Delegation from the State of Qatar
Position Paper for the United Nations General Assembly

The topics for the session of the General Assembly at GerMUN 2019 are: The role of emerging technologies in international security and disarmament, improving mechanisms for accountability and transparency within the UN system and intensification of efforts to eliminate all violence against women. Qatar has made it its focus to strengthen international organizations to ensure sustainable development for all and thus looks forward to rewarding discussions in the General Assembly.

I. The Role of Emerging Technologies in International Security and Disarmament

His Highness Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani, Amir of the State of Qatar, reminded the international community in his address before the 73rd UN General Assembly that "it is necessary to regulate dealing with national cyber security issues and control their risks internationally". But there is a widening gap between the commitments by states in fora at international conventions and the actual degree of freedom that national military services have. Malicious cyber operations, enabled due to the ever-growing interconnectedness of nations, will cause major instability if not mitigated early by the international community. Qatar has already established a National Cyber Security Strategy to protect critical infrastructure and its citizens private sphere but is well aware that national efforts don't suffice in such a cross-border issue. The international community is still stuck in understanding the current situation, without addressing the implications that such technology can have in the future. The digital arms race that is brewing at the moment needs to be stopped through a better comprehension of the current technology and situation.

A/RES/53/70 of 1998 put developments in information and cyber technology on the UN's agenda, expressing "concern that these technologies and means can potentially be used to purposes that are inconsistent with the objectives of maintaining international stability and security". The UNGA requested the Secretary-General in GA/RES/68/243 to establish a Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) on the issue, which agreed on the substantive consensus report A/70/174 in June 2015, laying out how International Law applies to the use of ICT in addition to multiple ground rules for states to follow. The new GGE in 2016/17 of GA/RES/70/237 didn't reach a final consensus on the final report, and no additional GGE was called. Qatar greatly welcomes these efforts, having often offered its own views for the General-Secretaries annual reports, but is deeply worried by the failure of the 2016/17 GGE and still sees a major lack in international communication on these issues. The United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) has made a step into the right direction by hosting the Preventing and Mitigating Cyber Conflict – Cyber Stability Conference 2018 in Geneva, focusing on the growing gap between in fora and de facto commitments by states and successfully bringing governmental groups and experts into discussion.

Qatar thus believes that an increase in the output and abilities of UNIDIR can greatly enhance the progress made on the issue of ICT in security and thus proposes the establishment of multiple local branches of UNIDIR in the Middle East, North-America, South-America, Africa and East-Asia. Each branch would focus on pooling the research results and national and regional policies of its respective area. The branches shall also take an active role in research by supporting their own research projects and host two conferences a year on the role of LAWS in international security, inviting scholars in their region from all related fields. Qatar proposes the following cities as locations for the local branches: Doha, New York City, Sao Paulo and Nairobi, and invites all concerned countries to talk. Funding of the branches will be provided by the nations hosting the institute with additional funds from the UNIDIR budget, which will subsequently need to be extended.

II. Improving Mechanisms for Accountability and Transparency within the UN System

The state of Qatar sees a great problem in the small role that the UN play in the everyday life of the citizens of the world, as national political bodies are generally the important decision makers. The ever-increasing complexity of the UN system through the establishment and redefinition of different bodies has made the whole system a lot harder to grasp for the broad population. Additionally, great players in the international politics are taking a more nationalistic stance, opposing international organizations and regimes. Qatar gladly welcomes the growing Model United Nations (MUN) movement where young people are introduced to the UN and its functions, committees and working procedures, for example the MUN by Georgetown

University in Qatar. These conferences with over 400,000 annual participants, although a great way to increase the understanding for the UN in the lives of people around the world, are mostly self-contained, without having any ownership within the UN system to allow their results to be spread to relevant UN organs.

The UN system is involved in such conferences through the UN Department of Global Communications (DGC). The DGC has produced a guide for MUN conferences to more closely mirror the workings of the United Nations in Rules of Procedure and will hold the inaugural United Nations Model UN Youth Summit in April 2019 in New York. The National Model United Nations (NMUN) conference, taking place a few days before the Summit, is member of the United Nations Academic Impact (UNAI) and uses the UN facilities in New York on its last day of conference. NMUN was one of the first models to align its rules with those used by the UN which were then review by the UN Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR). But a major part of UN work hasn't been mirrored yet, which is the publishing of results of the conferences.

Qatar therefore proposes the MUN Educational Fund (MUNEF) to support MUN conferences in the processing and subsequent publishing of their resolutions and debates. MUNEF shall be put under the responsibility of the DGC in the category Outreach. The funding will be provided voluntarily by United Nations Member States. Qatar pledges $700 thousand in the first round of funding. The implementation of the result producing process shall be reviewed by UNITAR. NMUN shall be the first conference to gain access to MUNEF support, if willing. MUNEF will extend the UN Model UN Youth Summit by a panel on the internal representation of MUN-results in the UN system. This Panel will establish a database of MUN-resolutions and will invite all MUN organizers to add their documents. Additionally, possible legal questions regarding copyright will be resolved and a workshop will be hosted to write reports to different UN organs, summarizing all relevant MUN-resolutions and offering suggestions.

III. **Intensification of Efforts to Eliminate All Forms of Violence against Women**

"Once you get the women involved in the conversation, you will see the societal impact", said Her Highness Sheikha Hind bint Hamad al Thani, CEO of Qatar Foundation and member of the royal family of Qatar. Qatar is proud to be on the forefront of the emancipation of women in education and the workforce in the Middle East and is deeply concerned about the acts of violence against Women and Girls (VAWG) still commonplace in everywhere in region of the world, which UN Secretary General António Guterres called a "global pandemic". Qatar believes that the economic and educational empowerment of women will mitigate VAWG and has set "bolstering the women's role in society and empowering them to be active community members" as one of the key points of the Qatar National Vision 2030 by His Highness Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani. Throughout the years, Qatar has thus supported the UN Women, Peace and Security Agenda in various ways, and trusts in the UN as the best agent for change in the VAWG-problematic. But many of our fellow Arab and Muslim states still block progress to be made in their countries based on their legal implementations of the Shari'ah.

Most Muslim nations have addressed article 2 and article 16 of the Convention on The Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) in A/RES/34/180 as opposed to Shari'ah law, but Qatar believes that the Shari'ah and the CEDAW should not be exclusive, as the Quran recognizes the absolute equality of men and women as human beings. This is an unnecessary conflict, that needs to be resolved to focus on VAWG, which needs to be eliminated to meet the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 5: "Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls". A major progress was the start of the Spotlight Initiative between the UN and the European Union. The initiative was launched in September 2017 with €500 million from the EU to be used by the UN in regional programs to combat violence against women. Qatar greatly commends this project and believes that such efforts are the best way to achieve SDG 5.

Qatar therefore urges its fellow Arab League members to join forces with the Spotlight Initiative by making a major financial contribution to support UN efforts and establish specialized programs in all parts of the world to fight violence against women and girls. The efforts by the Arab League shall include the academic initiative on women's equality in regional cultural backgrounds (AIWERC), tackling the differences between the CEDAW and the bindings of the Shari'ah, by establishing additional institutions of higher education and strengthening cooperation with and between already existing ones. Qatar will host a conference of academics on the establishment of the initiative in Doha in July of this year, where the locations of the new institutions and the structure of cooperation will be decided on.