

Closing Remarks by HE Sheikh / Ahmed Bin Mohammed Bin Jabr Al-Thani
Assistant Minister for International Cooperation
Chair of the Permanent Committee for Organizing Conferences

At
Doha Forum XII
May 22, 2012 AD

In the name of God the Merciful, the Compassionate

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Distinguished Audience,

As we conclude the work of the twelfth Doha Forum, I would like to express my sincere thankfulness and appreciation for your intellectual contributions and outstanding efforts in enriching the political and economic discussions and dialogues which took place over the past two days in so many important topics and profound, meaningful debates expressing a variety of visions regarding the political and economic scenes in the Arab region and the whole world.

Among the most eminent guests of honor participating in this Forum were His Excellency Mahinda Rajapaksha, President of Sri Lanka, Mr. Abdou Diouf, former President of the Republic of Senegal and head of the International Organization of the Francophonie, His Royal Highness Prince Alwaleed bin Talal, and a group of prominent political leaders, decision makers, parliamentarians, businessmen, academics, media professionals, experts in diverse fields as well as representatives of Civil Society, regional and international organizations, whom contributions enhanced the knowledgeable, free debates about the topics on the forum's agenda.

The Forum's plenary sessions and workshops' discussions and debates have focused on the Arab Spring and its repercussions on the region as well as the global economic crisis and its impact on poor countries with respect to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. They also addressed a variety of issues in multiple fields, such as the political changes and civil rights in the Middle East, the implications and challenges of Arab Spring from democracy perspective, the political and economic future of the Middle East, development and free trade, traditional and digital media's central role in the reporting on the post-Arab Spring.

Distinguished Audience,

Our aspirations and goals are for this forum to be more than a platform for dialogue and consultation, but also a tribune for enlightened thinkers to present proposals and solutions that could be converted into concrete plans, policies and programs for the benefit of Humanity.

We are at a crossroads and the whole world is going through the most difficult circumstances, whether economic, financial, political or with respect to human rights, we need to re-evaluate ideologies for they failed to address the world's problems, sometimes even worsening them. We are confronted with a flaw that demands acknowledgement and intensified efforts by politicians, economists, Civil Society and international organizations and bodies. We also envision the Forum as an important platform that would shape the future and the many political and economic aspirations in the Middle East, which will pave the way for the spread of democracy, sustainable political reform, development, human rights culture, empowerment of women, enhancement of media role in highlighting the Arab public opinion accompanying the political, economic and social changes in the post-Arab Spring era.

In conclusion, I thank you again for your valued participation, contributions and suggestions. I wish you luck and success and I am looking forward to meet you next year.

May peace and God's mercy and blessings be upon you.