

**In the name of Allah Most Gracious Most Merciful**

**Your Excellencies,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

**Distinguished Audience,**

**Peace and Mercy from Allah Be Upon You.**

It's my great pleasure to welcome you all in Qatar and to thank you for your participation in the second Qatar Law Forum, attended by an elite of distinguished figures in the legal, financial, economic and academic fields who will enrich its various debates on issues of concern to the whole world, such as fighting corruption or economic, political and social development, with a goal of setting global standards.

The forum is taking place in a time when the Arab world witnesses changes and reforms accompanied by instability that negatively affects economy and society, and consequently the global financial situation.

The government's legal obligations regarding the protection of social, economic and cultural rights must necessarily come with a strong determination to defend political and civil rights, for the former would probably remain empty promises without the support of the latter based on the rule of Law, and all countries should seek to achieve political stability and the rule of law.

The states have the means to allow public opinion and the international community to examine the priorities given to ensure a favorable climate where more solid and sustainable

corporations would bloom within a stable legal framework, impermeable to the surrounding changes.

Sound governance seeks to achieve the ideal objective of the state through frequent constitutional reforms based on economic, social, political or legal foundations that arise from the practice of power, and it should provide appropriate conditions for free opinion and favorable ground for media freedom. Legislative activity gives a measure of the availability or absence of good governance in a country.

Distinguished Audience,

International Courts play an important and fundamental role in improving the concept of the Rule of Law, which endeavors to enforce the economic, social and cultural rights with the states, despite some judges' reluctance to deal with alleged violations of these rights under the pretense that they are the preserve of the executive authority.

In absence of legal means to ensure justice for the poor and vulnerable in particular, despair and deprivation could lead them to try to enforce the law on their own, as it happened in South Africa and as it is currently occurring in the countries of the Arab Spring.

The established opinion since the redaction of the Charter of the United Nations was that civil and political rights in one hand and economic, social and cultural rights in the other hand are closely linked together. Indeed, this trend was followed by the committee

in charge of the economic, social and cultural rights, as well as by the native jurisprudences.

In conclusion, I hope that the plenary and specialized sessions of this forum have addressed a wide range of the legal and constitutional issues that we have to face to achieve the goal we are all striving for, and I assure you that the State of Qatar will always be committed to the Rule of Law and supportive of all initiatives aiming at improving it.

May peace and God's mercy and blessings be upon you.