

**Report  
of  
The National Human Rights Committee  
of Qatar  
On  
The Human Rights Situation in the  
State  
and  
The Outcomes of the Committee's work  
During 2013**

## **Speeches of HH the Father Amir and HH the Emir of Qatar on the occasion of taking over the reins of power in the State of Qatar**

The NHRC, during the period covered in this report, spotted what came in the speeches of HH the Father Amir and HH the Emir of Qatar on the occasion of taking over the reins of power in the State of Qatar, where His Highness the Father Emir of Qatar introduced in his speech some aspects relating to human rights, and called citizens to cross into a new phase dictated by the interest of the nation where a new generation with their creative ideas becomes leaders of the future. The Father Emir in his speech talked about the importance of knowledge and practice and said: "Let knowledge be a beacon of brilliance that illuminates your path and helps you to build the best future."

HH the Emir of Qatar also gave a speech in which he talked about the broad lines of policy that he will follow in the state and his wishes to the people of Qatar commenting on some aspects of human rights in the State of Qatar, including investment in human resources which is considered the most important aspect of investment besides investment in human society, economy, politics and cultural identity; he also called for investment in the areas of education, health and infrastructure in which the development of countries success is measured, where the State of Qatar put long-term investment goals to ensure decent living for the future generations.

Emir of Qatar stressed the need for human development by improving health, education, culture, sports fields and investing effort and money to achieve favorable results to elevate the state, where public employees should fulfill their duties towards society and the state to ensure maintaining public rights.

## Section 1

### Developments at the level of national legislation and international conventions

The NHRC addresses in this section the national legislative developments in the state during the period covered in this report, the status of the state with regard to accessing human rights agreements at the regional or international levels, and events hosted by or regulated by the State of Qatar.

#### First: Monitoring the progress at the legislative level:

##### 1. laws and decrees:

The NHRC reviewed three laws:

##### **A. Law No. 2 of 2013 Amending Certain Provisions of Law No. 10 of 1987 on Public and Private State Properties:**

The NHRC sees this law supporting the right to own property as it stipulates that certificate of the acquisition of agricultural land is an acquisition bond, and such agricultural lands shall be used for agricultural activity purposes only, and such agricultural activity shall not be changed to another activity, scheduled fine and removal of abuse, including working to preserve the agricultural area, and thus contribute to agricultural development.

##### **B. Law No. (7) for the year 2013 on social health insurance system**

The NHRC considers that it would be better if this law provides a treatment system abroad, thereby reducing reliance on the decisions of the medical committee and obtaining their consent to travel abroad for treatment, to avoid recurrent problems relating to this committee and its affiliated offices monitored by the NHRC in its previous successive reports and complaints.

It can be said that the number of laws passed during the first half of 2013 is limited, although this makes sense in light of the release of many legislations after the promulgation of the constitution, whether these legislation are adopted to apply provisions of the Constitution or amending existing legislation to be consistent with provisions of the Constitution that support the institution-based state. This approach gives a chance to the application of the this limited number of laws as well as leaves a room for legal and societal debate of these laws, in order for amendments to be based on the needs of the community, and consistent with state of law and institutions that enable the state to assume their rightful place at the regional and international levels.

It should be noted that there are several pieces of legislation that the NHRC considers necessary to be amended or regulated, whether those relating to elections or those related to work, due to their influence on citizens or expats; since that the Shura Council elections shall be commenced soon and there are some necessary legislation required especially those relating to the election system and the conditions that should be available in voters, as well as the matter of hosting the 2015 World Men's Handball Championship and the 2022 FIFA World Cup that reflects the appreciation of the international community of legal and cultural development of the state, and at the same times puts burden of organizing these events and bearing the responsibility of this organization.

In this context, the NHRC has spotted what he had the amendments being underway by the Cabinet on two important laws, namely Law No 24 of 2002 regarding the Retirement and Pension and Law No. 8 of 2009 on Human Resources Management, since the first relates to the right to a decent life, and the second relates to the right to work.

The NHRC recommends amending the Human Resources Management Act, including:

1. Adding a special provision to the Law of Human Resources Management on the mandate in the terms of reference to give flexibility in decisions making.
2. Amending social allowance categories to become similar to the military categories based on the perspective that the social allowance is related to citizenship not the nature of the job.
3. Modifying the periodic premium to be specified through fixed financial categories according to the financial grade of the employee rather than the current set percentages.
4. Unifying grades and salary structure system of all government employees in the supervisory and operational authorities.

5. Increasing the representation allowance categories to be commensurate with the cost burdens of living in other countries.
6. The continuation of giving housing allowance for the wife employed in case the husband is entitled of governmental housing.
7. Entitling furniture allowance more than once to the employee after the expiration of the consumption period prescribed by law (four years).
8. Amending the provisions related to nursing times given to the nursing female worker to two years instead of one year in accordance with the provisions of Islamic Sharia.
9. If the employee is summoned from the periodic leave due to circumstances of the work, the worker shall be compensated by granting fees of the tickets plus other amounts incurred as a result of being called including hotel and/or accommodation fees; In addition to the elimination of the provision that permits summon from the periodic leave.
10. Developing a reward system for Qatari employees joining training courses held within the state to encourage employees to participate in courses and to save money and effort borne by the state in similar courses held in other countries.
11. Rearranging articles number 96, 97, 98 and putting article 98 before articles 96, 97 as they are related to granting periodic leave where the sub-provision of article (97) on not allowing the employee to take all of the periodic leave comes precedent for the main provision contained in Article (97).
12. Granting the employee an unpaid leave when accompanying his wife in cases of official missions and training sessions only with the deletion of the other cases in order to avoid the abuse of this right.
13. With the conviction of the NHRC that any law has a regulatory and social role, the NHRC sees the need to reformulate annex of salaries attached to Human Resources Management Law to be similar for citizens and expats, based on important human rights principles of the inadmissibility of discrimination in pay between those doing the same work, while giving a special title for the planned increase stipulated in the Qatari decision of the Heir Apparent and Deputy Emir of the State of Qatar No. 50 for the year 2011 with the aim to avoid discrimination between Qataris and residents.

It is worth mentioning that the NHRC spotted considering many of these recommendations by the competent authorities; this reflects its steady and sustained pace to advocacy of human rights in accordance with the values of society and its basic elements and aspirations of its citizens, and the support provided by the political leadership.

As for the Retirement and Pension Law, the NHRC considers the need for amendments including the following:

- The law to be applied to former employees who retired before the date this law came into force especially those excluded in the fourth article from the insurance umbrella.
- Eliminating discrimination enshrined in Article 16 of the law regarding the entitlement of the spouse to the pension of his wife and the entitlement of the wife to the pension of her spouse.
- Working to repeal provisions that exclude employees from getting the end of service entitlements in case they are entitled to retirement pension.
- Calculating the pension for employees at the rate of five per cent of the average salary over the last 2 years of the employee's period of employment instead of 5 years.

The NHRC believes that the delay in the issuance of amendments to the Law of human Resource Management can be justified in awaiting the implementation called for by His Highness Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, Emir of the State of Qatar to reorganize the administrative units of the state to eliminate the conflict and overlap in the functions of the departments affiliated to ministries, but the failure in issuing the executive regulations of the law can't be justified as it leads to problems in the application of the law and misunderstanding of the provisions and implementation of the law by various parties; the delay in the issuance of amendments to the Retirement and Pension Law can't be justified too as it is related to the category of retirees and pensioners that requires the state's maximum support. Thus NHRC calls for urgent need to expedite the issuance of this law.

## **2. Emiri Decrees and Decisions:**

### **A. Emiri Decision No.4 of 2013 forming a new cabinet**

The NHRC observed during the period covered by the report, specifically in June 26, 2013, the issuance of the Emiri Decision No.(4) of 2013 forming a new council of ministers, which reflects the extent of the transparency, speed and persistence of the political process in the State of Qatar appropriately within a short period after the abdication of the Father Emir Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani.

### **B. Emiri Decree No. 7 of 2013 establishing Qatari Board of Medical Specialties**

The NHRC considers that this resolution came in the framework of the keenness of the State of Qatar on developing the health system, as it forms the basis for development and renaissance.

### **C. Emiri decision No. 70 of 2013 on extending the duration of the Advisory (Shura) Council**

The NHRC considers that it is important for the draft of the law regulating the election process to be introduced to the community before its release so it comes up with responds that meet the aspirations of the people of Qatar, and achieves their hopes of participating in the legislative life through the election of their representatives, especially that the political state of some of the neighboring countries is not stable in which numerous problems result from failure to observe requirements of society.

### **D - Emiri Decision No. 94 for the year 2013 approving the establishment of the Rule of Law and Anti-Corruption Centre**

The NHRC believes that this decision is of a great importance as it supports the principles stipulated in the United Nations Convention Against Corruption, which the state acceded to in 2007, in the framework of the State's keenness to fight corruption, and lay the foundations and pillars of the rule of law, as reflected positively on the reputation of the state and its international classification in fields of anti-corruption and transparency.

### **3. Cabinet and Ministerial resolutions:**

The NHRC has monitored the issuance of several resolutions of the Council of Ministers relating to the provisions of Law No. 24 of 2002 on retirement and pensions to be applied to Qataris working at private institutions, associations and companies. The NHRC believes that this trend is of a great importance as this law is closely relating to the right to decent life, and its expansion to include those working at private institutions, companies and associations promote and protect this right (taking into account the previous recommendations of the NHRC referred to with regards to modifying the Act).

#### **A. Decision No. 13 of 2013 of the President of the Council of Ministers concerning the establishment and formation of The Technical Committee responsible for encouraging private sector participation in food security projects – amended by decision No. 17 of 2013 of the President of the Council of Ministers and decision No. 14 for the year 2013 of the President of the Council of Ministers concerning the establishment and formation of the Supreme Committee responsible for encouraging private sector participation in food security projects**

The NHRC believes that the private sector participation in economic projects of national and strategic nature, especially in the field of food security, has become a necessity; the NHRC encourages efforts paying attention to encouraging the participation of the private sector in economic development, particularly in projects of food security, as it is considered to be one of the vital and important projects while providing the necessary support, in order to achieve the greatest possible food self-sufficiency because of its importance in terms of the national security.

#### **B. Decision No. (15) for the year 2013 of The President of the council of Minister's concerning the establishment of a Committee responsible for studying the reasons for the high costs of projects**

The NHRC spotted what was raised more than once concerning the high cost of projects in Qatar compared to other countries; the NHRC believes that this decision preserves public money, wards off the suspicion of wasting it, and maintains the state's economic resources, especially in light of the overall urban renaissance taking place in the state, taking into account that the cost of implementation and completion of these renaissance projects should be realistic and not exorbitant.

**C. Resolution No. 29 of 2013 of the Council of Ministers on setting up a committee to look into grievances related to expropriation of real estate in public interest**

Article 1 of this resolution states that the Ministry of Municipality and Urban Planning shall be responsible for forming this committee which comprises two judges of the Court of Appeal; while its most important mandate is looking into grievances related to expropriation of real estate in public interest.

The NHRC commends the adoption of this resolution, including the membership of two judges of the Court of Appeal in this committee, who shall be nominated by the President of the Supreme Judicial Council, one of them shall be the President and the other shall be vice-president of this committee, so as to ensure and enhance the preservation and protection of the right to property, and achieve balance between the right to individual property and considerations of public interest.

However, the NHRC hope that this committee shall be independent non-affiliated to Municipality and Urban Planning Ministry, to achieve greater transparency and independence from the administrative body.

**D. Decision No. 10 of 2013 of the Minister of Health, Secretary General of the Supreme Council of Health concerning regulating the process of importing and trading drugs**

The NHRC commends this resolution, as it fights adulteration of drugs, or trading in unregistered or anonymous drugs, which has become an international phenomenon that threatens human health, that may lead to consequences up to death, permanent disability, or chronic diseases.

**E. Decision No. 22 of 2013 of the Minister of Public Health on issuing the Executive Regulations of Law No. 7 of 2013 on social health insurance system**

The NHRC commends the prompt issuance of the executive regulations of the law of social health insurance, and calls upon all parties responsible for the implementation of this law and its regulations to avoid difficulties or obstacles leading to overloading the application of its provisions to citizens or expatriates, including may lead to failure to achieve the desired goal and objective of the law as one of the pillars of the protection and promotion of the right to health.

**F. Decision No. 25 of 2013 of the Minister of Public Health amending some provisions of Ministerial Resolution No. 9 of 1987, on conditions and specifications and Hygienic Equipment That Should Be Available In Private Clinics**

Article (2-2) of the Ministerial Decree No. 9 of 1987, were replaced by the following: " The clinic shall not be connected to another premises or residential building either directly or indirectly."; the NHRC commends the issuance of such a decision, which contributes to the development of measures and conditions for private clinics to ensure the preservation of public health.

**G. Decisions of The Minister of Social Affairs**

- Resolution No. 4 of 2013 approving the registration of ATAA Charity Foundation (Said Bin Salem Al Bineid Al Muhanadi Charity Foundation)

- Resolution No. 6 of 2013 approving the registration of Nasser Bin Jassem Althani Charity Foundation (Dar Al-ber).

- Resolution No. 7 of 2013 approving the registration of Faisal Bin Fahad Al Thani Charity Foundation

The NHRC emphasizes the importance of such institutions to achieve the goals and purposes of social work, and provide assistance and care to the vulnerable categories to contribute to the promotion and protection of social and economic human rights in general.

**H. Decision No. 116 of 2013 on the Issuance of the National Instructions for the Protection from Electromagnetism Radiation Emitted from Operating Radio Frequencies**

The NHRC considers that this resolution came within the framework of efforts to preserve the public health by ensuring a clean and healthy environment; It focuses on the protection of the public and workers in the relevant field from equipment or devices radiating negative effects including radio frequencies.

## **Second: Evolution at the International Conventions level:**

### **A. Decree No. (14) for the year 2013 approving Qatar's accession to the Convention on Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space**

The Convention on Registration of Launched Objects into Outer Space was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1974 in its resolution No. 3235, where the States Parties recognize the common interest of all mankind in furthering the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes.

Despite the fact that this Convention is not closely related to human rights, the NHRC commends the accession of the State of Qatar to it and its continuous keenness to join the international conventions.

### **B. Decree No. 34 of 2013, ratifying an agreement on the establishment of Global Green Growth Institute**

The NHRC commends the decision issued by His Highness Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani (the Emir of Qatar) on ratifying this agreement within the framework of international efforts to preserve the environment, and strengthen cooperation and partnership in achieving sustainable development to eradicate poverty and hunger.

The NHRC emphasizes its previous recommendation on the need to expedite the development of the recommendation of the formed committee to study the accession to the International Covenants on Civil and Political Rights and on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; accession to those Covenants shall represent a significant cultural step in supporting human rights in the State of Qatar.

The NHRC reaffirms the need to expedite studying Qatar's accession to the International Convention for the protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families, given the importance of this Convention at the international level, especially in light of hosting the 2022 World Cup, bearing in mind the definition of migrant workers as those working outside their homes, including those who work in other countries for a temporary period not for the purpose of permanent residence. There is no fear of the consequences of the accession of the State to this Convention, as it shall not affect the demographics of the Qatari.

## Section 2

### Human Rights Situation

**In this section**, we will address human rights situations monitored by the NHRC, through shedding light on real cases and facts within the State's institutions and organizations with both their positive and negative aspects, with a view to improving human rights situations the principles of which had been firmly established by the Permanent Constitution of the State of Qatar and the relevant international principles and standards.

#### **First: Civil and Political Rights:**

By laying down the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), the rights contained in it had become the most important human rights widely recognized in the contemporary world, particularly, as they aim to safeguard the human existence and dignity. In addition, this category of rights are characterized by being inherent in the human being since his birth, or rather some of which are granted to him even before his birth.

We will address the most important of these rights through shedding light on the positive developments, if any, and challenges they face as follows:

#### **1. The Right to life and enforced or involuntary disappearances:**

The NHRC did not monitor any cases of violation of the right to life, which lies within the scope of responsibility of public authorities during the period covered by the report. Regarding enforced or involuntary disappearances, NHRC neither monitored nor received complaints on enforced disappearances. Moreover, the reporting period did not witness any kind of military trials for non-military persons, which reflects respect for the state of the judiciary and the rule of law and the rights and freedoms of individuals.

The NHRC did not monitor the execution of any death penalty sentences during 2013.

#### **2. Litigation and the Right to Fair Trial:**

The judiciary on its different levels is considered to be the most prominent national guarantee and one of the most important reliable mechanisms that ensure respect for human rights and essential freedoms in the State in general; through the major role it plays in the field of law enforcement, implementation of the rules of rule of law, and consolidating the pillars of a state of law.

In this respect, the NHRC re-emphasizes the issue to which it drew attention in its previous report, being that the system of precautionary detention is still in operation as a procedure of investigation and prosecution in criminal matters, and, in some cases, it is a stand-alone penalty; the NHRC spotted the frequent use of precautionary detention by the competent investigation authorities and the authorization set in the provisions of the Code of Criminal Procedure to renew the precautionary detention for periods that are equal to half the period of imprisonment for the charge due to which the defendant is tried, although the charge is still not proven against the defendant. Hence, the NHRC considers that it is more appropriate to determine the maximum duration of the precautionary detention given the type of crime, in terms of being a misdemeanor or a felony, with the expansion of taking other precautionary measures rather than precautionary detention.

The NHRC also indicates that the community is still waiting for activating the role of the Constitutional Court, to take over its function as one of the most important human rights protection mechanisms in the State. The Committee also re-stresses the necessity to reconsider several administrative decisions held as immune to jurisdiction oversight, as the administration is supposed to seek the public interest in the context of the principle of legality and the rule of law, thus it is not permissible to seek to hold its work as immune to judicial control .

The NHRC also spotted delay in settlement of labor disputes; this problem has to be promptly remedied, especially since this delay affects the country's image at the international level, perhaps the most prominent points that should be solved in this regard is obligating the plaintiff worker to pay an expert's fee in the amount of one thousand riyals, despite the fact that the labor dispute is exempted from fees in accordance with the Labor Code, which represents discharge of the law's wording of its content, despite the NHRC acknowledging that exemption is not legally extended to the expert's fees.

### **3. The Right of election and nomination:**

The NHRC spotted the state's continued efforts to enhance the democratic approach and activate more participation in political life. However, the NHRC emphasizes that the draft law governing the election has not been issued so far, although it is better to be issued and put for community dialogue, in order to be responsive to the aspirations of the people of Qatar, and achieving to its hopes to participate in the legislative life through the election of his representatives, especially since the political reality of some of the neighboring countries to ensure the occurrence numerous problems resulting from failure to observe such laws where the requirements of society .

#### **4. The Right to freedom of Peaceful Assembly**

NHRC has not spotted or received any complaints regarding any prejudice of the right to peaceful assembly during the period covered by the report; a matter that embodies continuation in the pros of this right.

#### **5. Freedom of association**

During the period covered by the report, the NHRC did not receive any complaints relating to exercising this right; a matter that embodies continuation in the pros of this right. However, the NHRC calls for reconsideration of some provisions of Law No. 12 of the year 2004 concerning associations and private institutions and reducing the restrictions on the procedures for the establishment of associations, and the determination of the scope of their works, and granting them more powers needed to carry out their mission. This, in turn, requires amending the provisions of the mentioned law, to include decreasing of financial conditions, and at the same time minimizing the authority of the administrative body over the associations, and developing a system of grievance before the courts against any decisions issued regarding the associations.

The NHRC also calls to reconsider the law provisions governing the establishment of professional associations, in order to expand their work as they achieve positive results, both in the development of different professions and taking care of the common interests of their people.

During the year 2013, the NHRC spotted the continued efforts Her Highness Sheikha Moza Bint Nasser, wife of HH the Father Emir to supporting civil community, by establishing Qatar Foundation for Social Action aiming to support the work of civil society organizations represented by private institutions of public benefit that have already been established by Her Highness in various aspects of community care.

#### **6. The Right to freedom of opinion and expression**

Freedom of opinion and expression embraces the sanctity of an individual's opinion and the freedom of expression in art and other forms, which is the basic appearance and first pivot of intellectual freedoms, foremost of which comes the freedom of the press and media.

The NHRC also spotted holding the first Cultural Twitter Forum at the outset of June 2013 under the patronage of His Excellency the Minister of Culture, Arts and Heritage, which included discussion of an Arab initiative for ethics to deal with the site of "Twitter" in order to take advantage of it in the context of practices that are consistent with the values of Arab society, the forum also discussed the draft charter submitted by ALSHARQ Qatari newspaper on dealing with the means of expression for the updated views, as the sites of social networking, the matter that clearly illustrates the extent of exercising freedom of expression in the State of Qatar.

In line with the positive aspects monitored by the NHRC in this regard, it calls for the urgent need to pass a law to regulate media activities in accordance with the international standards for the right to freedom of opinion and expression, the issuance of which will, undoubtedly, enhance the exercise of this right.

#### **7. The Right to Non-Discrimination:**

The person's right to equality and non-discrimination, whether on the grounds of race, gender, religion or nationality, is one of the most important human rights. Despite the fact that Qatar has joined the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the real situation spotted by the NHRC during 2013 involves violations of the objectives of such Convention.

The first image of racial discrimination monitored by the NHRC over the past year is represented in the fact that some schools in the State of Qatar have imposed tuition fees on the Qatari students more than those paid by expatriates, although the NHRC held a meeting with competent members of the Supreme Education Council (SEC) to tackle this matter, during which they explained that the matter is not more than a financial support during the current academic year for some schools sustaining financial difficulties, and that the extra money will be spent of the educational vouchers, and the citizen will not bear any increase as a consequence, but the NHRC believes that just preparing price lists discriminate against citizens is unacceptable, and they should look for other alternatives to support the schools, especially, given the purpose of educational vouchers is to support the citizen not the schools.

## **Second: Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights:**

We will tackle a number of rights and issues that fall under these categories represented as follows:

1. The right to health
2. The right to housing
3. The right to a decent living
4. The right to education
5. Rights of the vulnerable groups (women, children, people with disabilities, and the elderly)
6. The right to the environment.
7. The rights and issues related to the right to work.

### **1. The Right to health.**

The Committee has monitored the State's continuing efforts to provide health care for citizens and expatriates alike, and rates of public spending on health remain high, the NHRC also spotted the obvious efforts exerted by the Ministry of Public Health on awareness and education for the whole community in the field of public health.

For this purpose, His Highness the Emir of Qatar issued Law No. 7 of 2013 on the social health insurance system, reflecting the great interest made by the state in this important sector, which would contribute to the improvement of state health services and the introduction of the appropriate choice before the patient to choose the best Service Provider, but the Committee believes that the success of the application of the mentioned law is linked to the need to develop executive regulations and decisions and actions capable of providing the greatest benefit to the recipients of those health services.

The committee has also monitored efforts made by the Supreme Council of Health to solve the problem of delayed clinic appointments by adopting new measures and mechanisms in setting the appointments.

At the level of the medical staff; the NHRC has monitored evolution and fruitful cooperation between the State of Qatar and the United Kingdom (UK) in the field of training Qatari doctors and nurses, the matter that would raise the level of medical services in the coming years for the citizens and residents in the State of Qatar.

With respect to the provision of health centers in areas devoid of health facilities, the NHRC has recently spotted a remarkable response from the management of health centers for primary healthcare because of the large number of complaints about this matter by establishing a healthcare center in Mesaimmer district, given this facility includes a variety of medical departments. Procedures have been taken to establish Rowdah new Healthcare Center at the region 47 to relieve pressure on the airport Health Center, in addition, there is a work plan to provide 6 new health centers, noting that one of them will be situated in Almashav area.

The NHRC also spotted Hamad Medical Corporation's (HMC) announcement of its willingness to launch home dialysis devices project the following year to offer dialysis services to patients in their homes, the device will be distributed to the patients free of charge, as this new project will include the signing of an agreement with the patient, under which he will be committed to maintain the device after receiving practical training on how to use it in order to let the patient conduct the dialysis process alone,

HMC will provide the device for patients free of charge. The distribution of devices depends on the patient's consent essentially, in the presence of some patients who persist in having dialysis inside the hospital, while others prefer to be free and to have self-dialysis in their homes and work places.

In the same field, the NHRC also observed in Al Raya newspaper, issue no: 11327 issued on Sunday on May 12, 2013, that HMC has recently opened a clinic for children with critical medical conditions, which is the only clinic in Qatar that receives multiple disabilities pathological cases, and receives children who suffer from certain cases, such as Cerebral atrophy, delayed speech, inability to move, patients with Diaphragmatic hernia, Dysphagia, children who need to install the feed tube and those with congenital defects in the heart, this group of children were dealing with more than one clinic and seeing more than one doctor, so many kinds of medicines were described to them which cause a conflict in some cases, in addition to the burden added to the family as a result of all of that.

The NHRC also spotted a news published in Alsharq newspaper, issue No. 9145, corresponding to June 30, 2013, that the Supreme Council of Health in collaboration and partnership with HMC and the primary health care foundation and the relevant bodies have undertaken the implementation of the national strategy for health from 2011 to 2016 through 39 projects for the development of the health care system in the state Qatar.

HH Sheikha Mozah bint Nasser, wife of HH the Father Amir Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani, (The chairman of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development) has also stressed, on December 10, 2013 during the opening ceremony of the first session of the World Innovation Summit for Health (WISH) at Qatar National Convention Center, that the State of Qatar continues to develop a universal health care system, which indicates that although there are some shortcomings in some aspects of health, but that there is a determined efforts and clear steps taken by the State of Qatar to address these shortcomings and establish a medical system based on international standards in this field.

The NHRC spotted what was published in Al Raya newspaper, issue no. 11544, corresponding to December 15, 2013 on the work of the Supreme Council of Health to establish 28 new health facilities including hospitals, health centers and laboratories by 2015, at an increase of 80% on the currently available health facilities, a Master Plan for the care health facilities is also developed, according to a strategic plan for 2033.

The NHRC also commends the Supreme Council of Health's launching of the National Strategy for Mental Health for the State of Qatar (2013 - 2018), published by Al Raya newspaper, issue no. 11539, corresponding to December 10, 2013, under the slogan of "change concepts, change life," which is a high-aspiring five-year plan aims to develop a distinctive and high-quality mental health system, and change the wrong prevailing perception of mental illness and develop a way to handle and treat it in the State of Qatar, given the goals of this plan are compatible with the Strategic Plan of National Mental Health Committee issued by the World Health Organization 2013-2020.

The NHRC also highly praises the actual implementation of the first stage of the social health insurance system, which will provide insurance coverage services to about 90 thousand female citizens who are 12 years and more in order to provide services for pregnancy, Obstetrics and Gynecology, It includes hospitals of HMC and three private hospitals initially in the State of Qatar, in the same context, the Committee urges the Supreme Council of Health to expedite the implementation of the remaining phases of the aforementioned system to include benefit to all segments of society. The law took into account the social and human dimension of non-Qatari women married to a Qatari man, as they are also included within the insurance coverage and are treated the same as the Qatari female citizens, the same is applied to the children of Qatari women married to non-Qataris.

The NHRC believes that it is better if the law No. 7 of 2013 on social health insurance system included the provision of Treatment Abroad System, including reducing the reliance on the decisions of the medical committee and obtaining their consent to travel abroad for treatment, given it puts the necessary solutions to avoid ongoing repeated problems and complaints from the Committee of treatment abroad and its foreign offices, monitored by the NHRC in its successive reports.

The same thing will achieve the competitive principle between private hospitals and HMC to provide quality medical service to patients.

The NHRC also spotted in Al Raya newspaper, issue no. 11530, corresponding to December 1, 2013 that the Supreme Council of Health in collaboration with the National Health Insurance Company hold a seminar for new health care providers at the national health insurance system in its next stages in the presence of 150 participants, and that health insurance services will include all citizens in the Spring of 2014, followed thereafter the commencement of the non-Qatari coverage by 2015, seven hospitals are currently involved as part of a business network of service providers.

On its part, the NHRC believes that the time is too early to judge the mentioned Law, and that the actual application and practice of the law and its executive regulations are capable of showing all the positive and negative aspects of the new system, the Committee calls on all the concerned bodies of implementing the law, and those having benefit of its provisions to take into account the public interest and promote the public interest than individual interests or narrow personal, and the commitment to seriousness and transparency for the success of the new health system, which will undoubtedly benefit everyone if all parts properly apply it and commit to its rules and standards. In the future, in the case of the emergence of negatives or problems encountered in the system, then appropriate solutions to overcome these problems will be developed (as the case may be).

In the field of primary health care:

The NHRC commends the application of electronic registration system in health centers, as it contributes to ease over crowdedness and save time and effort.

The NHRC also spotted what the primary health care institution has reported in Al Raya newspaper, issue no. 11364, corresponding to June 18, 2013, and issue no. 11387 on July 11, 2013, and in Alsharq newspaper, issue no. 9146, corresponding to July 1, 2013, about the start of implementing a program to re-evaluate the qualifications, certificates and practices of all consultants doctors in health centers, which will be implemented by the international Medical Validation Ireland (MVIrl), and that evaluation will include 65 consultants and lasts for 18 months. The evaluation process will help to provide the highest and best services at the best international standards and achieve the desired goals of the national strategy for primary health care, and about the preparation to provide home care services for patients who need this service in the state of Qatar fully by 2014 and that there are 200 persons are currently receiving the service, and the start to implement a plan to expand the establishment of smoking cessation clinics at health centers.

However, the NHRC is also keen to mention what it has monitored of the continuation of some challenges that are still an obstacle, the most important of which is as follows:

- Increasing the citizens' complaint in Al Raya newspaper, issue no. 11383, corresponding to July 7, 2013 about the lack of health centers in some areas and the delay in opening new health centers as well as the fact that some centers close its doors two days a week, many of which lack the required medical staff, clinics and vital disciplines, particularly emergency departments, where citizens demand to accelerate the establishment of new health centers to solve the problem of patients and visitors' congestion suffered by most of the existing health centers.
- What was published in Al Raya newspaper, issue no. 11429, corresponding to August 22, 2013 on the complaint of a number of patients going to Umm Salal Health Center, as they said that the center needs to have an expansion in the building and an increase in the number of medical staff to match the increase number of patients, given the center serves 10 districts despite its small area, and there is an urgent need to establish a new and developed health center, that has an emergency department, as to operate clinics throughout the week.

- What was spotted by the NHRC in Al-Raya newspaper, issue no. 11504, corresponding to November 5, 2013, of complaints of patients going to Medical analysis and diagnostic centers and labs at health centers of overcrowding and the prolonged waiting time of analysis and their demanding to increase the number of laboratories and extend their work hours.

**In the field of treatment services (checkup - Surgery - drugs):**

The NHRC monitored the report published in Al Raya newspaper, issue no. 11401, corresponding to July 25, 2013 on the inauguration of National Center for diabetes treatment at Hamad General Hospital, given the center provides a model of multidisciplinary care, and the launch of the service to register newborns and issue the birth certificate electronically, which allows the completion and receipt of birth certificates in hospitals of both the public and private sectors within a period not exceeding 60 minutes.

The NHRC spotted the report published in Al Raya newspaper, issue no. 11503, on November 4, 2013 about the success of the experience of "clinical pharmacist" in the development of curative health care outcomes in HMC hospitals, this experience was applied to contribute to solve the problems of the different medicines prescribed for patients which are opposing to each other, especially given this conflict may involve a great deal of risk to the patient's health in some cases.

With regard to the field of Medical & Surgical Intervention, the NHRC praises the success of the medical surgical team at Rumailah Hospital of HMC in reconnecting and transplantation of an amputated hand of a 29-year-old Nepalese worker, the NHRC also commends the success of the first operation of the brain using the medical robot at Hamad General Hospital, given those operations are considered rare processes that require high experience, absolute accuracy and capabilities.

The NHRC spotted in the same context, in Al-Raya newspaper, issue no. 11358, corresponding to July 9, 2013, what was announced by Prostheses Department at Rumailah Hospital about the success of the first surgery for the installation of an electronic knee to a patient suffered a serious traffic accident that led to the amputation of his legs where the state took the responsibility of purchasing and installing the device to the patient.

The NHRC also commends the report published in Alsharq newspaper, issue No. 9180, corresponding to August 4, 2013 about the announcement of the Supreme Council of Health to start the work at Labor's Hospital project in the industrial area in Doha, which includes outpatient clinics and ambulance services, operations, scans, laboratories and all helpful services, the project also includes an independent health center and a Medical Commission Unit.

The NHRC also spotted the success of HMC in performing the fourth operation for liver transplants in the hands of an integrated team of doctors working in Qatar Center for Organ Transplantation of HMC, as this success was published in Al Raya newspaper on July 17, 2013, issue No. 11393, in addition to what was published in Alsharq newspaper, issue No. 9210, corresponding to September 3, 2013 about HMC announcement of performing an operation of Kidney transplantation between a couple, given this operation is considered the third of its kind in the State of Qatar.

With regard to the exchange of experiences, the NHRC praises the signing of a memorandum of understanding for the exchange of experiences between HMC and the University of Qatar, published in Al Raya newspaper, issue no. 11463, corresponding to September 25, 2013, which requires the work of the staff delegated from the university along with the doctors of HMC. In addition, doctors of HMC shall participate in the academic and research activities in the university, which contributes to the development of the medical care of patients and achieve the educational and research goals and perspectives of the faculty members, such cooperation is beneficial to patients and practitioners in the medical, research and academic areas, so as to achieve the public interest of the State of Qatar.

The NHRC spotted high prices in the medical test in some private hospitals, which led to the dissatisfaction of a number of citizens due to the lack of control and the absence of a specific limit for these prices and services offered at those private hospitals and clinics conducted by the competent department of the Supreme Council of Health.

The NHRC also mentioned what was spotted in Al Raya newspaper, issue no. 11463, corresponding to September 25, 2013 that the Permanent Healthcare Practitioners Registration & Licensing Department of the Supreme Council of Health has cancelled some charges imposed by private hospitals and medical centers on citizens and expatriates patients, this list and includes as follows:

- Opening a health file fees
- Reactivation of the health file fees
- Securing appointments scheduling fees (excluding charges of scheduling serious surgeries).
- Fees for calling in a doctor to the health facility.
- Fees for the Issuance of sick leave.

The matter that appealed to the NHRC, especially in light of the repeated complaint of increasing services charges in the private hospitals and centers, in addition to the unjustifiable charges that add burdens to patients.

#### **Medical Committee for Treatment Abroad and its Foreign offices:**

The NHRC spotted the complaint of a citizen of persons with disabilities about the delay of the committee for treatment abroad in response to his request, in the Al Raya newspaper, issue no. 9128 corresponding to June 13, 2013, as he stated that he is treated abroad at the expense of the state, and he was given a tourist class tickets, he requested changing the ticket and submitted a report from specialist doctors at HMC, which proves that he is unable to sit in the tourist class since he suffered some injuries in all his body and he needs to be comfortable during his sitting, especially, in the plane seats, but the committee for treatment abroad did not respond to his request, so he was forced to pay the variance amount for first-class ticket at his own expense, without waiting for a response from the committee as their response was delayed a lot.

The NHRC praises the efforts of Treatment Abroad Committee and the conclusion of agreements with distinguished hospitals in a number of countries to improve the quality of treatment abroad, and the development of new procedures and controls for treatment abroad.

#### **The NHRC considers that the frequent complaints filed by citizens against this committee is attributed to the following reasons:**

- Lack of clarity in the rules to accept applications for treatment abroad on a specified and simplified basis for patients dealing with the medical committee.
- The committees different decisions from case to case, despite what appears to the non-specialist citizen of the similarity of cases, and without trying to explain the difference between these cases to the citizen.
- Tardiness in making decisions in cases brought before the Medical Committee, which the committee attributes to the late arrival of the physician's report, a reason within which the citizen doesn't intervene.
- Insufficiency of the cash allowance received by the patient citizen recipient of treatment abroad and his companions.
- Cancellation of treatment utilization system in (Egypt - Thailand) recently.

Challenges raised by the NHRC to the Supreme Council of Health in the state of Qatar:

- 1) The complaint contained in Al Raya newspaper, issue no. 11364, corresponding to June 18, 2013, that the waiting lists in Rumailah Hospital reached 6 months, and that the private dental clinics charges are very high, it represents a clear exploitation through imposing fictional charges for their services, the patient has either to wait for months or to go to private clinics to pay exorbitant amounts.
- 2) A number of citizens' claim in Al Raya newspaper, issue no. 11379, corresponding to July 3, 2013 of the need to accelerate the establishment of new centers for children emergency to ease the overcrowding suffered by the Al-Sadd, AlRayyan and the airport medical centers, the matter which led to aggravating the over crowdedness crisis, as they confirmed that there are several areas of the state lacks the existence of children emergency centers, including the northern and western areas, the matter that forced the parents to go with their sick children to Al-Sadd Pediatric Emergency Center, so complaints of congestion and severe overcrowding in the center increased, in addition to the parents' wait for hours with their sick children to see the doctor.
- 3) The complaint patients visiting outpatient clinics in Al Raya newspaper, issue no. 11392, corresponding to July 16, 2013 from the severe overcrowding in the waiting rooms at Rumailah Hospital, and the lack of enough parking, the matter that forced some patients to look for parking outside the hospital, while others resorted to put their cars on the sidewalks of the streets due to the lack of parking, where patients calls for expanding outpatient clinics and establishing multiple parking.
- 4) The complaint of a number of patients, in Alsharq newspaper, issue No. 9163, corresponding to July 24, 2013, who are permanently visiting the treatment rooms located at Hamad General Hospital to take their own chemical injections, from the great negligence and suffering they face, as they reported that the number of patients is very large and there is no privacy for each patient, the matter that is shown through gathering them in one room to take biometrics for them, and they are also given injections in the same rooms after a long wait and trouble.
- 5) The claim of patients of the Medical Commission centers, in Al Raya newspaper, issue no. 11426, corresponding to August 19, 2013, for the establishment of a new building to accommodate the growing number of patients, in addition to the establishment of a special building to examine the female domestic workers.

- 6) Delay in medical appointments and the narrowness of the waiting room at Bone & Joint Center of HMC, published in Al Raya newspaper, issue no. 11434, corresponding to August 27, 2013, where some patients demand the establishment of similar centers in the other regions in the State of Qatar, such as Al-Rayyan and Al Khor and Al Wakra and the North to be consistent with the required international specifications and standards in terms of space, quality of service and laboratories.
- 7) The article published in Alsharq newspaper, issue No. 9222, corresponding to September 15, 2013 on the criticism of a number of visitors and patients to the inappropriate status of the psychiatric hospital which is not commensurate with the progress witnessed in the State of Qatar in all fields, and the miserable reality of the facilities of this place, which provides services supposed to take into account psychological aspects and international standards specialized in this field in terms of the quality of the provided service or engineering designs for such type of hospitals.
- 8) The complaint of a number of female citizens contained in Al Raya newspaper, issue no. 11477, corresponding to October 9, 2013 from severe overcrowding suffered by the private hospitals that apply the social health insurance system as a result of the significant increase in the number of female patients to Obstetrics and Gynecology Clinics.

In this context, the NHRC refers to the fact that it has spotted and indicated the inappropriate status of the psychiatric hospital which is not commensurate with the progress witnessed in the State of Qatar in all fields in terms of form and content, whether in terms of the hospital's place, or the status of the buildings and furniture, or its medical, technical and therapeutic aspects. The NHEC finds, in light of the availability of all the possibilities in the state, no excuse for the continuation of complaints from stakeholders, and calls on the urgent need for the development of the Psychiatry system as a whole within the state, to include buildings and medical and technical personnel and methods and techniques of treatment necessary for the patient, who cannot bear extra suffering or mental anguish, especially, given that studies and research carried out in the State of Qatar, published in Al-Raya newspaper, issue no. 11476, corresponding to October 8, 2013 estimate that one out of five persons sometime faced a health, mental or psychological problem.

The NHRC also recommends the need to reconsider the examination mechanism used in the Department of Medical Commission in the State of Qatar, where the NHRC proposes that the medical examination procedures should be done in advance in the home country of the immigrant, with the acknowledgement of the Embassy of the State of Qatar in the home country of the immigrant before his arrival to Qatar, the matter that, in the NHRC's perspective, may eliminate the infectious diseases before reaching the state as well as the elimination of overcrowding in appointments and other dilemmas faced by the medical Commission.

### **... "Hamad Medical City (HMC)" ...**

The delay in opening Hamad bin Khalifa Medical City has raised several questions about the reasons for the non-delivery of the project after 7 years of its accomplishment, efforts are still exerted to equip the Medical City to end the necessary arrangements for its opening, but ambiguity is still surrounding the date of its formal opening. The project executed by Public Works Authority "ASHGHAL" and handed over to HMC during the Asian Games period held in Doha in December 2006 before Ashghal receives it again in February 2011 to complete the works of the project which is supposed to be completed during this year.

A number of citizens asked, in Al Raya newspaper, issue no. 11460, corresponding to September 22, 2013 the officials of the Supreme Council of Health to expedite the opening of Hamad bin Khalifa City and its introduction to the service to contribute to a breakthrough in the rooms and beds for patients and ending the suffering of waiting lists and putting this problem a top priority for health officials in the coming period.

### **In the field of disease intervention, prevention, control and treatment services:**

With the continuation of inspection tours on the popular kitchens and restaurants in Doha and editing records of the existence of violations of health and safety requirements, the NHRC calls for publishing the names of the violated restaurants to achieve deterrence, in addition to increasing the number of inspectors.

The NHRC has spotted, in Al Raya newspaper, issue no. 11358, corresponding to June 12, 2013, complaint from the existence of many health requirements violations in some of the old restaurants in Doha.

In the same context, the NHRC praises that the Supreme Council of Health in collaboration with the Red Crescent launched the national campaign " WEQAYA, " to fight the Communicable Diseases, where this campaign will continue for a period of 3 years and aims to improve individual and community health by following a healthy lifestyle based on knowledge of the causes of the disease and methods of prevention, treatment and reduction of risk factors among the expatriate labor centers.

The NHRC also spotted the launch of HMC campaign "KULLUNA for health & safety" for the prevention of diseases caused by high temperatures in cooperation with Qatar Center for Voluntary work and ConocoPhillips ConocoPhillips Co. The NHRC also monitored the intensification of anti-smoking campaigns of the anti-smoking Unit at the Supreme Council of Health in the framework of the Supreme Council of Health's efforts to fight smoking in public places.

The NHRC also commends the launch of the Supreme Council of Health "Asthma Friendly Schools" program, which will be implemented in 16 independent (boys and girls) schools, then the program will be generalized to include all independent schools. The program aims to prepare both students and employees to respond to emergency asthma cases.

#### **With regard to Corona Virus:**

The NHRC praises that the Supreme Council of Health launched a web page to introduce "Corona" virus via its website, it provides general information about the virus and sanitary definitions and guidelines, it also provides clear and simple answers to the common questions about it, both in Arabic and English. The council also allocated a hotline to answer the public's inquiries about the virus, it also focuses on controlling, observing and fighting the virus at the highest level with the existence of medical clinics at the State's passageways and liaison officers to monitor any suspicion of Corona virus, and coordinate with the WHO to launch awareness campaigns, as well as training the nursing staff and laboratories' workers on how to check out the "Corona" virus.

In this context, the NHRC spotted the complaint of the breeder of camels in Al-Raya newspaper, issue no. 11516, corresponding to November 17, 2013 from the Ministry of Environment ignorance of the risk of "Corona" virus infiltration to camels, after the discovery of several injuries in a neighboring state, and that livestock management fails to raise awareness and provide veterinary care.

The NHRC also spotted in Al-Raya newspaper, issue no. 11527, corresponding to November 28, 2013, the article published by the Supreme Council of Health and the Ministry of Environment about recording three infections with Corona virus among three camels in the State of Qatar in one stable of camels, which are in connection with two previous human cases who are proved to have the virus, but now recovered, noting that the last thing spotted in this regard in Al-Raya newspaper, issue no. 11526, corresponding to November 27, 2013 was that cases suffer Corona reached 8 cases in the State of Qatar, three of which died, the matter that raises all officials' alertness, and requires the development of solutions that ensure the safety and security of people living in the State of Qatar.

**In the field of modern services and initiatives:**

The NHRC spotted preparing for the application of the electronic medical file in Obstetrics and Gynecology Hospital, the hospital seeks providing home health care and forming a medical team trained to provide this service, the emergency department witnessed expansions, including; the increment of the number of beds to 16 beds, which led to a decline in the waiting lists, and the establishment of a specialized clinic for patients with gestational diabetes to follow-up their condition during pregnancy.

The NHRC also praises the launch of the child friend hospital initiative, which aims to create an environment supportive and helpful for mothers to start pure breastfeeding during the first six months of the child's life and continue breastfeeding for two years with the introduction of home-made complementary feeding.

In the same context, the NHRC also observed the commencement in applying the system of patients' classification in the State of Qatar with the launch of the first stage of the Health Insurance System, given this system aims to measure the hospitals' performance and encourage initiatives that increase efficiency within the hospital, depending on the status and conditions of the patients.

It also spotted what was published in Al-Raya newspaper, issue no. 11380, corresponding to July 4, 2013 about the Supreme Council of Health Plan, which include the publication of an approved national list of pharmaceuticals registered in all public and private and pharmacies of the state, in addition to the preparation of a law draft to register the medical device and laboratory equipment, along with increasing control on the counterfeit medicines.

## 2. The Right to housing .

In this regard, the NHRC spotted that the Ministry of Municipality and Urban Planning has distributed **3800 vouchers** at Al Wakra project, but these vouchers were not equipped with health facilities, given the chairman of the Municipal Council in his interview with Al-Raya newspaper, **issue no. 11345**, issued on Thursday corresponding to May 30, 2013, has criticized the distribution mechanism of these vouchers for beneficiaries mechanism without completing its infrastructure services, the matter that led the Committee to recommend the need to expedite the completion of the rest of the project in terms of the infrastructure and the health facilities, the NHRC also recommends that vouchers shouldn't be delivered in the future only after the completion of all housing faculties.

In this regard, Eng. Ali Abdullah, the assistant undersecretary for Planning Affairs at the Ministry of Municipality and Urban Planning, in Al Raya newspaper, **issue no. 11343**, issued on Tuesday, corresponding to May 28, 2013, stated that preparing new lands at Al Wakra project takes **three years**, after signing an agreement with Ashghal, through which the period required to provide the infrastructure for these new lands is set at **36 months**.

The Ministry of Municipality and Urban Planning, announced in May 2013 that it is going to distribute **(5400) piece of land** to the citizens by a thousand square meters for each citizen, reflecting the state of constructional prosperity for the advancement of the human element in the highest standard of living in the State of Qatar.

However, there are some challenges concerning the housing lands, including:

- The slow procedures for the allocation and delivery of lands resulting in increased waiting lists, despite the fact that many of those on the lists are eligible for lands.
- Giving lands that are not prepared with facilities and services to some citizens, the matter that hinders the citizen to complete the building process, and renders him take financial obligations, including; the rent of a house, until the completion of facilities and services of the land granted to him.
- In the current period, the NHRC considers and receives some complaints about the need to reconsider the amounts specified for rent allowance due to those in need and to increase it to the appropriate limit to fulfill that purpose for which it is allocated, especially after the Emiri decree issued for increasing salaries and social allowances, without including those in need, in view of the high value of rents in general in the state as a natural result of the increased level of income.

### **3. The Right to a decent living "Social Insurance":**

The NHRC spotted the continued efforts of the state which aim to provide a decent living for all citizens subject to its legal jurisdiction and seek to fight poverty, however, the Committee spotted some obstacles that affect the enjoyment of this right, represented in the continuity of increasing the prices of some goods and services which reach levels above the endurance of some citizens and residents, particularly low-income families with the stability of the level of wages.

The NHRC always recommends the need to expedite the issuance of the social insurance law draft and raising the value of aids provided to this category. The Committee spotted statistics of social insurance administration that the number of requests submitted to it reached: 2615 - requests represented by approved 1287 requests, and 1033 ignored requests- and 295 requests are still under consideration before the competent administration.

In addition to the need to exerts the necessary efforts by specifying a limit to the prices to match the appropriate levels in order to ensure the right to a decent living, especially those with limited income.

### **4. The Right to education.**

The government of the State of Qatar launched an initiative aims to develop general education in the State of Qatar under the slogan "Education for a New Era" that aims to provide better access to education for its citizens to prepare them to cope with the requirements of the economic and social development process, since the launch of Qatar Vision 2030 in October 2008, and the persistent preparations which follow that to prepare the first national development strategy in the State of Qatar 2011-2016.

The State of Qatar aims to provide its citizens with the skills and knowledge in order to provide a powerful development able to compete in the global environment. At the present time the State of Qatar is seeking to become a center of learning in the Middle East through initiatives funded by the government to reform its internal educational system, a part from the incentives provided to attract the international educational institutions to the State. The State of Qatar also offers a wide group of educational facilities starting from kindergarten to postgraduate studies level in both the public and private sectors.

The NHRC considers the continued efforts exerted to improve the educational level at all levels, as well as paying attention to illiteracy programs and providing the necessary services in order to reach better results at the educational level, including a program to adopt female graduates of High school, and prepare them to work in the teaching profession, approved by the Supreme Education Council that the number of students studying the care program of High School Graduates to study Bachelor of primary and secondary education, and to attract them to work in the teaching profession, which is implemented in partnership with the University of Qatar who are about (600) joined different disciplines, in addition to supportive incentives exchanged as monthly bonuses.

In addition to the efforts and techniques exerted during the current year to execute the electronic learning project in (30) schools, after its successful implementation in (10) schools in advance as a pilot phase, where officials at the Supreme Education Council prepare and equip schools with the equipment required to start the E-portfolio project as part of the national strategic plan of the education and training sector arising from the vision of Qatar.

One of the most prominent challenges faced by the Qatari society is the high charges of about 20 private schools with respect to the Qatari citizens except for non-Qataris, which is a kind of discrimination against the Qatari national. Cooperation with the concerned people in the Supreme Education Council has already done regarding this topic, and that the increase imposed this year is only an exceptional increase for 2013-2014, and that fees will decreased again in the coming years.

With respect to the university scholarships abroad which are done either by the Supreme Education Council or by private companies that offer scholarships and require students to work with it for the same number of years of scholarship once graduate from the university, noting that the most prominent difficulties and challenges experiences by students abroad are the poor housing and low salaries, the matter spotted by the NHRC in Alsharq newspaper, issue no. 9225 on September 18, 2013, and issue no. 9268 on October 31, 2013 where students in scholarships requested the Supreme Education Council to take appropriate actions and provide clear mechanisms for raising the salary limit to be equal to the rest of the students from other GCC countries due to the high cost of living.

The NHRC also spotted the repeated complaints from some parents about the admission and registration procedures for the children of holders of Qatari documents and the children of Qatari women, given the information center in the Supreme Education Council stated, in its response to those complaints, that the Law excluded the children of Qatari women and children of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and did not include the children of holders of Qatari documents as well as the children of expatriates working in the private sector. The concerned entity suggests that people submitted such complaints shall resort to the private schools where they can enroll their children.

The NHRC also spotted recently receiving some complaints about the students' fear of education, whether from the Career Level or for other family reasons, that may lead some students to fear and drop out of schools to escape from education, as well as depriving some students of education and continuing their academic levels in an accessible form.

## **5. Rights of the Vulnerable Groups**

Qatar is one of the countries that acceded to a number of conventions on the rights of the vulnerable groups. The Committee monitors the status of these four categories namely: women, children, persons with disabilities, and the elderly people, as follows:

### **First, the rights of women:**

Qatar strives for a community free from abuse, violence and deviant practices against the community and provides comprehensive protection for children and women in the framework of privacy to safeguard their human rights.

The Committee considers in this regard that the Qatari women in particular and women in general are sponsored by all state agencies, and this is represented in the unique position occupied by women in all aspects of life in the State of Qatar.

In this respect, Qatar acts in accordance with the stipulations of the international conventions, particularly the Universal Declaration of Human Rights; Articles (2 and 7); the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Articles (23,25 and 26) and the Qatari Constitution which consolidates the principle of equality between the two sexes.

Furthermore, Qatar has recently witnessed a boom in the field women's rights whether such rights are already prescribed by legislations or newly prescribed as a result of new legal positions where such legislations permit women to enjoy all their rights as men regarding all the economic, social and cultural rights.

### **Second: Rights of the Child**

Qatar attaches great importance to the issue of children's rights promotion and protection at the local, regional and international levels. It ensures the comprehensive implementation of the provisions of Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC).

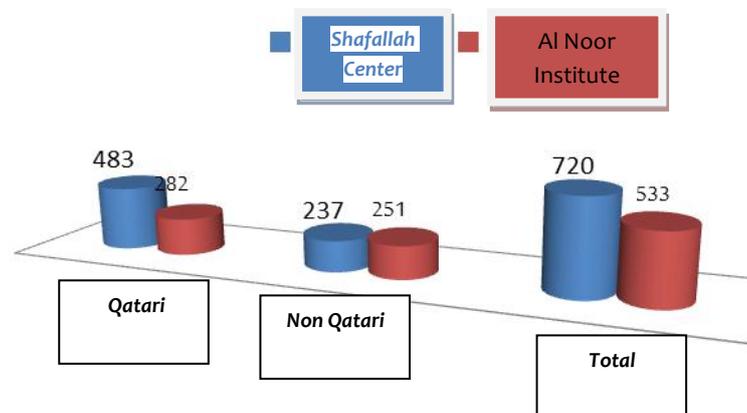
The national endeavors of the State of Qatar and its effective participation in the international efforts for child's rights promotion and protection stems from the principles enshrined in its permanent constitution which states that the State's foreign policy is based on the principle of respect for human rights, and renouncing violence. The Permanent Constitution of the State of Qatar attached a special care to childhood and motherhood by virtue of stipulating that the family is the basis of society, and that the law shall regulate the means to protect and maintain motherhood, childhood, and old age against any harm or abuse. The attention given by the State of Qatar to child's rights is embodied in the establishment of a number of governmental and non-governmental organizations concerned with the protection of child's rights, and in implementing all the provisions relating to international conventions in terms of their comprehensive and indivisible concepts. The State of Qatar has established many institutions dealing with child rights and protection. An example of these is the Qatar Foundation for Protection of Women and Children (QFPWC), which is concerned with the issues related to the protection of the rights of children and women in the framework of prevailing laws and regulations. Another example is the Qatar Center for Children Culture, which aims to promote and entrench the principles of early education for children, and offers a wide range of related programs, events and activities. Furthermore, the Qatar National Vision for 2030 involves important themes concerning children, especially in the field of education, capacity development, and all aspects of preventive and curative health care, taking into account the different needs of children.

### Third: the Rights of persons with disabilities(PWD)

The government of Qatar has made great strides in this area. It has provided the necessary services for these groups as they are part of the community and have the same rights and duties; that's why, Qatar has great aspirations to cover the deficiencies in the area of services. Such aspirations include the rights of the persons with learning disabilities where the education policy in the State of Qatar has confirmed their rights to receive training and care, like others without distinction. The state took on the responsibility to care for them educationally, physically, psychologically, economically, socially and in term of all areas, according to their remaining abilities. For a long time the State has focused on the disabled persons' needs and requirements by giving them all the rights and enacting laws that contribute to this. In this respect Qatar acts in accordance with the teachings of our religion which urges equality, justice and non-discrimination between the weak and the strong, the rich and the poor, or the able-bodied and the patient, and which makes piety the standard for distinction between people, and also which urges directing enough care and attention to the affairs of such categories. Qatar acts in accordance with Islam whose teachings include a constitution for the social conduct towards such category and whose look is based on maintaining dignity, equality, justice, balance between rights and duties on an equal basis with others, and on the right to work, education, rehabilitation and employment. Qatar applies the teachings of Islam which call for treating the disabled kindly and gently and warned against assigning them with exhausting duties that exceed their abilities.

The Committee also commended the work of the Volunteer Committee for Employment of People with Disabilities in various state institutions for its endeavor to provide social awareness regarding the problem of persons with disabilities, shed light on their rights to the integration and interaction with the other members of the society, rehabilitate and train them professionally for appropriate job and seek to employ them to do jobs that fit their qualifications. Recently it has been declared in Al- **shorouk** newspaper, issue No. 9216, issued on 09/09/2013 that (81) people with disabilities were appointed in various jobs in the State's institutions

In this respect the statistics received by the Committee on students enrolled on Shafallah Center for Children With Special Needs and Alnoor Institute for the Blind up to the end of December 2013 indicate the following:

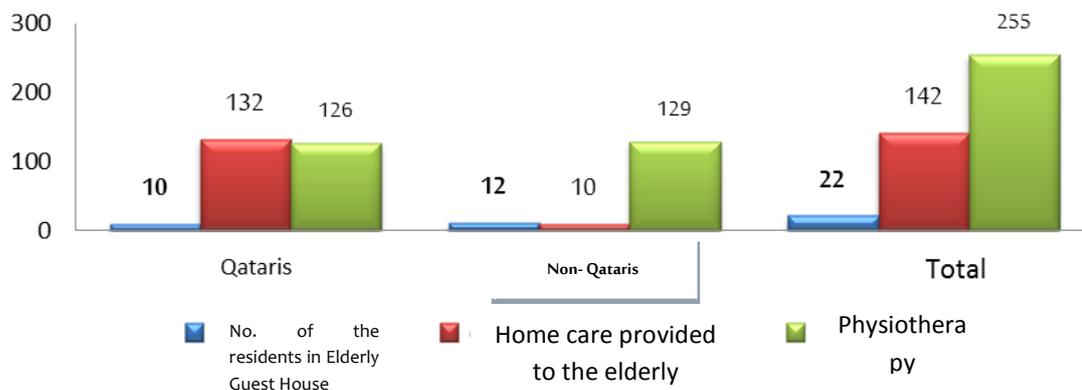


#### **Fourth: The rights of the elderly**

The State of Qatar attaches enough care to the category of older people as an Important segment of the Qatari society and as it has a large and outstanding stature at all levels of the Qatari community, especially since this category, over the past years, has contributed to building the foundations of the Qatari society and the welfare and progress achieved in all fields. The State of Qatar is keen to provide all that would boost the status of the elderly in the community. This has been translated into provisions in the Qatari constitution which stipulates that the society attaches the attention required for the elderly people. Article (21) of (Qatari Constitution) states that (the family is the basis of the society and that it is based on religion, morality and patriotism, and that the law shall regulate the means to protect and strengthen its structure and ties, and it shall protect maternity, childhood, and the elderly people). The establishment of the Qatar Foundation for Elderly people Care came to confirm the extent of the attention given by the State to the elderly which is a key segment of the Qatari society and which has a large and outstanding stature at all levels of the society.

The Committee extends thanks to the Qatar Foundation for Elderly People Care (IHSAN) for the medical and social services provided for this category and for its efforts exerted to integrate the elderly in all events and celebrations of the Qatari society.

With regard to the statistics received by the Committee on the total number of the cases in this charity and the cases which receives different services such as home care and physical therapy as of 1 July 2013 (AD) until December 2013 they are represented as follows:



## 6 - the Right to Live in a Healthy Environment:

We cannot talk about the human right to live in a healthy environment without reference to the general framework which falls beneath this right, which is human rights, and the position of the human right to the environment according to this framework. In this regard the specialists divide the human rights to varying and different divisions the most important of which are the civil and political rights, and the economic, social and cultural rights. The designers of this division believe that the human right to the environment falls under the second category of rights. The second of these divisions is to divide those rights to three generations. The first generation of these includes the civil and political rights, while the second generation includes the economic, social and cultural rights, and the third generation includes what can be termed as the collective and solidarity rights which include the right to peace, a healthy environment, participate in the exploitation of the common heritage of mankind, and the right to humanitarian assistance.

Regardless of whether the opinion on the legal and jurisprudential debate concerning the two divisions accurately expresses human rights in terms of individual or a group rights, and regardless of the rejection of some of the solidarity feature which characterizes the third generation rights as they do not serve human rights and fundamentally differs from human rights, it is no longer acceptable today to deny human rights characteristic as part of this generation of rights after they found their way to the international treaties and conventions, and after States and jurists adopted those rights.

The Committee also refers to what it reported in its previous report about the need for the wooding the main roads, to create a beautiful view, purify the air from exhaust gases and to mitigate the heat resulting from the hot nature of the climate of Qatar. We should here refer to the fact that this already started in some areas such as Rawdat Al-Khail and Al Bed'a Road; however, the Committee sees the need to accelerate the rate of wooding.

In the same context, the green belt around Doha project, aims to halt desert encroachment and to face the problem of sand storms , dampen the atmosphere and prevent pollution; however many obstacles hinders such a project due to overlapping competencies between the Ministry of the Environment and the Ministry of Municipality and Urban Planning. This made some call for the establishment of an independent body to implement the project and the allocation of the necessary budgetary provision required for its completion. Among the important matters related to the right to a healthy environment is the issue of preservation of the marine environment, especially because Qatar is a peninsula, a fact which makes this issue of great importance. Despite the fact that the Committee observed positive efforts in this regard, including the cleaning of some beaches projects where the Minister of Environment participated in the works of diving and cleaning the immediate vicinity of the beach from the waters of the Gulf, as well as maintaining the marine environment required for the life of some types of marine organisms such as sea turtles.

One of the great steps in this respect is the construction of The Aquatic Research Center in Ra's al Maṭbakh which is specialized in aquaculture of sea fish. As well as this, Qatar is working on exploring new fishing areas for non-traditional fisheries to increase domestic fish production without overfishing in a manner that might affect the natural balance of the marine environment. In spite of this great effort there exist real problems relating to the issue of preservation of the marine environment. Such problems are represented in the poor state of cleanliness in some beaches, including Al Wakra Beach and Simaisma as a result of the lack of control over their visitors, the absence of a commitment to keep it clean or negligence in the supervision of the companies in charge of hygiene, especially on holidays where there are many beaches visitors.

Finally, it should be noted that the need for expansion of umbrellas for protection from the sun rays in different areas, especially those that are characterized by density in the use of public transportation, and industrial zone.

In spite of some negative aspects noted by the committee, it has pointed out that it has monitored some praise-worthy things:

In this context, the Committee observed in Al Raya, issue No.: 11345 dated May 30, 2013 that the Ministry of Municipality and Urban Planning lifted (7638) neglected cars from different regions of the state, and it planted more than 5000 trees in Al Wakra and by Al Wakra - Mesaieed Road (on both sides) and planted 500 trees of different types varied in "Rawdah and Eb' Al-buheir" on the road of Al Wakra - Mesaieed in coordination with the Ministry of Environment. In addition there is planning for the cultivation of 15000 trees around Al Wakra to establish a green belt to protect Al Wakra from dust and wind and to make it as an outlet for people to breathe fresh air and help purify the air and the environment from pollution. This was reported in (Al Raya in issue No.: 11203 issued on Tuesday, January 8, 2013), where the Committee commends all of these acts which contribute to making the environment clean and healthy.

- The Committee also monitored the inclination towards the application of compressed natural gas project on some cars and vehicle categories in the country to reduce harmful emissions which are detrimental to the environment and health, where a bus operated by compressed natural gas was monitored running in the streets of Doha. This was in line with the directives of His Highness the Emir of Qatar, who stressed the need to use compressed natural gas fuel for transportation in Qatar as a step towards the use of clean energy that abounds in the state, and which serves the environment and helps to protect it from pollution.
- The Committee observed that the Ministry of Environment directed warnings to 73 manufacturing facilities and warehouses which were in violation of law. This was during an inspection campaign lasted for two months under the slogan (for a sustainable environment). This campaign came to complement the Qatar environmental map project, where the Committee constantly recommends that these campaigns continue to work increasingly to contribute to more positive steps in order to preserve a clean environment.

- The Committee noted the orientation of the Ministry of Environment to adopt a new strategy for the recycling of construction wastes and reusing them, through modern scientific recycling methods which of course would not distort the appearance of civilization. The recycling process is performed in uninhabited places away from the residential blocks in a manner that does not negatively affect the environment and public health, which is recommended by the Committee that aspires and calls for quick implementation of this on the ground.

#### **8. The Right to work and the issues associated with it:**

The Committee monitored the state's continued efforts towards providing decent job opportunities for all citizens, and creating a stimulating work environment based on contribution and creativity, but the Committee also noted that some citizens complain of the difficulty in finding suitable jobs for their scientific capabilities or technical skills.

Therefore the Committee recommends expanding the rehabilitation programs of the unqualified national workforce to prepare it to be injected into the labor market in the various jobs perceived to be available during the coming period. This is required due to the expansion of the labor market as a logical result of the implementation of a number of major projects in the state.

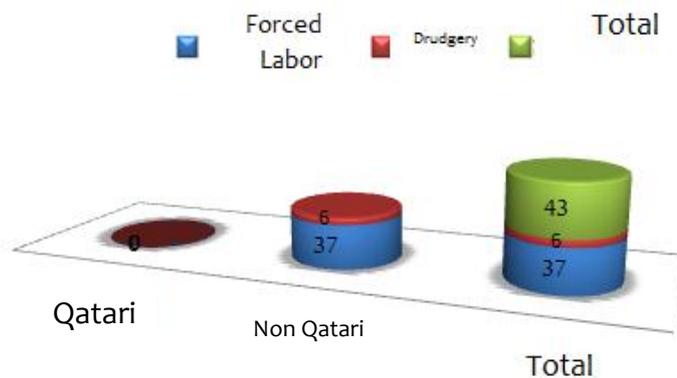
However, the Committee has noted recently several complaints from children of Qatari women because they do not find suitable job opportunities due to the provisions of the Human Resources Law No. (8) of 2009, Article (14), paragraph (1) where it stipulates that in order for a job applicant to be employed he shall have of a Qatari nationality, and if not, the priority shall be given to children of Qatari women who are married to non-Qataris, and then to the non-Qatari husband who is married to a Qatari, then the priority shall be given to the citizens of the GCC States, and then for other applicant of other nationalities; therefore, there is a necessity to exert more efforts to provide job opportunities for the citizens who are capable of doing the urgently required and to prioritize their employment in order for them to cover their needs.

The Committee commends the efforts exerted to organize the events of Qatar Career Fair on an annual basis in order to provide job opportunities for Qatari nationals, which is considered to be a support of the right to work, which in turn will reflect positively on the individual and the state level.

### A. Rights of Workers

The right to work is one of the most important rights and principles stipulated in the Constitution of the State of Qatar as primary objective. It should be given enough attention in order to have a society free of violations and abuses suffered by certain categories.

The Committee noted a number of complaints in the Amnesty International (AI) filed by a number of foreign workers. They complained about forms of exploitations including non-payment of wages, and lack of adequate protection under the law. These cases were monitored as follows:



The Committee monitored, through the statistics provided to it by the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, regarding the workers who filed complaints against the organizations in which they work to Labor Relation Department which investigated a number of (4776) complaints and settled the disputes relating to such complaints and archived most complains. The number of complainant whose problems were settled amounted to 74.6% and about 17.6% of the complaints were kept because the parties to such complaints did not go to the to the Labor Relation Department and submitted their complaints in other entities. 7.7% of the complaints were referred to the Search and Follow-up Department at the Ministry of Interior, as a competent entity to consider some of the complaints it receives.

The worker may raise more than one reason in his complaint, as reasons for labor complaints vary. The subject matter of 80.6% of the complaints was the overdue payments. 89.5% of the complaints were about the travel tickets. 77.3% of the complaints were about the end of service indemnity. The other reasons for labor complaints were ranged between: 1.36% to 0.02%.

In this respect, we should refer to the prominent role played by the National Committee for Human Rights. It receives complaints from expatriate workers and provides support for them in terms of the necessary legal advice or help them reach a friendly settlement with the other concerned parties. It also addresses the competent authorities in the State of Qatar to find solutions to these abuses and resolve them legally.

### B. Domestic Workers:

The Committee reiterates what was reported in the previous report that it is still waiting for the issuance of a law regulating the work of this category, as their rights have been a significant challenge due to the fact that domestic workers have been more vulnerable to violations than others in absence of legislation regulating their work.

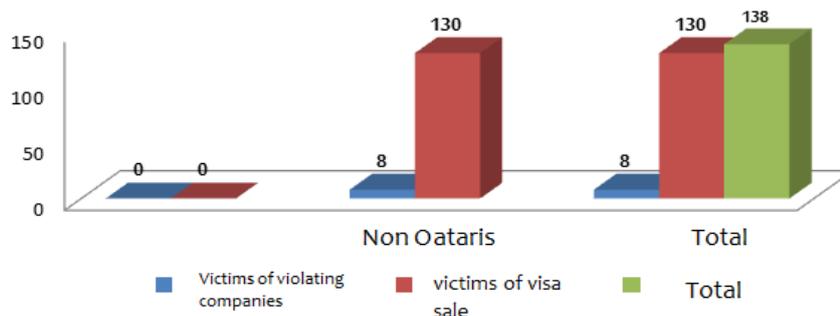
It should be noted here that the State of Qatar will soon issue the domestic labor law soon which includes determination of work hours and minimum wages and which imposes a financial penalty on the employer if it is proven that he retains the travel documents of the worker. We expect that this law shall deal positively with many matters and problems in respect of which the committee receives almost daily complaints.

### C. Combating Human Trafficking

The Committee has continued to monitor many cases of workers who were brought to the State of Qatar for the purpose of work and the promise of providing job opportunities. Under pressure such workers resort to any of the sponsors to get a real job opportunities and licensing of their stay in the country. In addition, there are other cases whose problems result from the negative use of the sponsorship system.

The Committee, in addition to what has been referred to in the previous report, monitored workers' complaints in the Court of First Instance. Such complaints result from fake entry documents and caused many workers in the state of Qatar to suffer, The Committee also received the statistical data on the complaints that the Qatar Foundation receives for protection and social rehabilitation from 1 January until the end of the month of 31 December 2013 as follows: (employment that have been recruited to work in fake companies without real jobs)

The Committee encourages the State of Qatar to enhance frameworks for cooperation and coordination with the relevant organizations and authorities of all countries of origin to take the necessary and sufficient measures to prevent all forms of exploitation and human trafficking suffered by their people.



The Committee also recommends that the State of Qatar raise awareness of those who come to work or to visit Qatar about the regulations applicable to work and residence in the State. This can be achieved through coordination and cooperation with the embassies and consular missions of the labor-exporting countries in order to intensify efforts with the competent authorities in such countries regarding this issue.

### Section 3

#### Achievements of the NHRC

Article 3 of Decree Law No. 17 of 2010 has identified the mandate of the National Human Rights Committee (NHRC), in which The NHRC aims at promoting and protecting human rights and freedoms, for so-doing, it shall act upon the following competencies and duties :

1. To propose necessary means to promote and pursue the objectives stipulated by international conventions and instruments on human rights, to which the State of Qatar has become a party, and to recommend on the State's accession to other human rights conventions and instruments.
2. To advise and provide recommendations to the concerned authorities regarding human rights issues.
3. To consider any abuses or violations of human rights, to get involved in the settlement of complaints reported to it on such violations, to coordinate with the competent authorities for necessary action, and to propose ways to address and prevent them from being repeated.
4. To make the necessary suggestions to those who are concerned with existing legislations and proposed draft laws, and their relevance to the provisions of international conventions on human rights to which the State of Qatar has become a party.
5. To monitor human rights status in the country, to prepare related reports, and submit such reports to the Council of Ministers together with the NHRC's opinion in this regard.
6. To monitor issues that might be raised regarding human rights status in the country and to coordinate with the concerned authorities to address such issues.
7. To take part in the preparation of national reports intended to be submitted by the State of Qatar to international bodies and organizations concerned with human rights regarding the conventions to which the State has become a party
8. To cooperate with international, regional, and national organizations concerned with human rights and freedoms and to participate in related international events.
9. To raise awareness on human rights and freedoms, to entrench human rights culture, and to consolidate human rights principles on both the intellectual and the practical levels.

10. To conduct field visits to penal and reformatory institutions, detention centers, labor gatherings, health institutions, and educational institutions so as to monitor the human rights status. Such visits are expected to be made by the NHRC's Chairman and Members.
11. To coordinate and cooperate with institutions concerned with human rights in the State of Qatar, according to each institution's terms of reference and duties.
12. To organize conferences, symposiums, courses and debates on human rights and freedoms issues and to coordinate with the concerned authorities in this regard when necessary.
13. To take part in the preparation of educational and research programs related to human rights and to participate in their implementation.

In this context, the following section deals with what has been achieved during 2012 in the following fields:

**First, in the area to join the international human rights conventions:**

The NHRC has been calling for Qatar's accession to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights .

The NHRC reiterated its demand that the state joins the rest of the international conventions on the rights of workers, especially since Qatar Labor Law No. 14 of 2004 is consistent with those agreements.

In 2013, Qatar has already raised some reservations to the United Nations Convention against Torture and other ill-treatment.

**Second: Advising and providing recommendations to the competent authorities regarding human rights issues and proposing necessary means to promote the objectives stipulated by international conventions and agreements on human rights**

The NHRC prepared its biannual report on the situation of human rights in the State of Qatar during the period from 1/1/2013 till 30/6/2013. It has also prepared a report on what have been raised by the media and some international non-governmental organizations on the status of expatriate labor in the State of Qatar; moreover a working group of the NHRC is formed to review the legislation and the extent of its compliance with human rights conventions.

In addition to the foregoing, the committee participated this year in several committees related to human rights, namely:

1. The commission on improving the situation of skilled labor, the Ministry of Labor.
2. The commission on amending Law No. 4 of 2009 on the entry and exit of expatriates, the Ministry of the Interior.
3. The commission on reviewing the situation of the children of Qatari women's, the Supreme Council for Family Affairs.
4. Special committee on compulsory education, SEC.

In addition to the above, NHRC issued the guidelines for standards of human rights in places of detention, penitentiaries and correctional institutions, and the guidelines for the accommodation of workers; moreover the NHRC is preparing guidelines for standards of education and healthcare centers in co-operation with the Supreme Education Council and Supreme Council of Health.

### **Third: Complaint Mechanism**

The National Human Rights Committee created a permanent and structured mechanism for receiving and handling complaints from citizens and residents and coordinates with concerned institutions and stakeholders in the State to find solutions for them.

Complaints can be received in various means: Personally by petitioners or complainers, by phone through a free hotline and electronically through the NHRC website. The committee has also developed the procedures for processing the complaints; as the committee examines complaints and petitions, attempting to resolve some of them on a friendly basis and address the competent authorities to investigate them and take the legally required actions .

The committee also provided free legal advice service on a daily and permanent basis, either personally or over the phone. The committee offers this advice to whoever asks for it, explaining to them their legal rights and duties.

The total number of complaints submitted to NHRC during 2013 reached 1944 complaints.

Types of complaints submitted to the NHRC vary to a great extent, including: transfer of sponsorship, grievances, requests for jobs, requesting financial dues, cancelling decisions to deport, recruitment related requests, requests for resignation, restoring citizenship; requests for treatment abroad, visa related requests, requesting attorney, requests for access to social security, complaints relating to renewal of residence visas, requesting family visit or residence visa, renewal of residence visas, requests for the provision of accommodation, complaints relating to education, marriage to foreigners, complaints relating to medical errors, Lifting bans from blacklisted, requesting exit permits, inquiring about the reasons for the arrest, complaints relating to arbitrariness by sponsors, requesting for releasing prisoners due to concerns relating to health, requesting certificates of good conduct, and other miscellaneous issues.

Several complaints were submitted to the committee not relating to the mandate of the NHRC, noting that the NHRC worked hard to resolve them in cooperation with the concerned authorities in the State. The NHRC also received a number of complaints from various citizens and expatriates of different nationalities.

In this regard, NHRC suggests the following:

1. These different complaints represent a significant and useful diagnosis of the human rights situation in Qatar. It should be taken into account when setting any strategy supporting human rights in the country. Statistical study of these complaints shows that the complaints from residents account for the largest proportion of the total complaints received by NHRC, involving violations of their civil and economic rights.
2. Resolving these complaints by the committee necessarily depends to a large extent to the response of the country's authorities and stakeholders. The committee appeals to the ministries, institutions and the authorities concerned to step up their cooperation with the committee in this regard, showing greater interest in the settlement of these complaints, including the subsequent remedial actions and restitution of rights.

#### **Fourth: Making necessary suggestions about existing legislations and bills and their relevance to articles of international conventions on human rights**

The NHRC reviewed bills received from the General Secretariat of the Council of Ministers, including:

1. Draft law on Child Rights.
2. Draft law Regulating private school.
3. Draft law Regulating educational services Act.
4. Draft law Regulating the trusteeship for funds of Minors.
5. Draft law Regulating litigation in family law matters.
6. Draft law Regulating the process of imposing taxes on revenues of Hotels and restaurants.
7. Draft law Regulating shops.

It is noteworthy that the NHRC took notice of the issuance of the elections law in which the NHRC has not given its opinion though this law relates to the right to vote, this constitutes a breach of Article 3 of Decree the above-mentioned No. 17 of 2010, on exploring the opinion of the Committee on draft laws relating to human rights issues.

A Legal Affairs Committee has been formed by a decision of the Secretary General of the NHRC to study and give opinions and observations on various laws or draft laws in the State of Qatar relating to human rights, it must be noted here that the NHRC played a great role in submitting important recommendations on the provisions of the Convention on Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).

#### **Fifth: Visiting and monitoring mechanism:**

This mechanism is one of the most important mechanisms of action of the NHRC; the visiting and monitoring committee monitors the human rights situation in the State, conducts visits to several places, to further enable stakeholders to address the shortcomings in this regard.

In addition to the half -year report on the situation of human rights in the State which is submitted to the Council of Ministers in July 2012, the NHRC had prepared a report on the right to health, as well as the rights of workers, and other reports requested by concerned entities.

The visiting and monitoring committee conducted visits to the following places during the past year:

1. Find the management and follow-up.
2. Limas Doha Co.
3. Express for Trading and Contracting.
4. Accompanying the Delegation of the Timber Building Industry Association in its field visits.
5. Silatech Foundation.
6. Tech View Co.

It should be noted that some of the administrative authorities are not aware of the role of the NHRC in monitoring of the human rights situation in the State; Therefore, the NHRC calls for spreading the awareness on cooperation with the visiting and monitoring Committee. It is worth mentioning that the cooperation of various departments of the ministries of interior and labor with the Commission in conducting visits is highly appreciated.

**Sixth: Contributing to the preparation of national reports submitted to international human rights authorities and bodies, monitoring what is being said about the human rights situation in the State and to responding to it:**

The NHRC monitored the campaign directed by some international bodies concerned with human rights and the rights of workers to demand the withdrawal of organizing the 2022 World Cup from Qatar which is based on the claim that the workers' rights in the State of Qatar are violated. The NHRC prepared a report on these issues, submitted to the competent authorities; including a special section on monitoring the situation of workers, issues related to the right to work, and recommendations in this regard.

The NHRC has prepared in 2013 a parallel report to the UPR on the implementation of the Convention on Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).

The Committee also participated in the work of the committee preparing the state's periodic report on the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which is submitted to the competent authorities in 2013.

Work is under progress in cooperation with the committee formed at the Foreign Ministry to respond to the complaint filed by the International Federation of Trade Unions against the state on trade union freedoms in the State.

**Seventh: Raising awareness on human rights and freedoms and consolidating the principles of those rights at the level of thought and practice:**

The NHRC during the past year conducted several activities in this regard as follows:

**A - Martyr Ali Hassan Al Jaber Award:**

In memory of the martyr Ali Hassan Al Jabir, Al Jazeera cameraman who was martyred in Libya, the NHRC launches an annual award in the name of him; the award is dedicated to the values of human rights. The amount of the award is worth ten thousand dollars, awarded to the best media work covering human rights violations anywhere. (B) seminars and workshops:

The NHRC organized and participated in many seminars, workshops and training courses during 2013, as follows:

1. Course for members of the NHRC, in cooperation and coordination with the Training and Documentation Centre of the United Nations.
2. Seminar on urging the state to join the international conventions on human rights.

3. In the framework of the Memorandum of understanding between the NHRC and the Supreme Council for Family Affairs, a seminar was organized on the rights of persons with disabilities in family composition between the Convention and the reality.
4. A training course for law enforcement personnel (judges, prosecutors, and police officers) on the "Human rights conventions and international humanitarian law."
5. A workshop on "Strengthening the protection of refugee women through international and regional legal framework."
6. An awareness lecture in the field of human rights for Hafsa Independent School for girls.
7. Attending the Special Meeting held on workers problems in Qatar.
8. Attending of migrant labor rights diplomatic training program.
9. Participating in the second training workshop for officers in the field of human culture and the protection of prisoners' rights.
10. Attending the International Symposium on the Impact of Changing Population Dynamics on the Arab Family.
11. Attending a training course on human trafficking and combating it in the light of international law.
12. Attending a meeting on the situation of human rights in the Arab region after 20 years of the Vienna Conference "Cairo".
13. Participating in a Symposium on integration of the rights of persons with disabilities in national development in cooperation with the Supreme Council for family affairs.
14. Participating in a training course on international security cooperation in the light of international conventions.
15. Attending a training course on basic skills for beneficiaries of social and legal perspective.
16. Attending an event on scientific research in Rafidah Independent Preparatory School for Girls.

### **C - Media campaigns and publications:**

The NHRC issued several publications and organized campaigns in 2013, as follows:

1. The NHRC organized a media campaign relating to workers for two months, with the aim to educate workers and supervisors of workers of their rights and duties and safety and security measures under laws and regulations of the State of Qatar.

2. Guidelines for human rights in temporary labor housing in construction sites.
3. Guidelines for standards of human rights in places of detention and penal and correctional institutions.
4. Folded brochure on labor law and workers' rights in the State of Qatar.
5. Folded brochure on the right to education.
6. 3 Folded brochures introducing the NHRC.
7. Survey of civil society institutions.
8. Fun game for children on the definition of child rights, and the rights of parents.

#### **D. Visits to the NHRC:**

The NHRC, during the past year, received a series of visits by students of some secondary and high schools in which the work and mandate of the committee have been introduced, as follows:

1. Students' Union of Sakina Independent School for Girls
2. Rafidah bint Kaab Independent School for Girls in order of students to make a research paper titled "our children do not think".

#### **Eighth: Cooperation with international mechanisms for the protection and promotion of human rights:**

The international mechanisms include international bodies concerned with the protection of human rights at the international level, which are divided into two main types:

##### **A - International institutional mechanisms:**

Are mechanisms established in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations or by a decision of one of its organs. They include main bodies of the United Nations concerned with Human Rights, including: the General Assembly, Security Council, Human Rights Council, Economic and Social Council, the International Court of Justice, the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) mechanism which is established by the Human Rights Council for the protection and promotion of human rights, the Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, the High Commissioner for human Rights and the United Nations High Commissioner for refugees (UNHCR).

In addition, there are some systems and special procedures that have been set out according to the United Nations practices, including: special rapporteurs and working groups dealing with certain issues.

In the framework of cooperation with institutional mechanisms, a set of questionnaires are received from some special rapporteurs on human rights issues, namely:

1. The Special Rapporteur of the United Nations for migrant workers.
- 2- U.S. Department of State
- 3- Human Rights Council's Secretariat
- 4- United Nations Working Group on Arbitrary Detention
- 5 - United Nations Human Rights- Office of the High Commissioner

The NHRC responded to all these questionnaires in the framework of implementation of its mandate prescribed by the law.

#### **B - Treaty-Based Mechanisms:**

Nine core international human rights treaties are in force. Each treaty has a committee of independent experts, known as a treaty body, that monitors implementation of its treaty.

1. The Commission on Human Rights.
2. The Committee on Economic and social rights and cultural rights.
3. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women.
4. The Committee against Torture.
5. The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.
6. Committee on the Rights of the Child.
7. Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
8. The Committee on the Rights of Migrant Workers.
9. The Committee against Apartheid in Sports.

On the basis of the Paris Principles, which is the legal reference for the establishment of national institutions for human rights, its mandate and role, and the application of the provisions of Decree Law No. 17 for the year 2010 on the organization of the NHRC; the NHRC submitted over the past year 2 Shadow Reports on the Implementation of The Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman, or degrading treatment and The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) .

The NHRC in Qatar is accredited status (A) by the International Coordinating Committee of National Institutions for Human Rights "ICC" and therefore entitled to submit shadow reports to The Committee Against Torture (CAT) and The United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW); and based on the credibility the NHRC enjoys at the international level, it was invited to give intervention in the event of discussing the state government reports on the implementation of these Conventions.

### **C - The universal periodic review mechanism:**

The UPR was created through the UN General Assembly on 15 March 2006 by resolution 60/251, where the item 5 / e of the resolution stated: "the universal periodic review is based on objective and reliable information, of the fulfillment by each State of its obligations and commitments in the field of human rights, the review shall be a cooperative mechanism, based on an interactive dialogue, with the full involvement of the country concerned and with consideration given to its capacity-building needs "

The Working Group on the UPR, which is composed of 47 Member States Observer States may participate as well, whereas "other relevant stakeholders", such as NGOs, may only "attend" the inter-active dialogue (this means that NGOs will not be able to make statements or ask questions of the country during the dialogue).

The decisions of the Human Rights Council set the UPR operation on a four-year cycle. The State of Qatar submitted its last report in 2010; the next report will be in the year 2014. The NHRC, during the past year, follow up on the recommendations submitted to the state when reviewing the last report (112 recommendations), including 76 recommendations approved by the State, 12 recommendations rejected, 24 pending recommendations, and 11 recommendations are announced as already applied, including:

1. To include in its national legislation the concept of torture as defined in article 1 of the Convention against Torture, and to enact legislation to abolish all types of corporal punishment and other forms of cruel, inhumane or degrading treatment (amendment to the Penal Code, 2010)
2. To extend an open and permanent invitation to all special procedures, special procedures and mandates holders
3. To implement the recommendations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child contained in paragraph 65 of document CRC/C/QAT/CO/2.
4. To prohibit all forms of corporal punishment against children, both boys and girls.
5. To lift restrictions on the rights to freedom of opinion and expression, and to take steps to promote freedom of the press in all forms of media.
6. To take appropriate measures to disseminate widely and ensure full observance of the Declaration on Human Rights Defenders. (Already done by the state)

7. To facilitate independent participation of civil society in the democratization process, and to lift restrictions on the freedom of the right of association and assembly, in accordance with international human rights standards.
8. To protect its migrant workers from exploitation by ensuring that applicable laws and practices conform to international human rights standards guaranteeing migrant workers their human rights, including the right to freedom of movement.
9. To take necessary measures in the light of the law of 2009 and, in particular, reform the sponsorship system in order to protect employees in the event of conflict.

The following recommendations will be examined by Qatar, which will provide responses in due time. The response of Qatar to these recommendations will be included in the outcome report adopted by the Human Rights Council at its fourteenth session :

1. To examine the possibility of ratifying other international conventions that it has not yet ratified, in particular the two International Covenants and the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families.
2. To Sign and ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, and to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities;
3. To consider acceding to all core conventions of the International Labour Organization (ILO);
4. To consider ratifying ILO Conventions 98 and 100;
5. To consider re-examining reservations to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Convention against Torture with a view to withdrawing them;
6. To review the Family Code and the law on nationality, in particular to ensure gender equality in the area of divorce and the acquisition of nationality by affiliation.
7. To review legislation concerning family law and laws relating to the authority of guardians over women, and to amend or repeal laws that discriminate against women.
8. To amend or repeal national laws that discriminate against women and do not prevent violence against women sufficiently, including family laws, laws and procedures related to the authority of guardians of women, nationality laws and housing regulations
9. To protect its migrant workers from exploitation by ensuring that applicable laws and practices conform to international human rights standards guaranteeing migrant workers their human rights, including the right to freedom of movement.
10. To increase the age of criminal responsibility to a minimum of 12 years, in line with recommendations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child.

11. To make further changes to the legislation on sponsorship to protect the rights of migrants, and to abolish the requirement that employers give consent before exit permits are issued for foreign employees.

In the opinion of the NHRC, the majority of these recommendations are applied in the state, but many of them require reconsideration and review to address the shortcomings that have emerged in its application. As for the international conventions which called for in the recommendations, the NHRC calls the State for accession to them, since many of the provisions of these agreements are in place in one way or another.

### **Ninth: Activities of the NHRC on the regional and international levels:**

The NHRC enjoys full membership in the International Coordinating Committee of National Institutions for Human Rights (ICC), and the Asia Pacific Forum of National Institutions for Human Rights (APF); The NHRC has also several partnerships in the framework of mutual cooperation for the protection and promotion of human rights, as follows:

#### **A - International Coordinating Committee of National Institutions for Human Rights (ICC):**

It was established in 1993 and governed by a statute of incorporation under Swiss law, it includes 100 NHRIs. the ICC promotes and strengthens NHRIs to be in accordance with the Paris Principles, and provides leadership in the promotion and protection of human rights. It also provides accreditation services for new members, and review the accreditation for its members. In addition, it provides basic information and advisory services to interact with international mechanisms to protect human rights.

The International Coordinating Committee (ICC) includes 3 main committees, as follows:

1. Sub- Committee on accreditation (SCA): it consists of four members (national institutions) representing 4 geographic regions (the Americas- Europe- Africa- Asia Pacific). It performs accreditation classification of national institutions into A or B or C levels, through studying of the law establishing each institution, its work and how it conforms with the Paris Principles.

The NHRC is currently a member of the Committee for a period of three years, which represents the Asia Pacific region; The NHRC has also chaired the committee in 2012 for one year, renewable twice.

2. Sub- Committee on Business and Human Rights: it is composed of a working group representing the four geographical regions; it holds the study of the negative effects of business on human rights.

3. Sub-Committee on Administrative and Financial Affairs, which handles administrative and financial affairs.

**B – The Asia Pacific Forum (APF) of National Institutions for Human Rights:**

It is a regional organization founded in 1996 in accordance with the provisions of Australian law, It includes about 21 national institution for human rights in the Asia Pacific region, and aims to strengthen, promote and support the establishment of more institutions, through providing several services, such as building capacity and training programs in institutions, and providing legal advice on cooperation with regional and international mechanisms for the protection of human rights.

The NHRC was elected to chair the Asia Pacific Forum during the period 2012-2013; in October 2013, the NHRC hosted its annual Conference.

**C- The Arab Network for National Human Rights institutions:**

It is a regional network of Arab national institutions for the protection and promotion of human rights in the Arab world; with the aim to strengthen and promote human rights through the consolidation of the role of Arab NHRIs, so that they can effectively play their role in the protection and respect for human rights, in their respective countries.

**D- Regional and international partnership agreements:**

Since its establishment, the NHRC enacted partnership agreements with several organizations and research centers concerned with human rights, as well as with other national institutions with the aim of cooperation and exchange of information on best practices and experiences, and also to develop and build the capacity of the technical staff.

During 2013, the NHRC has signed a cooperation agreement with the National Commission for Human Rights of Sudan, and other agreements with the American Center for International Labor Solidarity

**E- Conferences, Forums, and International activities:**

The NHRC participated in a number of international events that are related to international and regional cooperation through the year 2013, including:

1. Presidential election monitoring in Georgia.
2. The Second Regional Forum on the human rights movement in the Arab region
3. Conference on "Classification and accreditation of the national human rights institutions by the International Coordinating Committee of National Institutions for Human Rights."
4. A special session to train the trainers in the field of human rights in collaboration with the Human Rights Information and Training Center.

5. Workshop on activating the culture of awareness of the law in the Arab communities on the sidelines of the 13<sup>th</sup> Doha forum.
6. Asia Pacific Forum Annual conference.
7. Diplomatic training course on "Defending human rights and migrant workers in the Middle East and Asia", in collaboration with The Migrant Forum in Asia & Diplomatic training program.

## Section 4

### Complaints and Statistical Data

The National Human Rights Committee since its establishment has developed a permanent and systematic mechanism on submitting complaints by citizens and residents based on coordination with other bodies and stakeholders in the state in order to find solutions, and diversification of sources of receiving such complaints.

The NHRC considers and reviews complaints and petitions, performs fact-finding, tries its best to resolve them amicably, communicate with the competent authorities to take the necessary actions, or referring some of them to the competent authorities after discussing the available legal avenues.

The NHRC provides legal advice permanently on a daily basis, whether to the petitioner personally at the headquarters of the NHRC or through landlines and Hotline. Listed below types of complaints received by the NHRC during 2013:

#### 1. According to type of complaints:

#	Type of complaint	No.	#	Type of complaint	#	No.	Type of complaint	No.
1	Other issues not relating to the mandate of the NHRC	2	13	Accommodation	15	25	Grievance	971
2	Requesting treatment abroad	5	14	Finding jobs	30	26	Transfer of sponsorship	385
3	Transfer Visit visa to Residence visa	3	15	Renewal of residence visa	18	27	Financial dues	169
4	Requesting Certificates of Good Conduct	2	16	Restoring citizenship	12	28	miscellaneous	42
5	lifting of travel ban	1	17	Requesting family visit or residence visa	8	29	Requesting exit permits	32
6	Marrying foreigners	1	18	Restoring jobs	7	30	Transfer of Sponsorship + financial dues	56
7	Medical error	1	19	Amnesty for punishment	11	31	Leaving the country	53
8	Application for social security	3	20	Requesting attorney	6	32	Arbitrariness by sponsors	24
9	Work	2	21	Leaving the country + financial dues	16	33	Financial aids	20
10	Resignation	1	22	Rent allowance	1	34	reasons for arrest	2
11	Requesting immigrants' visas	1	23	Lifting bans from blacklisted	4	35	Education	1
12	Visa application	1	24	Cancelling decisions to deport	22	36	Release for prisoners For medical reasons	1
<b>Total: 1929</b>								

## 2. According to sex of petitioners:

Sex	Number
Male	1601
Female	328
<b>Total</b>	<b>1929</b>

## 3. According to nationality of the petitioners:

No	Nationality	No	Nationality	No.	Nationality
1	Singapore	13	Palestine	323	Egypt
3	Spain	14	Algeria	312	Philippines
3	Germany	8	Canada	204	India
1	Ukraine	20	Jordan	137	Qatar
2	Iran	15	United kingdom	104	Syria
2	Turkey	14	Kenya	91	Sri Lanka
2	Togo	6	Ethiopia	85	Morocco
1	Russia	12	Ghana	63	Nepal
2	Romania	3	Australia	40	Bangladesh
2	Serbia	2	Italy	39	Pakistan
6	Iraq	6	Eritrea	41	Tunisia
7	France	11	US	33	Lebanon
1	New Zealand	4	Bahrain	135	Nigeria
4	Yemen	1	Czech Republic	25	Sudan
6	Saudi Arabia	1	United Arab Emirates	1	Argentina
3	Indonesia	2	Greece	2	Somalia
1	Belgium	6	Uganda	1	Uzbekistan
1	The Gambia	1	Thailand	1	Peru
1	Denmark	2	Georgia	4	South Africa
1	Cambodia	1	Kazakhstan	1	Oman
1	Liberia	1	Libya	83	Cameroon
1	Mali	1	Macedonia	1	Lithuania
1	Norway	1	Myanmar	1	Malaysia
		1	Netherlands	3	Niger
<b>Total: 1929</b>					

## Section 5

### Recommendations

1. The need to expedite the study of Qatar's accession to the International Covenants on Civil and Political Rights and on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and the relevant international conventions.
2. Expediting the activation of the role and work of the Constitutional Court to reconsider many of the immune administrative decisions of the Qatari judiciary.
3. Awareness in the field of safety standards in workplaces, public facilities and children's play area in parks in the state.
4. Increasing the number of doctors in some sections at hospitals, diversifying medical specializations to meet the number of patients visiting hospitals and clinics in the State, expanding hospitals to meet the possible number of patients and providing rooms and beds permanently.
5. Preparing training courses of reception staff in all ministries and state institutions on how to deal with the public and providing them with the necessary training and educational assistance programs.
6. Working on the integration of the elderly in the community, providing jobs commensurate with their abilities and encouraging them to start small projects and crafts that help them get independent source of income.
7. Activating awareness and education programs on the role of family in care of the elderly, as well as attending workshops and training courses carried out by government agencies and civil society organizations on elderly care and involving of the elderly in these events.
8. Establishing an integrated health center for the elderly with the provision of medical staff who can communicate with them, diagnosis and assess their physical and mental health and introduce them to their needs in the community.
9. The need to expedite the completion of the private sanitation projects, especially in areas experiencing relevant problems, where the NHRC can't find a reason for delay. Qatar officially doesn't withhold any form of support especially when material and human resources are available.

10. The need to evacuate neighborhoods for families from workers, and intensify restrictions on procedures against violations of workers' housing in residential neighborhoods, as it represents a critical social, health and environmental problem, while providing alternatives for workers in which health and humanitarian requirements are taken into account to ensure a decent living.

11. The NHRC still recommends expediting the amendment of Law No. 8 of 2009 on human resources management, and Law No. 24 of 2002 on retirement and pensions in line with the values and principles of the society and the aspirations of its citizens, since both laws, are closely relating to human rights, where the former relates to the right to a decent life and the latter is relating to the right to work.

12. The need for issuing a law to regulate media activities in accordance with international standards of the right to freedom of opinion and expression, in which its issuance shall help exercise this right.

13. The need to expedite the increase of social security pensions so as to ensure a decent living for the beneficiary under the high cost of living in Qatar.

14. The need to expedite the completion of the road projects to eliminate traffic congestion as soon as possible, and use non-traditional methods to solve the problem of congestion resulting from these projects.

15. Providing material and technical support to farms for the advancement of the agricultural sector in the state.

16. Studying the application of fish farming system to achieve self-sufficiency in fish to recover fish stocks from depletion in the state.

17. Reviewing regulations and conditions relating to getting the benefits of divorced Qatari women especially after five years from the date of the divorce due to what has been monitored by the NHRC and related complaints received in this regard.

18. The need to pass legislation by stakeholders that puts commitment on owners of untapped land spaces close to neighborhoods (that are prone to collecting construction waste, growing herbs, and collecting crawling harmful and poisonous insects) to fence those spaces and put signage, and fix any environmental violations reported at the expense of the owner, in addition to paying a fine.

19. The importance of stakeholder cooperation in the state with the relevant civil society organizations to perform awareness campaigns on the importance of clean water and performing regular maintenance and the best ways to clean tanks; and the main conditions required in water tanks in order to safeguard public health and avoid the seriousness of its contamination and consequent infectious and dangerous diseases.
20. Increasing the number of awareness campaigns and guidance to those who are interested in camping, with the need for deterrent penalties on violators in order to preserve the environment.
21. The importance of the use and economic exploitation of neglected vehicles, and encouraging investors to invest in automotive waste, as automotive parts and materials are raw materials for steel, glass and chemicals mills.
22. Expediting the completion of infrastructure and construction projects in various parts in the State, and starting with the preparation of plans and strategies for areas lacking or having poor services in preparation for urban development projects with an As Soon As Possible (ASAP) constraint.
23. Intensifying inspection campaigns targeting restaurants, cafes and bakeries to ensure their compliance with environmental and health requirements, with the need for deterrent penalties on violators, and prohibiting the use of plastic cups and bags in providing hot drinks and packing bread because their harmful effects to health due to what has been revealed in scientific studies.
24. Livestock Management Department of the Ministry of Environment to develop a proactive and preventive plans to protect camels against Corona virus in Qatar after reporting cases in Saudi Arabia; demanding the competent authorities to examine camels, allocate mobile vet clinics for examination and ensure they are not infected especially in farms spreading in many parts of the country, particularly those extend to the borders with Saudi Arabia.