar to Qatar's implementation, is the only way to keep healthcare providers accountable and ensure quality service is provided to citizens around the world. This committee must recognize the significance thereof and create such a council. In concurrence with that, the development of declarations or resolutions like the Marrakech is imperative to hold all Member States accountable and promote global cooperation for the benefit of solving this issue permanently. The State of Qatar fully supports and encourages the development of such declarations and looks forward to working together with other Member States to address this issue.