



HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM
ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



Civil Society Statement and Questions at VNR QATAR during HLPF 2018

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STATEMENT

Qatar's pictorial 10-Goal VNR reflects peace, prosperity and planet, but less people and participation. It boasts overcoming obstacles such as water scarcity and population growth. It mentions expatriates once (p. 18), but omits migrant workers (Goal 8).

Toward Goal 2, Qatar cites progress toward food security and self-sufficiency (p. 25), but not the degree of crucial import dependence or agricultural land investment in other countries.

Somehow, the VNR omits Goal 4 achievement in education, where Qatar ranks first in the region.

Under Goal 6, treated wastewater has reached 100%, with great declines in desalinated-water losses.

Toward Goal 7, Qatar seeks efficient energy and gas use (p. 23), but supposed diversification and renewables remain unreported.

Goal 11 is referred to as an "investment priority"; meanwhile, we still seek examples of traditional, less-consumptive measures of construction and housing.

We are told, on Goal 15, innovations include 29.8% of territory now protected from environmental harm and overhunting. Meanwhile, Qataris—notably royals—have gained notoriety for overhunting rare birds for sport in nearby countries.[\[1\]](#)

According to its VNR, Qatar provided over US\$2 billion in development assistance to countries, needy groups and refugees in 2017, showing burden sharing, at least financially.

This VNR reflects a notion of sustainable development largely portrayed as material enhancement, so we still wonder:

1. Will Qatar seek policy coherence by entering the two human rights Covenants and other conventions, and when?
2. The VNR is silent about its lawless blockade by neighboring states. How does Qatar pursue resilience, while also forward development?
3. Noting Qatar hosted the 2017 “Doha Declaration” on civil society in 2030 Agenda implementation (p. 30), could we know Qatar’s understanding of civil society?

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