

Concluding Remarks by Dr. Ahmed Naji
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Excellencies Ministers and Chief Delegates
Distinguished Guests
Ladies & Gentlemen

No doubt that the most difficult moments are those preceding farewell. However, such emotional feelings may be alleviated if we separate after having exchanged views, conducting a very transparent dialogue and developing the baseline for a joint action to achieve a very significant part of the Health Millennium Development Goals adopted by the United Nations and committed by the world leaders.

As you are aware, health is the road to broader horizons of development. Investment in health is the driving force. Healthy individuals are those persons who are capable of commanding knowledge, practicing productive work, contributing in building the present and exploring the future. But, unfortunately the challenges posed by the non communicable diseases are obstacles impeding development efforts and obstructing any attempt to achieve goals and abide by commitments.

Your meeting here in Doha is a true reflection of the due concern you are giving to the issue of non communicable diseases and injuries in West Asia. Hosting this important meeting in Qatar reflects the deep concern given by the sound political leadership under **HH Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al-Thani, Emir of Qatar**, to provide all human and material resources to address the non communicable diseases and their associated risk factors and the challenges they pose against development efforts. It also manifests Qatar's concern to contribute to the international and regional efforts for developing strategies and action plans to prevent and control such diseases, change behavior and lifestyles that help spread them and to create awareness programs to promote a healthy life free of diseases and illnesses.

Certainly, the recommendations you have adopted and the deliberations you have conducted during these two days shall enrich the discussions that will take place during the Annual Ministerial Meeting to be held next July in Geneva to review the progress achieved regarding the items included in the Development Agenda adopted by the UN General Assembly and the MDG document.

The discussion panels have succeeded in answering all the queries raised regarding the meeting topic and the impact of NCDs on the socio-economic development and the national, regional and global strategies for the reduction of poverty.

We are surely proud of this significant opportunity that allowed us to meet and exchange views with this elite group of experts, scientists and specialists in order to reach our stated goals.

I wish also to express our gratitude to WHO, ECOSOC and UNESCWA for the great support they provided, to all my colleagues in the Ministry of Health for the great effort they have done and to the simultaneous interpreters who contributed to the success of the meeting.

Concluding, I would like to convey the greetings of HE Abdulla Bin Khaled Al-Qahtani, Minister of Health and Secretary General of Health Supreme Council, and his wishes for further success to all your future efforts. We look forward to further meetings for the good of our people and for building up societies of health and wellness by the grace of Allah Almighty.

May Allah Almighty bless your efforts and guide your steps.