



QATAR IN CUBA

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“It Is Time for Wider Regional Security in the Middle East”, said H.H. at the Munich Security Conference

During the major global forum for the discussion of security policy, the Munich Security Conference (MSC), which took place from 16-18 February 2018, H. H. Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al-Thani referred to crucial issues affecting not only the Middle East, but also the entire world, such as “the lack of accountability for good governance”, “the darkness of terrorism” and the waves of refugees trapped in conflict zones.

Likewise, he stated that the world should focus on “the ending circumstances that afforded ISIS a continuous stream of willing recruits”: suffering, injustice and the loss of faith in international accountability. Given that 8

of the 10 most lethal conflicts are rooted in the Middle East, H.H. expanded the list of causes fuelling these conflicts by adding “recklessness and no framework for providing shared security”.

In his speech, H.H. the Emir used the EU and the Brexit as an example of peaceful resolution of differences which, he said, is a lesson the Arab region should learn from.

He concluded saying, “It is time for wider regional security in the Middle East. It is time [...] to forget the past and agree on basic security principles and rules of governance, and at least a minimum level of security to allow for peace and prosperity”.



According to H.H. the Emir, “recklessness and no framework for providing shared security” should be among the key factors fuelling the conflicts in the world.

QATAR INTERNATIONAL

H.E. DPM and Foreign Minister Underscores the Correlation between Sports and Human Rights



“The State of Qatar sees the major sporting events as unique opportunities for spreading the values of brotherhood, solidarity, peace and human rights”, said the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani, in his opening address to the side event on “Hosting Major Sports Events: Promoting Respect For Human Rights”.

By stating this, H.E. highlights the importance of organizing regularly sporting competitions in different parts of the world, as they have proved to be

the driving tools to accelerate economic development and foster essential human values, such as respect, solidarity, diversity, equality, tolerance and justice. In fact, he noted, integrity, transparency and respect for human rights must always be the values governing all sports.

H.E. concluded his speech expressing: “We look forward to seeing all of you in Doha, and to welcome you to our genuine Arab hospitality during the FIFA World Cup 2022, and other major sporting events in the coming years”.

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Qatar Calls for a Meeting on Preventive Diplomacy

Taking into account the importance of the decisive role played by preventive diplomacy—which can be deemed as the backbone of the vision of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the State of Qatar proposed to hold an international conference on Preventive Diplomacy.

The proposal was made last January at the Doha meeting for the regional consultations on the sustainability of peace. H.E. the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of Qatar, Sultan Bin Saad Al-Muraikhi, also expressed

“The world is facing serious threats (...) regarding international peace and safety”, said H.E. Al-Muraikhi.

Qatar’s willingness to host the event. In addition, H.E. reiterated the commitment of the State of Qatar to implement the 2030 Agenda, describing it as a development and peace plan, which is in harmony with Qatar’s policies to support peace-keeping, consolidate human rights, address inequality, fight corruption, and guarantee core human values, such as freedom of speech and the right to participate in decision-making.



During the Doha Regional Dialogue on Sustaining Peace, H.E. the Minister expressed Qatar’s willingness to host the event.



The Doha-based UN Training and Documentation Center has played an important role as a source of expertise at the regional level.

UN General Assembly Adopts Qatar’s Resolution on Human Rights Training and Documentation Center

Last December, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution submitted by the State of Qatar on the Doha-based United Nations Center for Training and Documentation, in the Field of Human Rights for South-West Asia and the Arab Region, by 188 votes out of 193 votes.

The Resolution noted the successful assistance provided by this Center through capacity-building activities in

the realm of human rights, as well as training and technical assistance programs—all related to the same topic. The role of the Center as a source of expertise at the regional level was emphasized. It also pointed out that the increasing demand for the Center’s activities by Member States and other stakeholders reveals a growing recognition of its importance and impact in strengthening human rights capacities in the region.

QATAR & CUBA

Qatar & Cuba, together against the Embargo

On November 1st, 2017, took place the 72nd Session of the United Nations General Assembly in which was overwhelmingly approved the Resolution “Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba”, submitted by the Government of the Island.

The State of Qatar has been traditionally supportive of all Cuban



The vote was 191 to 2 in favor of lifting the 55-year-old U.S. blockade on Cuba.

resolutions and this time was not the exception: Qatar voted in favour of this Resolution which, after 26 years, is recognized by almost the entire international community. In fact, it enjoyed favorable votes from 191 of the 193 UN Member States.

For five decades, the U.S. blockade has caused huge financial losses and psychological suffering to Cubans. The General Assembly once again called all UN Member States to refrain from applying measures not conforming with their obligations under the UN Charter and international law.



H.E. Mrs. Lina Pedraza, Minister of Finance and Prices; H.E. Mr. Rogelio Sierra Diaz, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs; and H.E. the Ambassador during the celebration of QND.

Qatar Celebrates National Day!

Every December 18, the people of the State of Qatar celebrate their National Day. On this day, they remember the heroic deeds led by the Founder, the late Sheikh Jassim bin Mohammed Al-Thani, who laid the foundation of establishing a modern State, in 1878. This year, however, the festivities occurred under unusual circumstances: the ongoing Gulf diplomatic crisis which, contrary to the expectations, has created a greater sense of unity among the Qatar’s residents. Here, we also joined the celebrations! The event started with the warm wel-

come given by H.E. the Ambassador, who seized the occasion to stress the importance of these festivities, as they represent the cohesion between the people and their leadership. Likewise, the Ambassador commended the Cuban government and the Cuban people, and condemned the unjust blockade against Cuba and Qatar. A large number of people attended, who had the chance to learn about Qatar’s history and prosperity; they also enjoyed the music and the feast. All in all, the evening was a harmonious combination of both solemnity and joy.

The Media Strengthen Ties with Diplomatic Missions

Over the last few years, the Embassy of the State of Qatar has been organizing a wide range of activities to enhance the knowledge about Qatar, and to continue strengthening the relations with our host country. Local media have kindly joined us in this adventure and have done a commendable job whenever they were given the task to cover the various

“Local media have kindly joined us in this adventure and have done a commendable job...”

events prepared by the Embassy. The Embassy of the State of Qatar would like to give special thanks to the reporters and cameramen from **PLTV**, **Cubavision Internacional** and **Canal Habana**, as well as the journalists and photographers from **Prensa Latina**, **Trabajadores** and **Radio Reloj**, for their unconditional, professional and totally dedicated support.



H.E. Rashid Mairza Al-Mulla is interviewed by Prensa Latina reporters.

CULTURE

Qatar Fosters Culture-Environment Relations!

On December 14th, the Embassy of the State of Qatar held, at its headquarters, a cultural activity with a marked environmental focus, in cooperation with the musical Group “Cubanos en la Red”, and FAO in the Island. The group led by Osmel Francis gave a performance, which showed the critical need of raising environmental awareness, particularly amongst the younger generations; that is why,

students from a local high school were invited to participate. The event was attended by the Deputy Minister of Education, H.E. Margerita McPherson, representatives of the Cuban Ministry of Culture, as well as ambassadors, heads of UN missions, among others. One of the most exciting moments was the tree planting performed by the students in the garden of the embassy; the latter combined with the knowledge on the environment shared, the dance, and the songs made of this an enjoyable experience for us all.



High School Students planted fruit trees in the garden of the embassy.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Hamad International Airport (HIA) Listed as One of the Top-14 Beautiful Airports in the World and Acknowledged as the “Best Airport in the Middle East”

A list created by **Business Insider** confirmed it! The American financial news website has listed the Hamad International Airport (HIA) as one of the top-14 most beautiful airports in the world. The website selected the top 14 airports based on architectural features and amenities, and expressed about HIA, “Some parts of its interior look like a modern art museum”.

At the same time, HIA became the first airport in the Middle East to enter the World’s Top 10 Best Airports of the Skytrax World Airport Ranking, which is considered the most

prestigious recognition of quality for airports across the world. HIA has taken the lead among other international airports in establishing itself as an international transfer hub through its innovative facilities. The Qatari airport has been awarded also with the ‘Best Airport in West Asia’ at the Future Travel Experience (FTE) Asia Awards 2017 in Singapore, and as the ‘Best Staff Service in the Middle East’.



View of the Hamad International Airport (HIA), recently listed as one of the Top 10 Best Airports in the world.

SPORTS & SOCIETY

Qatar National Sports Day: It’s Time to Move Your Body!

Every year, on the second Tuesday of February, the State of Qatar and its people celebrate the National Sport Day (NSD). On this day, everyone is encouraged to participate in sporting activities organised by the government and private companies with the aim of raising awareness on the importance of sports for human health and nation-building. The celebration was made official with the Emiri Decree No. 80 of 2011 and it took place for the first time in 2012.

In Cuba, Qatar National Sport Day was commemorated with a marathon that gathered both, children and adults. H.E.



H.E. the Ambassador led the celebration of Qatar National Sports Day.



H.H. the Emir participated in the NSD by cycling on the towers area and the Doha Corniche.

Mrs. Gladys Bécquer, Vice President of the Cuban Institute of Sports, Physical Education and Recreation (INDER); H.E. Jorge Alavariño, Vice President of the Provincial Government; H.E. Mr. Héctor Igarza, H.E. Mr. Roberto Blanco; and H.E. the Ambassador, led the celebration. A group of Olympic athletes and glories of Cuba, such as the high jumper Javier Sotomayor, the runner Ana Fidelia Quirot, and the baseball player Carlos Tabares joined us as well. When being interviewed by the media, H.E. the Ambassador thanked the Cuban government, INDER and MINREX for supporting the initiative.

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