

Key Note Address

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Your Excellency President of the General Conference

Your Excellency Chair of the Executive Board

Your Excellency Director-General of the UNESCO

Your Excellencies, Heads and members of delegations

On behalf of the delegation of the State of Qatar, please allow me at the outset to congratulate His Excellency Mr. Ahmet Altay Cengizer, President of the General Conference, on his designation as President of this session, and wish him success in facilitating this Conference. I would also like to express my sincere thanks and appreciation to Her Excellency Ms. Zohour Alaoui, President of the previous General Conference, and to the Chairperson and members of the Executive Board for their efforts during the previous session.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The State of Qatar has always been keen to observe and uphold the principles and objectives of the Charter of the United Nations in its foreign policy, and by the principles of cooperation, coordination and partnership with many regions of the world without discrimination, and is committed to providing humanitarian and development aid for the benefit of the whole world, and meet common challenges, which will contribute to realizing the goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, despite the unjust blockade imposed against my country since June 2017, which, until now, has not discouraged Qatar from fulfilling its international obligations.

Very quickly, I would like to highlight a few of such contributions declared by the State Session of the UN General Assembly, during his of Qatar: On the sidelines of the 74th participation at the Climate Action Summit held on September 23, 2019, His Highness, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, the Amir of Qatar, has pledged 100 million US dollars by the State of Qatar, to support developing island countries and the least developed countries, to cope with climate change and environmental challenges. Furthermore, The Education Above All Foundation has signed a new partnership agreement with the World Bank, which commits both parties to provide 250 million US

dollars, to support and enable two million children to access quality education in 40 countries. Moreover, at the Doha Forum 2018, Qatar has announced 500 million US dollars of multi-year support for funding a number of United Nations organs, and during the period 2013-2019, the total amount of funding provided by Qatar Fund For Development in support of education in several regions of the world has reached around 709.4 million US dollars.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The State of Qatar firmly believes that education is a human right and a fundamental prerequisite that helps achieve democracy and sustainable development. We have therefore been pro-active by taking all necessary actions and measures to ensure the implementation of Education and Training Sector Strategy II (2018-2022) drawn from Qatar National Vision 2030, which is aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals, SDG4 and Education Indicators 2030.

I am pleased, at this juncture, to highlight the progress the State of Qatar has made towards achieving SDG4. It is evident in the high enrollment rate in both Kindergarten and primary education, gender equality in all stages of general education, Technical & Vocational Education, and Education Centers for people (students) with disabilities.

To ensure the right to education for all in Qatar and full respect for the principle of non-discrimination, Qatar has exerted efforts to establish a program " Sawiyan" which means "Together We Are". The program aims to provide educational opportunities for children of destitute families, who are financially unable to spend money to educate their children within the country, as well as the establishment of specialized schools for students with autism and intellectual disabilities.

Within the framework of Qatar's ongoing efforts to promote teaching Science, Technology, Engineering and mathematics, STEM schools have been opened. In addition, lifelong learning and life skills have been embedded into curriculum.

As part of the country's dedicated efforts to develop Qatar National Curriculum, we have taken into account that the curriculum development has been accomplished in accordance with the latest international standards and trends. The developed curriculum aims to promote the values, skills and competencies that will contribute to graduating students who respect differences and others' opinions. Graduates who can understand global citizenship and its related pillars. Graduates who cherish their faith, respect the beliefs of others, reject fanaticism, violence, terrorism and intellectual extremism, and respect pluralism and cultural diversity. Graduates who can adopt a culture of dialogue, tolerance, values of international cooperation, world peace and coexistence, and respect human rights regardless of race, religion, language or origin.

As far as Higher Education is concerned, a range of branch campuses of international universities as well as specialized universities and colleges have been opened in Doha to meet the growing needs of the Qatari market, to expand partnerships with government (public) and private sectors. Equally significantly, Qatar has also forged regional and international partnerships to support and promote scientific research and innovation.

when it comes to culture and heritage, The State of Qatar has always been keen, right from an early stage, to demonstrate special attention to cultural diversity and promotion of dialogue among different cultures, civilizations and religions. Such approach basically emanates from the firm belief of Qatar's wise leadership in and people's awareness of the effectively important role cultural diversity plays. In addition, Qatar greatly values the positive impact of showing respect to other peoples' cultures. The ultimate aim is to achieve rapprochement among different peoples and foster the values of tolerance, peace and security all over the world.

Being a member of the Intergovernmental Committee for the UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions, the State of Qatar has provided a financial support of 4 million US dollars to the UNESCO's World Heritage Emergency Fund. In addition, Qatar hosted a multitude of international conferences and forums to promote dialogue among different cultures and civilizations. Equally important is that Doha International Center for Interfaith Dialogue is headquartered in Qatar. A Cultural Diversity Festival is also held every year in Qatar

in the Cultural Village Foundation (Katara), which brings together many countries from all over the world.

In full implementation of the UNESCO's recommendation on protection and promotion of museums and diversity of artwork collections, and to emphasize the vital role museums play in society, the new National Museum of Qatar offers a unique interactive experience that showcases the evolution and development of life in Qatar and across the world. It is also a testimony of Qatar's keen interest in cultural heritage by building an architectural masterpiece in the form of a desert rose crystal.

Importantly, Paris as well as other European capitals experienced the traveling of cross-cultural exhibition of Sheikh Faisal Bin Qassim Al Thani Museum. The Travelling Museum is primarily meant to build bridges of communications and openness to other cultures. It features a rich collection of many unique antiquities and artworks that tell the history and civilization of our ancestors.

In the field of youth, sports and the preparation of tomorrow's generation, Qatar has launched "Generation Amazing" Program. It is designed as a service since Qatar will be hosting 2022 FIFA World Cup. Generation Amazing Program will educate students the basics and rules of football as a game. It will provide a good opportunity for students to enhance their life skills. Significantly, Qatar hosted last month 2019 IAAF World Athletics Championships and ANOC World Beach Games Championships, thus proving to the world that the country is well prepared to host the biggest international championships.

Ladies and gentlemen,

last October 2019, The State of Qatar hosted "Munich Security Conference". The Cyber Security Summit came in response to the invitation of His Highness Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al Thani, The Amir of State of Qatar, in his address to the 74th Session of the UN General Assembly, and HH emphasis of the necessity to form a regional legal system to safeguard the security and stability of the Middle East Region. "Munich Security Conference" was a good opportunity to reiterate Qatar's readiness to work in close co-operation with the United Nations Organizations and Agencies to host an international conference to address such issue.

His Highness invitation clearly reflects Qatar's far sightedness to address global challenges on the root causes of conflicts in the Middle East and the world, and Qatar's sincere desire to promote multilateral international co-operation to bridge up gaps in the regional and international security system, and to fight terrorism and its financing. It also demonstrates Qatar's staunch support to the UN Agenda for Sustainable Development.

In conclusion, I wish our Conference to successfully fulfill the ultimate objectives of UNESCO, which calls for the promotion of understanding and rapprochement among peoples, so that peace and security would prevail.

Thank you and wish you the best.