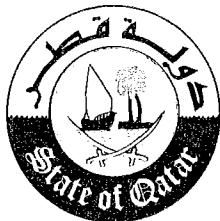


بِسْمِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ



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

**DELIVERED
BY
Dr. HASSAN IBRAHIM AI-MUHANNADI
DIRECTOR OF THE SOCIAL PLANNING
MANAGEMENT
PALNNING COUNCIL**

AT

**AT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED
NATIONS
HIGH-LEVEL DIALOGUE ON INTERNATIONAL
MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT**

New York, 15 September 2006

الوفد الدائم لدولة قطر لدى الأمم المتحدة

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In the Name of Allah the Merciful

**Excellencies the Ministers,
Ladies and Gentlemen,
Ms. President,**

It gives me great pleasure, on behalf of the State of Qatar, to congratulate you on your election as President the General Assembly of the United Nations at its sixty-first session. I am confident that your wisdom and experience will guide the work of the Assembly to success.

I would like also to thank the Secretary-General Kofi Annan for his tireless efforts to shed the light on the question of global migration and development, and for his exhaustive report contained in document A/60/871.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The phenomenon of migration goes way back in time to the early centuries. Its pace has, however, increased in our era due to the globalization and its socio-economic impacts, and the significant progress in communications and transport. Its current situation requires serious attention if we are to harness it to further the interests of individuals and nations. Organizing this United Nations gathering is merely a step towards finding effective means that ensure the protection of migrants, and that of the countries of origin and destination as well.

On this occasion, the State of Qatar welcomes the initiative of the Secretary-General that calls for holding a world forum on migration, and values the initiative of Belgium to host it.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The State of Qatar is host for a lot of migrant workers from different nationalities, who work side by side with the Qatari citizens in developing our nation's economy which is among the fastest-growing in the world. The State of Qatar has always been proud of the role and contribution of the migrant workforce in its great economic growth and in its endeavor towards achieving sustainable development.

The State of Qatar is also closely and continuously cooperating with the countries of origin. It has for instance concluded bilateral agreements that regulate the employment of their migrant citizens, and identify the role of the public authorities in the countries of origin and destination in this process. Such agreements call for employing those workers in accordance with a work contract that clearly defines the rights and obligations of both employees and employers. The contracts are certified by official authorities in both countries to prevent any abuse of migrant workers. The convention defines also the ways to settle disputes that could arise between employees and employers. Migrant workers exercise fully and completely their right to transfer their savings to their home countries. It also regulates all types of paid contracts. Our government has created a tolerant social environment that enables migrant workers to freely practice their religious rites and communicate with their cultures.

The State of Qatar is keen on providing migrant workers with the basic rights and benefits, including education, health care and social protection. Those benefits have been integrated in legislations and laws in order to ensure a decent life to all, free of abuse and aggression. The State of Qatar is also keen on providing legal protection to all workers present on its territory, be they men or women.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In one manifestation of the interest that it shows toward migrant workers, the State of Qatar has called upon all members of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf to participate in the Forum on Migrant Workers held in Doha in April 2007. Invitations will also be sent to some countries of origin, and to the specialized international organizations. The purpose of the Forum is to find the most efficient ways to regulate the migrant workforce, look for means to address the constraints it faces, and examine the forms of cooperation with the countries of origin with a view to creating the best environment for migrant workers.

In the State of Qatar, we pay particular attention to migrant workers and to protecting their rights in accordance with the laws of the land, and the contracts concluded with them and certified by their country of origin. In that regard, I would like to reiterate that the State of Qatar respects its commitments as contained in the contracts concluded with it, and abides by the relevant international agreements and treaties. Yet, there remains a critical issue that needs to be clarified and taken into consideration: the

authorization for and length of stay of the migrant workers should be governed by the country of destination's laws of immigration. Therefore, once having accomplished the job described by the contract between both parties, migrant workers should leave the country. A nation of a limited geographical area and a small population is not in a position to be a permanent host for a significant number of migrant workers.

In conclusion, I wish our dialogue success in achieving progress and welfare for our nations.

I thank you for your attention.