

## **Qatar**

On 17 March 1975 Qatar issued an instrument of ratification of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction and on 4 July 2001 it issued Decree No. 32/2001 on the ratification of the Convention, which thus acquired the force of law.

In addition to the national measures adopted by the State for the prevention of the proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, the Council of Ministers, on 4 October 2004, issued, in accordance with the relevant international conventions and Security Council resolution 1540 (2004), its decision No. 26 of 2004 on the establishment of a National Weapons-Ban committee.

The Committee's mandate specifically includes the following tasks: the offering of advice to competent governmental agencies on all questions pertaining to the ban on weapons of all types, including nuclear, biological and traditional weapons; the study of draft international conventions on the weapons ban and the expression of opinions on the suitability of the State's acceding thereto; the determination of the goals contained in international conventions concerning the ban on weapons of all types ratified or acceded to by the State; the proposal of the necessary legislation and measures for the implementation of such international conventions; the review of national legislation on weapons and on illegal trade therein and the proposal of means for the further development and amendment of that legislation; the preparation of reports on the weapons ban which are to be submitted by the State to international bodies; and the carrying out of the necessary consciousness-raising programmes regarding the purport of the international conventions on the weapons ban;

The National Weapons-Ban Committee is currently studying national legislation on the implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction to prohibit natural and artificial persons from developing or producing chemical weapons or obtaining them in any other manner; stockpiling, possessing, acquiring or preserving such weapons or transporting them, either directly or indirectly, to any place; using or attempting to use chemical weapons; carrying out any military preparations for the use of such weapons; or assisting, encouraging or abetting any person whomsoever in any manner whatsoever in carrying out any activity proscribed, under the Convention, for States parties. The draft legislation also provides for the infliction of penalties including imprisonment, fines or both on anyone who commits such forbidden acts, fails to provide the National Weapons-Ban Committee with requested information or intentionally provides incorrect information in connection with the implementation of the Convention.

The action taken by Qatar has been and is being taken in accordance with Qatar's international and regional commitments regarding the proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and their means of delivery in order to provide a deterrent to such activities and to prevent and combat them with all its powers and executive bodies, in accordance with international law, the Charter of the United Nations and Security Council resolution 1540 (2004), with a view to the preservation of international peace and security.