



**Permanent Mission of the State of Qatar to the United Nations**

**Statement**

**By**

**Her Excellency Ambassador Alya Ahmed bin Saif Al-Thani**

**Permanent Representative of the State of Qatar to the United Nations**

**At the General Debate of the**

**High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development**

**“Accelerated Action and Transformative Pathways: Realizing the Decade of  
Action and Delivery for Sustainable Development”**

**7-16 July 2020**

**Excellencies,**

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

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

The State of Qatar expresses its thanks and appreciation for convening this Forum, which is held this year in the midst of unprecedented circumstances resulting from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic whose repercussions continue to adversely affect all aspects of our life. We commend the important role of the United Nations in coordinating the global response to address that pandemic. We cannot fail to thank the Permanent Representative of Lebanon and the Permanent Representative of Bulgaria, the co-facilitators of the Ministerial Declaration of the Forum, for their wise management of the consultations. We look forward to the adoption of the Declaration and we trust that it will lay a solid foundation to address the challenges posed by the pandemic.

**Excellencies,**

The coronavirus pandemic poses an enormous challenge in view of its far-reaching negative impacts on the global sustainable development. To be sure, responding to the socio-economic impacts of the pandemic requires intensifying multilateral cooperation and paying special attention to the groups that are most affected by the pandemic with a view to enabling them to restore their resilience and realize their recovery.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

The State of Qatar continues to take confident and urgent steps on the path to its development and places development at the center of its priorities, which has enabled our country to make great achievements in development. The State of Qatar's investment in science, technology and innovation has also contributed to enabling our Government to take urgent and effective measures to contain the coronavirus pandemic and mitigate its multifaceted impacts. We would like to recall the successful experience of the State of Qatar at the national level, which has been able, at the early stages of the pandemic, to transition quickly and seamlessly to distance learning and activate related online platforms, while providing an inclusive education for all, which is an enabling component of sustainable development and a policy priority for the State of Qatar.

In line with its pioneering and acclaimed role at the international level to ensure quality education services, especially in conflict-affected areas, the State of Qatar will

continue to work with international partners to ensure continued education in areas impacted by the pandemic.

### **Excellencies,**

Qatar National Vision 2030 provides a solid framework to achieve sustainable development at the national level. The government has integrated the goals and objectives of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the sectors of the National Development Strategy (2018-2022). As part of our efforts to fulfill our commitments to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the State of Qatar has provided, during the sessions of the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) that portrayed a transparent picture of the progress made by the government in implementing previously discussed Sustainable Development Goals.

Realizing the importance of multilateral action, the State of Qatar has not confined its efforts to the national level but has continued its efforts as an active partner at the international level. As part of its response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the State of Qatar provided \$10 million to the World Health Organization, in addition to a total contribution of \$20 million to the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization. It has also provided financial and in-kind assistance and medical equipment to enhance the capabilities of many affected countries to better respond to the coronavirus pandemic.

### **Excellencies,**

In the context of the risks resulting from climate change which represents one of the biggest challenges that undermine the progress made in sustainable development, the State of Qatar took a leading role in the Climate Action Summit that was held in September 2019, where His Highness the Emir of the State of Qatar pledged a contribution by the State of Qatar with an amount of US\$100 million, in support of Small Island Developing States and Least Developed Countries to deal with climate change. In 2018, the State of Qatar has also pledged a multiyear, non-earmarked support for the core resources of the main bodies of the United Nations system, totaling US\$500 million, with a view to enhancing the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. As part of that support, the State of Qatar has been proactive in allocating a multiyear contribution totaling US\$20 million to support the UNDP Sustainable Development Goals Accelerator Lab Network. Those labs are engaged in developing innovative measures for and solutions to the current challenges caused by the pandemic.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Moving forward in our common endeavor to ensure that no one is left behind, and realizing the ambitious aspirations of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, will not be possible without paying particular attention to the priorities and needs of the developing countries, and LDCs in particular. In that spirit, the State of Qatar is fully committed to playing its role in addressing the unique challenges facing the LDCs and will host, to that effect, the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries in Doha, from 23 to 27 January 2022, after it has been rescheduled from 2021 and postponed along with numerous conferences due to the current exceptional circumstances. We trust that this conference will be an important opportunity to achieve a transformative change in the lives of those who live in the most vulnerable countries of the world, a milestone in generating a positive momentum, and an important contribution to promoting sustainable development for LDCs. The outcome document of the conference will be an important opportunity to enshrine a new global compact to achieve the overarching goal of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, namely “leaving no one behind”.

In conclusion, the State of Qatar will continue to take ambitious action at the national level to fulfill the requirements of implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its ambitious Goals. It will spare no effort to pursue its efforts and cooperation with the international community to achieve the vision of the Decade of Action and Delivery for Sustainable Development by 2030.

Thank you.