

Opening Remarks
**Doha Briefing on “Focusing on Families to Support the Implementation of the
SDGs”**
29 January 2018, 1:15 – 2:30 PM, CR (7)

**Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

- At the outset, I would like to welcome you all and express my gratitude and appreciation for giving the time to be with us today at this important event.
- I would like to express my gratitude to the co-organizers for their cooperation and efforts in organizing this event especially the Doha International Family Institute headed by H.E. Ms. Noor Al Malki Al Jahni, Executive Director of DIFI, and I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to the work of the DIFI who since its establishment in 2006 is playing an important and vital role in prioritizing and focusing on family issue in the context of implementing the SDGs at the national and international levels, and for their valued work to advance knowledge on Arab families and their efforts to promote evidence – based policies at the national, regional and international levels.
- I would like to thank the Department of Economic and Social Affairs DESA for their cooperation in organizing this event and it is worth to highlight and praise the work of the Family Unit at DESA for their work to increase focus on the role of the family in Social development.

**Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen**

- This event comes as part of a series of the Doha Briefings which is an annual event organized by DIFI at the United Nations since 2009 aiming to inform and exchange views and expertise with diplomats, UN representatives, and NGOs on important issues related to the family.
- Today the Doha Briefing has the distinguished speakers: Ms. Renata Kaczmarek, Social affairs officer at DESA, UN Focal Point on the Family, Dr. Anis Ben Brik, Family Policy Director at the Doha International Family Institute and Dr. Nader Kabbani, Director of Research at the Brookings Doha Center. Thank you all for having a part in this event.

Excellencies

Ladies and Gentlemen,

- The State of Qatar has a strong belief in the pivotal role of family in social development. This belief is not only in theory. It is a belief we built through practice by implementing a variety of family-oriented policies and programs in our own country and witnessing its positive impact on our people and society.
- Driven by this strong belief, the State of Qatar took a leading role in facilitating the consultations on the resolution on the “International Year of the Family” presented each year by the group of 77 and China.
- I would like to reiterate that the “Follow-up to the twentieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family and beyond” resolution adopted by the General assembly during its 72nd session, invited Member States to invest in a variety of family-oriented policies and programmes, as important tools for fighting poverty, social exclusion and inequality, promoting work-family balance and gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls and advancing social integration and intergenerational solidarity, to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

Excellencies

Ladies and Gentlemen,

- I trust that our distinguished speakers today will enlighten us with new insights from the findings of the International Expert Group meeting held in Doha in November 2017 on “Integrating a Family Perspective during the localization of SDGs in the Arab World: Challenges and Aspirations”
- I also look forward to your active participation in the following discussion especially on the topic of investing in family policies that focus on youth and why this is important to the Arab World.

Thank you,