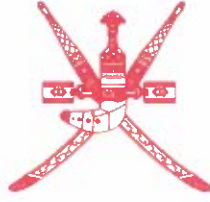


بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Sultanate of Oman



سُلْطَنَة عُومَان

**Statement of the Sultanate of Oman
at the 2023 Session of the High-level Political
Forum on Sustainable Development**

Delivered by

**H. E. Dr. Mohamed bin Awad Al Hassan,
Permanent Representative of the Sultanate of Oman
to the United Nations**

**New York
July 2023**

Permanent Mission of the Sultanate of Oman to the United Nations

3 Dag Hammarskjöld Plaza 305 East 47th Street, 12th Floor, New York, NY 10017 Tel: (212) 355-3505 Fax: (212) 644-0070

In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate

Peace be upon you.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am pleased to participate in this annual High-level Forum, under the auspices of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), on behalf of my country, the Sultanate of Oman, entitled “Accelerating the recovery from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at all levels”, during which many participating countries will present their Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) and demonstrate their achievements in accomplishing the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Distinguished Guests,

The Sultanate of Oman has attached great importance to achieving all the United Nations’ Agenda, since its ratification in September 2015, by integrating the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with the national priorities and goals of the Future Vision of the Sultanate of Oman 2040, which receives great attention from His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tariq-may God protect him- and reflects the deeply rooted values of Omani society, which are based on the principles of peace, coexistence, sustainability, equality, justice and community involvement, as defined by the Basic Law of the State. Allow me to present some of the developments achieved by the Sultanate of Oman to accelerate work towards bringing about the 2030 SDGs.

For instance, in order to meet the challenge of local water loss, which is linked to the achievement of the Sixth Goal, "Clean Water and Sanitation"; the latest technologies are used to reduce that loss, such as drones and tracking waste through the use of satellites.

And in order to achieve the Seventh Goal, "Affordable and Clean Energy" that in support of international efforts to reduce carbon emissions and limit the negative effects of climate change; the Sultanate of Oman announced during the past year, its intention to reach zero carbon neutrality by 2050, to protect the environment and sustain natural resources. In doing so, Oman supports renewable energy projects through its endeavor to produce hydrogen and green hydrogen, as one of the renewable energy alternatives, benefiting from the presence of the main components

for its production, such as solar energy and wind power, so that the Sultanate of Oman would be a global center for hydrogen production.

To that end, many steps have been taken, including the setting up of a carbon management laboratory, which is a mechanism that includes all stakeholders, partners, and decision makers to define public goals and prepare detailed maps and well-defined targets to achieve the objectives. The Oman Green Hydrogen Summit was held last year, with broad participation of decision makers in the world, in addition to the establishment of the Oman Sustainability Center and the Oman Hydrogen Company.

With regard to achieving the Ninth Goal, "Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure"; the Government of the Sultanate of Oman has stressed its readiness to transform into the Age of Knowledge and Innovation, through the Basic Law of the State, which was issued by Royal Decree No. 6/2021 promulgating the Basic Law of the State: Chapter Four- the Cultural Principles- Article (16)

The Cultural Principles of the Sultanate of Oman are as follows:

- Education is a right for every citizen. Its aim is to build the Omani character, preserve the national identity, instill the scientific method in thinking, develop talents, encourage innovation, consolidate cultural and spiritual values, and develop concepts of citizenship, tolerance and harmony.
- Education is compulsory up to the end of basic education, and the State encourages the establishment of private schools and institutes under its supervision, in accordance with the provisions of law.
- The State seeks to combat illiteracy.
- The State guarantees the independence of Universities, and facilitates admission to Higher Education for all on an equal basis, based on competence and merit, and encourages the establishment of private and public universities, and the it ensures the quality of education in such universities, in accordance with global quality standards.
- The State guarantees freedom of scientific research, and encourages its institutions, sponsors, researchers and innovators, and guarantees ways for the private and public sectors to contribute effectively in reviving the scientific research.
- The State guarantees freedom of intellectual creativity, nurtures creators, and encourages the advancement of Arts and Literature.
- The State is committed to protecting and preserving its tangible and intangible national heritage. It is also committed to preserving and restoring its tangible

heritage, and retrieving what was seized and assaulted from it; noting that trading in such heritage, is a crime punishable by the law.

Furthermore, since assuming the reins of power on February 23, 2020, His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tariq's policy, asserted his interest in and care for education, scientific research and innovation: "the interest in the education sector, with all its forms and levels, and the provision of a supportive and stimulating environment for scientific research and innovation will be among our national priorities; and we will support it, as it is the foundation through which our children will be able to contribute in building the requirements of the next stage.

What's more, Oman Vision 2040 reflected the higher guidelines of the Basic Law of the State, which focuses on the readiness of the Sultanate of Oman to transform into the stage of knowledge and innovation (page 15 of the Vision document), which requires attention to comprehensive innovation (governmental, educational, technological, and societal) in all priorities. Obviously, that matter is evident in a number of Strategic Orientations and goals in all areas, particularly in the priorities of teaching, learning, scientific research and innovation: a "comprehensive education, sustainable learning, and scientific research that leads to a knowledge society and competitive national capabilities," as well as the priority of governance of the state's administrative apparatus, resources and projects, which focused on "a resilient and innovative administrative apparatus, future-oriented and based on the principles of good governance."

The Rising Omani Startups Program under the supervision of His Highness Sayyid Balarab bin Haitham Al Said is one of the enablers that motivate Omani youth to establish innovation-led companies, in addition to the fact that the Sultanate of Oman is set to upgrade the Scientific Research and Innovation Law, and the "Oman Innovates Platform", which will link up all actors in the innovation sector; the academic, industrial, private and governmental to support the knowledge-based economy and innovation contained in the Oman Vision 2040.

Additionally, in order to achieve the Eleventh Goal, "Sustainable Cities and Communities", the Sultanate of Oman attaches great importance to sustainability. As such, to meet its geographical diversity and urban expansion challenge, in a manner that corresponds with mechanisms that take into account land uses at the national and governorate levels, so as to achieve comprehensive development and a sustainable future; the Government of Oman developed the National Urban Development Strategy, entitled "the Humane Oman", which aims to develop a

general national strategic urban framework concerned with the distribution of the population, the various activities, and how to link the locations in an integrated and harmonious manner.

Taking into account what has been targeted in Oman Vision 2040 and what has been committed to achieving the goals of sustainable development; the Greater Muscat Strategy focuses on the capital, Muscat, as an urban extension that accommodates population growth, raises the gross domestic product, enhances protection from floods and protects all aspects of the environment and Omani Culture. In doing so, it takes into account population growth expectations in Greater Muscat, promoting the use of renewable energy sources to face climate change, and focusing on the green economy, while paying attention to developing public transport to be sustainable and comprehensive. Work is also underway to prepare strategies for each Governorate that take into account their comparative individual advantage.

In reference to the achievement of the Seventeenth Goal "Partnerships for the Goals; "the Sultanate of Oman has always been keen to fulfill all its international and regional obligations towards various Organizations and friendly States, through the implementation of all agreements it has ratified with such Organizations and States. That believing in its positive role in resolving many regional and international issues, which realize justice and peace for all humanity, and unify mutual understanding between cultures and peoples, Oman capitalizes on its history of civilization, distinguished relations with all countries of the world, and its awareness of responsibility, as an active member of the international community.

Thus, the Sultanate of Oman-as per the directives of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tariq-may God protect him- pays great attention to all issues of sustainability, particularly issues of common concern, therefore we emphasize the support for international efforts for a better present and future.

In conclusion, the Sultanate of Oman looks forward to benefiting from its participation in this forum and attendance at the voluntary review sessions of sustainable development reports, that in the preparation of its Second VNR to be submitted to the United Nations next year, wishing you every success in your endeavors, and the forum ongoing success as well.

Thank you and Peace be upon you,

-End-