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**Annual report of the United Nations High Commissioner for
Human Rights and reports of the Office of the
High Commissioner and the Secretary-General**

Written statement* submitted by Organisation internationale pour les pays les moins avancés (OIPMA), a non- governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[01 February 2020]

* Issued as received, in the language(s) of submission only.

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Follow-up on the implementation of Security Council and Human Rights Council resolutions on preventing and suppressing the financing of terrorism: The case of Yemen

In its report on the negative effects of terrorism on the enjoyment of human rights, A / HRC / AC / 21 / CRP.2, dated July 23, 2018, the UN Human Rights Council Advisory Committee requested the Council to “apply severe penalties not only to individuals and organizations involved in terrorism, but also to who are involved in preparation and planning.”

Resolution 2462 in 2019 of the Security Council of the United Nations also stressed that the primary responsibility in combating terrorist acts rests with Member States, and also reaffirmed the commitment of states to prevent and suppress the financing of terrorist acts, and reminded all states of their obligation to ensure that any person involved in financing terrorist acts is provided or Plan, prepare, commit or support, to justice.

The Resolution emphasized what was decided in his previous decisions that all Member States should prevent and suppress the financing of terrorist acts, and refrain from providing any form of support, whether explicit or implicit, to entities or persons involved in terrorist acts, including the suppression of the recruitment of individuals to join Ranks of terrorist groups and halts arms supplies to terrorists; and stresses the necessity for all Member States to criminalize the provision or deliberate collection of funds by their nationals, by whatever means, directly or indirectly, with the intent that these funds be used for terrorist acts, or knowing that it will be used for terrorist acts.

The Resolution called on Member States to "increase the effectiveness of the investigation and prosecution of terrorist financing cases, and to apply effective, proportionate and dissuasive criminal penalties, as appropriate, to individuals and entities convicted of involvement in terrorist financing activities; and reiterated his call on Member States to prevent terrorists from directly or indirectly benefiting from terrorism." Direct from paying the ransom or from political concessions."

Evidence shows that financing of terrorism, particularly groups such as the Al-Nusra Front and Ahrar al-Sham in Syria and other groups in Africa, by certain States, is on the increase and hindering Member States' commitment in implementing resolutions of the United Nations Security and Human Rights Councils.

Several reports document Qatar as a major offender. One of which is that released in March 2014 by the United States of America (US) Undersecretary of State for Terrorism and Financial Intelligence. The reported stated that "private funding networks in the State of Qatar are increasingly relying on social media to obtain donations for terrorists and communicate with donors and extremists alike ...," adding also that the "State of Qatar has become a permissible terrorist financing environment." The US Treasury Department's response was to designate certain Qatari residents and citizens as terrorists for engaging in fundraising activities on behalf of Al Qaeda, Jabhat al-Nusra, ISIS, and other groups. Other terrorist-funding strategies documented by the US State Department in 2016, included kidnappings of foreign hostages and payment of ransom amounting to hundreds of millions of dollars.

President of the Belgian Parliament Counter-Terrorism Committee warned, in September 2017, that the fight against funding of extremist groups in Europe would not be complete without addressing the issue of the role of Qatar and its financing of Muslim Brotherhood-associated groups and other extremist organizations. He added that the "State of Qatar has funded Muslim Brotherhood in Europe through entities such as banks, mosques, schools, and charities." Examples include investigations in the United Kingdom of the Al Rayan Bank, the second largest bank in Qatar, suspected of involvement in money laundering and terrorist-funding activities. A documentary report in August 2019 by the French language Swiss television channel, TSR, uncovered the engagement by Qatar in funding of mosques in European countries.

The response from Qatar in the face of such pressure and to demonstrate its readiness and willingness to take action against terrorist funding and funders, has engaged in a number of

international initiatives, namely contribution of the sum of \$75 million to the United Nations Office for Counter-Terrorism; membership of the Global Forum on Combating Terrorism; amending, in 2017 and passing in September 2019, the anti-terrorism law and the anti-money laundering and terrorist financing law, respectively; and lastly, establishing anti-terrorist bodies and monitoring of activities of charities.

Today's reality, however, shows a lack of determination and ability Qatar to enforce the adopted measures and as a result the ability to effectively commit to implementing the United Nations Security Council resolutions. The consequences of this are that Qatar has become and remains, on the one hand, a safe haven for known jihadists, such as Yusuf al-Qaradawi, the spiritual leader of the Muslim Brotherhood. On the other hand, has become a permissive jurisdiction for illicit and terror finance.

According to several reports from Yemen, the funds from Qatar, serve to destabilize security through acts of chaos, violence, assassinations, which fuel conflict and crises, as has been the case with the Yemen. As a consequence, the Yemen has become the ideal battlefield on which we can see through this country the failure of Qatar in the implementation of Security Council and Human Rights Council resolutions on preventing and suppressing the financing of terrorism being severely hampered.

An unfortunate situation that has negated the successes gained in the eradication of Al-Qaida and ISIS in the South, after the 2015 – 2017 hostilities. During this period, under the umbrella of the Framework of the International Counterterrorism Coalition, the United Arab Emirates and the Southern Transitional Council with the support of the United States of America, successfully led the comprehensive counterterrorism strategy.

The activities of the Islah party (Muslim Brotherhood) in Yemen indicate the nature and level of direct or indirect funding by Qatar of the Islah Party (Muslim Brotherhood), primary proponents of extremism and terrorism. In addition, these activities have enabled the resurgence of such groups as Al-Qaida and ISIS.

Domination by the Islah Party (Muslim Brotherhood) of the Government in Yemen has facilitated the expansion and influence of terrorist groups, notably Al Qaida and ISIS, particularly in the political arena under the umbrella of the government of Yemen.

Evidence of such actions includes the arrest in March 2019 by the security of the Southern Transitional Council in Aden two leaders of the Islah Party in possession of Fifteen million dollars. These individuals made known their affiliation to the Party as well as their activities in financing terrorist cells responsible for assassinations in Aden, Taiz, Hadhramaut and Abyan .

In addition, reports from verifiable sources in December 2019, disclosed financing by Qatar, of Muslim Brotherhood training of over 300 individuals in the Ruik camp in Ma'rib Governorate, and in a known camp for terrorist groups in Taiz.

Organisation Internationale Pour Les Pays Les Moins Avancés (OIPMA), therefore, strongly urges :

- Qatar to abide by its pledges and desist from supporting and financing the Islah Party (Muslim Brotherhood) and other terrorist entities for political purposes, as such activities negatively impact the security, stability and human rights situation in Yemen.
- The UN Human Rights Council and the Security Council of the United Nations to follow up on the implementation of the resolutions aimed at combating and financing terrorism in Yemen.
- The UN Special Rapporteur on terrorism, to follow-up on whether to pursue allegations related to financing and support of terrorism in Yemen and submit her report to the UN Human Rights Council.