**Speech of His Excellency Mr. Ahmed bin Abdullah bin Zaid Al Mahmoud Chairman of the Shura Council of Qatar to the International seminar on the Experiences of national reconciliation that lead to political stability, social peace and peace-building House of Counselors - Kingdom of Morocco 17 - 18 January 2019**

His Excellency Dr. Abdul Hakim Benchamach, speaker of the House of Counselors, Chairman of the Association of Senate , Shoora and Equivalent Councils in Africa and the Arab world ,

Your Excellencies, the Presidents of Senates, Shoora and Equivalent Councils in Africa and the Arab world, heads of delegations,

Excellencies, Representatives of local, regional and international organizations involved in organizing this seminar,

Distinguished guests,

Peace and mercy of God be upon you,

On behalf of members of the Shoora Council of Qatar delegation, I would like to express our thanks to the presidency and the secretariat of the Association of Senate , shoora and Equivalent Councils in Africa and the Arab world and the National Council for Human Rights of this beloved country for their kind invitation and warm reception.

We are meeting today at this seminar, which is held within the framework of the implementation of the Association’s work program approved at its tenth conference here in Morocco in 2017, which includes topics such as peace building, conflict resolution and transitional justice in Africa and the Arab world. This symposium comes in line with the efforts of reconciliations and dialogues that are taking place today in the Arab and African region in order to re-establish harmony therein, and derive its focus from the region's need for means, efforts and mechanisms that bring together the parties , promote the concept of tolerance and shun the division of the people.

The concepts of tolerance, reconciliation, brotherhood and the call for peace are advocated by all heavenly religions and tribal customs and recognized by all sages, philosophers and sociologists. They safeguard security, achieve coexistence and flourishing civilizations. In their absence, injustice and inequity prevail, blood is shed and the elements of civilization and civility are destroyed.

Today's meeting comes within the framework of evaluating the models of national reconciliations that have been made and used to choose the most effective means to achieve reconciliation and ensure its sustainability. Experience has shown that the failure to establish a modern state leads to the collapse of the foundations of the national state in such a way that the tribe and the ethnic, sectarian and sectarian differences become the standards of belonging in our Arab and African societies, which requires rehabilitating the national state which must be based on the concept of citizenship, and which makes the concept of reconciliation occupy a great deal of attention as a desirable method of settling conflicts and internal tensions.

Brothers and sisters,

Out of Qatar’s belief in the importance of conflict resolution, the vision of the wise leadership of His Highness Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al- Thani, Emir of the State of Qatar and His Highness Emir Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani, the former Emir of Qatar, focuses on restoring a peaceful relationship in society where everyone can live together in freedom and dignity. In accordance with this vision, and consistent with the human values ​​and cultural heritage of Qatar, the State of Qatar has made every effort to contribute to the achievement of security and peace in the region by bringing together the parties and achieving reconciliation, because its stability and security are part and parcel of the security and stability of the region. Indeed, Doha has become the city of reconciliation and a platform for meetings of rivals of Sudan, Lebanon, Libya, Palestine, Yemen and Afghanistan. It achieved many successful compromises because of its credibility, transparency and standing equidistant from all parties, and simultaneously worked towards meeting relief needs and supporting early recovery projects and reconstruction and pushing the development process to provide stability and a decent life to support the peace process.

I would like to mention here in particular the ongoing Qatari role in achieving the Darfur peace in the Sudan, within the framework of the Arab-African Ministerial Committee on Conflict Resolution, and in close cooperation with the African Union-United Nations Joint Mediator. The efforts of the State of Qatar resulted in the adoption of the Doha Document on peace in Darfur, which included, among other conditions of the settlement, items on reconciliation and the Darfur-Darfur dialogue in order to turn over the page of tribal conflicts and darn the social fabric. The aim of the State of Qatar was to put an immediate end to the violence to achieve stability, resolve the issue of power and wealth sharing, reform existing social institutions, promote a culture of peace and alleviate the suffering of the victims. The State of Qatar considered reconciliation in this sense as a stage in a comprehensive peace process in a society where peace has been missing for years. Such process involves three stages: the cessation of violence, the resolution of the conflict by addressing its causes, and thus addressing the consequences of the conflict.

Brothers and sisters,

National reconciliation in the Arab and African countries requires the strong political will of all actors. It also requires open thinking that accepts the other according to the rule that what brings together the people of one country is much greater than what divides them. The preoccupation of the national political forces with fighting each other allows for harmful external interventions.

A successful reconciliation that seeks to remain must focus on recognizing the right of the victims, rehabilitating them within the framework of transitional justice, ensuring that their suffering is not repeated, and initiating a clear assignment of responsibilities within a strategic context aimed at moving towards a stage of stability and harmony.

But it remains crucial for national reconciliation to take its course: that this reconciliation becomes a permanent culture among all components of society and that this culture replaces culture of exclusion, marginalization and the abolition of the other.

Brothers and sisters,

In conclusion, as part of the efforts of the State of Qatar to contribute to activating the role of parliamentary diplomacy in international peace and security issues, I would like to point out that Doha will host the meeting of the 140th session of the General Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the accompanying meetings from 6 to 10 April. I will be very pleased at your participation in active contribution to its work.

We would like to thank His Majesty King Mohammed VI of Morocco for his interest and the interest of your country in this important topic of reconciliation in the Arab world and Africa and for your concern for the wellbeing of the people and the country.

Peace and mercy of God be upon you.