Reactions during the informal meetings [27 - 31 July] of the plenary on the intergovernmental negotiations on the post-2015 development agenda

Statement delivered by Miss Al-Daana Al-Mulla, Third Secretary, on behalf of the Permanent Mission of the State of Qatar

Thank you Ambassador // Chair,

We align ourselves with the statement delivered by South Africa on behalf of the G77 and China, and with the statement delivered by the United Arab Emirates on behalf of the Arab Group, and would like to make the following comments in my national capacity.

After more thorough review of the text, my delegation noticed that issues related to food and water are not adequately addressed in the revised document.

ON FOOD

Specifically, on paragraph 25, we have two observations:

1) in the last line, where it reads "in particular Least Developed Countries," the text should also refer to **ALL developing countries.**

2) We noticed a new reference in the text produced yesterday [30 July 2015] to the "Rome Declaration on Nutrition and the Framework for Action." When addressing food security, nutrition, and agriculture, the Committee on World Food Security should be treated with high importance as it is THE international and intergovernmental body within the UN system responsible for managing the full range of these issues.

For this reason we ask to delete the language on the Rome Declaration and to replace it with more inclusive and balanced language **reaffirming the important role and inclusive nature of the Committee on World Food Security.**

ON WATER

We are concerned by the current language on the human right to water and sanitation as it does not meet the ambition of our Post 2015 Development Agenda.

In this regard, we would like to add voice to what was already expressed by the delegation of Switzerland. The report on MDGS shows that sanitation is still lagging behind.

This was recognized by the Heads of States in the para 121 of "The future we want" in 2012, as well as by the General Assembly in resolution A/RES/157 in 2013.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development should not undermine this. The "right to safe drinking water and sanitation" must be retained in the final document.

On **Sustainable water management, we must speak to the full range of freshwater resources. United Nations reports indicate that 40% of the worlds population is projected to be living in areas of water scarcity by 2050.**

We therefore strongly advocate that we cannot fail to include reference to its sustainable management in the declaration, as it is of vital importance and is in full agreement with language contained in **"the Future we want"** where we collectively **"committed to significantly improve the implementation of integrated water resources management."**

In para 9: It is not sufficient to simply include reference to "rivers." We therefore ask that you **add:**

"A world in which consumption and production patterns, **(add: management)** and use of all natural resources – from air to land, from rivers, **(add: freshwater bodies, so that we do not exclude lakes and aquifers)** to oceans and seas – are sustainable."

In para 32, add: "We are therefore determined to conserve and sustainably use oceans and seas, **(add: protect and manage)** freshwater resources"

ON LAND

We would like to support the statement made by the delegation of Iceland and Namibia regarding the revision of targets. It seems that the proposal to change the year from 2020 to 2030 has not been included in the text and this is concerning to us. This is not to say that we are not committed to this issue.

In fact, in a proactive effort, t**he State of Qatar launched the Global Dryland Alliance** - an initiative that aims to combat the increasing challenges posed by desertification, drought, drylands, and sustainable land management, though collaborative approach.

The concept of land-degradation neutral world is still new however, therefore it is therefore important that we afford adequate time for policy formulation and the mobilization of resources.

I thank you for your attention