



SULTAN BIN SAAD AL-MURAIKHI

Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Qatar

Your Excellencies,

Distinguished guests,

As-salamu alikum wa rahmatullahi wa barakatu

In the name of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, I have the pleasure to greet you and wish you a pleasant and useful stay among us despite the short time.

The State of Qatar, which receives you today, may be geographically small, but, as the skies have no limit, so are our ambitions. I think we all share the quality of being ambitious. It is a human trait and a legitimate feeling. However, we don't use any other means to realize these ambitions than legal ones.

We, ladies and gentlemen, at the beginning and in the end are advocates of peace. We believe that the power of life that propels societies and nations is greater than the power of destruction. What remains stable in our memories and history is the human stimulus to achieve development and spread good, as evil never prevails.

We are callers for peace. That is why the State of Qatar has played a key role in mediation to reach peaceful settlements to conflicts in several areas of the world. It also works to extend essential assistance to the countries passing through interim and post conflicts periods, and supported reform operations that are geared to enhance peace and security in more than one country.

Nevertheless, it can be said that all those bloody conflicts that took place in our region, are attributed to the negligence of sovereignty, absence of the rule of law in good governance and managing of the public affairs as well as the relationship between the citizens and the state and between the states.

The political instability in the Arab region constitutes a big concern to all of us; and its causes differ from country to another, but it can always be attributed to the lack of the rule of law, and wherever, there are ethnic, sectarian conflicts, extremist movements, terrorism, wars and tribal extremism.

These conflicts are nourished from the lack of the rule law, and lack of law in turn nourished the wave of extremism in the whole region and its peripheries.

Our whole countries are damaged and all the peoples were displaced and resorted under the pressure and oppression to escape to other areas, namely Europe which is our nearest neighbour.

Such move does not solve the problem but contributes in creating other problems.

It is suffice, to remind you honourable dignitaries and gentlemen, of that the non-solution of the Palestinian Problem since 1948, which did not make the refugees forget their villages and towns left behind by their fathers and grandfathers.

Isn't the time come for the world community to acknowledge the rights of Palestine to a freer state with its capital Al-Quads the noble?



The core of the continuous conflict in Palestine is also legal. For Israel still refuses to comply to the International law and implement the successive resolutions issued by the security council.

Successive Israeli governments prefer to use force against the Palestinian people instead of legitimate calls supported by the International law.

In Yemen also, a *coup d'état* against a legitimate elected government occurred. Here also we can find the lack of the rule of law is a core cause.

The war that is raging till now in Yamen would not have occurred had it not been for the rebels who turned against the legitimate government.

In Syria, a peaceful demonstration demanding reform and basic freedoms turned to a situation of a continuous five year civil war, all because the authorities refused to respect their own laws as well as the principles of human rights and respond to the people's demand. The authority preferred instead to resort to military force.

Those countries... Gentlemen, do need from us to make a serious pause to ask ourselves:

Did we do all we could to stop the damage and restore stability to the people?

If our efforts do not come together today, then when should we?

Is it not the positivity of those who are able to make change and plant hope and aspiration, the main cause for recruiting the terrorists?

I sincerely invite you gentlemen, to think in such matter...

Distinguished Guests,

In each of these stated cases - it is just examples, there are others - we find law trampled. And where the law trampled, chaos been generate. And it cannot "regulate chaos", Ladies and Gentlemen, not at the local and the international level, but just turn it off and restoring the rule of law. There is no other way out of all these conflicts.

We must say that the political chaos, which are manufactured or contribute to by some of the regional and world powers, led to the erosion of the sovereignty of weak States, and its inability to defend the citizen's right of a decent living.

This is what is really happening in Iraq, Syria, Yemen, Libya, Palestine, and other...

There is no doubt that some of the negative powers in dealing with these crises, or double standards, are equally dangerous, in which we find them incite other powers of the parties to the conflict, in order to achieve selfish interests, or expansion ambitions or else.

For this, we call for peace talks in the Middle East in order to put an end of fighting and move towards to achieve development and prosperity in the region.

We call for the resumption of negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians, for a final, comprehensive and just solution of the conflict, under the auspices of the UN, based on Security Council resolutions 242 and 338 and the recommendations and relevant resolutions. We also support the Arab peace plan, and we have already announced our



support for the French peace efforts, especially a resolution from the Security Council, sets frameworks agreement between Israel and the Palestinians.

We are keen to complete negotiations on the Syrian crisis, at least to get the results to protect civilians and stop the destruction and killing, and begin to establish a political track on the basis of what has been reached since the Geneva-1, in order to preserve the unity of Syria and its independence and sovereignty, and restores security and safety to the boundaries. We are aware that there is no military solution to this crisis, as there is no military solution to the crisis in Yemen and Libya as well.

We also call on Yemenis to resume talks, which began in Kuwait. In order to make it successful, must stop hostilities, and respond to the efforts of the United Nations. We cannot impose a solution by force, thus there is no escape from making concessions, and reconciliation on the basis of the Gulf initiative, and the outputs of the national dialogue and the implementation of the UN relevant resolutions, in particular Resolution 2216.

We also call on the Libyans to give priority to the mind and national interest instead of tribal rivalry and selfish interests, to unite and gather around the government of national unity which enjoys international support.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The State of Qatar is still working in order to establish the culture of dialogue and cooperation, integration and consultation policies and to achieve national reconciliation without which there will be no way to stability or development, either. Our belief in peace is belief in law. The State of Qatar believes that the rule of law is the basic principle on which the national edifice of any state is built; it is the principle which relations between countries are supposed to be based upon.

Therefore, we strongly deplore and condemn the intervention of some regional or international powers in the internal affairs of the countries of our region, unlawfully, and without any power of attorney from an international legal body. Such practices have greatly contributed to sowing discord and provided the extremists and terrorists - regardless of their religious, sectarian claims - with fuel by which they burned whole cities and destroyed life in any place that they invaded.

However; we are continuing to cooperate with our allies and friends to combat terrorism, beat it and deter the aggressors, wherever they are. We always believe and repeat that defeating terrorism and draining its resources require effective and binding international strategies that take into account the roots of extremism and its causes at the top of which are poverty, ignorance, unemployment, marginalization and other social and economic diseases that contributed to feeding terrorism. That is in addition to the foreign interventions which aim to exploit local conflicts as well as the absence of the rule of law.

Your Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Finally, I would like to thank all those who were able to accept the invitation and attended this conference with us. Our purpose of hosting such conference is the same as the purpose of our friends in France, who are used to organizing it since 2008. namely: strengthening cooperation and dialogue with world leaders and sages, and with all those who have influence on our collective present and future, as human beings, regardless of our affiliations and nationalities – Cooperation and Dialogue for "A world that is more open, more prosperous, more just and more respectful of the diversity of states and nations. "



Without further remarks, we hope that such dialogue and meetings will continue among us, so that we work together, think together on the problems suffered by us and you, and work together to solve them.

I wish you good residency among us; hoping the success of the works of this conference. I invite you now to dinner, God willing. Have good appetite.

Wassalamu Alaikum Warahmatu Allah