



Statement

By
Her Excellency Dr. Hanan Mohamed Al-Kuwari
Minister of Public Health

Before
The General Debate of the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable
Development

17 July 2023
United Nations Headquarters - New York

**Your Excellency, President of the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Let me start by expressing our gratitude for organizing this important and timely Forum. Today more than ever there is a need to intensify our efforts, mobilize political will and strengthen multilateral cooperation to accelerate recovery from the coronavirus pandemic and strengthen our commitment to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

We are confident that the work of the Forum will make major and valuable contributions and build momentum towards the 2023 Sustainable Development Goals Summit. We are honored that the responsibility of leading the intergovernmental negotiation process on the Political Declaration to be adopted by the Summit has been given to the State of Qatar and Ireland. We take this opportunity to commend the able leadership of the co-facilitators and their continuous efforts. We are confident that such Declaration would lay a solid foundation for accelerating the implementation of our commitments and unfinished business.

Madame President,

The State of Qatar is keen to continue taking ambitious measures at the national level to meet the requirements of implementing the 2030 Agenda. We have reached many milestones and achieved progress in our journey towards the realization of our development aspirations. My country has submitted three voluntary national reviews that portrayed a transparent image of the progress achieved and the pioneering efforts made by the State of Qatar in strengthening partnership for development.

Aware of the importance of multilateral cooperation, the State of Qatar has not hesitated to leverage all efforts to provide support to mitigate the impact of the pandemic, especially on the most vulnerable peoples and communities. It has provided humanitarian aid, resources and urgent medical assistance to many countries and expanded the scope of its response. The Qatar Fund for Development has provided more than 140 million US dollars to multilateral healthcare institutions and programs.

At the national level, the COVID- 19 pandemic was a challenge but also an opportunity to test our plans and our resilience and learn to be better positioned for any future public health emergency. Due to the wise leadership of His Highness Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, the Emir of the State of Qatar, we are fortunate to have more lessons to share with the world than lessons learnt.

Our balanced, whole of government approach and our strong health care system meant that we were able to limit the impact of the pandemic on individuals and society as a whole. Qatar has one of the lowest fatality rates in the world, has contributed to the global scientific understanding of COVID infections and vaccination, and has continued progress towards its National Vision 2030 all while successfully hosting, during the pandemic, numerous global events including the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022.

Madame President,

The State of Qatar was honored to host last March the 5th UN Conference on the Least Developed Countries, during which His Highness the Emir of the State of Qatar announced a financial contribution of 60 million U.S. dollars to support the implementation of the activities of the Doha Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries. That contribution stems from the firm commitment of the State of Qatar to support and strengthen the efforts of those countries in their development process.

Madame President,

In conclusion, the task ahead remains urgent and requires the acceleration of our efforts. You can count on the continuous support of the State of Qatar to cooperate with the international community towards achieving our common goals.

Thank you.