

Permanent Mission of the  
State of Qatar to the United Nations  
New York



الوفد الدائم لدولة قطر  
لدى الأمم المتحدة  
نيويورك

**Intervention  
By**

**His Excellency Mr. Ahmad Bin Abdullah Al-Mahmoud  
Minister of State for Foreign Affairs and Member of the Council of  
Ministers**

**Before  
The Discussion Panel on Education and Health**

**At  
The High-level Event of the General Assembly of the United Nations  
On the Millennium Development Goals**

**25 September 2008  
Trusteeship Council, UNHQ, New York**

I would like to begin by thanking H.E. Mr. Danilo Türk, President of the Republic of Slovenia and H.H. Sheikh Naser Al-Mohammad Al-Ahmed Al-Sabah, Prime Minister of the State of Kuwait chairpersons of the panel for successfully managing the works of our discussions.

**Mr. President,**

Our meeting is held today at midway point between the adoption of the Millennium Declaration and the year 2015, while many developing countries are still off-track in their pursuit to achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The eight MDGs are the driving force of international efforts to achieve real and tangible development. Drawing attention to and upgrading education and health sectors would leave a lasting impact on socio-economic sustainable development.

**Mr. President,**

The commitment to the MDGs has imposed on us, as Governments, basic responsibilities. We should invest in education, health and social services, as an imperative to address poverty. We are also required to sustain our efforts to ensure that these investments are channeled in the right direction that would bring positive results in achieving the goals to which we aspire. ((The Emir of Qatar His Highness Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani has stressed in his opening speech this morning the imperative of developing new partnerships for financing education, health and employment opportunities for young people of both genders)). The purpose of such exercise is not to allow rich countries and donor countries to advise developing countries on what to do with their educational, health and social systems but rather to provide aid to developing countries to invest in their peoples through locally based and owned policy.

Education constitutes an essential component of the holistic approach to development. In this context, it is important to channel investments in education towards quantitative as well as qualitative areas. Therefore, it would not be enough to channel investments towards increasing the number of schools and facilitating access to and registration in all grades. They must be also be channeled to achieve quality education and its crucial results. Education is the cornerstone in the fight against poverty and achieving MDGs, and it is therefore imperative to give girls and women equal opportunities in education, so as to enable them to participate effectively in the productive economic activity.

**Mr. President,**

We in the state of Qatar are looking forward, eagerly, to the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Monterrey Consensus, to be held in Doha, next November, and to the post-Doha period. With concerted efforts, we hope to transform that consensus into concrete actions to achieve the Millennium Development Goals before the year 2015.

**I thank you Mr. President.**