

بِسْمِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ



Statement

by

**His Excellency Sheikh Hamad bin Jassem
bin Jabor Al Thani**

Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs

**At the opening of the Second International
Conference**

**On Spatial and geographical information
systems**

4 to 6 February 2013

Excellencies

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Peace and God's mercy and blessings be upon you

I am pleased to welcome you in Doha which you have chosen to hold the Second International high-level Conference on spatial and geographical information systems. We are proud to welcome this important conference by all standards in our country, especially since it involves all concerned governmental and quasi-governmental stakeholders, as well as the private sector and civil society organizations and relevant institutions.

Also, the convening of such important international conferences is positive for

humans and contributes to advancing development and progress in various parts of the world. This is fully in line with the vision of the State of Qatar under the leadership of His Highness Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, Emir of the State of Qatar. This vision transcends barriers and borders, and is based on sound planning and meticulous programs for a world of peace, stability where people lead a decent and safe life.

The importance of this conference stems from the fact that it comes in a period during which some countries and regions in the world are facing a number of social, economic, environmental and political challenges, and some hardships that adversely affect their process of growth and development, as well that of their neighboring countries. This makes it imperative that all these countries

join efforts in order to face these challenges and overcome their causes and prevent them of spreading.

There is no doubt that the strength of information and its importance in making the right and accurate decision is instrumental for the success of the march towards progress and prosperity. The importance of this criterion increases if this information is linked with its geographic location on the ground to conduct assessment and analysis based on the data and the conclusions drawn from this complex equation.

This conference takes place at a time when we desperately need to combine all efforts and initiatives from different regions around the world to reach a road map that would enable us to reach the goals we aspire to. It is through the exchange of experiences and

the involvement of others in reviewing the attitudes and lessons learned that we can shorten distances, overcome many potential obstacles and be able to face the surrounding circumstances in a meticulous way.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The themes and topics that will be discussed in this important conference were achieved only after several experiences and tests that had adverse effects and phases during which it was possible to correct these paths and benefit from lessons learned. In this regard, it should be emphasized that we must eventually take them into consideration when formulating the next steps and strategies and implementation programs in a realistic way, taking into account all the circumstances that surround our world. Furthermore, we should not lose sight of the conditions of developing

countries, which are in need of support from all of us. This support should be provided according to these countries' priorities by means of providing data and geographic information that they may need someday in order to control more effectively the various negative phenomena that require advanced planning and an abundance of information in order to reduce their effects and ensure security and safety.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The recommendations and conclusions of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio +20), which was held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in June 2012, are the building block for the way and the mechanism by which to reduce poverty, promote social justice and protect the environment on our planet, which is increasingly suffering from

pollution and scarcity of resources. This requires us to work together and develop well- thought-out and long-term plans geared towards protecting the environment and preserving natural resources.

In conclusion we wish success for this conference and that it will yield well-thought-out decisions, recommendations and programs, and that everyone will be involved in their formulation and their implementation within the framework of priorities required by common interest, taking into account all the circumstances and events surrounding us, that complement our unwavering effort towards building a bright future in a reality beset by various difficulties and challenges.

Peace and God's mercy and blessings be upon you