

## QATAR

In a letter sent to the Secretariat of the World Intellectual Property Organization on February 26, 2002, the Director of the Copyright Office, Ministry of Economy and Trade of the State of Qatar submitted the following comments:

The State of Qatar has not yet enacted a law or regulations dealing specifically with the protection of traditional knowledge.

However, please note that the Qatar Copyright Law, No. 25 of 1995, in Article 39, provides for the protection of folklore matters, please find attached copies of the Article for your perusal.

### Article 39

The national folklore shall be considered part of the public domain. The State, acting through the Ministry, shall endeavor to protect the national folklore by all legal means and methods, and shall exercise the authors' rights in works of folklore to protect them against mutilation, alteration or commercial exploitation. The import and distribution of copies of works of folklore, or copies of translations of works of national folklore and similar material produced abroad, shall be prohibited unless it has been authorized by the ministry.