

UPR of Qatar

Statement by Norway
8 February 2010

Norway would like to thank Qatar for a comprehensive national report as well as their presence and presentations here today. We have submitted advance questions to Qatar.

We have comments and recommendations with regard to five topics:

1. Norway strongly believes that the active participation of civil society is essential to a meaningful UPR process. We recommend that Qatar establish an effective and inclusive process with civil society to follow-up on the UPR recommendations.
2. Norway gives high priority to the promotion of women's rights. We welcome Qatar's accession in 2009 to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, but we are concerned about the number and nature of Qatar's reservations. Norway recommends Qatar to consider withdrawing as soon as possible its reservations to CEDAW and ensure that its national law and practice is in conformity with the Convention.
3. Norway shares concerns raised about the work and living conditions of foreign workers in Qatar. We recommend Qatar to consider acceding to all of the core ILO conventions. Norway further recommends Qatar to actively improve the protection of female domestic workers against violence and sexual abuse. We recommend that the government takes efforts to ensure that the police prioritizes and investigates such cases.
4. Norway opposes the use of the death penalty and appreciates that no death sentences were carried out in Qatar last year. We recommend Qatar to commute all death sentences and declare a moratorium on executions.
5. Norway strongly believes that human rights defenders play an important role in fostering a culture of human rights. We recommend Qatar to adopt appropriate measures to disseminate widely and ensure full observance of the Declaration on Human Rights Defenders.

Thank you!