

**Statement by
H.E. Sheikh Hamad bin Jassim bin Jaber Al Thani
Prime Minister of Qatar**

Opening of the World Investment Forum 2012

Doha, Qatar, 20 April 2012

Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and gentlemen,

I would like to welcome you to Doha and I am proud to welcome you to the third World Investment Forum (WIF), organized by UNCTAD in cooperation with the Government of Qatar.

Sustainable development is a pillar upon which peace and stability can be built, and investment is the cornerstone of all development. Our task at this forum is to find ways of facilitating the mobilization of investment to support growth and sustainable and inclusive development.

Governments and the international community must respond to the basic call for prosperity, jobs and inclusion by the peoples of this region. If not, we will let down the hopes and expectations of a new generation of people. Everyone, and especially the young, expect to find work and lift themselves and their families out of poverty. Without this expectation, from one generation to the next, people will become marginalized and disillusioned. Increasing the development impact of international investment therefore has wider ramifications and must be done responsibly with respect to social goals, and environmental and labour standards.

The Qatari government, under the leadership of his Highness Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani, Emir of the State and his Highness Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani, Crown Prince, commends the intensified efforts of UNCTAD in promoting investment for sustainable development and encouraging investment in the poor, for the poor and with the poor. In that connection, the Qatari Government welcomes UNCTAD's work on the promotion of investment and enterprise for job creation, particularly for the young especially in the countries of the Arab world that are experiencing new and emerging social and economic forces.

Without investment to promote inclusive growth and employment for the poor, sustainable development will be impossible. The World Investment Forum 2012 provides a unique opportunity to promote the benefits of international investment for sustainable *and* inclusive development.

The World Investment Forum is recognised as the most important global forum on investment for development at the highest policymaking level, and the interest and scale of this year's event speaks for itself. The WIF 2012 has attracted Heads of State and Government, Ministers and senior government officials, CEOs and senior representatives from the private sector, heads of investment promotion agencies, investment treaty negotiators, international investment location experts, members of the international media and participants from over 100 countries.

We hold high expectations for the forum. Specifically,

1. We hope that it can address the key and emerging challenges and opportunities arising from the rapidly evolving global investment

landscape, and provide vision and guidance for government and business alike to ensure that investment contributes to development.

2. We hope that it can contribute to redefining the role of foreign investment in the new development paradigm and emerging global economic governance structures.
3. We also expect the Forum to contribute to a boosting of investment in the real economy, and to restarting the engine of growth and employment in the wake of the crisis.

We are pleased to see that a number of Qatari companies are taking part in this year's forum and I hope that they can interact with other stakeholders of the investment community and make their unique contribution.

The State of Qatar is committed to making the World Investment Forum 2012 a success. I would also like to extend a warm welcome and thank you to the event's Organisational Partners for their support, and to the forum's official Media Partners for their coverage and marketing of the event. Lastly, I would like to thank UNCTAD for organising the forum and for choosing Qatar as a host.

Finally, I wish you all the success in your noble and important mission. Please rest assured that the State of Qatar will continuously support and sponsor your efforts.

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