

## **DIFI UNVEILS ‘CIVIL SOCIETY STATEMENT ON PARENTING’**

*Statement presented ahead of QF member’s international conference*

**Doha, Qatar, October 22, 2018:** Doha International Family Institute (DIFI), a member of Qatar Foundation, today hosted a meeting for civil society organizations in partnership with the International Federation for Family Development (IFFD).

The meeting highlighted the role of parenting in contributing to sustainable development, while improving quality education and health outcomes. Under this overarching theme, several topics were discussed, including ways of promoting gender equality and shared responsibility at home; preventing the reproduction of families in vulnerable situations; promoting intergenerational solidarity and inclusive urbanization; and creating an enabling environment for a meaningful contribution of civil society organizations.

These subject areas align with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which acknowledges the right to start a family, where the family represents a basic and essential building block of society, and holds the primary responsibility for the nurturing, protection, and socialization of children. According to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, a child should grow up in a family environment, in an atmosphere of happiness, and the family should assume its responsibilities within the community.

The meeting was held ahead of DIFI’s two-day International Conference on Parenting, Child Wellbeing and Development which begins on Tuesday, October 23, and will take place at the St. Regis Doha. Discussions focused on programs that enhance parents' skills and involvement in early childhood.

It featured two sessions, including ‘Sharing of Experiences and Exchange on Promoting Parenting Support at National and Regional Levels,’ moderated by Noor Al Malki Al Jehani, Executive Director, DIFI. The second session, titled ‘Introducing Civil Society Statement on Parenting,’ was moderated by Ignacio Socias, Director of Communication, IFFD.

The meeting also highlighted the importance of supporting parents by both government agencies and civil society organizations, whose efforts were praised by participants. The gathering concluded with the launch of the ‘Civil Society Statement on Parenting.’

Participants included representatives from Focus on the Family Malaysia, Investing in Children and Their Societies, the Africa Fatherhood Initiative, the World Family Organization, Ngala Parenting with Confidence, the International Federation for Home Economics, the European Large Families Confederation, and the Parents Forum.

**Ends**

### **About Doha International Family Institute (DIFI):**

DIFI is a pioneer international organization in the State of Qatar that supports research programs, policies and social outreach to promote the development of Arab families. Focusing primarily on

research, DIFI supports a wide range of national, regional and international evidence based studies pertaining to marriage, family building, women, fertility, demographics, children, family safety, child safety, fatherhood and motherhood. DIFI comprises three divisions: family research division, family policy division and social outreach division. DIFI is a member of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development and has a special consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (UNECOSOC).