



SPEECH  
OF  
His Highness Sheikh  
Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani  
Emir of the State of Qatar

BEFORE  
The High-Level Meeting  
of the United Nations General Assembly  
on the Millennium Development Goals

NEW YORK  
20 SEPTEMBER 2010

*Please check against delivery*

Permanent Mission of the State of Qatar to the United Nations  
809 UN Plaza, 4<sup>th</sup> Fl., New York, NY 10017 - Tel: 212-486-9335 - Fax: 212-758-4952

*In the name of God the Beneficent, the Merciful*

**Mr. President,  
Mr. Secretary-General,  
Your Majesties, Excellencies, and Highnesses,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

I take this opportunity to congratulate you, Mr. President, on your presidency of this session of the United Nations General Assembly, wishing you all success in your mission. I would also like to thank your predecessor, His Excellency Dr. Ali Treki, for his tireless work in the previous session. I would also like to express to His Excellency Mr. Ban Ki-moon, United Nations Secretary-General, our appreciation for his efforts in promoting the role of the United Nations and the realizing its objectives.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

We meet today to review the process of achieving the Millennium Development Goals at a very critical time, when the world economy continues to suffer from its most severe setback since the Depression of the thirties of the last century.

The global economic crisis had a negative impact on the international community's efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals in poor developing countries. Development assistance provided to them diminished, and foreign direct investment receded, which led to negative consequences on their overall development programs and policies, especially in the areas of health, education and fighting poverty and hunger.

We regret to note that the record of achievements at the global level is uneven. On the one hand, we find that United Nations reports indicate that some developing countries have made remarkable achievements in macroeconomic management, which resulted in an increase in investments and savings. On the other hand, many of them, especially in sub-Saharan Africa, have not reached the realization of most Millennium Development Goals. The number of people who suffer from poverty has exceeded one billion in 2009. This should be a matter of concern for each one of us, for ultimately, the realization of the MDGs is not only necessary for building a better life for millions of people, but it is also essential for peace and security.

The achievement of all internationally agreed development goals depends primarily on the essence of our global partnership, which we reached in the Monterrey Conference, and confirmed in the Doha Conference in December 2008.

The leaders of the Group of Eight developed countries agreed in 2005 to provide by 2010 additional aid worth 50 billion U.S. dollars. 25 billion of which goes to Africa. They identified new targets for universal access to treatment of AIDS, universal primary education and free basic healthcare. Again, in 2007, the G8 leaders

reconfirmed their commitment to increase development assistance and announced an additional 60 billion dollars to combat AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

The achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, requires that each of the parties to the partnership carry out its duty. It requires that developing countries adopt comprehensive national strategies, promote good governance, fight corruption, promote sustainable economic growth, and create an attractive environment for foreign direct investments. They should act to engage civil society organizations and the private sector in those programs. They should also mobilize the necessary financial resources, act to establish a clear system for government accountability, and focus on increasing awareness of the importance of achieving those goals.

In contrast, developed countries should face the global financial crisis and work to achieve the Millennium Development Goals through mobilizing international resources, undertaking further comprehensive reforms to ensure stability of the international financial system, reducing the distortions of international trade, maintaining the credibility of their commitments to increase official development assistance, and issuing timetables for observing the implementation of their commitments towards developing countries.

The delay in the negotiations of the Doha round, which was scheduled to finish by the end of June 2006, caused huge disappointment for developing countries, which have continued to attach great hopes to that round. Therefore, countries involved in the negotiations should focus on establishing a multilateral trade system characterized by openness, fairness and non-discrimination.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Qatar has realized most of the Millennium Development Goals, and is on track to achieve all of them by the year 2015. The State has provided free basic education opportunities for the different groups in society, without discrimination between males and females. To achieve gender equality and the empowerment of women, the State has eliminated the disparity between the sexes in the various stages of education, which has led to increased rates of enrolment in favour of females at all levels of education. The State has also eliminated gender disparities in access to employment.

In the area of health, Qatar is counted among the world's most progressed countries in the reduction of child mortality and the improvement of maternal health in light of universal free health care for all. These developments in the areas of health and education were reflected in the ranking of the State of Qatar among countries with high human development according to United Nations reports issued in this regard.

In this context, Qatar National Vision 2030 emphasises four pillars that address all of the Millennium Development Goals: The first is human development, which involves the establishment of advanced health and education systems that

provide the best of service as well as workforce development; the second pillar is social development, which involves the development of a fair and safe society and promoting the role of women; the third pillar is economic development, which involves the development of a diversified and competitive economy, sustainable and optimal utilization of oil and gas, and sound economic management; and the fourth pillar is environmental development, which involves a balance between immediate needs and the requirements for conserving the environment, for which we have introduced a special Ministry. In the process of the activation and elaboration of these pillars, the State of Qatar is currently preparing the first National Development Strategy (2011-2016).

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Qatar has been keen to be a partner in supporting the efforts towards participation and cooperation for development, particularly in relation to combating poverty and dissemination of the fruits of global growth in a more just and equitable manner. In this sense, the State of Qatar put forward during the Second South Summit in June 2005 an initiative to create a fund to support development in the South that would support anti-poverty programs in developing countries, especially least developed countries, and help them to achieve the MDGs.

Qatar also stressed the commitment for allocating the specified percentage of the gross national income as development aid, with the allocation of 15% thereof to the least developed countries. This is in addition to humanitarian aid and relief assistance in emergencies and disasters. The volume of Qatari development aid and assistance has seen significant development reaching in the year 2009 about 382 million dollars not counting contributions to the various United Nations funds such as the United Nations Fund for Democracy.

The State of Qatar has also sought to achieve global partnership through the ratification of several international and regional agreements and treaties concerning international development issues, and through the adoption of an open trading system, and the creation of an attractive environment for foreign investment. It also supported initiatives for cooperation with developing countries to develop and implement strategies that offers young people decent and productive employment, through Silatech, an institution with a capital of 100 million dollars that addresses the problem of unemployment in the Middle East and North Africa by adopting programs aimed at rehabilitation and training of young people in that region, and also through supporting Education Above All, an institution created by the Qatar Foundation in 2008 to protect, support and promote the right to education in areas suffering from or threatened by crises, conflicts and wars.

In the area of combating corruption, we in Qatar have taken many important steps to respond to international efforts in this cause. We moved to ratify the United Nations Convention against Corruption and took many steps to put the Convention into effect through the establishment of the National Committee for Integrity and Transparency, for which we were keen that all fundamentals are provided to allow it

to carry out its tasks in full objectivity and independence. Qatar has occupied an advanced position among all countries in the fight against corruption in the general ranking of Transparency International.

In the area of international cooperation, the State of Qatar hosted in 2001 the Fourth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization, which resulted in the Doha Round, the South Summit in 2005, and the Conference for New or Restored Democracies in 2006.

The State of Qatar hosted the first follow-up conference of the International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus during the period from 30 November to 2 December 2008. At the time, this conference was particularly important because since the Monterrey Conference in 2002, the international arena had witnessed numerous developments, challenges and issues that required open dialogue and innovative solutions.

At the political level, the Qatari efforts to bring peace to Darfur, in coordination with the Joint Mediator of the United Nations and African Union have begun to bear fruit. Two agreements have been signed, one was a cease-fire agreement and the other was a framework agreement for peace in Darfur. Despite the withdrawal of one of the armed factions from the Doha stage, negotiations are still in full swing and efforts are still being made to reach a final peace agreement.

In order to support development and reconstruction efforts in that region, we announced on 23 February last the establishment of a bank for the development of Darfur with a capital of two billion dollars to be contributed by interested countries and organizations in order to advance development in Darfur.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

We are required now more than ever to lay a common vision and search for effective mechanisms to mobilize energies in order to help poor countries in their efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

**May peace and God's mercy and blessings be upon you.**