

## Qatar Advances Human Rights-Based Drug Policies Through National Forum with UNODC Partnership



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Doha, Qatar – Qatar is reinforcing its human rights-based approach to drug control by hosting a national forum in collaboration with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). The forum brought together experts, government officials, and international partners, including representatives from Rahbar Kisan International (RKI), to discuss sustainable solutions for prevention, treatment, and rehabilitation. The event provided a platform for sharing best practices, exchanging innovative strategies, and strengthening collaboration between local and global stakeholders.

Mr. Mustafa Ünal Artin, Director of the UNODC Regional Center for Combating Cybercrime in Doha, highlighted the link between global crises and the rise of criminal networks. He explained that economic, social, and psychological challenges can drive individuals toward drug use. “Crises create opportunities for criminals, exploiting vulnerabilities in society. A strong social support system, family networks, and preventive measures are essential to reduce these risks,” he said.

Mr. Artin emphasized that drug challenges are not solely a criminal justice issue but also a public health concern. “A holistic approach is necessary, combining prevention, treatment, rehabilitation, and enforcement. Government entities, from law enforcement to healthcare

providers, play a crucial role in supporting citizens and reducing risks,” he noted.

The forum also addressed the emerging role of technology, including artificial intelligence, in facilitating criminal activities. Mr. Artin highlighted the UNODC-hosted Cybercrime Center in Doha as a pioneer institution within the UN system, focused on both prevention and enforcement in collaboration with Qatar and other member states.

Speaking with RKI representatives during the forum, Mr. Artin recognized the importance of international partnerships in addressing drug-related and cybercrime challenges. He also praised Qatar for becoming a hub for conferences and dialogue, fostering understanding among global stakeholders. The forum concluded with recommendations to enhance community outreach, youth engagement, and educational programs, ensuring that prevention strategies are practical, culturally relevant, and widely accessible.

The forum underlines Qatar’s ongoing commitment to a human rights-based, comprehensive strategy in combating drugs, aligning with international conventions while promoting social well-being, public safety, and collaborative global efforts.