

Speech of

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Speaker of the Shura Council

Delivered at the

**Opening of the 7th Conference of the Global Organization
of Parliamentarians Against Corruption (GOPAC)**

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**H.H. Sheikh Abdullah bin Hamad Al Thani, Deputy Emir,
H.E. Dr. Fazli Zon, President of the Global Organization of
Parliamentarians Against Corruption (GOPAC)
H.E. Gabriela Cuevas Baron, President of the Inter-
Parliamentary Union,
His Excellency the Presidents of Parliaments, members of the
organization and representatives of regional and international
organizations,
May Allah's peace and mercy be upon you!**

Welcome to Qatar, and we are pleased to host the events of your seventh conference, which falls on the international anti-corruption day, under the slogan "Integrity Matters", which also coincides with the announcement of the winners of the His Highness Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani Anti-Corruption Excellence Award today in Kigali, the capital of the Republic of Rwanda.

Our country's hosting of this conference is a confirmation of the determination and sincere efforts of the State of Qatar, led by His Highness Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, the Emir of the State of Qatar to fight corruption, because of this phenomenon's devastating effects on countries and the nations. Corruption is a major obstacle to sustainable development, and if corruption remains outside the bounds of control, freedoms will not be allowed to expand and justice will not be allowed to prevail. As you can see today, many countries are witnessing popular uprisings calling for reform and fighting corruption, while the bounds of calls for reform and anti-corruption continues to expand day by day, which gives this conference great importance.

Since its inception in 2002, your leading organization has played a vital role in the global anti-corruption campaign by creating a global coalition of parliamentarians working to combat corruption and avoid its economic, political and social costs. We in the State of Qatar strongly support all international efforts to combat corruption, and we stand with the World Organization of Parliamentarians Against Corruption (GOPAC) and with its programs to eliminate or reduce corruption effects.

Our stand with the GOPAC comes in line with our convictions that parliaments, with their regulatory and legislative powers, can play a fundamental role in the fight against corruption, as institutions that make governments accountable to their people. Since parliamentarians represent the people, they are required to set an example in the performance of their duties, and should adhere to the moral values of their communities and should comply with the highest standards of integrity.

Humanity has realized throughout the ages that corruption is a downright evil and a scourge of every age that with its existence fall and wither away civilizations and in its absence, civilizations flourish and nations grow. Countries, governments and regional and international organizations have felt its seriousness and have been united in efforts to develop plans and strategies to combat all forms and types of corruption, by establishing mechanisms to prevent it. In this sense, the Inter-Parliamentary Union has strengthened and supported the efforts of parliaments and parliamentarians through cooperation and coordination with the United Nations Anti-corruption bodies

Brothers and sisters,

Qatar has made strides in combating corruption, including contributing to the international efforts adopted by the United Nations. Qatar has joined the United Nations Convention Against Corruption, one of the most important international conventions globally agreed upon, since corruption is a scourge that can only be eliminated through international cooperation. Qatar has also signed the Arab Convention against Corruption. Qatar has been celebrating World Anti-Corruption Day, which falls on today i.e. December 9th each year, in order to raise awareness about the problem of corruption.

For the importance of national institutions in anti-corruption efforts, His Highness the Emir of Qatar has issued a decision to establish the Administrative Control and Transparency Authority that follows directly to His Highness as a body specialized in promoting integrity in order to achieve oversight and integrity of the public service and to prevent crimes affecting public property or public office. A number of legislations and administrative measures have also been passed, focusing more on prevention and contributing to the highest indicators of integrity and transparency. And also the role of the State Audit Bureau.

In the same context Qatar, in cooperation with the United Nations, has established a center called the Rule of Law and Anti-Corruption Center. The Center and has organized a number of regional and international capacity-building courses in the fight against corruption and bribery. With the agreement between the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, and Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al Thani International Anti-Corruption Excellence Award an initiative was launched to coincide with the celebrations of World Anti-Corruption Day. The award was launched by the State of Qatar as a tribute to organizations, individuals and groups that make valuable contributions to the prevention and fight against corruption. The first edition of the award was held in 2016 in Vienna, Austria, Geneva in Switzerland in 2017, and the third in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, in 2018. At 4:00 p.m. Doha time this evening the fourth edition of the Award will take place in Kigali, the capital of the Republic of Rwanda, hope we watch it together.

Qatar has taken a leading position in the regional zone in its fight against corruption, as noted by the Arab Monetary Fund in its latest report. It stated that Qatar has taken first place in the Arab countries in the fight against administrative corruption, according to the Arab World Competitiveness Report issued by the Fund. The competitiveness index reflects the role of the government in maintaining justice of the courts, the policies it exercises towards citizens and how effective they are to address nepotism, the role of the judiciary in tackling administrative corruption and bribery, the cleansing of the business sector from corruption, and the provision of a high degree of security and confidence to foreign companies.

In conclusion, I thank Dr. Fazli Zon, President of this World Organization for his wise management of the organization and the Secretariat for its efforts in preparing for this conference, we hope that it will be successful. I also thank all of you for your efforts in the field of anti-corruption, looking forward to your contributions in the deliberations of this conference with ideas and plans to confront corruption and its repercussions, and we hope that all of you will stay well in your home Qatar, and that you will find time to witness the renaissance witnessed by the State of Qatar in all fields.

God bless you,,,

May Allah's peace and blessing be upon you,,,