

His Excellency Dr. Saleh Mohammed Al Nabit, President of Qatar's Planning and Statistics Authority,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning,

I would like to welcome you to the "National Workshop on Enhancing Integrated National Development Planning in Qatar", which ESCWA is honored to organize in partnership with the Qatar's Planning and Statistics Authority (PSA).

I am pleased to meet you today in this dear country that deserves all appreciation for its distinguished achievements in national development planning. Qatar has exerted unremitting efforts to advance development planning, allowing it to make significant progress towards sustainable economic development. The clearest evidence of this is the resilience and responsiveness to change that you have shown despite the sudden changes that have turned the region upside down, perhaps the most severe of which is COVID-19 pandemic.

Admirably, Qatar 's economy is projected to achieve a growth rate of about 6.7% for the year 2022, according to ESCWA estimates, supported by investments in infrastructure and services, spending on human sector, youth support, education development, and improvement of the economic and legal environment. On this occasion, I congratulate you on the election of the Shura Council today to strengthen the democratic process in the State of Qatar. Undoubtedly, ESCWA is looking forward to cooperating with you so as to enhance technical capacity of PSA staff, while providing advice to contribute to setting policies that aim to achieve the development vision of the State of Qatar. Thus, this workshop is a continuation of cooperation with you.

In conclusion, I wish everyone a fruitful meeting that serves the development process for the good of Qatar.

Thank you