

Remarks by H.E. Mr. Abdulaziz bin Nasser bin Mubarak Al-Khalifa

Secretary-General of the National Planning Council, State of Qatar

ECOSOC High-Level Segment – “UN at 80: The Role of ECOSOC in Leading Action for a Stronger and More Effective Multilateral System”

Mr. President,

Thank you for convening this session of the ECOSOC High-Level Segment on the important topic of “UN at 80: The Role of ECOSOC in Leading Action for a Stronger and More Effective Multilateral System.” I would also like to thank the distinguished speakers for their thoughtful contributions to this discussion.

As we mark the 80th anniversary of the United Nations, the State of Qatar reaffirms its strong commitment to ECOSOC’s crucial role in strengthening multilateralism and advancing the 2030 Agenda. ECOSOC remains one of the UN’s most important Charter-based bodies—uniquely placed to bring together Member States, civil society, youth, the private sector, and the UN system in pursuit of economic and social development.

We value ECOSOC’s many strengths: its convening power, its inclusive approach, and its focus on addressing the economic and social dimensions of peace and security. These attributes are essential to ensuring that the United Nations remains fit for purpose in today’s complex global landscape.

The State of Qatar has long engaged with ECOSOC’s work—from its Functional Commissions to the Financing for Development Forum, the Youth and Partnership Forums, and meetings on emerging issues and emergency responses. These engagements have reinforced our view of ECOSOC as a key driver of practical cooperation, coordination, partnerships, and solidarity on international economic, social, and environmental issues.

Looking forward, we see clear opportunities to further strengthen the Council’s role and relevance. Allow me to offer a few reflections:

First, we must reinforce the capacities and coordination of the Functional Commissions. These bodies are instrumental in translating global goals into coherent policies and measurable action. Strengthening them will enhance ECOSOC’s overall effectiveness and alignment with the 2030 Agenda.

In this regard, the State of Qatar is honoured to host the Second World Summit for Social Development in November 2025. This major summit will aim to renew global commitment to inclusive, equitable, and just development. We believe ECOSOC has a critical role to play in supporting the implementation of the summit's outcomes, ensuring that social development remains a central pillar of our shared global agenda and that the benefits of global progress are shared equitably.

Second, we believe that deeper alignment between ECOSOC and the international financial institutions is needed to bridge the gap between policy and implementation. Strengthening this connection is essential to mobilizing the resources required to advance sustainable development—especially at this crucial midpoint of the SDGs.

Lastly, we must lead by example. ECOSOC deserves consistent, high-level engagement. Active participation by high-level representation reflects political will and reinforces the legitimacy of the Council's work. The mandates are there—it is our responsibility as member states to use them fully and effectively to tackle today's challenges.

The State of Qatar looks forward to contributing meaningfully to the 2026 intergovernmental review of ECOSOC and the High-Level Political Forum. We see this as a critical opportunity to ensure that ECOSOC continues to serve as a cornerstone of multilateral cooperation in the years ahead.

I thank you.