

بِسْمِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ



ADDRESS  
BY

**His Highness Sheikh  
Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani  
Amir of the State of Qatar**

AT

**The General Debate of the Sixty-third Session  
of the United Nations General Assembly**

NEW YORK, 23 SEPTEMBER 2007

Please check against delivery

Permanent Mission of the State of Qatar to the United Nations  
809 UN Plaza, 4<sup>th</sup> Fl., New York, NY 10017 - Tel: 212-486-9335 - Fax: 212-758-4952

In the name of God the Merciful the Compassionate,

**Mr. President,  
Mr. Secretary-General,  
Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

I would like at the outset to congratulate you on your election as President of the sixty-third session of the General Assembly of the United Nations and I wish you success on your mission.

I would like to thank your predecessor H.E. Dr. Srgian Kerim for his efforts in the previous session. I would also like to thank His Excellency Mr. Ban Ki-moon, the Secretary-General of the United Nations; for his efforts to promote and activate the role of the United Nations.

**Mr. President,**

I need not remind anyone in this august chamber which gathers an audience of such a high level, that the goal of this organization and the purpose of its Charter are primarily to achieve and maintain world peace.

The human experience that is full of hopes and horrors reminds us all that achieving world peace is a conscious positive act and not just wishful thinking. We have tried to look for peace through war in which the powerful impose their will as in the two world wars in the twentieth century.

We have also tried to look for peace through agreement between empires as between Britain and France in 1904. We have tried to look for peace through coexistence between the United States and the Soviet Union in 1971. In all those attempts, by war or agreement between powers, by agreement between empires, or by coexistence between blocs and doctrines, peace has remained elusive.

We have all recognized through these long and exhausting experiences that achieving peace is a positive act that means more than just eliminating the threat of arms. While it is true that humanity has not

known a global war in the last sixty years, it is also true that peace in those last sixty years has remained elusive for it was a peace marred by conflicts on all continents and in all territories. We have also come to the conclusion that in a world where barriers of distances and time have vanished, achieving peace requires establishing and promoting economic and social justice among peoples, and this is what constitutes positive peace.

**Mr. President,**

If the principles of the Charter have established the political rights of nations on the basis of international law, the right of their peoples to social justice must be based on the idea of development. In the past, the first generation of advocates and proponents of the movements of national liberation demanded for what they called "positive neutrality" thinking that they could thus distance themselves from the wars of the super powers. In fact, the realities of today's world require a different approach, for peace cannot be achieved through conflict between powers, agreement between empires, or coexistence among blocs, and not even through positive neutrality.

The alternative to those three options is our new choice, namely positive peace, the era of international law that ensures political rights, and the era of development that provides parallel and equal opportunities to one world that cannot head into the future hindered by the injustices of politics or the blinded by the darkness of underdevelopment.

**Mr. President,**

Qatar is getting ready for the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development. My country looks forward to an international cooperation that offers the broadest base possible for political as well as social peace. We hope that participation in the conference will be at the highest possible level, for the goal is ambitious and the purpose is vital for the safety and peace of the one human global village.

**I thank you Mr. President.**