

**Statement by H. E. Abdullah Bin Hamad Al-Attiyah, the President of COP18/CMP8
Doha, at the opening of the High-Level segment of the 2012 United Nations
Climate Change Conference - December 4, 2012**

Your Highness Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, Emir of Qatar,

Highnesses and Excellencies,

Your Excellency, the Secretary-General of the United Nations,

Eminencies

Members of the Secretariat General of the United Nations Framework Convention on
Climate Change UNFCCC,

Distinguished delegates,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Peace be upon you.

Allow me first to welcome you to Qatar.

I would like to once again express my sincere thanks to H.H. Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al-Thani, the Emir of Qatar, for the valuable mission he has entrusted in me – to head the 18th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP18), and the eighth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP8), on behalf of the state of Qatar.

I would also like to express my appreciation and gratitude to the negotiators for their extensive efforts over the past few days and the tangible progress they have achieved during the negotiating process. This should prompt us to use all means possible to continue the achievements of the negotiators. I am also grateful for the efforts of governmental and non-governmental organisations, national institutions, civil society organisations, the media, and everyone who has contributed to the welfare of the people and the smooth operation of this event.

This conference in Doha and the negotiations that will follow over the next year represent an historical turning point. Here in Doha, we are completing an important phase to promote the fight against climate change, which began in Bali in 2007. Five long, tough years of negotiations have now passed. But in the coming year, we will act upon our agreement and embark on a new journey to prepare for post-2020.

It is my mission now to work alongside you and alongside the Secretariat General to ensure adopting balanced actions for a bright future.

Respected Heads of Delegations,

Here we are about to draw upon the results attained by the negotiators to reach a balanced set of resolutions to ensure a smooth transition from the negotiation phase to the execution phase. The resolutions will include the Kyoto Protocol, the agreement of

the parties, and post-2020 projects. I am counting on each and every one of you to cooperate with one another and understand each other to reach a comprehensive, satisfactory result that would drive us forward to realise our aspirations in this regard.

Dear ladies and gentlemen,

It is no secret that climate change is one of the most urgent challenges awaiting humanity and calls for action from the international community. We should all deploy serious efforts to reach cooperative, constructive negotiations.

This issue has so many dimensions and affects all our daily activities - sports activities among them. The relationship between sports and the environment is interdependent and ever-developing. The importance of this relationship became evident in 2004 when the International Olympics Committee chose the environment as the third dimension of Olympianism, alongside sports and culture.

The relationship between the two has been improved in more than one way, chief among them dealing with the depletion of natural water resources by relying on water recycling techniques and considering adding this technology to public facilities.

Dear ladies and gentlemen,

We are all aware of the role of the Kyoto Protocol in the mitigation effects deployed by parties listed in Annex I and the importance of maintaining the continuity of the mitigation procedures adopted by those parties.

Accordingly, amending the Kyoto Protocol within the deadline heads our priority list, and I am sparing no effort to reach an agreement satisfactory to all parties to begin the second commitment period right on time on the first of January 2013. We look forward to your cooperation, flexibility and support to achieve this goal.

It is equally important to work with you in a transparent and open manner to facilitate achieving the desired results. We are committed to achieving this goal to ensure that UNFCCC discussions are successfully concluded and begin implementing the set of resolutions on climate change from this year till 2020.

So, I call upon you to lend us your support and help to ensure a smooth conclusion of the negotiation phase.

Dear attendees,

At this point, polarisation would only impede progress, whereas multilateral dialogue and discussions would build trust between the two parties and raise our aspirations in the implementation phase and in future measures that we seek to agree on.

Wrapping up the negotiations successfully regarding the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Kyoto Protocol and UNFCCC would drive our aspirations to reach an agreement applicable to all parties after 2020 and would encourage state parties to take more ambitious measures to achieve the goal of the convention.

Let us all make use of the splendid, successful achievements we have made in this short time, such as the Doha Work Programme on Article 6 of the convention, and the positive feedback on the forum on response measures to continuously and effectively achieve our goals in fighting climate change.

In the end, I would like to express my sincerest gratitude to the UNFCCC Secretariat General for their patience, cooperation and perseverance, as well as their remarkable dedication.

Ladies and gentlemen,

I thank you for your attendance and once again I wish you a delightful stay in Doha.

May the Peace and Mercy of Allah be upon you.