

**10<sup>th</sup> Annual Doha Forum**  
May 31-June 2, 2010  
Ritz Carlton Hotel, Doha, Qatar

**Monday, May 31, 2010**

**Opening Session: Insights on Security and Global Stability**

Welcoming Speech: H.E. Sheikh Hamad Bin Jassim Bin Jabr Al Thani, Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs

Opening Speech: H.H. Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani, Emir of State of Qatar

Moderator: David Foster

**Speakers:**

- \*Tarja Halonen, President of Finland
- \*Gjorge Ivanov, President of Macedonia
- \*Amr Moussa, Secretary General of the Arab League
- \*Klaus Schwab, CEO of the World Economic Forum

The conference was opened by H.E. Sheikh Hamad Bin Jassim Bin Jabr Al Thani, who welcomed all guests to the 10<sup>th</sup> annual event. He emphasized that democracy is the only way to achieve social peace, equality and respect for human rights, leading to stability and paving the way for sustainable development. He invited the Forum's host, H.H. Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani, the Emir of Qatar, to speak.

The Emir acknowledged that the meeting was taking place in very difficult circumstances, given the economic turmoil still affecting the world. He called for the Forum participants to focus on solutions for the current situation, which he described as neither one of imminent threat nor one on the path to prosperity and stability. He asked the participants to look at the global situation as interconnected, requiring a holistic approach for the future. He closed by acknowledging the events that morning off the coast of Gaza.

The President of Finland discussed the changed concept of security over the past two decades. She noted that peace is now more than just the absence of war, and that poverty and environmental issues must also be considered threats to security. She applauded recent international efforts on nuclear disarmament. She also mentioned the importance of women and children in moving toward development.

The President of Macedonia focused on global interdependence, which he said means that security relies on increased communication and shared responsibility. His vision for the region is one of collective security, with inclusion of all the Balkan countries in the EU. He highlighted Macedonia's unique model of coexistence and integration, with 20 different ethnic and national communities enjoying citizenship. He also mentioned Macedonian contributions to efforts in Afghanistan, necessary because today's global threats require a global response.

Amr Moussa, President of the Arab League, emphasized poverty as a root issue underlying many international problems. With some countries facing bankruptcy in the

midst of economic crisis, he recommended that permanent members of the UN Security Council give up their right of veto, because the resolutions regarding the developing world should not be captured by the power of the veto. He then spoke out against the events that morning off the coast of Gaza.

Professor Schwab called the current crisis a structural one – a crisis of globalization. Despite the interconnectedness of the world, its citizens have not yet figured out how to work together, meaning that world needs redesign. Running parallel to the Doha Forum is the Global Redesign Summit, which is considering what needs to be done not only in terms of crisis management but also to create the necessary values to rebuild the institutions to respond to the challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. What is needed in the world is a more multidimensional approach with many stakeholders, not just governments. He also pointed out that global gravity has moved from West to East and that countries such as India and China play a much bigger role than is reflected in current political structures.

During the question and answer session, the President of Finland said that democracy is not only a magic box where one drops his vote. The way that Arab societies are developing freer media and seeing demonstrations in the streets, strikes in the unions, and new life in NGOs and civil society, all indicates that there is a new movement in the Arab world. She cited Iraq's high vote turnout as evidence of the new life and development in the Arab world.

**Key takeaways:**

- The global situation is interconnected, requiring a holistic approach for the future.
- Peace is now more than just the absence of war, and poverty and environmental issues must also be considered threats to security.
- Global interdependence means that security relies on increased communication and shared responsibility.
- The necessary values will need to be instilled in order to rebuild the institutions to respond to the challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. What is needed is a more multidimensional approach with many stakeholders, not just governments.

**Tuesday June 1, 2010**

**Global Development Project**

Presenter: Dr. Ali Abdulsalam Al-Treiki, President, 64th Session of the UN General Assembly New York

Speakers:

- Aleksander Kwasniewski, Former President – Poland
- H.E Manuel Chaves Gonzalez, Third Vice-President, Spain
- Mrs. Rodi Kratsa, Vice President, European Parliament
- The Rt. Hon. Michael Ancram

- Renaud Donnedieu de Vabres, former minister, President of "Atout France"
- Paul Dewar, MP, Canada

The Doha Forum session on the Global Development Project highlighted the pressing need for increased levels of international cooperation to achieve UN Millennium Development Goals. Participants encouraged more cooperation between the EU and the GCC, both in terms of humanitarian and economic aid, as well as investment opportunities. One crucial problem is that regional and internal instability disrupt international efforts to deliver aid and accomplish development aims. It is imperative to resolve existing conflicts, in particular the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, to ensure economic development efforts can achieve their full potential in the Middle East.

Assessments of development goals were mixed. Much progress has been made on the MDGs, but in times of crisis, especially the current economic crisis, it is uniquely important to remain committed to development goals. Some obstacles to achieving development goals stem from UN institutions or with donor countries. While the international community has committed billions of dollars in aid, not all commitments are met. There was also a concern that aid monies have been misdirected or wasted, undermining development goals. Additionally, although countries like China and India are growing, the substance of development concerns remains the same: water, disease, migration, conflict, climate change. As countries progress, the approaches to development should evolve. Now it is much more helpful to engage in transactions, establish contracts, and share experience, rather than offer handouts. Africa, for example, needs investment, both public and private. Africa also needs the ability to manufacture consumer products, which they are at the moment buying from other countries. It is also important to put women at the forefront of development goals, through, for example, micro-lending programs and ensuring equal access to electoral politics.

### **Key takeaways:**

- Create an OECD-like institution for the Middle East, as existing institutions are outdated and incapable of handling present needs.
- Increase levels of cooperation between the EU and the GCC, both in terms of humanitarian and economic aid, as well as investment opportunities that can fuel economic growth.
- Priorities for development should include improving access to primary health care, increasing the use of technology in the classroom, improving the management of the migration process to assist assimilation, and increasing focus on women and social inequalities.
- New approaches to existing problems should reflect the changing nature of the world. We now live in "network" world, rather than a world in which strong countries dominate from the top down. Now the strong and the less strong have to talk to each other. Nations at different levels of development should share experiences with each other.

## **Investment After the Financial Crisis**

Presenter: Yusif Huseyn Kamal, Minister of Economy & Finance (Qatar)

Speakers:

- Prof. Mohamed Najdawi, Dean, College of Business and Econ – Qatar U
- Mohammad Mahmoud Ould Mohamedou, Mauritania
- Kouvelis Stryidon, Dep Minister for Foreign Affairs – Greece

This panel addressed factors that contribute to attracting investment in the aftermath of the financial crisis, focusing specifically on Greece and GCC countries. Panelists discussed lessons learned from the financial crisis, as well as the impending risks to and opportunities for investors in areas such as energy, food, and job creation. All speakers highlighted the plethora of opportunities for investment that the MENA region can provide, if governments are able to make the best of the crisis and each country's comparative advantage moving forward.

The first presenter, Yusif Huseyn Kamal, Minister of Economy and Finance in Qatar, spoke of Qatar's success in attracting investors through sound regulations for and registration of companies, and upholding laws that favor investors over the government. He noted that Qatar has benefited from its oil and gas reserves, but recognized that there needs to be investment in renewable energies, as well. He encouraged investment in wind power in Algeria and Tunisia, for example, where they have strong winds for about half the year. Minister Kamal also noted the risks that population growth will pose around the world, and in particular across the region, due to food and job scarcity. He therefore called for investment in food production and job creation, in order to mitigate the potential risks that will otherwise develop in the future.

The second panelist, Mohammad Mahmoud Ould Mohamedou, former Prime Minister of Mauritania, also noted that the MENA region is awash in diverse opportunities for investment. He noted, however, that while investment on many levels is important, the best means to overcome the financial crisis and its ramifications are global engagement and open, free trade across international borders. It will be crucial for governments and investors to capitalize on natural resources, and invest in emerging markets and scientific innovation.

Hailing from Greece, the third panelist, Kouvelis Stryidon, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs, spoke about the causes of the economic crisis in Greece and some of Greece's plans for repairing its economy. Minister Stryidon noted that Greece has plans to identify itself as an energy hub, both for movement of energy from the Gulf and across the EU, as well for the creation of renewable energy, as Greece has significant geothermal energy capacity. Most important, said Minister Stryidon, is that countries focus development in a strategic way on what will be the biggest challenges in the future: energy, food production, climate change, and the population shifts that will result from all three. Professor Mohamed Najdawi, Dean of the College of Business and Economics at Qatar University, the final panelist, discussed the impact of the financial crisis and state of

economies in GCC countries. He noted that compared to the rest of the world, the Middle East was only mildly affected by the financial crisis, and that Qatar, specifically, is in fairly good shape. He highlighted that Qatar has experienced some growth in population, and created many opportunities for infrastructure-led investment, with strong support from the Qatari government. He warned, however, that risks remain – in particular related to oil prices and potential political instability.

**Key takeaways:**

- The MENA region can provide a plethora of opportunities for investment, if governments are able to make the best of the crisis and each country's comparative advantage moving forward.
- Qatar's success in attracting investors is due in large part to sound regulations for and registration of companies, as well as laws that favor investors over the government.
- Countries should identify their comparative advantage relative to others and encourage development of investment opportunities in those sectors.
- Population growth will pose risks around the world, and in particular across the region, due to food and job scarcity. Investment in food production and job creation should therefore be encouraged.
- Global engagement and open free trade across international boundaries will be the best means for global recovery from the economic crisis.
- A country must have a strategic vision in order to attract investment.
- Relative to the rest of the world, the Middle East was only mildly affected by the global financial crisis, and the GCC countries remain in good shape.
- The political environment and fluctuation in oil prices, however, continue to pose risks for GCC economies.
- It is too early to consider the financial crisis over; governments and investors must remain cautious of a "double-dip" recession.
- Economic diversification is crucial.

**National Identity, Immigration and Faith**

Moderator: Richard Bourg, Director Wilton Park Center, U.K

Speakers:

- Dr. Hassan Al-Ansari, Qatar
- H.E. Reinhold Lopatka, Austrian State Secretary for Finance
- James Moran, MP- USA
- Mr. Eric Raoult, Former Minister, MP and Member of the French Qatari Friendship Society -France
- Joseph Maila, Director – Pole Religions, France
- Dr. Abdulkhaleq Abdalla, Prof, Political Science, Kuwait University

This panel considered a wide range of issues related to immigration and national identity, looking in particular at the cases of the Gulf and of France. U.S. Congressman James Moran also delivered a speech touching upon the need for increased political engagement

by Arab and Muslim Americans, but including a provocative discussion of America's relationship with Israel.

One professor discussed the boom in immigration to Kuwait, where 60% of the labor force is foreign. He said that the Gulf countries do acknowledge the rights of immigrants and are responsive to international and human rights organizations that work to protect these rights. He called for increased cooperation among NGOs and governments in protecting workers' rights and also called for the strict implementation of the law of sponsorship or guarantees.

A Gulf-based professor considered national identity issues facing the Gulf as a consequence of immigration, characterizing the situation as a dangerous and urgent phenomenon that has caused an existential crisis for countries like UAE and Qatar. He said that the low ratio of local inhabitants in the overall population was a threat to Arab identity, beliefs, faith, social tissue, nationality and future. At the current rate, he suggested, these countries would be only 5% local in the year 2020, and 0% by 2025. He asked whether the unrestrained focus on growing the economy has been irresponsible in this regard.

A former Minister of France explained the role of secularism in French society, explaining that it guarantees the practice of religion and faith for everyone, although this claim was later contested by several audience members. He discussed the controversial issue of the ban on wearing burkas in France, explaining the difficulty of drafting a law that would please everyone, and telling the audience that the resolution was approved unanimously by the French National Assembly. Later, another French representative discussed the French vision of integration, which he said includes both respect of labor rights and respect of belief or non-belief. While freedom of belief is important, however, models cannot be standardized; there must be different models that are governed by the same principles of human rights.

Congressman James Moran said that if there is to be a transformation of American policy toward the Middle East, this change will need to come from American citizens, Muslims and Arab Americans in particular. He pointed out that the voting rate of Arab Americans is higher than the electorate as a whole, and that they tend to be better educated and more economically successful. He recommended that the audience read Peter Beinart's recent article in the New York Review of Books on American Jews' relationship with Israel, in order to get a sense of the complex, evolving nature of American society and its relationship with the region.

**Key takeaways:**

- NGOs and governments should cooperate in protecting immigrant workers' rights.
- Some of the Gulf countries face an urgent crisis of national identity as a consequence of immigration. Progress should be restrained by a responsibility to this national identity.

- Models of religious freedom cannot be standardized; there must be different models that are governed by the same principles of human rights.
- If there is to be a transformation of American policy toward the Middle East, this change will need to come from American citizens, Muslims and Arab Americans in particular.

### **Wednesday, June 2, 2010**

#### **Enriching the Educational Programs and Competitiveness**

Moderator: Dr. Abdullah Bin Ali Al-Thani, Vice-President, QF

Speakers:

- Dr. Darwish Al-Imadi, Director, Social & Economic Survey Institute - QU
- Dr. Michael Woods, Chairman, Foreign Affairs Select Committee - Irish Parliament
- Brian Baird – Member of U.S. Congress, Science and Technology Subcommittee (neuroscientist)
- Juan Diez Nicolas, President of Complutense University
- Amaney Jamal, Prof, Princeton University, Head of Arab Barometer Project, USA
- Amb. Nikolay Tikhomirov – Russia

In “Enriching the Educational Programs and Competitiveness,” five panelists provided a comparative perspective on education and its critical role in social, economic, and political development around the world. Higher education is a major priority in Qatar and other GCC countries, evidenced by the proliferation of domestic and foreign universities in the region. While panelists agreed that education is the single most important factor in economic prosperity for future generations, it’s not without significant challenges – creating enough jobs for a highly educated workforce, lack of democracy in the MENA region, tech transfer issues, and barriers to women’s participation in the labor force, especially in Arab countries.

U.S. Congressman Brian Baird began the discussion by outlining three significant U.S. trends: the notion of “science diplomacy” (bringing countries together through scholarly collaboration and tech transfer); addressing the need for technical and vocational education to meet the demands of the labor market; and tapping into the desire of today’s students to solve the world’s problems (conflict resolution, disease eradication, etc.).

Ireland’s recent social and economic development was offered as a case study for the impact of higher education on a country’s economic viability. Woods said Ireland’s progress is the result of a concerted effort between civil society, labor and government to offer free higher education and training to the country’s youth. Specific initiatives, such as aggressive research and development funding, helped expand Ireland’s business sector and increased the country’s overall competitiveness. He also noted that implementing these changes requires flexibility, for example, creating unique opportunities for women,

both in higher education and the workforce.

Social science research was touted as another critical element to economic development and political reform. Jamal said the Arab Barometer Project's body of work has been instrumental in determining which social and political issues are relevant to the Arab world (she surveyed over 8,000 people in eight Arab countries), and what challenges stand in the way of human development (lack of democracy). Teaching future generations about social sciences is also critical. The panel agreed that an interdisciplinary approach must be taken, blending technical and scientific education with social science/policy research in order to maximize value to society.

**Key takeaways:**

- Challenges include very little incentive for faculty to engage in cutting edge research. There is little budgeted for research or conferences or opportunities for intellectual exchange.
- Young people, especially in oil rich GCC countries, do not see the necessity of secondary education, leading to a lack of future productivity.
- Women seek higher education in greater numbers than men – women make up 70% of university students in Qatar – but the workforce is still dominated by males.
- Democracy enables societal developments, but change cannot happen overnight, as seen by the example of minority rights in the United States.
- Scientific research is a fairly new field in the region and resources for tech transfer and access to the latest technology and ideas is limited, as is interest among the population to pursue careers in the sciences.
- Internships and mentoring in the United States have been an important way that professionals can give back to the next generation and it could be an important cornerstone in human development.
- In the future, panels should share best practices and success stories in scientific research in their countries, since the Arab world is behind in this field.
- Future discussion should be held on how education and test scores for Arabs/Muslims in the United States and EU can be improved and what can be done to help them achieve no matter where they live – within or outside of the MENA region.

**International and Humanitarian Stability and Security (Effective Powers)**

Presenter: Ahmad Bin Abdallah Al-Mahmud, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs – Qatar (Proposed)

Moderator: The Rt.Hon Dr. Kim Howells, UK

Speakers:

- The Lord Stevens, of Kirkwhelpington -U.K
- Francis Gutman, President International Mediation Organization - France
- Senator Marcel Prudhomme, Canada

- H.E. Song Min-Soon, MP- Korea.
- H.E. Amb. Nassif Hitti, Head, Arab League Mission - France
- Sonmez Koksal, diplomat and former Intelligence Director-Turkey
- Khattar Abu Diab, International Geopolitics Institute - France

Lord Stevens began by describing how the last 10 years have “led to a crisis of confidence in what security means,” with the emergence of non-state offenders (including drug cartels, terrorists, and human traffickers) and natural events (including health pandemics, and climate change). The 21<sup>st</sup> century approach must be focused on strategy, legality, operational capability and collaboration. With such an interconnected society, security should consist of a global, regional, state, and local approach that includes cooperation between government bodies and academic institutions to identify a proper approach because “we must seek to understand before trying to be understood.” With regard to counterterrorism work, it was noted that nothing can replace good intelligence and sound judgment.

The next panelist began by saying that globalization is not an order in and of itself and cautioned participants not to neglect other parts of the world or the diversity of culture, civilization, or natural resources. While environment and health will often follow general rules, he reaffirmed that countries with different characteristics will not accept imposed rules or partial peace. Instead, cooperation and ties within regions need to be established, with an understanding that governments are not the only players but must work with political groups, civil society, and public opinion. He concluded that, “we cannot have peace if we do not consider the world we’re living in now.”

Speaking next, H.E. Song Min-Soon said that six party talks without regional partners like S. Korea and Japan could not result in meaningful progress because the United States and China lack a shared vision for the Korean peninsula. ASEAN is the most successful grouping of country cooperation for security in the region, as regional leaders are better suited to facilitate peace processes than are global powers within a given region.

Senator Marcel Prudhomme focused all discussions on the situation in Gaza, the lack of decisive action in the UN, and faulting Israel for many of the problems in Gaza. Forty-five years ago, he said, he called “the Palestinian question a cancer around the world that if you do not solve... you cannot have exchange, trade, and commerce without political stability.” He said that the United Nations, the father and mother of the Jewish state, must act now.

H.E. Amb. Nassif Hitti began by defining new regionalism as a structure that emerged following the Cold War, that involved both state and non-state actors and functioned as a more flexible, open, and cooperative structure with little institutionalism. He then defined the Middle East as being in the midst of a multipolar conflict because of the United States’ failed attempt at domination of the region. He expressed displeasure at and questioned the legitimacy of the UN Security Council because of its restrictions on composition and membership. This is in part attributed to his view that there is a power vacuum in the region that requires a holistic approach and the recognition. Lastly, he

observed the financial crisis and US struggle in the Middle East region as a sign of America's faltering situation and said the axis of the new world order will hinge on China and the United States.

**Key takeaways:**

- The UN should be reviewed and the Security Council reformed, with careful consideration of Israel's "history of violating the UN" and "acting above the law." It may be interesting in the future to discuss the role of the UN as an international institution and its relative prominence/role within the framework of different countries.
- It is not enough to have an intelligence system that works. It must be used properly and held accountable to its citizens.
- Terrorism can only be solved by talking and political delivery. The police can deal with the short term but the long-term solution can only be achieved through dialogue.
- It is time to rethink the issues rather than defend past positions. Frozen conflicts need to be reassessed.

**Media: Restrictions and Challenges**

Presenter: Michel Boyon, President, Supreme Council of Audiovisual – France

Speakers:

- Waddah Khanfar, Director Al Jazeera Ch Network, Qatar
- Atif Al-Saadawi, Managing Director, Democracy Review Quarterly – Egypt
- Patrick Butler, Int. Center for Journalist - USA
- Dr. Baghir Al-Najar, Prof of Sociology, Bahrain University
- Abdul Wahab. M. Al-Faiez, Chief Editor "The Economist" Al-Iqtisadiya Newspaper, Riadah, KSA
- Farah Atassi, President, Arab Information Resource Centre, Washington
- Dr. Abdulla Al-Kindi, Assistant. Dean, Qaboos University, Oman (Proposed)
- Prof. Andrzej Zybertowicz, National Security Advisor to the Poland\* Proposed

The media panel brought together a diverse set of panelists from television news networks, news publications and academia to discuss the place of media in political changes. Panelists offered their perspectives on a variety of trends emerging from current media practices, particularly emphasizing the role of technology and new media in the dissemination of information. Recommendations were set forth to liberalize and broaden access to news information. Topics related to the role and impact of media in political change include:

- Freedom of information and open space
- Boundaries and challenges of satellite channels
- Organizing the work of global media
- The role of technology in the news industry
- The Internet role in international information

- Digital divide: control of internet network information

### **Democracy: Enhancing Democratic Transition**

Moderator: Jessica Matthews, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, President

Presenter: H.E. Alejandro Foxley, Former Minister for Foreign Affairs, Chile

Speakers:

- Jackson Diehl, Deputy Chief Editor, Washington Post
- Senator Anne Cools, Canadian Parliament
- H.E. Ambassador Abdulla Yagoub Bushara, President Diplomatic Center for Strategic Studies, Kuwait
- Nicholas Colloff, Director, Strategy and Innovation, Oxfam UK
- Paul Graham, Institute for Democracy, South Africa
- Bernard Pignierol, International Affairs Advisor to the Mayor of Paris
- Dr. Michael Woods, Chairman, Foreign Affairs Select Committee, Irish Parliament
- Bob Walsh, President & CEO, One World 2011, USA

As moderator, Dr. Jessica Matthews led an engaging discussion that focused first on the elements necessary for a successful transition to democracy, and then on the important role that civil society plays before, during, and after such a transition. Questions about the differences among democracies and democratic functions were raised, such as to what extent democracy and the welfare state are compatible, and which governance responsibilities are more appropriately maintained at the state versus local level.

*Washington Post* Deputy Editor Jackson Diehl described the countries that he predicts will undergo significant political transformations over the next 18 months and which he will be watching as a journalist, including Iraq, Venezuela, Nigeria, and Egypt.

Speaking from their respective experiences in Chile, Ireland, and South Africa, three of the panelists identified a selection of prerequisites for achieving democracy. H.E. Foxley noted that a democratic process must be designed and implemented from within, as it is a very difficult process to which many elements of society must be committed. He emphasized that because democracy brings uncertainty, significant efforts must be made to ensure that the transition manages instability, and reaffirms a society's willingness to overcome the associated challenges. Foxley noted the importance of courage and the power of ideas.

Relating to his experience in South Africa, Dr. Paul Graham offered seven requirements for sustainable outcomes of political transitions to democracy: the creation of active citizens; an agreed-upon reconciliation process to deal with the past; a mechanism for mitigating damaging economic consequences; the reorientation of the state and its security forces to comply with democratic processes; constitutional reform and revision of the law on the basis of that constitution; defined and agreed upon national territorial boundaries; a neighborhood supportive and accepting of the democratic transition and

state. He noted that to achieve each of these elements – and in particular all of them together – is difficult and takes time.

Dr. Michael Woods described a similarly challenging process in Northern Ireland, which also took decades to achieve. He highlighted the importance of bringing together multiple sectors of society to facilitate a transition to democracy, and cited the inclusion of farmers, trade unions, and civil society as among the reasons that the process in Ireland was able to succeed. Dr. Woods noted that not only is a shared vision for the future of society crucial, but so too is an adequate education system and economy to prepare the population and provide opportunities for them to thrive both during and after the process concludes. He cited the introduction of free third level education as one of the reasons that Ireland was able to transition from being one of the poorest countries in the EU to one of the wealthiest in less than a generation.

As practitioners outside the government, Nicholas Colloff and Bob Walsh elaborated on the power of civil society, and youth and education, respectively, in political transformations. Nicholas Colloff addressed the role of civil society in Russia, where despite significant restrictions and challenges, public constituencies are able to impact government decisions in specific areas, such as the environment and health industry. He described the existence of an informal compact, according to which the State continues to deliver high-quality living standards as long as they are able to do so without interference. Nonetheless, there is a growing percentage of the population that is willing to actively engage in civil society on particular issues. Bob Walsh emphasized the importance of including and educating youth in all societies, and of providing opportunities for cross-cultural education and exposure. Two American students who work with his NGO, One World 2011, spoke to the audience about the experiences they have had studying in the Egypt and Morocco respectively, noting that the exposure to different cultures have transformed their thinking and perspectives on a host of issues. They encouraged the Doha Forum to include a forum for youth engagement in the future.

**Key takeaways:**

- A democratic process must be designed and constructed from within a society in order for a democracy to emerge successfully.
- The transition to democracy is very difficult and inherently brings uncertainty. As such, it requires patience, commitment, and cooperation and involvement of all levels of society.
- Education and economic development are important components of a successful democratic transition, as well as of the democracy that ensues.
- The transition to democracy in South Africa yielded seven lessons about what is required for a sustainable political transitions to democracy: the creation of active citizens; an agreed upon reconciliation process to deal with the past; a mechanism for mitigating damaging economic consequences; the reorientation of the state and its security forces to comply with democratic processes; constitutional reform and revision of the law on the basis of that constitution; defined and agreed upon national territorial boundaries; a neighborhood supportive and accepting of the democratic transition and state.
- Although Russia does not represent an entirely positive example of democracy or political transitions, it does have an empowered civil society that is active and influential in specific areas, including environmental and health issues. Russians are increasingly learning to be consumers; there is much work to be done for them to learn to be citizens.
- Democracies can be constructed in many ways. Kuwait's offers a unique example with both positive and negative elements, such as an independent judiciary on one hand, but a population completely dependent on the state on the other, which takes away from its potential for progress.
- One example of political reform in a democratic society is by reinforcing local decision-making capabilities and governance responsibilities, as has been done in Paris.
- The development and sustainability of a successful democracy with an active civil society demands involvement of and support for youth, education, and cross-cultural exchange.