



International Seminar – 28-29 October 2008

Towards Qatar's National Strategy: Issues and Challenges

The Role of Government in the Formulation and Implementation of Qatar's National Strategy

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IN THE NAME OF GOD

THE MOST MERCIFUL, THE MOST COMPASSIONATE

His Highness, Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al-Thani, Heir Apparent
Excellencies, Honourable Ministers
Honourable Audience

It gives me great pleasure to warmly welcome you all to this important seminar which paves the way for the preparation and implementation of our National Strategy, and defines the role of government in achieving this task.

Qatar's recent development achievements have been truly remarkable and have received international acclaim. Qatar has compressed into the space of less than two decades changes that have taken several decades in some other countries. Progress has been made possible by Qatar's bountiful hydrocarbon resources, and by the foresight and wisdom of its leadership. Hydrocarbon wealth has provided the means for the development of a vibrant economy and for advances in human development.

Despite these positive developments, the government realizes the need to strengthen the coordination and harmonization of our development efforts across ministries and agencies. Towards this end, there are a number of ongoing initiatives that are taking place. A few months ago the government began formulating sectoral strategies, plans and programmes. His Highness the Emir issued a Decision to restructure government with the aim of increasing the efficiency of public administration, and upgrading the performance and quality of public services.

In 2006, the General Secretariat for Development Planning (GSDP) was established through an Emiri Decision to provide leadership for the coordination of the nation's development plans and strategies in all sectors. As a first step, the Qatar National Vision 2030 was formulated and approved by His Highness, the Emir. Qatar's Vision defines the main features of how we envision our society to be in 2030. It identifies the general directions that will lead to achieving the desired human, social, economic and environmental goals. It also reflects the ambitions of the Qatari people and of Qatari culture.

Achievement of the National Vision is a collective responsibility that will be led by the state, in partnership with the private sector, civil society and academia. The government will strengthen partnerships among all sectors and coordinate economic and social policies in order to build a more progressive and prosperous Qatari society. To achieve these aims, sectoral plans should be synchronized with the National Strategy. This calls for good cooperation and coordination with the GSDP.

The launch of Qatar National Vision 2030 at this Seminar paves the way for the preparation of our National Strategy which will operationalise the objectives of the Vision. The National Strategy represents a framework and a driving force to achieve the outcomes of sustainable development. Moreover, the Strategy will enhance capacity building in the areas of planning, design and implementation of policies by public

administration, and improve governance. It will also include mechanisms for monitoring, evaluation and ensuring accountability.

I would like to emphasize that we are fully committed at all levels of government to the formulation and implementation of the National Strategy. All government ministries and agencies will participate and contribute constructively to these two stages.

Qatar's National Vision 2030 was formulated for you and is owned by you. Thus I call upon you to strive to fulfill your respective responsibilities towards achieving our Vision. I also call upon you to work together to realize the Vision's goals and to develop the National Strategy that derives from it.

May God lead our steps in this vital national endeavor. May peace and God's blessings be upon you.