

Title: **Official Statistics and the Future of Sustainable Development**

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The Role of Qatar Development Fund in Supporting the SDGs in Least Developed Countries

باسم الله الرحمن الرحيم والصلاة والسلام على أشرف الأنبياء سيدنا محمد صلى الله عليه وسلم

السلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركته. أسمحوا لي أن ألقى مداخنتي باللغة الإنجليزية مراعاتاً لزملائنا الحضور هنا وحول العالم ويهدف تسليط الضوء على مساعي وأعمال صندوق قطر للتنمية السامية عالمياً، وذلك امتداداً من الدور القيادي لدولة قطر في دعم التنمية المستدامة حول العالم وخصوصاً في البلدان الأقل نمواً دعماً للاستقرار والتنمية المستدامة حول العالم.

Distinguished guest, good morning. Thank you to my colleagues at the National Planning Council for their gracious hospitality and immense organizational effort in bringing us all here today.

The NPC is leading the discourse on the role of data and official statistics for the promotion of innovation and inclusivity. The effectiveness of accurate data on influencing policy and the importance of maximizing the value of data and creating a robust ecosystem of knowledge for the fulfillment of national and international development goals, specifically those that feed into the sustainable development goals adopted by nation states under the banner of the United Nations has never been more vital.

The value of data has skyrocketed in recent years. We speak today of Data as we do on bonds, their value has a stable return on investment, they compound over time and are a safe and secure investment for our futures. We pride ourselves here in Qatar of the focus the government has instilled in the knowledge economy. Data and official statistics assuming the drivers seat of the mandated objective. Without accurate data and information, policies would have no port to depart from or arrive at.

We at Qatar Fund for Development rely heavily on data and official reporting mechanisms in all aspects of our business. There is no single process or procedure that has been taken or constructed that hasn't at its core an element of data or statistics attached to it. **Data has been meticulously weaved into the fabric of the fund, resulting in its ineffable status of being.**

I am certain that all of you here today, both participants and attendees alike, are far better versed in the importance and inner workings of the data and information ecosystem. Allow me to shed light on what I know of, that of the workings of Qatar Fund for Development.

A fund that is, by government mandate, tasked with the whole international development portfolio of the country. Qatar being a leader in development and humanitarian

responsiveness globally, has sought to consolidate its efforts when creating the law and subsequent body of the fund. Guided by the national vision of the country and the 2030 agenda for sustainable development goals, Qatar fund for development stands ready to contribute its part in realizing the pillars and objectives of universal freedoms, rights to the access to quality education and healthcare, the inalienable right to self determination and a life lived with dignity and above all else the security and stability of communities and countries around the world.

The fund has been described in the past as a linchpin and interlocutor, connecting various entities within Qatar, from state institutions to humanitarian organizations and international agencies and partners. Driven to fulfill our unified objectives of sustainable development and humanitarian relief, the fund alongside its local and international partners works tirelessly in response to evolving global needs and trends, anchored by the fundamental frameworks and ideals of Qatar's national vision and the SDGs 2030.

Through providing a series of financial packages, from fulfilling government pledges and grants to issuing concessional loans and long-term investments in pool funds, in support of initiatives and programs aimed at improving the lives and livelihoods of people and communities around the world.

Numbers to us translate to lives. We do not interact with data and information abstractly. Images of people and communities often accompany those inputs when evaluating the developmental and humanitarian needs of the world. The listings of countries' status and progression on developmental and humanitarian assistance platforms such as the OECD DAC and others, reflect a larger story of the success of its people and communities. Graduating from these lists is cause for global celebration for a consorted effort well done. A prolonged residency on these lists is equally a cause for global concern and evaluation. Data drives these lists, it informs decisions and policies, directly influencing the quality of people's lives and more often their lifelines.

At Qatar fund for development, every layer of our meticulous system of evaluations- from partnership onboarding to project evaluation and follow up, centers on the alignment of mission and objectives with that of the SDGs. **It is the ethos of our operations.**

Participating at this year's United Nations General Assembly, our UN partners delivered sobering messages of SDGs KPIs not being met, delays in the delivery of projects and objectives under the Sustainable Development Goals agenda. These alarming numbers reflect the slowing down of global efforts to respond to the world's development needs as a result of and the aftermath of the outbreak of COVID-19 corona virus. Some news narratives had us believe that the world stood still during those times, but as we know now, the needs of the world only grew deeper and mounted in urgency.

The chasm between needs and resources can now only be effectively bridged by accurate and updated data. The will and intension to aid those in need is alive and well. The renewed financial and political intensions of the global community echoed all through the UNGA 2024 week. Qatar and by proxy QFFD, also renewed its commitment towards helping those most vulnerable and in need of assistance.

The renewed commitment to Gaza of \$100 million US dollars in support and solidarity to our brothers and sisters undergoing the inhuman siege and daily bombardment is but one of many renewed commitments the State has pledged towards its stance for the rights of the people and to the delivery of the global SDGs.

Qatar fund has in its strategic objectives a focus in supporting developing and Least development countries. This is based on recipient needs and through a system of delivering on Qatar's international commitments and supporting the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals through strengthening local and international cooperation and partnerships in achieving the maximum amount of positive impact.

As our sector and cluster focus shifts from one SDG column to another, from healthcare to education, or economic reform back to healthcare, the mission remains one. Delivering on our commitments towards the successful achievements of the global goals of sustainable development towards the collective advancement of mankind and the realization of a peaceful and secure world.

Thank you for your time and for providing me the opportunity to share Qatar Fund for Developments work and objectives. The impact of which can be seen around the world. As a vessel for development and humanitarian aid globally, we strongly support accurate statistical systems and data collection and assimilation, for the integral role it plays in our identification, allocation and disbursement of funds towards developmental initiatives and projective around the world.

In the absence of reliable and accurate data, in which a number represents a person, catastrophic and unacceptable results may follow suit. That is why we support platforms and entities such as the UN in their core operations or the OECD and MOPAN, as champions of data and knowledge, with the objective to inform and shape policy geared towards the betterment of people lives and communities. Thank you for your time and I wish you a pleasant and engaging rest of the day.