

**High Level Consultation on the Roadmap for Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies
Side Event at the High-level Political Forum 2017, 18 July 1:15 to 2:30pm
Conference Room 7, UNHQ**

TALKING POINTS

**H.E. Dr. Saleh bin Mohammed Al-Nabi
Minister of Development Planning and Statistics
State of Qatar**

Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

- At the outset, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to Brazil, Sierra Leone, Switzerland, and the Center on International Cooperation for hosting this high-level consultation on the Roadmap for Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies.
- I am pleased to note that Qatar has been a member of the Pathfinders since its inception. We appreciate the Pathfinders' approach, that although SDG16 is the main goal for fostering peaceful, just and inclusive societies in the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, we should also look beyond SDG16 and consider targets from other goals. This way we are recognizing strong links with all goals, in line with the integrated nature of the 2030 Agenda. Furthermore, we see in the Pathfinders an opportunity to accelerate delivery by building consensus behind the policies, approaches and programmes that are most likely to lead to successful implementation.
- In Qatar, we have focused on building strong institutions that promote justice, benevolence and equality. The poorest and most vulnerable people—especially families, women, youth and people with disabilities— rely on the opportunities created by effective and just institutions. The institutions that provide health, education, infrastructure, and every other kind of service enable people in every part of our society to live dignified lives, and contribute to the wellbeing of others. In our view, just and inclusive institutions have laid the foundation for peace and progress in Qatar.
- We are also cognizant that rule of law is prerequisite for, as well as an outcome of, good governance. In this regard, we view freedom of expression and access to information as an indispensable element for fostering citizen participation in the development of our country as well as a prominent issue for the rule of law.
- Qatar's leaders understood a long time ago that our path to sustainable development had to include anti-corruption strategies, and honest, transparent and accountable governance.
- Corruption weakens education and health, and reinforces injustices by perverting criminal justice systems and the rule of law. Corruption wrecks economic and social development and increases poverty. It harms everyone, but the poor and vulnerable suffer most.
- Qatar is currently placed among the top countries in terms of fighting corruption, as a result of our continuous support for all anti-corruption issues at both local and international levels. We have also been ranked as one of the most peaceful countries, on a number of indicators, by the Global Peace Index.

- We have enacted strong laws against corruption and established law enforcement agencies that work against corruption. We have also supported and implemented global anti-corruption efforts, crime prevention and the rule of law through the implementation of the Doha Declaration adopted in 2015 at the 13th Crime Congress.
- Moreover, demonstrating our strong commitment to the prevention of corruption and promotion of transparent and accountable governance, Qatar established in 2011 the first regional Rule of Law and Anti-Corruption Center (ROLACC), in partnership with the United Nations. This Center is a regional hub for training and hosting conferences and forums on fighting corruption and the rule of law.
- Moreover, the Center supports Rule of Law and Anti-Corruption' initiatives in other countries, and provide permanent frameworks for the exchange of experiences and expertise through strategic partnerships with relevant UN bodies, such as UNODC and UNDP.
- ROLACC also builds specialized knowledge and raises individual and institutional competencies, in country and in the region, to strengthen the Rule of Law and combat corruption in line with international standards and to meet national needs. Most importantly, the center provides and facilitates the education and training of specialists and practitioners in all sectors at the national, regional and international levels.
- Over the past years, since the establishment of the Doha ROLACC, a significant change in the field of awareness on the areas of combating corruption and the rule of law in the region has been achieved.
- Qatar also strongly believes that anti-corruption starts with the promotion of educational curricula– as a long-term mechanism to avoid a culture of corruption. Anti-corruption education can be one of the most consistent and effective ways to produce responsible and uncorrupt citizens and civil servants. In this regard, we have been working with a number of UN agencies to produce a multilingual and comprehensive set of support tools for universities to integrate in their anti-corruption programmes.
- I am pleased to note that the State of Qatar has established the His Highness Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani Anti-Corruption Excellence Award. The Award, is intended to offer recognition and appreciation to innovative approaches, and prominent contributions to the prevention of and fight against corruption.
- Let me also highlight that good governance requires governments to invest in their own people and work to preserve the welfare of their citizens. Our leaders have identified education, and training policies, focused on national needs, as a critical vehicle to meet Qatar's social and economic goals. For example, 19.6 per cent of government spending goes to education.
- To conclude, we are proud of the progress we have made toward just and inclusive societies, but it is important to highlight that the absence of corruption, and good and accountable governance requires leadership that is open and transparent. I am proud to say that Qatar has been extremely blessed in this regard.
- Thank you very much!