

Speech

By

**His Excellency Ahmed bin Abdullah Al-Mahmoud,
Minister of State for Foreign Affairs and Member of
the Cabinet Of the State of Qatar**

At

**Doha 7th Inter-faith Dialogue
(Human Solidarity)**

**Doha- State of Qatar
20/10/2009**

*In The Name of Allah, The Merciful, The Compassionate,
And Peace be upon all the prophets and Apostles of Our Lord*

**His Excellency Dr. Ibrahim bin Saleh Al-Nuaimi, Chairman
of the Board of Directors of the Doha International Centre
for Inter-faith Dialogue,**

**Their Excellencies,
Their Eminence,
Sisters and Brothers,**

Peace be upon you and Allah's mercy and His blesses,

I am privileged to be amongst you - you being the elite constellation of the contemporary world, followers of the three divine religions - on the occasion of the inauguration of this 7th Doha Inter-faith Dialogue Conference. At the outset, I am honored to welcome you to Doha of Qatar, wishing you a happy stay and wishing your conference every success.

The theme of your conference, which have become a hallmark of our contemporary world, serves as a practical and tangible evidence for the staunch belief of the State of Qatar - under the wise leadership of His Highness Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani, Emir of the State of Qatar - that the convergence of religions and solidarity among them is a crucial factor for the safeguarding of international peace and security. Believing in God, worshiping Him and populating and refurbishing His universe represent the very foundations of happiness, tranquility and peace for all mankind.

Hence, the importance of your conference, which lays emphasis on solidarity among religions and its paramount importance in contributing to the attempt to overcome problems that face mankind today.

Sisters and Brothers,

The present status of world communities and their concomitant problems and ordeals of which you are well-aware, include, inter alia, wars and destruction, poverty, disease and ignorance, the ever widening gap between the rich and the poor, lack of social justice, deterioration of human rights and basic freedoms, state of alienation and moral degradation, environmental disasters, famine...etc. It is my own conviction that such situations call on religions to step in with a view to playing their active and effective role in human life. Religions are now required, more than any time before, to promote solidarity among themselves and initiate practical and daring steps with a view to salvaging human communities.

I believe that the past six Doha conferences in this series had managed, to a far extent, to thaw the ice and remove the psychological barriers standing between the followers of divine religions – barriers that never existed before but which cropped up in the recent period of the history of mankind, precipitated by oppression, aggression and non-administration of justice.. Thus, I hope that this conference will manage to establish pillars of the desired solidarity, work-out basis for joint action so that the problems we alluded to will be redressed. The conference is further required to ensure a decent and happy life for human beings, regardless of their religious affiliation, ethnic origin, language, culture or race. Undoubtedly, this is the most lofty goal of religions and the vital objective of their divine message.

Sisters and Brothers,

Inter-faith dialogue, as you well-know, is facing difficult challenges under the current circumstances. Confronting and overcoming these difficulties for the sake of mankind is a duty incumbent upon us and whose discharge is earnestly awaited by human communities. Yet, the discharge of such mission is contingent on a real solidarity among all religions.

The religions participating in this conference today represent almost 60 percent of the world's population. These religions further share a divine origin and they all return back to Abraham. Thus, their responsibilities before human conscience are enormous and that renders their solidarity and joint action all the more a religious as well as a moral duty.

The topics to be discussed demonstrate a true cognizance of the real problems that religions are required to successfully redress.

While commending the theme of the conference, which comes at an opportune moment and equally lauding the other topics to be discussed, I reiterate wishing your conference every success and wishing you all a happy stay in the Doha of Qatar.

Allah Almighty says: " And say: work righteousness; soon will God observe your work, and His Apostle, and the believers". Verily, God says the truth.

Peace be upon you and Allah's mercy and His blesses,,