

SECOND PHASE OF WSIS, 16-18 NOVEMBER, TUNIS

STATEMENT BY HIS HIGHNESS SHAIKH ABDULLAH BIN KHALIFA AL-THANI PRIME MINISTER OF THE STATE OF QATAR

In the Name of God

The Most Compassionate, The Most Merciful

Mr. Chairman,
Mr. Secretary-General,
Your Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives me pleasure to convey to you the greetings of His Highness Shaikh Hamad Bin Khalifa al-Thani, The Amir of the State of Qatar, and his wishes of success for this summit.

Mr. Chairman,

This conference is a landmark in the march of the international community to achieve the U.N. Millennium Declaration development goals. By stressing the value of the information society and the means of achieving its objectives, we will work jointly to consolidate the role of information and knowledge as a principal tributary for the progress and prosperity of our human civilization. Our hopes in channeling the potential of knowledge and technology to serve our communities are embedded in the depth of the three major objectives of the U.N. Charter, namely: development, security and human rights.

Mr. Chairman,

We confirm the State of Qatar's commitment to the joint world effort to build the information society, and we emphasize here today as participating governments our commitment to fulfill our obligations to play a leading role in developing the information and communication technology by drawing comprehensive and long term national strategies and follow up the implementation of such strategies.

Mr. Chairman,

His Highness Shaikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al-Thani, The Amir of the State of Qatar, has put forward a progressive vision for the State of Qatar, where thought and creativity flourish, on the basis of political reform and fair and sustainable economic and social development where the citizens enjoy equal opportunities and have open scopes for achieving high standards of living on a contemporary and modern economic base.

Guided by this vision, we are fully convinced that the information and communications technology will contribute to realizing this vision. That is why last year we set up the Supreme Council for Communications and Information Technology, which is chaired by His Highness Shaikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al-Thani, The Heir Apparent of the State of Qatar. The Council is assigned to organize the communications and information technology sectors in the State, and draw up their respective strategies, so as to provide the opportunity for the different categories of society to use information and communications technology to improve their quality of life and to effect social and economic development of the State, and raise the community to become progressive and have a knowledge-oriented economy.

Mr. Chairman,

Implementation of the Declaration of Principles and the Plan of Action and what we expect of the Tunis Declaration are on the priority list of the Supreme Council for Communications and Information Technology in the State of Qatar, particularly the role of governments, and all those concerned, in advancing the information and communications technology for development, the necessity of providing the infrastructure of information and communications and build-up capabilities, concentration on confidence building and security in the use of technology as well as the role of regional and international cooperation in implementing the plan of action.

Out of the creative intellectual enrichment the State of Qatar is witnessing and the launching of the Education City with its pioneering in the field of education world-wide, we have decided to launch the "Q-CERT" as a regional centre concerned with all aspects of protecting and securing information with the objective of providing the Middle East region with the necessary measures and applications in the sphere of electronic security and to make Qatar actively contribute to international efforts to make the informational and technological channels more secure for all.

Mr. Chairman,

Qatar was and still is in the heart of the international community challenges. It had the honour to chair the Group of 77 and China in 2004. and to host the 2nd South Summit last June. It also hosted a number of conferences and forums concerned with freedom of religions, human rights and dialogue.

Moreover, the State of Qatar will host in March 2006 the International Conference on Communications Development, under the umbrella of the International Telecommunications Union, where the necessary plans and programs will be drawn to give a push to the march of the information society over the next four years, hoping that that conference will be complementary to the outcome and recommendations of this summit.

Mr. Chairman,

Mr. Secretary-General, Ladies and Gentlemen,

In conclusion, I would like to express deep thanks and appreciation for the President, the government and people of the Republic of Tunisia for the warm hospitality and reception accorded to us, and also thanks to the United Nations and the International Telecommunications Union for the good preparation and organization of this summit and securing its success.

May the peace, the mercy and the blessings of God be upon you.