



In the Name of God, Most Gracious, Most Merciful

Your Excellency Ms. Rola Dashti, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA),

Ladies and gentlemen, representatives of the United Nations organizations, ministries, government agencies, universities, research centers, private sector institutions and civil society in Qatar.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Peace, mercy and blessings of God be upon you,

First, I would like to apologize for the sudden amendment to the workshop agenda.

It gives us great pleasure to welcome you on the first day of the workshop on “Enhancing Integrated National Development Planning” in cooperation and coordination with the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), within the framework of the continuous and fruitful partnership between the PSA and the ESCWA to promote economic and social development in the State of Qatar. This workshop comes as a continuation of the efforts made by the PSA aimed at enhancing development planning capabilities in cooperation with our partners in Qatar and abroad, in preparation for Qatar's Third National Development Strategy 2023-2027.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Qatar National Vision 2030, launched in 2008, defines the general directions for the future of the State of Qatar, and highlights the values that reflect the aspirations, goals and culture of the people of Qatar. It is a general framework for preparing the most detailed developmental and executive strategies and plans, guided by the four pillars and targets included in the human development pillar, the social development pillar, the economic development pillar and finally the environmental development pillar.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Qatar National Vision 2030 has recognized that achieving the desired transformation requires the development of institutional and organizational capabilities, especially enhancing the central functions of government in finance, IT, human resources and institutional processes, including planning and policies. Since we are on the threshold of a

new development planning cycle, i.e. the third session, the focus will be on holding a series of preparatory and accompanying events that will allow not only for capacity building, but also for the exchange of views and knowledge on benefiting from the lessons of the past with their challenges and opportunities, in line with the directives of HH the Emir of Qatar in his speech today, as well as reviewing the practices of countries and their experiences in achieving development .

Hence, specific topics for the workshop have been selected based on their importance and influence in the development planning process. As you have noticed in this morning's sessions, the workshop will focus on the tools and materials related to integrated planning prepared by ESCWA, on the successes and challenges in national development planning in the State of Qatar, and on public policies and institutional reforms, especially those related to economic diversification policies and the growth of the private sector, including the attraction of FDI.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

With the approaching end of Qatar's Second National Development Strategy 2018-2022, whose implementation coincided with the occurrence of regional and global developments that affected all political, economic and social levels, including challenges at the health level, the initial results indicate a progress in implementing most of the strategic initiatives and projects, especially in the field of economic diversification and encouraging the private sector. The contribution of the non-oil sector to the real GDP amounted to more than 60% in the second quarter of this year, supported by a developed economic and logistical infrastructure. Progress has also been made in the fields of social, human and environmental development. Those fields will be the focus of extensive objective evaluation during the coming period .

The statistics produced by the PSA, in addition to the statistics of the sources, form the core of the evidence-based planning process. On this occasion, we would like to point out that the main results of the General Census of Population, Housing and Establishments "Qatar Census 2020" were announced last week, along with the main results in various topics, such as population, education, economic activity and housing, as well as the basic indicators associated with each of them, in comparison with the results of previous censuses. Therefore, the invitation is open to all planners, researchers and development policy makers to benefit from these results and deploy them in their work.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The past period has witnessed great efforts from all government agencies in preparing and updating their institutional strategic plans and aligning them with the national development strategies and Qatar National Vision 2030 to integrate the multi-level national planning system. We, in turn, thank all stakeholders for their continuous interaction and cooperation. The impact of the increasing focus on raising and evaluating government performance was reflected in the follow-up approach, which gradually moved from development plans as a basis for follow-up to the plans of government agencies. The PSA seeks to continuously develop planning methodologies that will serve the development process, while continuing to adopt the result-based planning methodology in the government sector.

Before concluding, I would like to reiterate my thanks and appreciation to HE Dr. Rola Dashti for the distinguished addition she has given and the vitality that she has contributed to this prestigious organization as its Executive Secretary.

I would like also to thank you all for your attendance and participation in this workshop, looking forward to your active participation in all sessions, and hoping that the workshop will achieve its objectives.

Peace, mercy and blessings of god be upon you all.