

اللجنة الدائمة للسكان  
Permanent Population Committee



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*For better life*

# SUKKAN

Population Newsletter

Issue No. (38), Rabi Al Thani 1439 – December 2017

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## Permanent Population Committee

A national body that endeavors to achieve harmonization between population requirements and sustainable development, based on Islamic principles, the values of Qatari society, the constitution and the State's political orientations and national vision, in line with the Millennium Development Goals in the State of Qatar and the population strategy of GCC countries and other regional and international authorities.

## Sukkan Bulletin

It is an electronic bulletin published by the Permanent Population Committee in the State of Qatar. It seeks to spread population culture and publicize the activities of the Permanent Population Committee, particularly with regard to population policy.

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Permanent Population Committee  
Sukkan Newsletter Issue No. (38),  
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## Editorial

In line with Qatar National Day celebrations, I am pleased to present this new edition of “Sukkan” Bulletin, which is dedicated to the topics of the new population policy 2017-2022 which is launched at this year’s Qatar Population Day.

The first topic deals with the general framework of the new population policy. It covers the challenges facing the population growth of Qatari and non-Qatari population. It examines the Demographic imbalances represented by the low proportion of Qataris among the total population and the high proportion of males and other issues, etc. It also addresses the benchmarks of Population Policy and the general principles on which it is based, to conclude a review of the goals, objectives and procedures of the new Program of Action.

The second topic, reviews the proceedings of the Qatar Population Day held in Doha on 31/10/2017 under the patronage of His Excellency the Minister of Development Planning and Statistics, under the slogan “Towards Effective Implementation of the Population Policy of Qatar 2017-2022.” During the event, H.E. Dr. Issa Bin

Saad Al Nuaimi, Minister of Administrative Development, Labor and Social Affairs, delivered the Guest of Honor speech, and Mr. Aser Toson, Resident Representative of the United Nations Population Fund for the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries delivered the UNFPA speech. The ceremony was attended by H.E. Ibrahim Ibrahim, Advisor to His Highness the Amir, and a number of representatives of ministries and bodies concerned with population issues.

The third topic is devoted to reviewing the main activities of the Committee and its technical Bureau during the last quarter of 2017, such as participating in a number of workshops, attending a number of training courses, participating in the 18th annual meeting of the Heads of National Councils and Committees in the Arab countries, completing “Qatar’s Population Policy Document 2017-2022”, etc.

The final topic of this issue deals with the concept “Proportion of Divorced to Marriage Contracts”, which shows changes in this ratio in the State of Qatar during the years of the Population census.



**Dr. Saleh bin Mohamed al-Nabit**  
Chairman of the Committee

## Qatar's new population policy 2017-2022: general framework, goals, objectives

The Council of Ministers approved the “Population Policy of the State of Qatar 2017-2022” at its Ordinary Meeting No. (21) of 2017 dated 31/5/2017. The policy was launched on the Qatari Population Day on October 31 of the same year. The new population policy is based on a developed general framework (\*):

### First: Rationals

Qatar faces a number of demographic challenges; namely, population dynamics (population size and growth), and the country's demographic composition:

#### ❖ Challenges associated with Qatari population:

The small size of Qatari population has been accompanied by a number of other challenges, represented by demographic phenomena imposed by the social and economic transformations witnessed and still taking place in the country. The



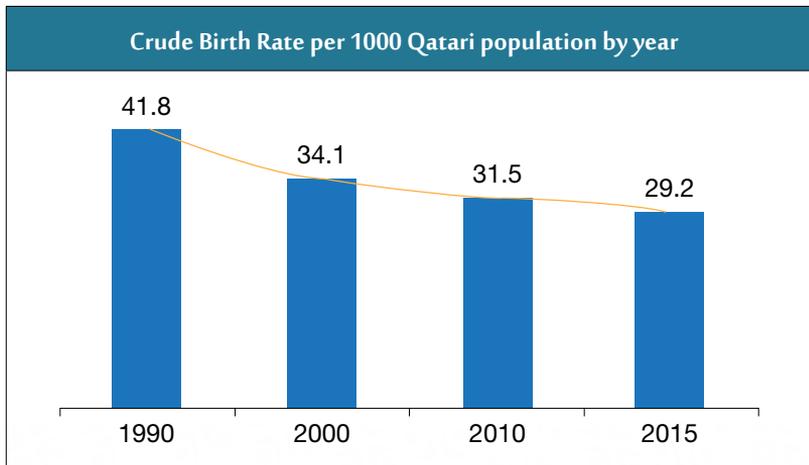
demographic challenges or phenomena that are intended here are: the decline in Crude Birth Rate, the decline in Total fertility rate, and the delayed marriage. The reasons for such phenomena are the high standard of living of Qataris, the urban lifestyle in which they live, the increasing demand of Qatari

women for education and employment, and the tendency of younger generations to build a nuclear or small family instead of the extended family.

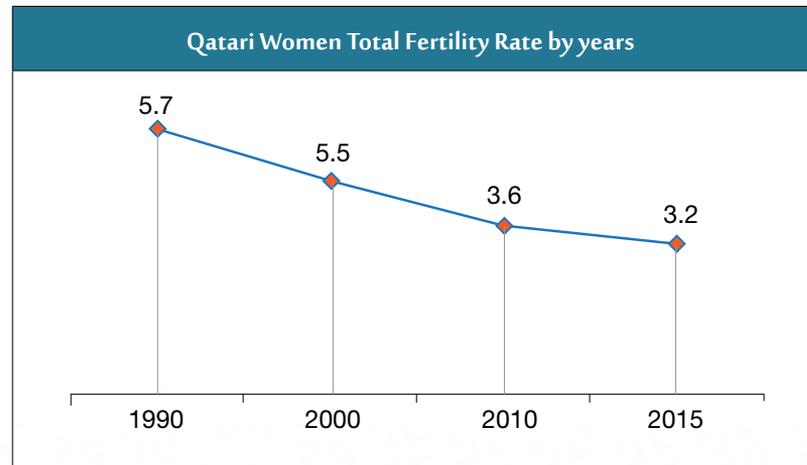
#### 1. Declining Crude Birth Rate

According to the statistics shown in the figure

(1) Ministry of Development Planning and Statistics, Population and Social Statistics, Population Chapter 2014



Source: Ministry of Development Planning and Statistics, Vital Statistics (births and deaths), different years



Source: Ministry of Development Planning and Statistics, Vital Statistics (births and deaths), different years

below, the Crude Birth Rate among Qataris decreased from 41.8 per thousand population in 1990 to 28.9 in 2014.

The decline in the Crude Birth Rate among the Qatari population is one of the challenges justifying a policy that includes a set of measures, programs and actions that would contribute to addressing such challenges and limiting their various impacts.

**2. Low Total Fertility Rate for Qatari women**

In relation to the crude birth rate, the following

diagram shows that the Total Fertility Rate for Qatari women declined from 5.7 live births in 1990 to 3.2 in 2014.

**3. Total Fertility rate of Qatari Women by year**

Such facts confirm that the legalities of community development (especially Qatari women’s education and their participation in the labor force) do not allow for significant changes in the issues of marriage, reproduction, fertility and others. Therefore, it is unlikely that there will be a significant increase in the Qatari population,

and therefore the impact on the country’s demographics will remain limited if the actions of the population policy are not implemented.

In all cases, the decisive factor in reducing the imbalance of the population structure of the State lies, first and foremost, in addressing the issues of expatriate recruitment, which will be highlighted in the following paragraph.

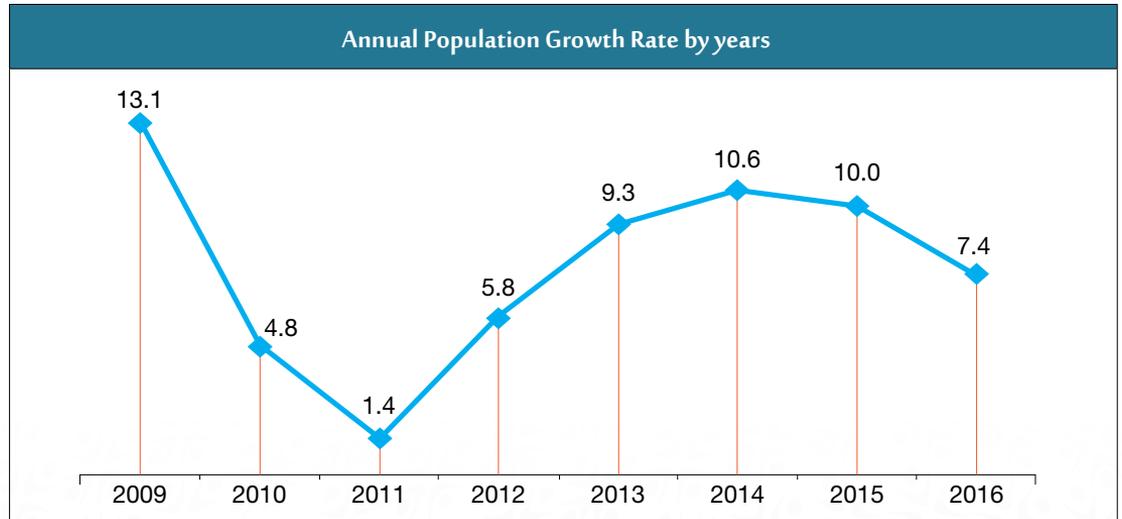
❖ **Challenges associated with non-Qatari population:**

The open recruitment to meet the needs of various development projects in recent decades and the projects of the 2022 World Cup, which has been launched in recent years, led to many changes in the demographic reality that have affected various aspects of life in the State of Qatar.

Although the recruitment of foreign workers has played a positive role in achieving the comprehensive developmental renaissance and moving the wheel of progress that Qatar have witnessed, and is still witnessing, at various levels, nevertheless the large numbers that have been brought to the country had negative impacts in all walks of life. In addition to the imbalance in population growth rates between Qataris and non-Qataris, there are other imbalances: the geographical distribution of the population, the demographic composition of the Qatari society and the structure of the labor market, as will be explained in the following paragraphs.

## 1. Increasing Population Growth Rate

Qatar has witnessed continuous changes in the size and growth of its population. Since the launch of Population Policy Program of Action, Qatar population has increased from 1,638,626<sup>(1)</sup> people in 2009 to 2,438,654 by 2015<sup>(2)</sup>, an annual increase of 8.1%. According to the latest official statistics



Source: Ministry of Development Planning and Statistics, Population Statistics, Population Chapter, 8 June 2015

- For the 2015 population growth rate, it was calculated on the basis of the mid-2015 estimates in the draft population projection report

issued by the Ministry of Development Planning and Statistics, the population reached 2,559,267 as of 31 April 2016; 1,936,536 of them are males and 622,731 are females.

Despite the ever-increasing number of population in Qatar, the Population Growth Rate is markedly fluctuating. As the figure below shows, this rate reached 13.1% in 2009, then sharply declined to

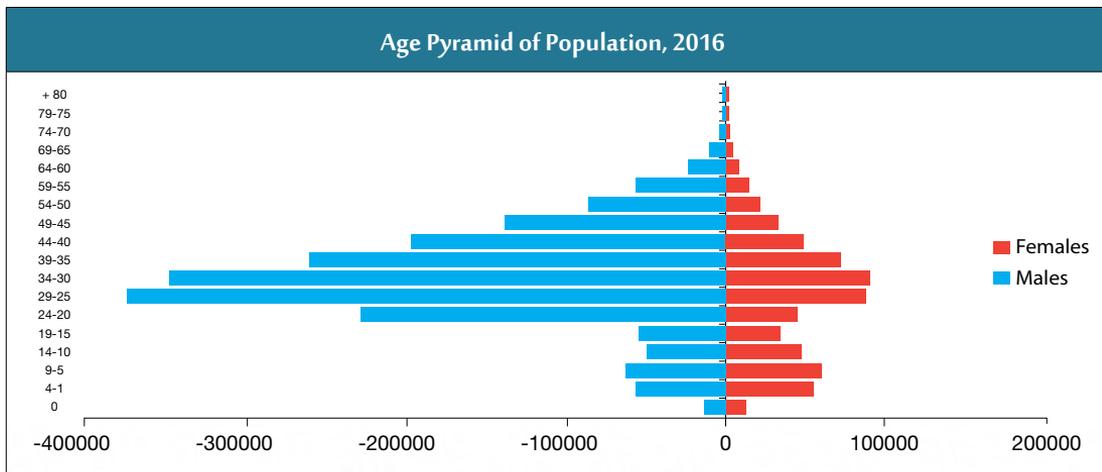
1.4% in 2011 and then rising again to 10.0% by 2015.

## 2. Population Composition Imbalance

As a result of the imbalance between the natural growth rate of Qataris (2.7%) and the of abnormal growth rate of expatriates (7.9%), the proportion of citizens to the total population in Qatar declined. This means that if these growth rates remain constant until 2022, the overwhelming majority of the country's

(1) Ministry of Development Planning and Statistics, Population and Social Statistics, Population Chapter 2014

(2) Ministry of Development Planning and Statistics, Results of the General Census of Population, Housing and Establishments, Mid-2015 Estimates (unpublished data).



Source: Ministry of Development Planning and Statistics Results of the Simplified General Census Of Population, Housing and Establishments 2015

population in that year would be non-Qatari.

As for the age composition, the age pyramid of the population in Qatar, which is derived from the results of the Simplified General Census Of Population, Housing And Establishments, shows that the relative size of the working age group (15-64 years) was about 85%, which is very high compared to that of Qatari citizens; less than 58.7%.

In the same context, there is a clear imbalance in the gender ratio of about 309, which means that there for every 100 females there are about 309 males, which is very high and more than three times higher than that of the Qatari population.

In addition to these imbalances in the age and sex composition, the imbalance of the marital structure, where the proportion of single immigrants or married couples who left their

family members in their home countries is estimated at more than three quarters of the total number of expatriates.<sup>(1)</sup>

**Second: benchmarks**

The population policy in Qatar is based on the fact that human beings are the main goal of development. The strategic positions expressed in the Constitution, in the speeches and directives of the country’s political leadership, and in the various laws, legislations and programs of the state apparatus all underscore the goals of sustainable human development in improving the quality of life of the population, expanding the choices of individuals and families and enhancing their capacities. This leads to increasing their active participation in all economic, political, social, cultural and other fields.

❖ **Qatar National Vision 2030**

Qatar National Vision 2030 aims to “transform Qatar into an advanced country by 2030, capable of sustaining its own development and providing for a high standard of living for all of its people for generations to come.”The vision is based on four pillars: human, social, economic and environmental. The theme of human development is “development of all its people to enable them

(1) The statistical data on the marital status of the expatriates do not show the demographic reality in this regard. The married man answers the question about his marital status as married, although his wife does not reside with him in Qatar.

to sustain a prosperous society.” The Theme of social development is “development of a just and caring society based on high moral standards, and capable of playing a significant role in the global partnership for development“. In economic development, the theme is “development of a competitive and diversified economy capable of meeting the needs of, and securing a high standard of living for, all its people both for the present and for the future.” In environmental development, the theme is: “ management of the environment such that there is harmony between economic growth, social development and environmental protection.»

#### ❖ **Qatar National Development Strategy 2011-2016**

In implementation of the Qatar National Vision 2030 objectives, the National Development Strategy 2011-2016 was launched in March 2011. His Highness Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, the Then Heir Apparent and Chairman of the Supreme Committee overseeing the implementation of QNV at the time, in the NDS introduction, said that: “The strategy is designed to deepen our commitment to increasing the well-being of all Qatari citizens and lays out a carefully designed program for how to continue providing the best education and healthcare as well as social protection and employment opportunities in a prosperous, stable and secure society that nurtures its members and

preserves and protects family cohesion.”

Thus, the objectives of NDS are linked to that of the Population Policy, which necessitates research on how to integrate some of the goals of the two documents and some of the proposed actions to implement those objectives, noting the different approach of Population Policy and NDS and focusing on those issues that are of particular concern to the Population Policy.

In addition, the Population Policy of the State of Qatar is guided by the objectives set forth in the framework document of the GCC Population Strategy issued in 2003 and the directions and recommendations contained in some international conventions and treaties, in particular the treaties and agreements signed by the State of Qatar, such as: The Fourth World Conference on Women in the Chinese Capital Beijing 1995, the United Nations Millennium Goals 2000, the Conventions on the Rights of the Child, the Lisbon Declaration on Youth Policies and Programs 1998, the Arab Charter on Human Rights 2004, Arab Family Strategy 2005, etc. Perhaps the most important new international benchmark is the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which has been ratified by the 193 member states of the United Nations (including the State of Qatar), consisting of 17 goals.

#### **Third: Principles**

Qatar’s population policy is based on a set of principles derived from the rulings of Islamic Shari’a, Social values of Qatari society, the Constitution of the State of Qatar and the Emir’s statements on population issues.

#### ❖ **Islamic Shari’a and Social values of Qatari society**

The population policy is committed to the provisions of the Islamic Shari’a regarding the formation of the family, marriage and divorce issues, the rights and duties of both spouses and children, including the freedom to choose a partner, maintain the status of women in the family and ensure their right to education, work, ownership and free disposal of their property and other rights granted by Islam to women. Population Policy has also guided by Islamic principles in reproductive health issues, such as the right of couples to adopt decisions related to reproduction without coercion, Healthcare of pregnant women, the health of fetuses and children, spacing between pregnancies where required by women’s health and by agreement between spouses, as well as other principles governing relations within the family.

The Population Policy takes into account the values, traditions and customs prevailing in Qatari society regarding family cohesion and the protection of the rights of its members, the values of solidarity,

compassion and mutual assistance among the members of society, and the provision of various services to all, especially those who have problems or difficulties such as divorce, widowhood, disability, disease or accidents. While preserving the basic traditions of society, Population Policy changes or develops certain customs and traditions that can be a barrier to the progress and development of society, such as those that limit women's participation in social, economic and political life.

#### ❖ **Constitution**

The Constitution of the State of Qatar contains a number of articles on population issues such as family, education, health, labor and other matters which are fundamental principles of Population Policy. Article (21) of the Constitution provides that: "The family is the basis of society. A Qatari family is founded on religion, ethics and patriotism. The Law shall regulate as necessary to protect the family, support its structure, strengthen its ties and protect mothers, children and the elderly".

The Constitution affirms in a number of its articles the care and protection of young people, the care of public health, the interest in education, the care of science, literature, arts and heritage, in addition to ensuring security, stability and equality of opportunity, and the values of justice, freedom, equality, solidarity, fraternity and other noble values of society. Article

(146) provides that "Provisions pertaining to rights and public liberties may not be subject to amendment except for the purpose of granting more rights and guarantees in the interest of the citizen". Article (35) states: " All persons are equal before the Law and there shall be no discrimination whatsoever on grounds of gender, race, language or religion".

#### ❖ **Political Directives**

In addition, the Population Policy is committed to the directives of His Highness the Emir Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al-Thani on various issues related to population and development. His Highness stressed the universality of development for all economic, social, political and cultural fields, and the fact that development aims to achieve the aspirations of the political leadership in building the country and the citizen, improving people's livelihood and preserving the natural resources of the country. On more than one occasion, His Highness referred to the importance of the participation of all men and women in the development process. His Highness stressed the development of the educational and health systems and the improvement of the level of social services.

Sustainable development could not be achieved unless the citizen is allowed to participate in decision making, said HH the Father Amir at the 6th Doha Forum on Democracy, Development and Free Trade

in 2006. "Development is measured not only by numbers, but the feelings of people, their reactions and their reassurance towards their day and their future", as pointed out by His Highness in front of the same forum in 2007.

In his speech at the inauguration of the 42nd Session of the Advisory Council on 5/11/2013, His Highness Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani, Emir of Qatar, said: "The comprehensive development of our country has been, and continues to be, a major concern for us, because we believe that an integrated and balanced development is the key to establishing a modern State responsive to the needs of today, and capable of achieving to Qatar the stature that we look forward to, and to the Qatari people the decent standard of living they deserve". In his foreword in Qatar National Vision 2030, His Highness stressed the importance of preserving the balance between the environment and human beings and the importance of strong family ties, as he said: " Qatar must continue to invest in its people so that all can participate fully in economic, social and political life.»

The objective of Sustainable Development is to preserve the right of future generations to enjoy the wealth and potential of the nation. Therefore, the Population Policy should be based on this right so that the current generation does not

exhaust the natural resources of the country. It should maintain a healthy environment, build its social relations on a firm foundation and establish a culture that instills in the new generation the

values of truth, goodness, justice and fraternity, which are the fundamentals of our Islamic religion and the high values of our Arab heritage.

## Fourth: Program of Action (Goals, Objectives and Actions)

Based on all of the aforesaid points, Qatar Population Policy Program of Action 2017-2022 has been developed, which includes six themes , each of which includes the following:

Given the limited space here, we will review the goals, objectives and actions of the first Theme of the Population Policy Program of Action (\*):

Themes	Goals	Objectives	Actions	Implementing Entity	
				Main	Participant
Population and labor force	1	5	26	9	16
Urban growth, housing and environment	1	3	13	6	20
Education, training and youth	1	4	10	2	8
Public health and reproductive health	1	2	13	2	13
Women and children	1	2	5	4	10
The elderly and persons with disabilities	1	2	10	6	9
<b>Total</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>76</b>

❖ **Main objective:** to control population growth rates during the period from 2017 to 2022, leading to gradual reform of population imbalances

❖ **Sub-goals:**

1. Increase the number of citizens
2. Support knowledge economy policy
3. Reduce the Recruitment of foreign workers
4. Eliminate labor surplus force
5. Achieve a balanced distribution of workers by nationalities and professions, and reducing the

concentration of certain nationalities in some professions

❖ **Actions:**

1. Issue legislation to endorse the marriage Fund
2. Introduce dowry and wedding cost reduction in educational curricula
3. Increase the number of low-cost wedding halls
4. Establish clear criteria for granting Qatari nationality to permanent residents and those with experience and rare specialties
5. Promote actions aiming to reduce traffic accidents
6. Reduce the early retirement and rehabilitation of Qatari people to work in different fields
7. Expand Automation in various fields of

- economic activity
8. Award bids to private sector enterprises based on how their commitment to upgrade and automate their means of production
  9. Focus on recruiting and retaining experienced and specialists professionals expatriates in the knowledge economy, and reducing reliance on temporary consultants
  10. Take advantage of expatriate workers in developing and training national cadres
  11. Urge educational institutions to grant scholarships to Qataris for specialties associated with the knowledge economy
  12. Retain and benefit from existing labor force in new projects (labor force turnover), and stipulate the prioritization of recruiting existing labor force by companies that are awarded projects
  13. Ensure that all companies and enterprises comply with the rules of recruitment of foreign workers in terms of number and quality
  14. Facilitate the employment of family members of residents in Qatar
  15. Facilitate granting recruitment permits to families of residents in Qatar who are needed in the labor market
  16. Granting incentives to private sector companies to replace expatriates with citizens in suitable positions in both private and mixed sectors
  17. Create an electronic information system for recruitment management
  18. Create recruitment agencies in countries dispatching workers to verify workers' qualifications and experiences
  19. Create a national insurance fund for expatriates to contribute in addition to employers' contribution. The amount deposited therein shall be handed over to the worker at the expiry of his/her work contract.
  20. Conduct studies on illegal and domestic workers
  21. Follow up the implementation of the maximum allowed number of workers in one household and impose additional fees for exceeding the limit
  22. Increase efforts to prevent the activity of shell companies and visa trafficking
  23. Continue the study of the distribution of nationalities on various professions, and take the study results into account when approving recruitment for certain professions
  24. Allow recruitment from nationalities other than those concentrated in the mentioned professions
  25. Instruct companies to diversify labor force sources, and notify employers on the importance of such diversification for society
  26. Give priority to Arab nationalities in recruitment

## Qatar Population Day 2017: Final Report

On 31 October 2017, “Qatar Population Day 2017” was held in Doha. It was dedicated this year to publicize the new population policy under the Theme “Towards Effective Implementation of Qatar’s Population Policy 2017-2022 “. The celebration was attended by a representative of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), members of the Permanent Population Committee, representatives of ministries and bodies dealing with population and development issues, heads and members of executive groups and other representatives of civil society institutions and bodies.

The aim of the celebration was to identify the stages of the process of Population Policy Document preparation, the programs, plans and mechanisms established by the Permanent Population Committee for its implementation, and to find out the best and most effective way to translate the Population Policy Document into a practical reality supported by concerned parties, and to define the responsibilities of the working groups tasked with following up the implementation of this policy.

Dr. Saleh bin Mohammed Al Nabit; Minister of Development Planning and Statistics and Chairman of the Permanent Population



Committee, inaugurated the Qatari Population Day with a speech in which he welcomed the guests and reviewed the national efforts exerted to complete the aforementioned document and its specific measures to control the rate of high population growth and reduce the imbalance of the state’s demographics and its consequences. His Excellency said that the new Population Policy will

shape Qatar’s demographic characteristics in the light of the future challenges associated with the large and ambitious development projects being carried out all over the country, stressing the role of governmental and non-governmental agencies and institutions in effectively implementing the Program of Action contained in the Population Policy 2017-2022.

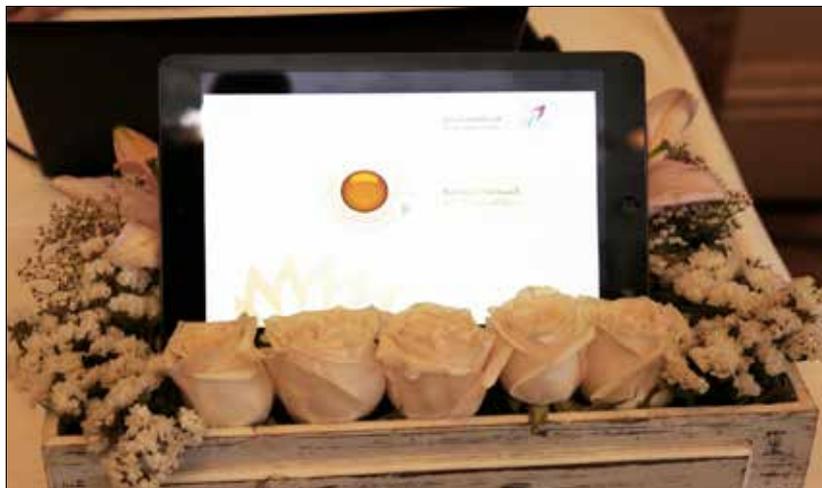


HE Dr. Issa bin Saad Al Nuaimi, Minister of Administrative Development, Labor and Social Affairs, delivered the guest's speech at the ceremony, in which he affirmed that Qatar is witnessing an important demographic turning point in the transition to a knowledge-based economy; while focusing on highly-skilled national labor force. His Excellency stressed the importance of coordinating the efforts of all

ministries, institutions and agencies in the State to ensure the success of the implementation of the Program Of Action of the new Population Policy, which aims to manage population growth and population structure while maintaining high development.

Then, this was followed by a speech by Mr. Aser Toson, resident representative of the United

Nations Population Fund's (UNFPA) sub-regional office for GCC states, in which he referred to the participatory approach adopted in preparing and approving the new population policy among all government sectors, and cooperation between the Committee and UNFPA, in particular UNFPA experts participation in the process of assessing the previous population policy and drafting the new population policy of the State.



A short film was then shown, outlining the Population Policy in terms of its main objective, its themes and goals of ensuring a better life for all who dwelled on this good land.

The Opening Session of the celebration ended with His Excellency Dr. Saleh bin Mohammed Al Nabit announcing the launch of the Program of Action of Qatar Population Policy 2017-2022.

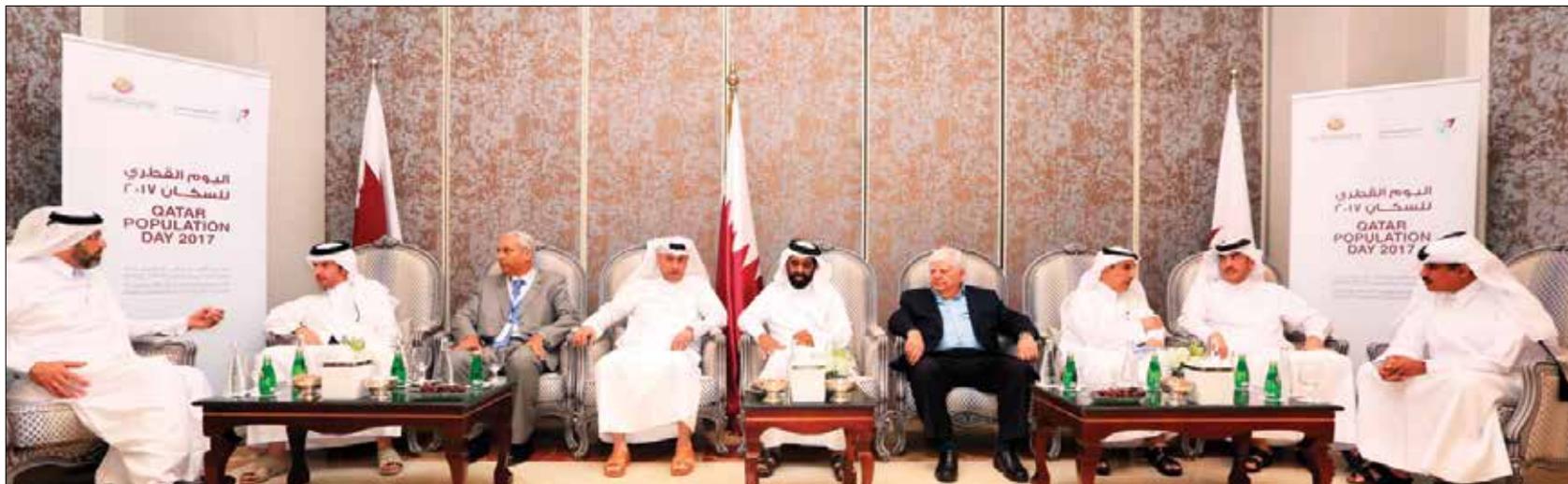
At the second session of the Qatar Population Day 2017, Mr. Sultan Al Kuwari, Vice Chairman of the Permanent Population Committee, gave a detailed presentation entitled “Population

Policy of the State of Qatar: From Preparation to Approval”, in which he outlined the stages and tools of assessing the first population policy whose Program of Action began in October 2009. Moreover, he referred to the objectives and actions of the said policy achieved in part or in full, objectives and actions that have not yet been achieved. He then presented the most important themes of the Second Population Policy (2017-2022) and its objectives, goals and actions that are consistent with the demographic changes witnessed in the country during the past years.



Mr. Sultan Al Kuwari explained that the new Population Policy includes 6 themes:

1. Population and Labor Force: The main objective of this theme is to control population growth rates during the period from 2017 to 2022, leading to gradual reform of population imbalances.
2. Urban growth, Housing and Environment: The main objective of this theme is to create and develop urban centers far from greater Doha, to provide clean urban environment and to ensure the sustainability of natural resources.



- 3. Education, Training and Youth: The main objective of this theme is to promote qualitative education and training and to expand the participation opportunities of youth of both sexes in society and public life.
- 4. Public Health and Reproductive Health: The main objective of this theme is to improve public health of the population, amelioration of the reproductive health services and its services in line with the increase of the population and its geographical distribution.

- 5. Women and Children: The main objective of this theme is to support the women community participation and provide the necessary conditions to increase their participation in labor force, while maintaining family cohesion and ensuring a healthy environment for children.
- 6. The Elderly and Persons With Disabilities: The main objective of this theme is to promote effective participation of the elderly and persons with disabilities in various community activities, enable them to integrate society and continuously improve means of their care.

This was followed by a panel discussion led by Mr. Abdul Hadi Al-Shawi, Director of the Technical Bureau of the Permanent Population Committee. Four presentations were given by representatives of the Ministry of Development Planning and Statistics, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Economy and Commerce, Ministry of Municipality and the Environment, in which each one of them indicated what his ministry was doing in implementing the Population Policy Program Of Action.

The presentation given by Mr. Mohammed Saeed Al-Mohannadi, representative of the Ministry of

Development Planning and Statistics, covered “The Population Structure in Qatar: Indicators, Implications and Solutions”. He addressed some indicators such as: the decline of the proportion of Qataris among the total population and imbalances in age structure and gender ratio, and explain the economic, security and cultural implications of such imbalances. Talking about possible solutions to address the imbalance of the population composition, he referred to: increasing the number of citizens, supporting knowledge economy policy, reducing the recruitment of foreign workers, eliminating surplus labor force, and regulating the labor market. As for addressing the implications of this imbalance, he pointed out to: preserving the cultural identity of the Qatari society, preserving the environment and rationalizing the consumption of natural resources, enhancing community security and safety, and raising the capacity of the service sectors and improving their quality.

In his presentation entitled “Knowledge Economy”, Mr. Ali Khalid Al Khulaifi, from the Ministry of Economy and Commerce, presented the concept of knowledge-based economy, its most important components and indicators, and the factors that force the State of Qatar to adopt such an economy. He covers the main results of economy diversification, the role of the private sector in this diversification, as well as

the conditions required to achieve the desired results of the economic diversification. Moreover, he indicated the priority sectors and focus areas in line with the characteristics of the State of Qatar based on capacities in different sectors. Mr. Khulaifi described the tools for building a diversified knowledge-based economy and the factors supporting the building of such economy.

Major Abdul Hadi Saad Al-Qahtani gave the Ministry of Interior’s presentation on the role of the Ministry in implementing the goals and objectives of the Population Policy. He explained the Ministry’s efforts to reduce the mortality rate among the population in general, especially young people. He showed statistical information on the declined road traffic fatalities. He talked about addressing the imbalance of the gender ration by reducing the difference in the proportion of single men by facilitating recruitment permits to families of residents needed by the labor market in cooperation with the Ministry of Labor. Furthermore, he illustrated Ministry of Interior’s efforts in the distribution of service centers, the construction of residential areas for single police officers in various places and away from the residential areas of families, the elimination of surplus labor, and the continuous review of the regulations and conditions for recruitment and other activities of the Ministry that contribute to achieving the goals of Population Policy.

The representative of the Ministry of Municipality and Environment, Mr. Turki Fahad Al Turki, gave a presentation entitled “Development and Introduction of Urban Centers outside Doha”, in which he talked about the strategic planning system and spatial plans and its role in developing urban centers of Qatar. In this context, he pointed out to QNV 2030, NDS (2011-2016), NDS (2017-2022) and Qatar National Master Plan (2032), indicating the urban centers established under this plan, especially the Urban Center in Al Rayyan Municipality. In addition, he presented Qatar map after the implementation of urban centers, and added values resulting from the implementation of such centers. He stressed the State’s keenness to ensure environmental sustainability in the implementation of the plan.

The presentations were followed by a free and broad exchange of views in which the attendees participated and demonstrated the interest in seeking the best ways to implement the Program of Action of the new Population Policy.

At the end of the ceremony, Mr. Sultan Al-Kuwari, Vice Chairman of the Permanent Population Committee, delivered a speech in which he thanked the attendees for their valuable contributions, and wished everyone a fruitful work in the effective implementation of Qatar’s Population Policy 2017-2022.

## Main Activities Of The Committee and Its Technical Bureau During The Last Quarter Of 2017

Permanent Population Committee and its Technical Bureau carried out many activities and events during the last quarter of this year (September - December 2017):

### First: PPC continues to hold its regular meetings

- ❖ **Sixth Regular Meeting:** This meeting was held at 6:00 pm on Tuesday 24 October 2017. On behalf of HE Dr. Saleh Bin Mohammed Al Nibat, Minister of Development Planning and Statistics and Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Sultan Al Kuwari, Assistant Undersecretary for Statistics in the Ministry of Development Planning and Statistics and the Vice Chairman of the Committee. At the beginning of the sixth regular meeting of the Committee, he then welcomed the attendees, he proceeded to discuss the agenda items, the most important of which: the ratification of the minutes of the Committee's fifth regular meeting, and Qatar Population Day 2017.
- ❖ **Seventh Regular Meeting:** This meeting was held at 6:00 pm on Wednesday 22 November 2017. Following the approval of the minutes of the Sixth Regular Meeting, the participants discussed several topics, namely: the general

assessment of Qatar Population Day 2017, the work plan of the PPC Technical Bureau (November 2017- October 2018), the Action program for the first phase of Population Policy follow-up, and a preliminary perception of the "Domestic Labor" study.

- ❖ **Eighth Regular Meeting:** This meeting was held at 6:00 pm on Tuesday, 26 December 2017. HE Dr. Saleh Bin Mohamed Al Nabit, Minister of Development Planning and Statistics and Chairman of the Committee, opened the Eighth Regular Meeting of the Committee, welcoming the attendees. Then, he proceeded to discuss the agenda items. Following the ratification of the minutes of the Seventh Regular Meeting of the Committee, the participants discussed several topics, the most important of which were: the 18th Annual Meeting of the Heads of National Councils and Committees of Population in the Arab countries (27-28 November 2017 in Jordan), the final list of working groups, and the first regular meeting between the Technical Bureau and heads of working groups on 24/12/2017, and the Technical Bureau participation in various local events and activities.

### Second: Technical Bureau Held its Regular Meetings

- ❖ **Eighth Regular Meeting:** The meeting was held at 9:30 am on Wednesday 11 October 2017. The meeting was opened by Mr. Abdul Hadi Al Marri, Acting Director of PPC Technical Bureau, welcoming the attendees, wishing them continued success in their work. Then he moved on to discuss the agenda items. The meeting reviewed the ongoing preparations for Qatar Population Day 2017, the coordination of a meeting with population policy working groups prior to the event, and designing, translating and printing the Population Policy document.
- ❖ **Ninth Regular Meeting:** This meeting was held at 9:30 am on Sunday, 5 November 2017. At the beginning of the meeting, the Director of the Technical Bureau Mr. Abdul Hadi Al-Shawi welcomed the attendees and expressed his thanks and appreciation to the staff of the Technical Bureau for the success of the celebration of Qatar Population Day 2017, in which the Population Policy and its new Program of Action was announced 2017-2022. Then, he moved to discuss the agenda which included, in addition to the ratification of the minutes of

the eighth meeting , a number of topics, the most important of which are: Evaluation of Qatar Population Day 2017, Stage after Population Policy Approval (Program of Action - Formation of Groups - Media Plan) and the annual work plan of the Technical Office.

❖ **Tenth Regular Meeting:** This meeting was held at 9.30 am on Monday, 11 December 2017. The meeting was opened by Mr. Abdul Hadi Al Marri, Acting Director of PPC Technical Bureau. First, he welcomed the attendees and the joining of Dr. Mostafa Kharoufi to the staff of the Technical Bureau and wished him success. He moved on to discuss the agenda items. This meeting witnessed the review and approval of the results of the ninth meeting of the Bureau, the invitation of chairmen of the groups to meet with the Technical Bureau, and the proposal of the annual work plan with the United Nations Population Fund for the implementation of the provisions of the Convention.

❖ **First Regular Meeting with Chairmen of the Working Groups:** Technical Bureau held the First Regular Meeting with the Chairmen at 9.30 pm on Sunday, 24 December 2017. At the beginning of the meeting, Mr. Sultan Al Kuwari, Assistant Undersecretary for Statistics at the Ministry of Planning and Statistics and Vice

chairman of PPC welcomed the attendees. He expressed his thanks and appreciation to the experts and partners for attending the meeting, stressing the importance and role of the working groups in implementing the 2nd phase of Qatar's Population Policy 2017-2022. Then, he moved to discuss the items of the meeting, while reviewing the responsibilities of chairmen of groups and members of teams, the achievements and challenges of the previous phase of Population Policy, and the program of action of the first phase of Population Policy (2017-2021).

## Third: Internal and External Activities of PPC

### 1. Most Important Internal Activities

- ❖ Giving a presentation on Population Policy to the students of Ahmed bin Mohammed Military College who visited the Ministry on 15 November 2017.
- ❖ Participating in the Crime Statistics Workshop organized by the Ministry of Development Planning and Statistics on 27-30 November 2017.

S	Course Name	Month & Year
1.	Meeting Organization	November 2017
2.	Archiving	November 2017
3.	Problem analysis and decision making	November 2017
4.	Budgeting skills	November 2017
5.	Quality Management and Organizational Excellence	December 2017
6.	Preparation of government letters and notes	December 2017

- ❖ Participating in the Expert Meeting on Family and Sustainable Development Goals in the Arab World organized by the Doha International Family Institute in collaboration with the United Nations Population Fund - Regional Office, 29-30 November 2017.
- ❖ Participating in the “Qatar Statistics Day” organized by the Ministry of Development Planning and Statistics on 6 December 2017.
- ❖ Participating in training courses: The staff of the PPC Technical Bureau participated in a number of training courses that were implemented in the last quarter of 2017, such as:

## 2. Most Important External Activities

- ❖ 18th Annual Meeting of the Heads of National Councils and Committees of Population in the Arab Countries (27-28 November 2017 in Jordan): HE Dr. Saleh bin Mohammed Al Nabit, Minister of Development Planning and Statistics and Chairman of the PPC, chaired the Qatari delegation that participated in the Annual Meeting Of The Heads Of National Councils And Committees of Population in the Arab Countries held during 27-28 November in Jordan. In his capacity as Chairman of the Qatari delegation, Dr. Saleh stressed the importance of this meeting



and expressed his support for Jordan’s proposal to establish a Higher Council for Population and Development within Arab League.

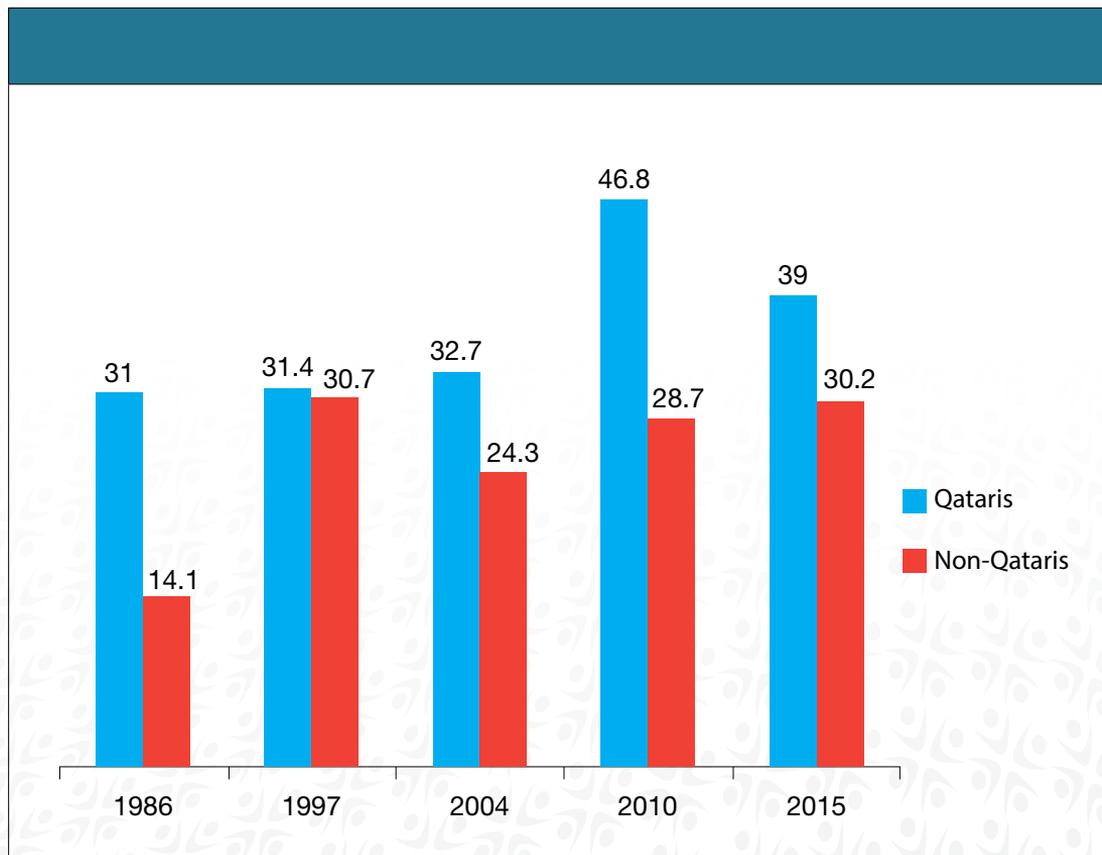
## Proportion of Divorces To Marriage Contracts

This concept reflects the percentage of divorces to marriage contracts in a given year. This ratio is calculated according to the following equation:

$$\frac{\text{Divorces in a given year}}{\text{Marriage Contracts in a given year}} \times 100$$

This concept is confusing to some interested people, who think that it reflects the proportion of those who are divorced, which is not accurate. The available statistical data do not indicate the number of divorces among those who were married in a given year, but rather the number of marriages in a given year and the number of divorces in the same year. The data also provides the number of divorces according to the length of married life (before Consummation, after one year, two years ...).

The following figure shows the change in the percentage of divorce certificates to marriage contracts in the State of Qatar during the census years:



Source: MDPS, Vital Statistics (Marriage and Divorce), selected years