

**Statement of the State of Qatar**

**By**

**His Excellency Mr. Ali Shareef Al- Emadi**

**Minister of Finance**

**At**

**The High-level Conference on Financing for Development and the Means of Implementation of the  
2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**

18 November 2017

Excellencies,

Your Excellency Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations,

Your Excellency the President of the Economic and Social Council and the Permanent Representative of the Czech Republic to the United Nations,

Your Excellencies the Ambassadors and delegates of States and United Nations and regional agencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Distinguished guests,

May peace, mercy and blessings of God be upon you,

It is my pleasure to convey to you at the outset the greetings of His Highness Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al Thani, Emir of the State of Qatar. We welcome all of you in glorious Qatar. We also highly appreciate efforts made by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs to cooperate with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in preparation for this Doha-hosted conference.

We look forward to holding fruitful discussions over the coming two days through the numerous sessions and themes that will address a number of important items, in line with the wide scope of the global framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development objectives and goals. We trust that our deliberations will provide an important opportunity to further our common goals.

Excellencies,

The State of Qatar's hosting of this conference emanates from our constant concern to be, as always, present to work with partners in the international community to achieve the goals envisaged by the United Nations. We also believe in the importance of international cooperation to move forward with the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, especially that the successful implementation of the Agenda depends, to a large extent, on resource mobilization at the national and international levels, and on the effective use of such resources.

In this context, Doha hosted also the 2008 Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus.

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We meet today at a time when efforts to achieve sustainable development are facing many challenges that undermine the ability of countries to make progress on the development front. Such challenges include, inter alia, extreme poverty and resource scarcity, hunger, unemployment, climate change, frequency of natural disasters, forced displacement, violent extremism and escalating conflicts.

While those challenges constitute a source of concern, we are confident that international cooperation will ensure investing in the available opportunities to take a further step in our common endeavor towards implementing the objectives of this ambitious plan, strengthening the financing for development framework

and ensuring that no one is left behind, while taking into account the different conditions, capacities, needs and levels of development, and respecting the countries national policies and priorities.

It goes without saying that the financing for development agenda reflects the sincere desire of the international community to assist developing countries, least developed countries, landlocked countries and small island States in achieving sustainable development, particularly by revitalizing Sustainable Development Goal number 17, Partnership for Development.

Such desire was reflected in the 15-year long inter-governmental negotiations, Mexico's 2002 Monterrey Consensus, the 2008 Doha Declaration on Financing for Development and its ministerial meeting that was hosted in Doha to come up with an ambitious plan of action that embodies the political will to achieve the international development goals, and Ethiopia's 2015 Addis Ababa Declaration.

In this regard, we stress the importance of fulfilling the commitments made by Member States, particularly the developed countries, to achieve this Agenda, and of monitoring and evaluating the progress made in the implementation of the agreed international commitments.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Distinguished guests,

We view the development process as a participatory approach that respects all human rights. In fact, the theme of inclusive and sustainable development is among our top concerns and is based on the joint efforts among all components of society. Qatar National Vision 2030 has identified key economic, social, human and environmental goals, and placed development at the center of its priorities.

The State of Qatar has integrated the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the Second National Development Strategy 2017-2022.

As part of our efforts to meet our commitments to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the State of Qatar submitted the voluntary national review during the 2017 High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, which gave a transparent picture of the State development efforts and its effective role at the international level. We also look forward, next year, to submitting a voluntary national review that sheds more light on the alignment of our national priorities with the goals of the 2030 Agenda.

Excellencies,

In line with its responsibilities and commitments to strengthen our regional and international partnerships, the State of Qatar continues to play a prominent and increasingly important role in providing development and relief assistance to many countries in the world facing economic and humanitarian crisis and natural disasters, in addition to the voluntary official development assistance provided by the State of Qatar.

The State of Qatar has thus provided international assistance to friendly countries in 13 sectors through various humanitarian and development initiatives around the world. It is noteworthy that government support for aid has reached more than 70 per cent of the foreign assistance compared to non-governmental assistance. Such percentage demonstrates the political will to meet Qatar's external commitments in line with its role as an active and responsible member of the international community.

Thirty per cent of the value of external support took the form of contributions donated by charities, humanitarian organizations and Qatari donor institutions, that often work to deliver various kinds of assistance to those in need, in accordance with the highest international standards and in partnership with specialized UN agencies, regional and subregional institutions and counterparts from around the world.

It is clear that, over the past years, the State of Qatar has managed to expand its external assistance, both geographically and by sector. Such assistance has taken many forms, including contributions, grants, material donations, donations in kind, technical donations, or soft loans that often end up being written off.

The country's efforts have also included support for humanitarian and development projects and programs. The State of Qatar has prioritized the education sector in providing aid within the total development assistance, in pursuit of SDG 4.

The largest share receiving aid in the humanitarian sector was the relief sector. It has increased manifold since the beginning of the second decade of this millennium as a result of natural disasters and man-made disasters.

It should be noted that the assistance provided by the State of Qatar exceeded the official development assistance share assessed to the developed countries of the North. In fact, Qatar's government and non-government foreign aid has reached an average of \$ 2 billion a year, despite the fact that the State of Qatar is not legally bound to pay such percentage.

The State of Qatar's contribution emanates from its belief in the importance of supporting the agenda of South-South cooperation, triangular cooperation and the financing for development agenda, which will positively impact international peace and security, human rights and development for all, to achieve integrated peaceful societies that marginalize no one, that are based on accountable and efficient strong institutions, that would be more resilient to countering the scourge of extremism and the threat of terrorism, in accordance with SDGs 11 and 16, which are the focus of Qatar's development policy.

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We look forward to our meeting today as an opportunity to exchange best practices and experiences on the most effective means of implementation to advance the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

We trust that our efforts as an international community will have a positive impact on the way we deal with the pressing challenges to financing for development. As we continue our joint efforts to achieve the goals of sustainable development, we stress that we, in the State of Qatar, will continue to exert our efforts as an active partner in the international community, despite of the regional and global challenges, in order to achieve the common objectives we seek and meet the challenges in all areas of common concern, in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Doha will remain a platform for cooperation among all countries and parties that believe in the importance of joint action to meet the challenges facing us that affect the entire international community.

I thank you.