

Global Green Growth Forum
8 October 2012
Copenhagen – Denmark

Opening plenary remarks by

H.E. Abdullah bin Hamad Al-Attiyah

COP18 President

Chairman – Administrative Control and Transparency Authority

State of Qatar

Prime Minister THORNING-SCHMIDT,

Prime Minister KIM,

Minister ELVIRA QUESADA,

Minister MURUNGI,

Vice-Minister LIU QI,

Your Excellencies,

Distinguished guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

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It is a great pleasure for me to participate today in the opening ceremony of the 2012 Global Green Growth Forum.

Please allow me to first thank our host, the Government of Denmark, for their warm welcome in this beautiful city of Copenhagen.

Madame Prime Minister, it is really wonderful to see you.

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Thank you also to the organizers of 3GF for putting together such an impressive event.

The State of Qatar is honored to be joining as a partner country and looks forward to supporting this important initiative in the future.

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In just over a year, 3GF has established itself as a leading platform for discussion and collaboration around green growth.

In fact, the Forum has already made an outstanding contribution to the way we conceptualize the necessary transition towards a more sustainable global economy.

Most importantly, 3GF is acting as a real catalyst in exploring how leading businesses, investors and key public institutions can come together and deliver on the promise of green growth.

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As a veteran of the energy and water sectors, I can only underscore the necessity of involving the private sector in solving the huge social and economic challenges that lie ahead of us.

Whether it be in developed, developing or emerging countries, it is now apparent that the public sector simply *cannot* and *will not* do it all alone.

Equally, it is crucial to recognize that sustainable development should be everyone's obligation and concern – not simply that of national governments or public institutions.

Business and industry indeed have a lot to contribute to an effective transition towards a green economy: skills, know-how, R&D, or even implementation capabilities.

Potentially, they also have a lot to gain from it.

In my eyes, green growth represents both a *responsibility* and an *opportunity* for the private sector.

And I congratulate the Global Green Growth Forum for reminding us of that.

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But I am also speaking to you this morning as the incoming President of COP18/CMP8.

As you all know, Doha will be the host of this year's Conference.

Very much in line with the spirit prevailing here today, I can assure you that "outcomes" will be our top priority.

For the time of implementation has come.

And the optimism coming out of Bangkok needs to be sustained through concrete action and clear commitments now.

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Ladies and gentlemen,

What is true for green growth is certainly true for climate change.

The private sector, industry leaders and investors have to play a more active role in the COP process.

Climate change is a global challenge that will require creative and bold answers: answers that rise above the borders of nation states; the boundaries between academia and industry; and the walls isolating the public and private sectors.

I am here to assure you that the State of Qatar will continue to work diligently to bring together all interested parties in a manner that is transparent, inclusive and pragmatic.

We look forward to welcoming you to Doha at the end of November.

Thank you very much, once again.

[The end]