



Contribution by Qatar (State of)

ITU PLENIPOTENTIARY CONFERENCE (PP-26) – SAFETY AND SECURITY RISK ASSESSMENT

Purpose

This report provides a safety and security risk assessment for the ITU 2026 Plenipotentiary Conference (PP-26) from the Host Country.

Action required by the Council

The Council is invited to **consider** this document.



Risk Management Unit

18th August 2026

ITU PLENIPOTENTIARY CONFERENCE (PP-26) - SAFETY AND SECURITY RISK ASSESSMENT

Headline Assessments:

Regional Conflict: **MEDIUM**

Terrorist Threat Assessment: **LOW**

Cyber Threat assessment: **HIGH**

Overall Event Safety and Security Risk Assessment: **LOW**

This report is based on current intelligence and the continued cessation of hostilities in the region. If the situation changes then the risk assessment will be reviewed. There is currently no intelligence to suggest that regional events will impact on the event security. As the situation continues to develop, any changes to the risk assessment will be notified to the event organisers.

Executive Summary

1. The overall Safety and Security Risk Assessment for the ITU PP-26 Conference is assessed as **LOW**. The ongoing cessation of hostilities between the USA and Iran has seen tensions ease across the region, with the exception of the impasse regarding the Straits of Hormuz. The situation in Qatar has remained stable throughout the conflict, with life continuing as normal. The only disruption has been to LNG exports and a brief temporary closure of the airspace.

Background

2. The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Plenipotentiary Conference (PP-26) will be held at the Doha Exhibition and Convention Centre (DECC) from 9th – 27th November 2026, with a Council meeting being held beforehand on 7th November. The host for the Conference will be the Communications Regulatory Authority (CRA) of Qatar. The DECC is frequently used for high profile events; detailed security reviews are conducted routinely and security procedures for the venue are well established.

Aim

3. The aim of this report is to assess the risks associated with the hosting, planning and delivery of the event. The report summarises an extensive safety and security risk assessment based on the current security situation, previous major events held in Qatar and similar events held globally. The table at the end of the document provides answers to specific questions raised by the event organisers.

Risk Management

4. The Risk Management Unit will remain engaged with the event organisers throughout the planning and delivery of the event, providing updates to the threats and risks as necessary. Each risk will be constantly re-evaluated to ensure that the security plans are satisfactory. The primary focus is on the safety and security of the event's participants.

Key Issues

5. **Geopolitical.** Since the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding on 17th June, the war between the USA and Iran has entered into an uneasy period of a cessation of hostilities between the two parties. With the exception of a few sporadic attacks, the war has mainly been conducted through the media with threats and appeasement providing a constant background noise that gives the impression of a very different security situation from the one that exists in reality. From Qatar's perspective the geopolitical security situation is assessed as **MEDIUM**.

6. **Regional Conflict.** Direct attacks against specific targets within Qatar ceased on 1st April. Almost all of the attacks were directed towards US military facilities, with the one exception of an attack against the gas facilities at Ras Laffan on 18th March. No civilian areas have been targeted. At present the focus of the conflict is on the ongoing impasse over the Straits of Hormuz, with shipping still being disrupted. Military operations in the vicinity of the Straits have no direct impact on the security situation in Qatar. The risk to Qatar's security from the current military operations is assessed as **LOW**.

7. **Air Space Management.** As a result of military operations beginning on 28th February, Qatar's airspace was temporarily closed. The Qatar Civil Aviation Authority (QCAA) reopened the airspace on 7th March under limited emergency conditions, with normal commercial flights recommencing on 21st April 2026¹. The tempo of flight operations has increased steadily as the demand for international travel has increased: as a commercial entity, the number of flights being provided by Qatar Airways is demand led. The European Union Aviation Safety Agency has classified the whole region as "exercise caution". Confidence in the security situation in Qatar is best reflected by British Airways' decision to

¹ Flights to Iran, Bahrain and Kuwait were temporarily suspended. Flights to Bahrain (BAH, Erbil (EBL), and Kuwait (KWI) were resumed on 8 August 226.

recommence flights from 1st September; Hamad International Airport will be the first Gulf destination to be reopened by British Airways. The disruption to Qatar's airspace is currently assessed as **LOW**.

8. Cyber. The risk from cyber-attack has become a feature of everyday life. Qatar takes the risk seriously, which has enabled it to host several international events without any significant disruption. Global events such as the ITU PP-26 attract attention from a host of different kinds of individual and organisations, increasing the likelihood of criminal activity. Due to the purpose and profile of the event, the cyber risk is assessed as **HIGH**.

9. Qatar's Internal Security Situation. The security situation inside Qatar is stable. During the initial period of hostilities the State took several sensible precautions while the situation was being assessed. State employees were directed to work from home and schools were temporarily closed, with teaching being done online. Complete normality across the country was restored by 12th April. Since then there have been no changes to the living and working conditions in Qatar. According to Numbeo's Safety Index², Qatar is now rated as the third safest country in the world. Qatar's internal security risks are assessed as **LOW**.

² 2026 Mid-Year report. At the beginning of 2026 Qatar was rated the second safest country in the world.