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I would like at the outset to extend my congratulations to the state of Qatar and to the French organisers for organising this conference on global governance. I will be addressing three main axes in my intervention for the coming 15 minutes. They cover women's education and citizenship, as Dr Mona mentioned. I will discuss the education of women, the achievements made in Qatar, and women's contributions in Qatar. There is also the role of women in sustainable development, which comes through empowerment, and this empowerment can only be guaranteed through education and training.

We all know the input of education in forging the character and personality of women. There is also the input brought by women into education. We all know that the education of women is called for by Islam. Ayesha in Islam used to teach women the Sharia, the fatwa and the religious texts from the beginning, so education is not new for us. Qatar has shown its interest long ago in educating women and women have left their fingerprints on education. We had many women who used to provide education to young girls in their houses.

They have also been in leading positions. We had the first female minister at the GCC level, Sheikha Al-Mahmoud, the minister of education in my country, who was minister from 2003 to 2009. As you know, Her Excellency Sheikha Mozah has also made many contributions to education and the education revolution. She is also a good intentions ambassador in the UN and she launched the initiative Educate a Child in addition to other initiatives on education, one of which is in Iraq.

I will not delve into more details. However, allow me to say that Qatar has been interested in teaching young girls. This started in 1956, when it embarked on providing education to women. Education has progressed and developed in school curricula and schoolbooks, teacher training and school administrations. We noticed recently that many initiatives were launched, which covered education and women's education. Many colleges and universities have opened and most of the graduates of the educational city and Qatari universities are women.

This is thanks to good governance in Qatar and to interest in education, since education is the main factor for the empowerment of women. This is socially, economically, professionally and on a personal level. This will build their skills and their capacity to live with others, to co-exist, to survive, and also to enter the labour market. Education is important for girls and women, as it will ensure their openness to others, their discussions with others and their acceptance of different views. This would also allow women to build their capacities and skills in scientific research and in communication skills. They can also get to know people.

Education in Qatar has also led to the building of the capacities of Qatari women. Qatari women have achieved high educational standards, and this has allowed them to take leading positions in the state. We have a member of the municipal council, Sheikha Jufairi, who holds this position. We have many ambassadors, and the permanent representative of Qatar at the United Nations is a woman. We also have many women leaders and many women who work on the economy. More than 1,500 companies are owned by women. 700 commercially registered companies are in the name of Qatari women, and a number of projects are led by Qatari women in the private sector.

With regard to instilling values of citizenship or women as mothers and educators, this holds many dimensions. First, there is her role as a mother. Mothers raise their children to be moderate in dealing with different aspects of life and



issues. Mothers build the communication skills of their children. Acceptance of different overviews allows them the room for communication and accepts their discussions and views.

In the educational system, women as teachers become models, and this affects their behaviour. When a female teacher uses discussion in the classroom and when the student is at the heart of the learning process, then students will not become the recipients of information. They get a leading role. They get to go home, read about subjects and ask their questions rather than just being the recipients of information. Techniques are different now. Students initiate discussions and teachers are the recipients, and teachers have to be convincing, as this is very important. This leads to the building of a strong personality.

Textbooks are very important in building citizenship. Our class books include many concepts on Islamic education and on citizenship. There are different subject matters, but we have focused on citizenship. In different schools, we have also worked on building citizenship, with many discussions related to citizenship. Democracy, the acceptance of the views of other people, and dialogue with other civilisations are among the main focus areas.