

STATEMENT BY QATAR

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**Statement by H.E. Sheikh Mohammed Bin Ahmed Sin Jassim Al-Thani,
Minister of Economy and Commerce of the State of Qatar
at the eleventh session of the United Nations Conference
on Trade and Development**

Sao Paulo, 15 June 2004

Mr. President,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all, I would like to express my appreciation to the Government and people of Brazil for hosting the 11th UNCTAD Conference in this beautiful city of Sao Paulo.

The world economy went through radical changes. While old development concerns continue to be with us, new and emerging economic preoccupations arise. Challenges and opportunities of globalization strongly influence all economies. The impact on developing countries is more severe. Global challenges require global solutions. The overall theme of UNCTAD XI is not only timely but also necessary as it deals with coherence among national and international development strategies. The outcome of UNCTAD XI will thus be significant. The Conference will greatly assist developing countries not only by clarifying the linkages among the national and international development strategies but also by defining the best modalities to ensure such coherence.

In our deliberations we need to identify how best we can work collectively to make globalization an effective instrument for development: in improving market access, in seeking coherence of



policies in favor of development; in providing sufficient policy space; in encouraging direct investment flows; in responding positively to initiatives by the international community that assist the development efforts of developing countries; in paying full attention to the social dimensions of globalization, especially in terms of reducing poverty and promoting equity.

Trade remains a key engine of growth and development. The State of Qatar was privileged to host the 4th WTO Ministerial Meeting. The Doha Declaration laid the foundations for the current round of WTO multilateral negotiations. The WTO Conference promised a real "Development Round" that was to, bring hope to all countries regardless of their development level. For the first time the interests and concerns of developing countries were placed at the heart of the negotiating process. These expectations must now become a reality.

The Sao Paulo Conference coincides with UNCTAD's 40th anniversary. We need to make full use of this opportunity and encourage all participants to capitalize on this event in promoting fair international trade and strengthening the role of UNCTAD as the focal point for the integrated treatment of global development. UNCTAD is well equipped to make substantial contributions towards the implementation of internationally agreed development objectives, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration. In accordance with the General Assembly decisions, UNCTAD should also bring its contribution to the implementation of the outcomes of recent global conferences, in particular the Monterrey Consensus, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and the Doha Ministerial Declaration.



The State of Qatar has adhered to the establishment of legal and financial rules and regulations, which govern national policies in regard to macroeconomic policies and in mobilizing and developing local financial resources. Qatar enters the new century as a modern State where freedom of speech and expression are rights, and democratic principles are realities.

The State of Qatar, as the presiding country of the Group of 77, is fully committed to ensure the effective implementation of the outcome of UNCTAD XI. We look forward to making this important event a real success for the benefit of developing countries and the advancement of the development process.

Thank you.