STATEMENT
OF
His Excellency Ambassador Nassir bin Abdulaziz Al-Nasser
Permanent Representative of the State of Qatar to the United Nations

Before
The 62nd session of the First Committee of the United Nations General Assembly

At
The Thematic Debate on Chemical Weapons

22 October 2007/NEW YORK
Mr. President,
Distinguished audience,

May peace and God's mercy and blessings be upon you,

Let me begin my statement by expressing our appreciation to Mr. Rogelio Pfirter, Director-General of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) and all the panelists. This important occasion represents a positive step towards achieving the goal of full and complete elimination of chemical weapons. Our thanks go also to our friends in the delegation of Poland for sponsoring the draft resolution on the Convention on the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, and also to our friends in the delegation of the Netherlands for convening in the previous month, the High-level Meeting on the Tenth Anniversary of the Entry into Force of the Convention on the Prohibition of Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on their Destruction.

Distinguished audience,

In fulfilling its commitment to assume its responsibilities in performing its role in the maintenance of international peace and security, the State of Qatar signed the Convention on the Prohibition of Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on their Destruction of 1992, in February 1993 and ratified it in September 1997.

In an endeavor that reflects its interest in achieving the goals and objectives of the Convention, the State of Qatar enacted legislations to fully meet its obligations by virtue of the Convention, notably Law No. 17 of 30 July 2007 on the prohibition of chemical weapons. A National Committee on the Prohibition of Arms was also created on 4 October 2004 as a focal point for developing procedures and measures for coordination, implementation and meeting the application requirements of the Convention with the relevant government and foreign actors. The committee has been playing a major role in raising awareness and education, by organizing seminars, training sessions and workshops under the supervision of OPCW experts, including but not limited to, a regional workshop on legislation and measures related to the implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition
of Chemical Weapons, that included specialized representatives from the States of the Gulf Cooperation Council.

Underlining the continued approach of prevention from chemical weapons, several training sessions were organized on the protection against chemical weapons for troops of the armed forces and their supporting security and civilian response agencies. Because we believe in the universality of the approach adopted by the State in the same context, a special seminar on the fight against chemical terrorism was held to enhance the security readiness for the Asian Olympic Games - Doha 2006.

To stress its interest in the multilateral aspect of the implementation of the Convention, the State of Qatar hosted during the current month the Fifth Regional Meeting of National Authorities of States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, in Doha, that constituted a useful platform for sharing experience on the implementation of the provisions of the Convention.

Distinguished audience,

With regard to the declarations and inspections stipulated by the Convention, our country commission submitted its annual declaration on the facilities in accordance with Article VI of the Convention, and on the import and export of chemical materials mentioned therein. In response to those declarations, the OPCW conducted inspections in three state facilities during the previous period. The outcome of the inspections was in line with the declarations and requirements of the Convention. The organization commended the good organization, coordination and full cooperation between the inspection team, the National Committee and the authorities of the facilities.

Last but not least, the State of Qatar considers the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction, an important component of the global multilateral system to combat proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. Threats to use those weapons still constitute a source of concern. The international community needs to continue pursuing realistic efforts to curb those growing threats, create chemical-weapon-free zones, and stress the need to for the States to limit their activities, programs and technologies
to the exclusive peaceful use, and without discrimination, as provided for in the Convention. In this context, the chemical-weapon States must act to dispose of those weapons with a view to preserving the credibility of the Convention. We welcome the efforts made recently by some States in this context.

In conclusion, we assure you once again that the State of Qatar will continue to support all activities relating to the Convention which, we believe, constitutes one of the critical tools in the system of multilateral disarmament.

I thank you.