

A draft speech to be given by

**HE Sheikh Hamad Bin Jassim Bin Jabor Al Thani
Prime Minister and Minister Of Foreign Affairs
of Qatar**

at

the Seventh Forum for the Future

Doha 13 January 2011

In the name of Allah, most Gracious, most Merciful

Your Excellency Mr. Lawrence Cannon, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Canada and Head of the Group of Eight (G8) for 2010

Your Excellencies,

Ladies and gentlemen representing the governments, organizations of the civil society and business sector,

Assalamu alaikum wa rahmatullahi ta'ala wa barakatu,

I warmly welcome you on behalf of the government of Qatar, and convey to you the greetings and best wishes of HH Sheikh Hamad Bin Kahlifa Al Thani the Emir of Qatar. You are most welcome in Doha.

Thank you all very much for accepting the invitation to participate with us in the seventh session of the Forum for the Future of the G8 and the Greater Middle East and North Africa.

We all continued to meet annually at this forum inspired by the perceptions of good governance and strong relations between the governments, organizations of the civil society and business sector, and with a view to reach a viable approach

whereby to craft a development mechanism that we hope would lead in the end to creating an acceptable atmosphere for dialogue, understanding and cooperation. Through these meetings we also work to launch a number of political initiatives that would lead to initiating and establishing ties of joint cooperation between all the parties with interests in the march of reform.

Ladies and gentlemen,

On this occasion I praise the key role taken by the organizations of the civil society to establish a stronger and wider presence of activists in the field of human rights, women and youth empowerment, and rule of the law. It is very essential that these diverse organizations coordinate their efforts in order to achieve congruence of vision which will have positive effect for the best interests of all concerned parties.

Business sector, which represents the major and most important segment of social and economic activities, is the third participant of this forum.

I welcome the contributions extended by those who attends from this sector to the economic and social aspects of the forum; and commend their effective role in supporting the activities that are conducive to the progress and development of trade, competition and partnership with the G8. These contributions can give birth to new economies in

the region, fill the gaps in projects implementation, open new horizons for businesses and advocate the positions of all parties and companies with economic interests by introducing the necessary reforms in governmental and public systems.

Your Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

I will not let this opportunity pass without confirming that reaching the well-defined objectives of the forum depends to a great extent on the establishment of peace and security in their most comprehensive and widest sense. Therefore, we have to continue our efforts to achieve total disarmament by adopting tangible actions involving everybody – an objective, if reached, would save the required resources which are urgently needed to revive the economies of the region.

We also have to work hard to resolve the conflicts that threaten peace and security in the region, foremost, the Palestinian cause and the Middle East conflict. The Middle East peace process is frozen; and the situation tells us that we are walking away from rather than approaching the right track that would definitely lead to peace. Israel, as we see, continues to dictate its positions through the policy of status quo in spite of all the efforts exerted by the Palestinian and Arab side and the United States of America. So we have to admit, and with good reasons, that Israel is not serious about the peace process.

Another important issue is how to face natural disasters. The State of Qatar in collaboration with the International Peace Institute has launched the humanitarian operations initiative which revolves around the idea of forming a force specializing in humanitarian operations to serve as a framework for cooperation among the countries willing to help in cases of disasters. This force will operate under the umbrella of the United Nations and will be called (HOPEFOR). We have started a wide range consultation among the interested members; the General Secretariat of the United Nations; and other organizations, foremost the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs; the United Nations organizations, funds and programs; humanitarian organizations; military experts and the civil society. Qatar also prepared a concept paper on the issue and distributed it among the parties participating in the consultations. We think that the United Nations is the right place where this idea should be discussed to confirm the central role of this international organization in managing the world affairs.

Your Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

In order to maintain the right track of the Forum of the Future I call upon all participants to be strongly committed towards the results of the forum; implement its adopted projects; follow-up its

resolutions, statements and mechanisms and take all they agree to seriously enough.

The state of Qatar, the Republic of Canada, the work team of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs in both countries, Qatar National Human Rights Committee, the Arab Democracy Foundation and the International Development Research Center have worked hard to support the joint work of the co-chairmanship of the forum. So they all deserve our profound thanks and appreciation. To maintain this success, the state of Qatar proposes the establishment of a regional center for human security with a mandate to conduct studies and researches on comprehensive human security in the region, and present to decision makers practical solutions that take into account the unified regional perspective of the best interests of the countries of the region in establishing peace and development for their peoples.

Welcome once again in Doha, wishing a gratifying stay for everyone, all success for our efforts and all prosperity for our forum.