



معهد الدوحة الدولي للدراسات الأسرية والتنمية

DOHA INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE
for Family Studies and Development

Member of Qatar Foundation

***STATEMENT OF
H.E. NOOR AL MALKI AL-JEHANI
LAUNCH EVENT, UN 14 MAY 2012***

Excellencies, Ladies and gentlemen,

I am pleased and honored to be here today to Launch the book “Family and MDGs” which has been funded and sponsored by the Doha International Institute for Family Studies and Development.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank H.E Sheikh Meshal Bin Hamad Al Thani, Permanent Representative of the State of Qatar to the UN, and the Mission of Qatar for their ongoing assistance and support. I would also like to thank Ms Susan Roylance and the other authors for their valuable contribution in the realization of this important Book.

The Doha Institute is a Member of Qatar Foundation which is supporting Qatar on its journey from carbon economy to knowledge economy by unlocking human potential. This will not just benefit Qatar, it will benefit the world.

The Institute was established in 2005 by Her Highness Sheikha Moza Bint Nasser to re-affirm that the family is the natural and fundamental unit of society, and to promote the role of the family as a key actor in development at all levels through research, capacity building, advocacy, and proactive engagement in International Family policy development.

Throughout our work, we strive to lead efforts to make family issues a priority at all levels and to make Qatar a platform for constructive exchange on the family.

Excellencies, Ladies and gentlemen,

This book has been introduced by Her Highness Sheikha Moza Bint Nasser, Chairperson of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development, because it provides both theoretical and practical solutions to facilitate the participation of family units throughout the world in meeting the MDGs.

As a Special Envoy to UNESCO and active member of the United Nations MDGS advocacy group, Her Highness has dedicated her efforts and energy towards the achievements of the MDGs, particularly MDG2. She declared that her passion is education for all, regardless of gender, location or circumstance.

Her Highness also stated that “Education provides hope and understanding. It enhances tolerance. It ensures that there are no disillusioned youth out in the street looking for answers through radical ideologies”.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The family as a powerful agent for sustainable social, and economic development, has a central role to play in achieving the MDGs.

This role was highlighted in many documents, including in the Doha Declaration on the Family in 2004, that reaffirmed that the Family is not only the fundamental group unit of society but also the fundamental agent for sustainable development.

The family remains the primary institution for raising children, fostering commitments and responsibilities, caring for the elderly and imparting values to youth in the society. Therefore, it is important that the family should be taken into account when putting policies and strategies to address the challenges of the new Millennium.

The attainment of each of the eight MDGs that target the specific needs of mothers and children should begin by the family. This book as mentioned by Her Highness: “begins an important dialogue with policy makers, agencies, administrators and members of civil society on strengthening society through reliance upon—and support of—society’s most fundamental unit: the family.”

Strengthening the role of the family in sustainable development is the Institute’s main objective. Therefore, we promote research and we provide grants to support researchers in countries all over the world, including Scandinavia, Australia, Cambodia, Korea, Kenya, Argentina and Qatar.

We sponsored this Book because it highlights the role of the family in the achievement of the MDGs and provides a focused analysis on how the international community can actually achieve the MDGs by means that are realistic, workable and – above all – practical.

We believe this book will quickly become a centerpiece of international development literature.

I would like to conclude by stating that governments have an obligation to honor their commitments at the international level, but at the same time the MDGs will not be achieved without the involvement of the family and other stakeholders.

Thank you