

In the Name of God, Most Gracious, Most Merciful

**Plan of Action
of the State of Qatar
for the
UN Alliance of Civilizations**

A Preliminary Draft

25 March 2009

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Introduction

This report outlines the Plan of the State of Qatar for the UN Alliance of Civilizations (AOC).

However, it should be noted that this plan did not originate with the launching of the AOC initiative. Rather it was initiated prior to this with the implementation of initiatives in the fields of education, youth, migration and the media that were made in conjunction with the commencement of the New Millennium Goals. These on-going initiatives, consolidated with the launch of the AOC project, became part of the numerous initiatives designed and implemented from 2007-09.

Classified among the most active of nations in regard to the promotion of international peace and security, Qatar has successfully facilitated resolutions to various disputes, especially in the Arab region, due to its diplomatic efforts and outstanding regional and international relations. Although Qatar is geographically of small proportions, it plays a large political role, as expressed by His Highness the Emir Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani at the opening of the Lebanese national dialogue sessions.

Noted the Emir, "Qatar is not a large country, yet it endeavors to be a meeting ground." In fact, Qatar has realized significant accomplishments in this regard, especially in 2008-09 when it succeeded in diffusing the crisis between Lebanese factions, ending the armed conflict between the Yemeni Government and rebels, and contributing to the signature of the Goodwill Agreement between the Sudanese Government and the rebels in Darfur.

Qatar seeks to realize the AOC's approach to ease tensions between different religions and cultures through a plan based on integrating issues of the AOC in its educational curricula; increasing meetings of representatives of religions, intellectual elites and youth; and empowering Qatar's media to play an effective role in rectifying the stereotypical images of peoples and civilizations.

An Arab and Muslim country, Qatar has a population of over one million. Though many people have come from countries and regions with different faiths and cultures – some which differ from those of Qatar – we have maintained a peaceful environment where all live in harmony, without any contradiction with their native cultures and faiths.

First: Basic Tenets

1) Qatar's Constitution

Adopted in 2004, the Constitution of the State of Qatar enabled all rights and freedoms to everyone within the jurisdiction, emphasizing in Article 25 that "education, which is a basic pillar of the progress of society, is guaranteed and promoted by the State who seeks dissemination and generalization."

Article 22 stressed that the State would look after "young individuals, and protect them from the causes of corruption, of exploitation and physical, mental and spiritual neglect as well as provide them with the appropriate conditions for the development of his talents in various fields under the guidance of a sound education."

Article 18 underscored that "the Qatari society is based on the pillars of justice, charity, freedom, equality and good morals." It also devoted the entire third chapter to rights and duties, emphasizing principles of equality with regard to law; assurance of personal freedom; inadmissibility of restricting residence and freedom of movement except in accordance with the provisions of the law; and protection of privacy and inadmissibility of interference with individuals or their family privacy.

Article 35 emphasizes that people are equal in the eyes of the law and should not be discriminated against because of their gender, origin, language or religion. In the same context, Article 50 stresses that the State guarantees freedom of worship for all. In addition, the Qatar Constitution guarantees in Article 47 the freedom of opinion and scientific research.

2) Legislation

Emiri Decree No. 25 of 2001 on Compulsory Education for all children in Qatar is a major legislative act related to education and achievements of cultural affinity within the country.

Labor Law No. 14 is another important piece of legislation because the majority of immigrants come to Qatar for employment, and this law ensures a migrant's rights. By implementation of this law, the Ministry of Labor is now authorized to record breaches in the form of complaints presented by foreign workers. In addition to the legislative procedures enacted by Qatar to protect expatriate rights, there are several supporting Ministerial decisions. Among these are the followings:

- Decision No. 16 of 2005 on the Organization of Medical Care to cover all Workers in an Establishment.
- Decision No. 17 of 2005 on the Definition of Conditions and Specifications of Suitable Housing for Workers.
- Decision No. 20 of 2005 on the Precautions and Conditions of Worksites to Protect Workers.
- Decision No. 9 of 2006 on the Determination of Working Hours in open worksites during summer months.

With regard to the media, legislation has been passed to grant freedom of the media. In addition, H.H. the Emir abolished censorship of the local press in 1995, abolished censorship of the media in general, and abolished the Ministry of Information. Other relevant legislation includes Law No. 12 of 2004 on private associations and institutions, and Law No. 11 of 2008 on the establishment of audio-visual transmission stations in Qatar.

3) Qatar's National Vision

Approved in 2008, Qatar's National Vision outlines the "promotion of a spirit of tolerance, compassion and encouragement of constructive dialogue and opening up to other cultures in conformity with its Arab and Islamic identity." In addition, it focuses on "building a comprehensive health care system, which matches the best international standards, enables the whole population to have access to it and benefit from its services...and establishes an educational system promoting social cohesion, respect for Qatari society's values and heritage, and calling to deal constructively with peoples of the world."

Second: Objectives of the Alliance of Civilizations

1) General Objective

Through the Alliance of Civilizations, Qatar seeks to achieve understanding among nations and peoples, establish close relations among them, and remove causes of divergence and misunderstanding. This is all done with a view to attaining the human objective of peaceful coexistence and acceptance and respect for various peoples and cultures.

2) Sub-objectives

A) Education:

- Education is to play a positive role in acquainting students with world civilizations and achieving approximation, communication and interaction with them.
- Education is to promote common human values, principles of justice, and committed mutual respect for human rights.
- Education is to support bilateral and multilateral agreements, educational initiatives, and university chairs to enhance the Alliance of Civilizations.

B) Youth:

- The youth movement is to play a constructive role in acquainting youth with world civilizations and achieving approximation, communication and interaction with them.
- The youth movement is to help raise awareness of youth with the importance of approximation among peoples and civilizations.
- The youth movement is to contribute to educating young people in common human values, as well as principles of justice and committed mutual respect for human rights.

C) Migration:

- Migration is to play a positive role in acquainting youth with world civilizations and achieving approximation, communication and interaction with them.
- Migration is to be considered an opportunity for mutual positive co-existence among diverse religious, cultural and ethnic groups.
- Migration is to be used as a means to reduce tensions between cultures, especially among religious and cultural groups.
- Migration is to allow retention of the cultural and religious identity and character of minorities in countries of residence.

D) The Media

- The media are to promote the principles of understanding, cooperation and approximation among various cultures and faiths.
- The media are to raise awareness of the obstacles to dialogue among cultures, as well as address such obstacles and seek to eliminate them.

- Traditional and modern media programs are to be designed to promote approximation of cultures.
- The media are to support productions dealing with various civilizations and faiths.

Third: Qatar's Plan for the Alliance of Civilizations

Qatar has initiated a number of initiatives to make education, youth, migration and the media serve its efforts to consolidate the Alliance of Civilizations. As has already been stated, several initiatives were launched before the inception of the Alliance of Civilizations and then consolidated after its initiation. Therefore, such initiatives have been included within this plan. The following measures are the steps taken by Qatar for the implementation of this plan.

1) Implemented programs

A) Programs related to education

Qatar has undertaken a process of comprehensive and integrated development in the various spheres of life, most importantly education. Our nation's educational system benefits from the considerable attention and support of Qatar's wise leadership who believe that the development of education and resulting outputs are the cornerstone of the comprehensive and sustainable development of the State. This commitment has enabled Qataris to compete at the world level in this era of globalization and knowledge-based economies. The development of education thus became a national duty and societal responsibility, as attested by Qatar's average annual expenditure on education of nearly QR19.7 billion in 2008.

To attain the general goals of the Alliance of Civilizations for understanding and rapprochement among peoples, there is a pressing need to create an education system that provides equal opportunities for all individuals residing in Qatar, especially since a major percentage of the population are expatriates. The ideal system will be open to various spheres of human knowledge and adaptable to changes in the contemporary world. It will also enable the establishment of an outstanding status for Qatar, making it an international hub for distinguished education. The following

main educational initiatives support the Alliance of Civilizations goals:

1) Educational development initiative

The educational development initiative entitled "Education for a New Era" is a good reflection of the level of attention given by Qatar's leadership to education on the following four major tenets: independence, accountability, diversity and selection.

Under this initiative, all educational paths, systems and structures have been developed with a view to providing excellent education that keeps pace with modern developments. It also enables learners to acquire the skills of critical thinking, self-learning and other life skills through which innovations of the current era are absorbed, problems addressed, and contributions made to the progress of our society.

The "Education for a New Era" initiative emphasizes the importance of providing educational opportunities for all members of society according to their individual preferences and abilities. It also renders education available to those with special needs and with no previous education due to special circumstances, social conditions or other issues.

This initiative also focuses on teacher professional development through training programs, including curriculum standards, teaching methods and techniques, and the use of educational technologies in teaching and learning processes. It also includes national professional standards to assist members of the teaching profession to master their content.

The initiative has also sought to match Qatari curricula with the world curricula by establishing national teaching standards in science, mathematics, Arabic and English.

2) Education City

Education City was established in 2003 and is another mechanism Qatar is using to meet the Alliance of Civilizations goals. It is comprised of branches of numerous world-renowned universities including Weill Cornell Medical College, Texas A&M University, Carnegie Mellon University, Georgetown University School of Foreign Service, Virginia Commonwealth University School of Design and Northwestern University. A highly diverse population, the Education City student body is represented by 56 nationalities throughout the world.

Part of Education City



3) Future of Qatar Program

Launched in 2002, this program is aimed at the following: exploration of other civilizations, providing students with information and knowledge on aspects of other developed countries; and helping people acquaint themselves with other cultures while sharing aspects of Qatari culture. The program is implemented on an annual basis through visits of primary school students during the summer period to various countries of the world, such as Spain, Turkey, Italy and the United Kingdom.

4) Qatar Debates Center

Created in 2008, this center is aimed at educating new generations on the value of accepting our differences, mutual co-existence, respect for the cultural characteristics and contribution of others; understanding of the value of variance, and the engagement and encouragement of youth to freely express their opinions through dialogue and debate. In 2010, the Center will host groups from 40 countries to conduct one of the world's most important international student debates.

5) Reach Out to Asia (ROTA)

Established in 2005, this foundation is working to provide high quality education in the less developed countries of Asia and the Middle East, thereby furthering some of the UN Millennium Development Goals by financing primary education and supplying equipment for schools in areas afflicted by natural catastrophes or

warfare. ROTA has raised more than US\$ 35 million through activities aimed at raising society's awareness, such as the "Feet and Wheels" initiative.

6) Educational Curricula

The general objectives of the culture of education in Qatar are based on a profound belief in man's dignity, rights, freedom and common human origin. These objectives have been translated into educational content around which revolves a set of activities directly addressing the objectives which the AOC aims to realize, including human rights, tolerance, respect of other cultures, and rejection of racial discrimination.

Qatar University, the only governmental university in the country, seeks to integrate the concepts of rapprochement among peoples and civilizations in its various educational curricula. Several courses on rapprochement among civilizations are offered, including the following: society and culture, comparative religions, globalization, Western civilization, and human rights. Aimed at introducing Arabic and Islamic civilization to students from various countries, the program of Arabic learning for non-native speakers of the Arabic language underlines the principle of communication among human civilizations. In 2007, 731 students were enrolled in this program.

B) Programs related to youth

Youth are a major component of the AOC's objectives. Within this context, Qatar is giving remarkable attention to youth age 15 to 24 which constitutes more than 20% of the Qatari population.

The youth program was very active as it provided opportunities for dialogue among young people, resulting in a genuine exchange of knowledge, experience, and constructive views and proposals. These proposals related to the active participation of youth in sporting events and conferences, building trust and a spirit of understanding among Qatari youth and their counterparts throughout the world. Young Qatari men and women therefore have become actively involved in local and international events related to the Alliance of Civilizations. Here below are the main efforts exerted by Qatar for the youth sector to support the AOC objectives:

1) Silatech Initiative

Launched in 2008, Silatech is a major initiative established by the State of Qatar to aid in achieving the mission of the UN Alliance of Civilizations to help facilitate rapprochement between different cultures and peoples. It is aimed at creating new job opportunities for young people, beginning with a focus on youth in the Middle East and North Africa. Qatar allocated US\$ 100 million to assist in building partnerships with industry to create 100,000 new job opportunities in the near future.

In June 2008, Qatar hosted the “Doha Summit – Young People and Employment in the Arab World” to promote cooperation and communication among partners in this initiative, enable aspiring young entrepreneurs to start new enterprises and break down barriers to risk taking. Silatech announced during the summit its strategy for the next five years. A second Doha Summit is scheduled for June 2009.

2 Youth Hostels

Qatar joined the International Youth Hostel Federation in 1986. Each year Qatar’s hostels receive a number of youth from various countries who visit and share ideas and experiences with young Qataris.

3) Global Sports Fund (GSF) to Protect from Drugs and Crimes

This fund was set up in 2005 by an agreement between the UN Office on Drugs and Crime and the Qatar National Olympic Committee. It is aimed at supporting the efforts of organizations all over the world to use sports to help prevent juvenile delinquency, criminal behavior, and drug abuse among youth. The GSF offers grants to NGOs for projects in these areas and is funding a new project entitled OCOSO (New Horizon) through a South African NGO that supports youth development in Zimbabwe and South Africa by working with schools and civil society organizations. About 4,500 young people from Cape Town and Harare are collaborating on this project.

4) Qatari-European Youth Week

In 2007, Qatar hosted a group of European university students from several countries to exchange ideas and build relationships with Qatari youth.

5) World Youth Gathering in Qatar in December 2008

Qatar hosted this gathering to reconcile views and coordinate youth policies. Eighty young people representing 50 countries participated in the event.

6)The Deaf Sign Language Program

Qatar implemented this program in 2008 to promote the usage of sign language among deaf young people and their families through publications and the internet.

7)Third Conference of “Muslim Leaders of Tomorrow”

Through the Doha International Center for Interfaith Dialogue, Qatar provided support to this conference in early 2009. The event brought nearly 300 young professional Muslims from around the world to Doha to network with each other, build relationships and begin a dialogue on the critical issues of the day. The conference was coordinated by the US-based American Society for Muslim Advancement and the Cordoba Initiative.

8) Tomorrow's Journey

Qatar has organized this program since 2004 with a view to forming friendships and dialogue between young people from Qatar and the West. It has involved groups of young Qataris visiting Britain, Canada and the United States to meet and share experiences with their counterparts.

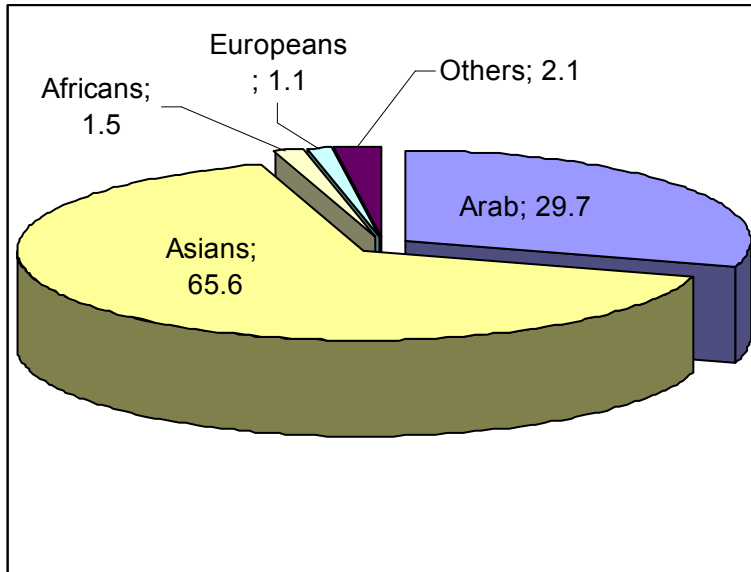
C)Programs related to migration

International migration presents a major opportunity to create a genuine and constructive dialogue among cultures, religions, nationalities and ethnicities. The presence of such diverse groups in a country is the best experimental framework to lay a foundation for rapprochement, and this is the case in Qatar. The facilities provided by Qatar for expatriates have helped it to rank first among GCC countries and fifth among the 10 most attractive destinations in the world for immigrants, according to an opinion survey of over 31,574 individuals from 27 countries conducted in 2008 by the Manpower Middle East Company.

Each year Qatar receives large numbers of immigrants of various levels of experience and specialization to meet the needs of its ambitious development plans. Expatriates constituted four-fifths of Qatar's 1.5 million population in 2008. Immigrants arrive from multiple countries and coexist despite their different religions,

cultures and lifestyles. Qatar's experience has demonstrated that the high proportion of expatriates and great diversity of nationalities, religions and cultures do not impede positive coexistence. Qatari society is currently a model for harmonious life among peoples who do not share the same beliefs, cultures and lifestyles.

Ethnic Diversity in Qatar in 2008



One reason that coexistence is successful is because Qatar encourages and supports meetings among representatives of the various religions and intellectual elites at conferences and seminars, enabling a dialogue to address issues that might otherwise cause tension. Qatar also establishes and/or participates in international organizations concerned with rapprochement of civilizations. The following are the primary organizations and events in this realm:

1) Doha International Center for Interfaith Dialogue

Qatar established this center in 2008. It is aimed at conducting constructive dialogue among followers of different religions to enable a better understanding of religious principles and teachings and to encourage mutual respect and recognition of differences. The Center has a consultative council comprised of seven members from countries representing the three divine religions.

2) Doha Interfaith Dialogue Conference

This conference has been organized by Qatar each year since 2003. Its objectives are to realize common parameters, harmonious cooperation, and a genuine desire to lay the foundations of world peace. The latest conference occurred on 6 May 2008 with the gathering of about 200 participants representing the main faiths in the world. The first four conferences focused on religion's role in civilization building and personal development, while the theme of the fifth conference emphasized "Spiritual Values and World Peace." The theme of the sixth conference dealt with "Religious Values between Making Peace and Respect for Life," stressing that human values such as equality, human dignity, religious freedom, tolerance and respect for the sanctity of life should be practiced and taught, and that young people's interests and contribution in this respect should be encouraged.

A scene from a session of the Doha Interfaith Conference



3) US-Islamic World Forum

Qatar, in cooperation with the Brookings Institution, has convened this forum each year since 2004. It is aimed at establishing new relationships between the Islamic world and the United States, altering negative attitudes about one another, discussing international issues of common interest, and demonstrating to the world that responsible and concerned individuals from both sides can easily come together in dialogue.

The forum convened its sixth session early in 2009 under the theme "Common Challenges" in the presence of 250 thought leaders in politics, religion, science, the arts, and other fields.

4) Building houses of worship

In accordance with its Constitution, Qatar allows followers of various faiths the freedom to build houses of worship on its land and has provided them with the needed support. Several such centers of worship have been opened, the most recent being a Catholic church in Msameer just outside Doha in March 2008. The State of Qatar donated the land for the church.

5) Freedom of financial remittances

There are no restrictions whatsoever on financial remittances by expatriates to their home countries. Such remittances support the development of the expatriates' original communities, mitigating poverty there as well as assuring opportunities for education and a dignified life for their families. Remittances in 2007 totaled about US\$ 5.1 billion, about 2.7 times the level in 2002 when they totaled US\$ 1.9 billion. The total remittances in the past six years exceeded US\$ 20.3 billion. Hence, remittances by expatriates in Qatar constituted about 2.2% of the total international remittances of US\$ 240 billion for the year 2007.

6) Institutions concerned with the protection of immigrants' rights

Several government and private institutions in Qatar are engaged in the protection of immigrants' rights. These include the Ministry of Labor, the National Human Rights Committee, the Interior Ministry Human Rights Department, the Qatari Foundation to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings, and the Qatari Foundation to Protect Children and Women. There are also various civil society organizations that play an active role in the provision of direct and indirect humanitarian aid and services for foreign workers and their relatives in Qatar.

7) Accession to the International Organization for Migration

Qatar joined the International Organization for Migration in December 2008 as an observer, seeking to encourage organized humanitarian migration, promote migration-related issues, enhance social and economic development through migration, and realize

genuine respect for human dignity and the well-being of expatriates.

8) Qatar's support for Arab expatriates abroad

Qatari efforts to promote positive coexistence among cultures extend to the support of Arab expatriates living abroad. Several initiatives have been taken in this respect, especially with regard to helping expatriates to maintain their Arab identity while overseas. This has been manifested by the establishment of a sustainable partnership among expatriate Arab scholars. The First Conference for Expatriate Arab Scholars was convened at Qatar Science and Technology Park, a member of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development.

The purpose of setting up a league for expatriate Arab scholars abroad is to utilize their expertise to promote knowledge, innovation and research. This will also allow Qatar to build a database of expatriate Arab scholars. Both directly and indirectly, Qatar supports activities conducted by Arab expatriate organizations all over the world by financing institutions concerned with education and cultural issues, enabling new Arab generations to preserve our culture and maintain the language of their fathers and ancestors.

D) Programs related to the media

Media projects are a major pillar in the work of the Alliance of Civilizations due to the media's role in conveying information to the public about ethnic groups, cultural values and religious beliefs. Because the media is a powerful influence in our lives, it is critical that the portrayals and images they present are accurate and do not reinforce negative stereotypes. The following are the major media initiatives taken by Qatar to enhance the Alliance of Civilizations:

1) Alliance of Civilizations Media Fund

In cooperation with the Alliance of Civilizations, Qatar helped establish this fund at the First Forum on the Alliance of Civilizations in Madrid in early 2008. This fund aims to establish a relationship of coordination, cooperation and mutual support among the private media, the United Nations, and international stakeholders who are advocates of tolerance and peaceful coexistence. The fund places special emphasis on the use of TV drama and films because of the influence of television and cinema

on individual awareness and consciousness. It also emphasizes the use of video clips on YouTube and through Google, and promotes well-known Arab books and other materials which address Alliance of Civilizations issues.

2) Doha Center for Media Freedom

Established in December 2007, the Doha Center for Media Freedom signed a protocol of understanding with Reporters Without Borders in January 2008. The Center aims to provide support for journalists, irrespective of their race, civilization or viewpoint, by highlighting their causes, defending their rights, and providing them and their organizations with financial and moral support whenever they are exposed to oppression.

The Center also promotes the rights of journalists on an international scale, enhancing media freedom as a general principle. It constitutes a meeting ground for exchanging views in a frank open dialogue, broadening horizons among peoples, and bridging communities and regions of the world, especially those where relationships are characterized by tension and where ignorance, poverty or conflict prevails.

3) “Toward a Responsible Media” campaign

This campaign was launched in November 2008 at the end of the Forum on ‘Satellite Channels: Value and Ethics Challenges Facing GCC Youth.’ Its intent is to protect youth from intellectual pollutants and materials that subvert values and morals transmitted through certain media and satellite channels.

The campaign has made remarkable strides towards achieving the objectives stipulated by the Alliance of Civilizations. This includes promoting the ethical responsibility of the media; disseminating media culture; training in media curricula to promote media literacy; achieving optimum utilization of the media to maintain self identity and culture; undertaking the task of integrating youth into the media industry, and promoting production in domains that bring people closer together.

H.H. Sheikha Mozah addressing the participants at the Forum on ‘Satellite Channels: Value and Ethics Challenges Facing GCC Youth’



4) Al Jazeera Satellite Network

Al Jazeera was launched in 1996 with the aim of promoting an individual's right to knowledge and the values of tolerance, democracy, and respect for freedom and human rights. In addition to the Arabic channel, the most important channels in the network are Al Jazeera English (launched in 2006) and Al Jazeera Documentary (launched in 2007). The English channel actively seeks to bridge the gap among civilizations and rectify the prevalent stereotypical images of the Middle East and Arabs. The documentary channel transmits critical messages through films and programs to demonstrate that our world is abundant with cultural learning experiences.

5) Al Jazeera Center for Studies

This center was founded in 2005 and included objectives of the Alliance of Civilizations among its goals. Its mission and priorities of research and intellectual activities include holding seminars and conferences to exchange ideas and experiences with other cultures and to learn about development projects undertaken by various nations and peoples. Events that have been conducted to date include the "Conference on Islam and the West: Towards a

Better World" (2006), the "Conference on Science, Culture and Future of Man" (2008), and the "Orient Forum for Rapprochement among Arab, Turkish and Iranian Nations" (2008).

6) Al Jazeera Media Forum

This forum has been convened annually since 2005. It brings together media professionals from organizations throughout the world with the aim of discussing issues of universality and common concern.

A scene from the Third Al Jazeera Media Forum



7) Al Jazeera International Festival for Documentary Films

This festival has been held annually since 2005 and presents documentary films that reflect a multitude of cultures and viewpoints. The goal is to create a climate of understanding and rapprochement among peoples of diverging interests and beliefs.

8) Doha Debates

The Doha Debates were launched in 2006 as a program of Qatar Foundation and are conducted on a monthly basis during the academic year. The objective is to discuss world issues with transparency and to demonstrate the principle of free and open democratic voting. After taping with a live audience in Qatar, the programs are broadcast on BBC World and watched by audiences around the world.

9) World Media Conferences

Through various government and private institutions, Qatar has convened a number of international conferences addressing media issues and their relationships to freedom, accountability, and the promotion of negative and/or stereotypical images of certain peoples, races, nationalities and faiths. Conferences have included the Symposium on International Human Law and the Media (2007), and the Symposium on the Media and Armed Conflicts (2007). Both were undertaken with the intent of promoting a culture of dialogue, tolerance and informational ethics.

2) On-going programs

A) On-going programs (Education)

1) “Education Above All”

Qatar established this initiative in December 2008 to protect, support and promote a child’s right to an education in areas of the world threatened with crises, conflict and war. The initiative seeks to fulfill its objectives by conducting studies and research; holding seminars, forums and conferences; launching multimedia programs to disseminate and enhance knowledge; raise individual, societal and international awareness of dangers emerging from crises, conflict and warfare; reflecting on the right to education and international peace and development; monitoring, investigating, documenting and collecting evidence of deliberate attacks or assaults on educational institutions; and developing an international legal mechanism to defend the right to education, protect it from violations and proceed against the perpetrators.

B) On-going programs (Youth)

1) The Heir Apparent International Award for Youth

The conditions of this international award have been approved by the Qatar Council of Ministers and a council of trustees is expected soon. The objective of the award is to encourage young people to conduct outreach to the international community through development services and activities.

2) International Games Tournament (Doha Gymnasiade)

Qatar is scheduled to host the 1st International Games Tournament (Doha Gymnasiade). Youth throughout the world will

compete on the basis of sportsmanship values and principles and, concurrently, will benefit from opportunities to build relationships and deepen cultural contacts. About 4,500 students aged 14-17 are expected to participate in this tournament.

C) On-going programs (Migration)

1) Doha Conference on Population

Qatar will organize and host a Conference on Population in the Arab world during in May 2009. In addition to Arab countries, Asian and South American countries and international organizations will participate. The conference will address various population issues including the rapprochement among peoples of the world and issues that impede their development.

2) The 7th Doha Interfaith Dialogue Conference

Qatar will host the 7th Interfaith Dialogue Conference in 2009. The conference will discuss the recommendations of the 6th conference, especially those set by the working groups on education, peace-building, cooperation and understanding among civilizations.

3) Legislation

Qatar seeks to enact laws to protect specific groups such as domestic workers to help reduce violations against them and end the illegal exploitation of workers. The goal is to ensure a dignified life for these vulnerable groups in conformity with international conventions endorsed by Qatar and supported by legislation derived from the teachings of Islam, which call for justice, equality and respect of others' rights, especially those most fragile members of society.

4) Building houses of worships

The Qatari authorities have given permission to build five churches within the complex adjacent to the present Catholic Church on the outskirts of Doha, namely the Egyptian Coptic Church, Anglican Church, Protestant Church and Orthodox Church to serve 100,000 Christians of Philippine, Indian, Lebanese and other nationalities.

D) On-going programs (media)

1) Tribeca Film Festival

As part of Qatar's efforts to develop its own film industry, in 2008 it entered into a partnership with the non-profit Tribeca Film Festival to organize a Tribeca Film Festival Doha. The original Tribeca festival takes place annually in New York and was established in the aftermath of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. Like the original, the Doha festival will use films as a means of cultural diplomacy to encourage dialogue, as well as to inspire and train the first generation of Qatari film makers.

The Doha festival will occur in November 2009 with screenings of about 40 films produced by emerging and existing filmmakers. It will bring a special focus to films reflecting Qatari and Arab culture. Festival activities will include a series of workshops and sessions to train beginners in the film making industry, as well as a special program of the Doha Debates.

Fourth: Prospects

Because Qatar hosts more than one million foreign residents, it is well aware of the importance of positive coexistence between cultures and religions. This coexistence is what Qatar seeks to achieve through the establishment of a tight-knit society based on justice, compassion and equality, as stipulated by Qatar's Constitution, its National Vision 2030 and its Population Policy. Moving forward, Qatar will maintain its commitment to seek rapprochement and the peaceful alliance of civilizations through all available means and mechanisms. The activities of the past few years have proved that success is possible.

The educational system in Qatar plays an important role in providing opportunity to all individuals in an educational context and equipping them, without discrimination and on equal footing, with knowledge and skills. When Chatham House awarded H.H. Sheikha Mozah the Prize of the British Royal Institute of International Affairs for her efforts in the advancement of education and her promotion of a dialogue between Islam and the West, it was indirectly recognizing the role of Qatar in advancing the educational goals of the Alliance of Civilizations.

In regard to youth, Qatar clearly plays a leading role in helping to make possible an exchange of ideas between Arab youth

and young people in the West and the promotion of greater understanding between them. Qatar will continue its efforts in these areas to help engage youth to play a role in realizing the principles of the Alliance of Civilizations.

With respect to migration, Qatari society's future view is based on respect for other cultures, positive coexistence, a strong national culture, and faith in Islam. Our strength lies in maintaining social and cultural equilibrium, particularly in light of the fact that a large percentage of Qatar's population belongs to different cultures and religions.

With regard to the media, Qatar's future view is based on ensuring freedom of expression for all, without prejudice to religions and symbols. Qatar will also preserve its own proud cultural heritage and will engage the media to help bring various cultures and faiths closer together.

Indeed, Qatar's success in achieving the objectives of the Alliance of Civilizations has been through the context of education, youth, migration and media projects that promote the coexistence of cultures and faiths, as well as peaceful interaction between Qatari society and the world.

Hence, Qatar plays a leading and positive role in the Alliance of Civilizations by helping to reduce cross-cultural tensions through the promotion of understanding and dialogue.

These prospects are based on the following values, tenets and principles:

- A recognition of other cultures and faiths, without discriminating against them or judging them inferior. This is the main basis for addressing the issue of rapprochement and positive coexistence among religions and cultures.
- Institutional and legislative recognition by Qatar of the multiplicity of cultures and faiths and the freedom to practice those faiths, such as building houses of worship for non-Muslims.
- Official attention to cultural and religious projects for other cultures and religions.
- Permission to Asian and European communities to establish their own schools and institutes with government support, e.g. supporting 30% of the cost of building private schools for foreign communities.

- Multiplicity of educational curricula that takes into consideration a variety of cultures and leads to a sharing of knowledge and an appreciation of our differences.
- Opening up of Qatar's labor market to all foreign categories of peoples, thus providing a suitable environment for cultural contacts and interaction.
- Adoption of a flexible policy in the management and flow of the foreign workforce.
- Facilitation of access for foreign workers to all vital services, reducing exclusion and marginalization of foreigners.
- Recognition of the national days and seasons of expatriate communities.
- Empowering individuals to deal with the new world order based on a knowledge-based society that is characterized by competitiveness, and creating an understanding of globalization by utilizing the media to education through various media programs and projects in Qatar.

Fifth: Summary of the Main Items of Qatar's Plan for the Alliance of Civilizations

Theme	Initiative	Time Framework
Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Educational development 2) Education City 3) Qatar's Future Program 4) Qatar Debates Center 5) Reach Out to Asia 6) Arabic for Non-Native Speakers of Arabic 7) Education Above All 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> continuous 2004-continuous 2008-continuous 2005-continuous 2005-continuous 2000-continuous 2009-continuous
Youth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Silatech Initiative 2) World Sports Fund for Protection from Drugs and Crime 3) Tomorrow's Journey 4) Sign Language for the Deaf Program 5) Qatari-European Youth Week 6) World Youth Gathering in Qatar 7) 3rd Conference of Muslim Leaders of Tomorrow 8) Heir Apparent World Youth Award 9) International Games Tournament (Doha Gymnasiade) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2008-continuous 2005-continuous 2004-continuous 2008-continuous 2007-continuous 2007 2009 2009-continuous 2009
Migration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Doha Intl. Center for Interfaith Dialogue 2) Doha Interfaith Conference 3) US-Islamic Forum 4) Building houses of worship 5) Doha Conference on Population 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2008-continuous 2003-continuous 2004-continuous 2008-continuous 2009
The Media	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Alliance of Civilizations Media Fund 2) Doha Center for Media Freedom 3) Al Jazeera International Festival for Documentary Films 4) Doha Debates 5) "Towards Responsible Media" Campaign 6) Tribeca Film Festival Doha 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2008-continuous 2007-continuous 2005-continuous 2006-continuous 2008-continuous 2009-continuous