



PERMANENT MISSION OF THE STATE OF QATAR TO THE UNITED NATIONS

Mr. Abdulrahman Al-Hamadi

Opening Remarks

Leaving no one behind: Promoting child inclusion through quality education for all
Wednesday 8 February. 1:15 – 2:30, Conf. Room # 7

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

- It is with great pleasure I welcome you today at this side event addressing an important aspect of development which is “promoting child inclusion through quality education for all”.
- I would like to express my gratitude to our partner the International Federation for Family Development IFFD, for their dedication to the various issues related to family enrichment and for their cooperation in organizing this event.
- My gratitude and appreciation is also extended to our distinguished speakers who are present with us today:
 - H. E. Michael Farrugia, Minister of Family and Social Solidarity of Malta
 - H. E. Roberto Ciambetti, President of the Consiglio Regionale del Veneto (Italy).
 - Dr. Maissa Shawky, Deputy Minister of Health and Population of Egypt.
 - Ms. Kinga Joó, Member of the European Economic and Social Committee.

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen

- Children coming from a background of poverty, are usually disadvantaged in their upbringing. It is also proven by many social studies that poverty has a very negative impact on the wellbeing of children and young people. Poor health outcomes, lower levels of education, and getting involved in high risk behaviors are common among children raised in poor households.
- The family, being the natural and fundamental unit of society, usually bears the heavy burdens of poverty and suffers from its consequences on the wellbeing of its members. Poverty undermines the family’s capability to take its natural responsibility of nurturing, educating and protecting its members including children.
- It is hard to address the issue of impact of poverty on the basic rights of children especially their right to quality education, without addressing the impact of poverty on their families as a whole.
- Empowering the family and providing the environment that enables parents to sufficiently provide the financial, social, educational and psychological support for their children is

crucial to the overall wellbeing of children. The state of Qatar dealt with this issue by addressing its different dimensions, for example, several laws were issued to address, among other issues, the quality of nurseries and kindergartens, maternity leaves and other labor related laws which enables parents to share the responsibility of taking care of their children.

- Quality early childhood education provides great benefits to young children. It tends to lead to higher educational performance, healthy and competent adults, responsible citizens, economic productivity, and strong communities. It is also proven to contribute to promoting their future learning capacity both at school and home.
- Therefore, providing accessibility to quality education, especially quality early childhood programs should be at the core of our interventions targeting poor families. This could be done by: first: adopting family oriented policies which aims at boosting and protecting the incomes of households with the poorest children, and second: Investing more resources in education and early childhood programs to make it free or affordable to poor families and to improve the quality of services provided by these programs. Third: be open to draw-lessons from other countries' experiences in the field of child well-being in terms of what works and what doesn't and the anticipated challenges.

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

- Throughout our efforts to implement the 2030 SDG's, we have been keen to work with our partners at the regional and international levels to protect and promote the right to quality education for children and youth
- Special attention was paid to providing quality education to Children living in poverty and in areas suffering from armed conflict, where the state of Qatar provided support to many educational initiatives and programs at the regional and international levels.
- For example, our solid support to the "Education Above All" initiative alongside with other partners, which reached out with quality education to 10 million children around the world, proved to be a model of success reflecting the power of partnerships in bringing change to people's lives by alleviating the impact of poverty on the lives of children.

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen

- Before I end my remarks, I would like to congratulate Ms. Donna Butts, Executive director of Generation United and the National Population and Family Development Board, at the Ministry of Women, Family and community Division of Malaysia, for receiving the IFFD award for their dedication to the promotion of family values during the past year.
- Finally, I look forward to hearing from our distinguished speakers today, whom I trust will share with us their perspectives and experience in the field of promoting child inclusion through quality education, which will help us in achieving our noble goal of not leaving any one behind while we implement the 2030 SDG's.

Thank you.