



Statement of the State of Qatar

By

His Excellency Dr. Issa bin Saad Al-Jafali Al-Nuaimi

Minister for Administrative Development, Labor and Social Affairs

Chairman of the National Committee on Combatting Human Trafficking

At

**The High-level Meeting of the General Assembly to Review the Global Plan of Action to
Combat Trafficking in Persons**

27 and 28 September 2017

10:00 AM - 1:00 PM

3:00 pm - 6:00 pm

The United Nations Headquarters - New York

Excellencies,

Your Excellency the President of the General Assembly,

Your Excellency the Secretary-General,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am pleased and honored, on behalf of my delegation, to address you on the occasion of the High-level Meeting of the General Assembly to Review the Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons.

We are pleased today to witness the official adoption of the Political Declaration on the Implementation of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons to which Qatar has contributed, in partnership with Belgium, by facilitating its negotiations. The declaration was agreed upon thanks to the political will of Member States to take concerted and decisive action to implement the Plan of Action and put an end to such heinous crime, wherever it is committed.

Mr. President,

Combatting the phenomenon of trafficking in human beings requires addressing the real causes leading to it, be they social, economic, cultural, political or ideological, or the absence of the rule of law or any other reasons.

There is no doubt that the inability of the international community to find just and decisive settlements to conflicts, and the resulting terrorism and the emergence of armed organizations outside the framework of the international law, are major contributors to the growing phenomenon of trafficking in human beings that violates the fundamental rights of individuals and peoples alike. In fact, crises and conflicts create a fertile environment for traffickers, that facilitates committing their crimes of human trafficking.

At the national level, the State of Qatar has taken many legislative measures, including the promulgation of Law No. 15 of 2011 on Combating Human Trafficking, that criminalizes

trafficking in persons in all its forms and types, Law No. 21 of 2015, that abolished the sponsorship (*kafala*) system, and Law No. 15 of 2017 on domestic workers. At the institutional level, the government established the National Committee on Combatting Human Trafficking to consolidate the efforts of the state institutions and the civil society in addressing the phenomenon of trafficking in human beings. To that end, the Committee aims to develop a national plan to combat human trafficking and follow-up on its implementation, along with programs that provide care and rehabilitation for victims of trafficking to help in their quick integration in the society.

The National Committee on Combatting Human Trafficking is also coordinating with INTERPOL the convening of the annual Conference on Combating Human Trafficking and Smuggling of Persons, to be held in Doha, in December 2017.

At the regional level, the State of Qatar has sponsored the Arab Initiative to Build National Capacities in Combating Trafficking in Human Beings in the Arab Countries, in cooperation with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the League of Arab States, to build and rehabilitate national capacities in various areas of combating human trafficking in the Arab region using scientific and professional methods.

At the international level, and as part of its firm belief in the importance of preserving human dignity, and in fulfilling its moral and legal obligations, and as an active member of the Group of Friends United against Human Trafficking and the Group of Friends to End Modern Slavery, the State of Qatar has spared no effort to support the efforts of the international community to combat the phenomenon of trafficking in human beings and its related phenomena such as forced labor, modern slavery and child labor.

My country has supported the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons since its adoption.

The State of Qatar has been a major donor to the United Nations Trust Fund for Victims of Trafficking in Persons since its inception. In 2005, it has also hosted the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, that adopted a comprehensive approach to address the crime of trafficking in human beings, as set out in the Doha Declaration.

The State of Qatar is also a major supporter of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, as the leading international authority to combat human trafficking.

Mr. President,

In conclusion, I would like to stress that the State of Qatar attaches an increasing importance to the fight against human trafficking, at the legislative, institutional, awareness and international cooperation levels. It will spare no effort to contribute actively in supporting the regional and international efforts to combat human trafficking.

I thank you for your attention.

I thank you Mr. President.