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**Intervention by Brazil**

*Ambassador  
Regina Dantas*

Mr. President,

Brazil thanks the Qatari delegation for the presentation of their comprehensive national report.

We appreciate that, as a follow-up to one of our recommendations in 2010, Qatar has taken steps to withdraw reservations to the Convention against Torture and has amended its Criminal Code with the definition of torture outlined by the Convention.

We acknowledge the efforts made by the Qatari government to advance the rights of women and promote gender equality and encourage additional steps in this regard. The enactment of the Human Trafficking Act and the growing number of human rights institutions acting in the country are also positive developments.

The situation of migrant workers in Qatar is

a matter of grave concern. Allegations of inadequate working and living conditions and restrictions to the right to leave Qatar are disquieting. We were also concerned to learn that domestic workers are not contemplated in the Qatari labor law and that protection standards fall short of the minimum standards of the recently adopted ILO Domestic Workers' Convention.

Brazil wishes to present to the Qatari delegation two specific recommendations:

- i) To abolish the exit visa system for foreign workers;
- ii) To establish a timetable for reform of the system of sponsorship-based employment.

Thank you, Mister President