

**Mr. President,  
Excellencies,  
Distinguished Delegates,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

At the outset, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to the Government of the Swiss Confederation, headed by Her Excellency Ms. Micheline Calmy-Rey, and to the UNDP for organizing this conference, which emphasizes the international community's determination to promote sustainable human security and the establishment of a culture of peace.

**Mr. President,**

We meet again today to assess efforts made over the last five years, confirm the interrelation between armed violence, development and human security, and give a new impetus to our political commitment to the Geneva Declaration.

Armed violence aspects are particularly manifested in armed conflicts which are most of the time internal conflicts with light weapons, targeting defenseless and innocent civilians. Armed violence also hampers prospects for human development of countries and hinders the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. In this context, everyone agrees that living free from the threat of armed violence is a basic human need and a precondition for human development, dignity and well-being .

**Mr. President,**

Talking about armed violence brings us to the recent events taking place in some Middle East and North African countries, or the so-called "Arab Spring", where several areas have witnessed an excessive use of force and armed violence against peaceful protests and

popular demands. During these events, a rapid spread and dispersal of light weapons across regions was also confirmed. Indeed, this fact justifies the need for international concerted efforts to address the security challenges and humanitarian problems caused by the proliferation of conventional weapons in some of these countries. This also underlines the urgent need to train local groups in order to get rid of these weapons through their destruction in coordination with relevant United Nations Organizations.

**Mr. President,**

Convinced that reducing poverty, achieving fair economic and social development would play an important role in the ongoing efforts aiming at reducing and preventing armed violence, the State of Qatar does not spare any effort to lend its good offices to combat armed violence, support development initiatives and international efforts across the world to ensure security, peace and economic security. In this regard, we reaffirm the importance of strengthening international partnership in the fight against armed violence, and the need for its integration into the work programmes of all international bodies dealing with development and disarmament, in order to address the root causes of the armed violence.

In conclusion, I would like to renew the State of Qatar's commitment to support peace and development initiatives, and reaffirm its determination to contribute to international efforts to fight armed violence in all its forms, through its development support policy, that **His Highness Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, the Emir of the State of Qatar "may God protect him"** is keen to encourage and promote.

**Thank you Mr. President.**