



Report of the 16th ACD Ministerial Meeting
Wednesday 1st May 2019, 10.00 AM - 5.00 PM
Al Wosail Ballroom, Ritz-Carlton Hotel, Doha, the State of Qatar

(1) The 16th Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD) Ministerial Meeting took place on 1st May 2019 at Ritz-Carlton Hotel, Doha, the State of Qatar.

(2) **H.E. Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani**, the Foreign Minister of the State of Qatar, and **the Chair** of the Meeting, welcomed all Ministers and delegates to the 16th ACD Ministerial Meeting. H.E. expressed condolences to Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka for the bombings of churches and hotels in April. H.E. Foreign Minister underscored that the State of Qatar condemns terrorism, extremism and violence of all forms. He stressed that the 16th Ministerial Meeting is taking place when the world is undergoing complex challenges and uncertainties in all aspects, from political, economic and financial perspectives, emphasizing the need that Asian countries need to deepen cooperation to meet future challenges and achieving ACD Vision 2030. He also expressed pride and determination in hosting the meeting and promised with confidence to do its best as a host for the success of the meeting. H.E. Foreign Minister reiterated that the State of Qatar supports the main objectives of the ACD initiatives, including strengthening inter-relations among the member countries, coordinating political positions, strengthening cooperation in various fields and achieving common interests, particularly in the areas of energy, security, poverty alleviation, agriculture, transport, biotechnology, environment, tourism and e-education. He reaffirmed that the Asian continent has already achieved so much in the recent years, though there are still other aspirations that require attention to work towards to, stressing that Asia has much opportunities to achieve those aspirations because it possesses natural and human resources and occupies an outstanding geographical location. In this connection, he stressed Qatar's long-standing and growing policy of cooperation with all Asian countries to promote trade and economic partnerships and enhance economic competitiveness, highlighting that the continent has potentials and opportunities to develop human, as well as economic, resources, which are the core to the success of economic integration. The role of Asia in the world economy is increasingly becoming influential, and the level of cooperation and partnership among the Asian countries is also becoming more vital to achieve joint integration, both at the bilateral and at the multilateral level. H.E. expressed confidence that ACD has proven to be an essential mechanism in building those partnerships since its launch in 2002. He also pointed out that the Asian economies in recent years have experienced increasing growth rates, providing the opportunities for further cooperation among the Asian countries, underlining that any uncertainties, tensions and instabilities in any countries will negatively affect all countries in the region. In another context, H.E. stressed the importance of education and culture is essential



in the development and growth of the people, reemphasize the success of the ACD Education Workshop hosted by the Qatar Foundation in March. In this connection, he revealed that the State of Qatar will host a cultural workshop in September, emphasizing the rich history and culture of the Asian continent. H.E. Foreign Minister addressed the importance of SME as an engine of sustainable growth in the Asian countries and stated that the State of Qatar supports and promotes the development of SME and will cooperate in providing opportunities for younger generation in the country to encourage initiative. He also announced that the State of Qatar will host the 3rd ACD Summit in 2020. H.E. Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani ended his statement by wishing all the successes to the meeting.

(3) **H.E. Dr. Mohammad Javad Zarif**, the Foreign Minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and the past Chair, expressed appreciation to the State of Qatar for hosting the 16th Ministerial Meeting. H.E. reiterated the achievement of ACD from 2002 and stressed that the Islamic Republic of Iran is determined in working with the Member States toward ACD Vision 2030, the ACD Blueprint for 2017-2021 and the Declarations. H.E. Zarif reaffirmed that Iran sees the dialogue as the best approach to achieve desired goals by each Member States. In this connection, he stated that as the Prime Mover for Culture and Tourism, Iran announced to host various cultural activities in Tehran. To contribute to the pillar of Connectivity, H.E. underlined Iran's assurance to commit to the existing transit agreements to promote connectivity among the Asian countries. He also stressed the significance of creating partnerships among the multilateral mechanisms to work towards ACD objectives through inclusive regional dialogue. H.E. reiterated the proposal to establishing a Regional Dialogue Forum in the Persian Gulf to secure peace and prosperity to fight against multidimensional crises. He expressed appreciation to the State of Qatar for being the host of the 3rd ACD Summit in 2020.

(4) **H.E. Mevlut Cavusoglu**, the Foreign Minister of the Republic of Turkey, and the future Chair, expressed appreciation to the State of Qatar for hosting the meeting. He stressed the vital role played by Asia for the past decades resulted in increasing middle-income group and declining people in poverty, becoming center of global economic activity. However, H.E. emphasized that despite the positive outlook in the region, Asia is still vulnerable to crises and challenges, including social exclusion, environmental issues, energy security, human trafficking, irregular migration, hybrid wars and terrorist attacks, expressing solidarity to Sri Lanka. His Excellency underlined the importance of the need for cooperation among the Asian countries to achieve inclusive and sustainable economic development and growth, as well as social justice. He pointed out the importance and uniqueness of ACD that it is a meaningful forum that has the potential to translate the ACD Vision into actions, stressing the necessity of connectivity and partnership, proposing the establish regional energy infrastructure networks, developing renewable energy sources, and promoting energy efficiency programs. In another context, H.E. Foreign Minister underscored the contribution of cultural and tourism, stating that Turkey is committed to focus on these aspects. He went on to show supports of the



establishment of ACD Chamber of Commerce and appreciated Bahrain to host the first Secretaries General Meetings. H.E. ended his report showing appreciating to the host and ACD Secretariat for their commitment, as well as welcoming Palestine as the 35th member of ACD.

(5) **Mr. Bundit Limschoon**, the ACD Secretary General, started by adopting the agenda and report for the Ministerial Meeting, followed by addressing the uncertainties and conflicts experienced by Asia in the recent years, stating that although our region benefits most from the open global economy, we also suffer most from trade protection and retreat of globalization. In this context, the Secretary General called on all ACD Member States to work together to face the challenges, and emphasized that the members are to voice out strong messages from all 34 countries to reaffirm ACD commitment of Open Economy, Open Society, and Open Regionalism and to achieve our various objectives. The Secretary General made a report on the matter to highlight and prioritize on as followed:

- After 17 years of establishment, Kuwait proposed to revisit ACD's achievement for the past 17 years and reassess our priority based on relevancy to the current situation.
- The aim of establishing Asian Community by the year 2030. The Secretary General encouraged all Ministers to reaffirm their commitment to deliver tangible actions and results. In addition, as agreed in page 2 paragraph 2 of Abu Dhabi Declaration, the Secretariat's operational details, including funding model, responsibilities and staffing must be discussed.
- Strengthening our cooperation under the six Pillars. More engagement from the Member States is encouraged in order to bring our forum to achieve synergy and form Asian Community by 2030.

After addressing the topics of priority, the Secretary General reiterated the importance of building and promoting partnership, appreciating Bahrain their agreement to host the first meeting between Secretary Generals of ACD and other regional associations, highlighting that it will be the first step in developing partnerships. the Secretary General expressed appreciation to the Kingdom of Thailand to host to first High Level Meeting in Bangkok. He reiterated the urge for members' engagement to voluntarily host activities under their area of cooperation. After expressing appreciation to the State of Qatar for its generous support and for hosting the meeting, the Secretary General ended his report by welcoming Palestine as the 35th member of ACD.

(6) **The Chair/ACD Secretary General** invited all the Ministers and delegates to witness **ACD MBA MOU Signing Ceremony**. After the Signing Ceremony, the Heads of Delegations for the six ACD MBA participating countries were invited for a group photo and a short break.

(7) After the short break, the meeting was resumed and chaired by **H.E. Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani**, Foreign Minister of the State of Qatar.



(8) **H.E. Mr. Don Pramudwinai**, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand, started his statement by expressing appreciation to the State of Qatar for the hospitality and contribution to the ACD and the 16th Ministerial Meeting. His Excellency also conveyed heartfelt condolences to Sri Lanka for the terrorist attack in April, stressing the need for ACD to intensify the efforts to consolidate peace, prosperity and sustainability in our region. With regards to the progress and achievement of ACD, he pointed out how we should proceed toward strengthening the forum, proposing three points: (1) The sense of ownership – encouraged all Member States to participate in the activities under the 6 pillars of cooperation as well as to actively organize workshops and activities; (2) Promoting greater awareness and visibility of the ACD – reassured that ACD form partnerships, both between the Member States and with other regional organizations, towards its goals, and ACD to take symbolic actions to make our voices heard; and (3) The ACD organizational structure – Thailand is committed to work towards strengthening the Secretariat to achieve tangible results and in this connection, Thailand will host High Level Working Group Meeting (HLWG) to discuss the ACD structure and mechanism. His Excellency ended his remark by voicing his hopes for the cooperation from all member countries to move forward ACD together.

(9) **H.E. Dato Saifuddin Bin Abdullah**, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Malaysia, expressed appreciation to the State of Qatar for the warm hospitality and for hosting the meeting and conveyed deepest condolences to Sri Lanka for the tragic terrorist attacks. He also welcomed Palestine to be the 35th member of the ACD. After highlighting some challenges faced by our Member States, including the back sliding of democracies and protectionism, H.E. emphasized the significance of strengthening our solidarity and cooperation to overcome these challenges. His Excellency reassured Malaysia's commitment to the ACD's philosophy and vision and addressed that partnerships should be extended to private sectors. He quoted H.E. Foreign Minister of Thailand that Asia has various potentials to offer and the Member States must work collaborate to unleashed these potentials. As a Co-prime Mover of the pillar Education, Malaysia highlighted the Asia e University as the main driver and the central platform of ACD higher education cooperation, offering opportunities for the younger generation to widen their potentials through exchanges of intellectuals. His Excellency concluded his statement by stressing the need for ACD to work together towards sustainable economic growth.

(10) **H.E. Vijay Kumar Singh**, Minister of the State of External Affairs of the Republic of India, started with congratulating the State of Qatar for hosting the 16th Ministerial Meeting, followed by expressing profound sorrow for the terrorist attacks in Sri Lanka. After emphasizing on the theme “Partners in Progress”, he underscored India's commitment to cooperatively work with all ACD Member States. His Excellency further stressed for Asia to ensure energy security in order to meet sustainable development and poverty eradication, stating that non-polluting renewable resources such as solar power must be pursued. As one of



the founders of ACD, H.E. reassured India's willingness to play a key role for ensuring collective action to meet ACD's mission and promote ACD projects towards stability, peace, growth and prosperity. He emphasized the significance of collaboration from the Member States on the factors such as food security, adequate access to fresh water, research and innovation, and financial inclusion.

(11) **H.E. Ms. Retno L.P. Marsudi**, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia, started her remark by expressing appreciation to the government of Qatar for hosting the meeting. Her Excellency then reassured Indonesia's commitment to advancing the cooperation among the ACD Member States to achieve sustainable prosperity and wellbeing of our people. She stressed the necessity to reflect and assess the progress and achievement of ACD for the past 17 years that we are moving into the right direction with relevance to the people of our region. As we live in uncertain world, she stated that ACD should voice out and consolidate our cooperation to tackle issues such as conflicts, inequalities and poverty, to maintain peace and stability. After reaffirming the significance of dialogue, Her Excellency stressed that we must utilize our dialogue sufficiently among our Member States. In this borderless world, cooperation and building partnerships will contribute largely to finding solution of our challenges. Her Excellency then announced that Indonesia proposed to host ACD Energy Ministerial Meeting in the second half of 2019 aiming to generate concrete cooperation in renewable energy. She also stressed the significance of ACD Vision 2030 and reminded that we must make efforts to achieve the goals by the timeline set, reemphasizing the importance of concrete cooperation. Her Excellency ended her remark by showing confidence that ACD partnership will grow stronger.

(12) **H.E. Tilak Marapan**, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, expressed appreciation to the State of Qatar for hosting the distinguished meeting and the hospitality extended to his delegates. In addition, H.E. expressed appreciation to ACD Secretary General and the Secretariat, as well as the State of Kuwait for the continuous generosity and support. He condemned the terror attack in April and stressed that terrorism is a global threat and has a direct impact on human rights, and appreciated the sincere messages of condolences and solidarity expressed by all ACD Member States. He also conveyed his pride to those involved in the emergency responses to ensure the safety and security of its people after the attacks. He moved on to reiterated that Sri Lanka is committed to continuously be a constructive player in the achievements of the ACD targets and missions to achieve tangible results and benefits, also encouraging all Member States to work together to collectively identify challenges and solutions in the region. His Excellency also agreed that SME is an important engine of economic growth that we must prioritize on. After reaffirming that connectivity and partnership are essentials to sustainable prosperity and security, he recalled for the ACD Vision 2030, the Bangkok Declaration, and the ACD's commitment to implement the Road Map towards achieving ACD goals, believing that these three elements



will be the key platform to positively benefit the future of ACD. The theme “Partners in progress” reflects the current requisite for ACD to expand our links with various segments. In this connection, Sri Lanka announced the invitation to mid-career diplomats from the ACD Member States to join Sri Lanka Foreign Policy and Economic Diplomacy Dialogue to discuss commonalities of the challenges in Asia, as well as to discuss ACD objectives. As a co-prime mover of Science and Technology and Innovation, he showed confidence that Asia, with its diverse strengths, is at its stages of advancement. He also stressed that strengthening knowledge, research, development and innovation can help to generate economic diversification across the region. After expressing confidence in Sri Lanka’s commitment to support ACD objectives and promise to be an active partner to the Member States and wished the positive outcome of the meeting, he joined other Member States in welcoming Palestine as the new member and confirmed Sri Lanka’s support to the Republic of Turkey for being the next ACD Chair.

(13) **H.E. Khaled Sulaiman Al Jarallah**, the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the State of Kuwait, expressed condolences to Sri Lanka for the attack in April, and expressed appreciation to the State of Qatar for hosting the meeting. He also extended his gratitude to Iran for its efforts during their presidency and thanked ACD Secretary General for the coordination. His Excellency addressed that the high level of participation from the Gulf countries in the ACD meeting conveys positive sign that the organization is moving towards the right direction. The cooperation among the Member States will bring ACD towards its mission and he stressed that Kuwait strongly depends on such cooperation. He reiterated the importance of the ACD meeting as an opportunity to address challenges and find collective solutions, and that Kuwait is aware that ACD is the only platform that could bring together representatives from such large number of the countries. With regards to establishing partnerships, His Excellency encouraged the Member States to share experiences as the region is experiencing different developmental stages. In this context, he recalled the workshop for sustainable development organized by Kuwait in March 2018, providing opportunities for Asian countries to gather and exchange their experiences and form cooperation. He reiterated that we are required to work towards promoting mechanism for choosing Secretary General and establish structural rule of the Secretariat. After welcoming Palestine as a new member, he ended his remark by expressing appreciation to the State of Qatar for being the host of the next summit and reaffirmed Kuwait’s confidence and trusts in the ACD.

(14) **H.E. Shakti Bahadur Basnet**, Minister of Forests and Environment of Nepal, started his statement by appreciating the Government of the State of Qatar for Chairing and hosting the 16th Ministerial Meeting and expressed deepest condolences to the people of Sri Lanka for the loss from the terrorist attacks. His Excellency underscored that regional cooperation mechanisms are important in harmonizing common understanding among the members and stressed the significance of fostering friendships and partnerships as the root for equitable and



sustainable development and prosperity. He stressed Nepal's commitment in contributing to prevent climate change and dealing with natural disasters, calling for cooperation from ACD member countries to support in developing appropriate strategies to deliver required interventions. Transport connectivity, including air, land, and sea, is also vital in contributing to the rapid economic growth through smooth transit of people and goods, he added. H.E. reiterated that Asia has much potentials in terms of tourism, which can help strengthening partnerships among the countries in our region, as well as contributing to economic growth in a sustainable manner. After stressing the importance of coordination to meet our vision, His Excellency expressed appreciation to the State of Kuwait for the initiative taken to create ACD Development Fund, and showed confidence that our collaborative actions can bring tangible results

(15) **H.E. Dr. Ahmed Mohammed Salem Al Futaisi**, Minister of Transport and Communications of the Sultanate of Oman, appreciated the State of Qatar for hosting the 16th ACD Ministerial Meeting. His Excellency underlined that Oman promises to create deeper communication with the ACD Member States, reiterating that ACD serves as a platform for the countries in Asia to enhance and deepen cooperation in the six pillars of cooperation. The Secretariat is working hard to achieve its goals and visions, he added, expressing will and wishes that the meeting will lead to tangible outcome. His Excellency ended his remark by expressing commitment for the involvement to the ACD Vision.

(16) **H.E. Munkhjin Batsumber**, Minister of State and Advisory to the Prime Minister of Mongolia, expressed appreciation to the State of Qatar for hosting the meeting. His Excellency reaffirmed Mongolia's commitment in missions and visions of ACD and believed that there are various opportunities for Asia to bring ACD Vision 2030 into tangible action. After conveying Mongolia's commitment to contribute to promote regional contribution, he acknowledged ACD's supports of energy plans. His Excellency reiterated that maintaining peace and stability is important and reaffirmed his support to the Doha Declaration. In this connection, he welcomed the spirit of Turkey for being the future Chair, Bahrain for hosting the first meeting of the Secretary Generals of ACD and other regional and sub-regional organizations, Indonesia for hosting ACD Energy Ministerial Meeting, and Iran for the conference of financing and development. He ended his remark by once again reaffirming Mongolia's commitment to the mission and vision of AD.

(17) **H.E. Khusrav Nozini**, First Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan, conveyed gratitude to the State of Qatar for hosting the meeting and wished the Republic of Turkey for the success of being the next ACD Chair. His Excellency stressed that strengthening cooperation between ACD Member States to fill transport and communication is becoming increasingly important, and that land-locked countries like Tajikistan require supports from international financial institution in developing transport infrastructure. In this connection, he continued by showing Tajikistan's support to the ACD Development Funds



initiated by Kuwait, emphasizing that it will contribute to upgrading logistics of the land-locked countries. In other context, His Excellency expressed appreciation to the State of Qatar for organizing the Education Workshop in March, contributing to the great start for implementing the new decades of global initiatives. At the same time, clean and renewable energy should be promoted to expand the potential of sustainable energy supply in Tajikistan, adding that partnership with neighboring countries are also an important aspect of developing economy and trade. His Excellency ended his remark by inviting and encourage all Member States to attend the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures and Asia summit, which will be hosted by Tajikistan in June 2019, to promote and strengthen the cooperation, peace and stability.

(18) **H.E. Abdul Manaf Metussin**, Deputy Minister of Finance and Economy of Brunei Darussalam, expressed appreciation to the State of Qatar for hosting the meeting and for the hospitality extended to the delegates. His Excellency also expressed heartfelt condolences to Sri Lanka for the terrorist attacks in April. With the growth of membership from 18 to 34 Member States, he reassured his support and confidence in the relevance of ACD in tackling issues and pursuing sustainable development, further stressing the significance of partnerships with other regional and sub-regional organizations. With regards to continuous economic growth, His Excellency welcomed the Doha Declaration under the theme “Partners in Progress” and showed commitment towards brining synergy across the region. In this connection, he identified several fundamental mechanisms to ensure growth and development in sustainable manner. He firstly stated the focus on youth development as they play an important role in the use and development of new technology. With their flexibility to changes, they can effectively be involved in decision making process. With this regard, Brunei Darussalam contributed in awarding government scholarships to students from the Member States to support their development. His Excellency moved on to the second mechanism, which is leveraging on technology, stressing the necessity of being responsive and adaptive to technological changes. Supporting MSMEs is the third fundamental catalyst we should focus on, he added, stressing the majority of businesses Asia is made up with MSMEs. His Excellency stated digital economy is of great importance in the current markets and tackling these opportunities can be the key to successful MSMEs in the region. Strengthening people-to-people connectivity can help to promote collective understanding of cultures and societies among the ACD members and, in this connection, he appreciated the efforts made by Prime and Co-Prime Movers in each area of cooperation to fulfill ACD Vision. His Excellency ended his remark by expressed his gratitude to the hard work and commitment done by the Secretary General, welcoming the State of Palestine as the 35th member of ACD, and appreciate Turkey’s generous offer to become the next Chair.

(19) **H.E. Mukhtar Tileuberdi**, First Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan, expressed appreciation to the State of Qatar for hosting the 16th Ministerial



Meeting. His Excellency started his statement by stressing that our region must prioritize to find new ways of developing cooperation between the countries of our region, adding that investment in technology and in business context will contribute to building partnerships to all ACD Member States. Aiming to strengthen of mutual understanding and provide assistance to cooperation in Asia, His Excellency reaffirmed Kazakhstan's willingness to take the active part of this cooperation, as well as in the formation of multilateral agreement in Asia. In other context, he reiterated that Kazakhstan is an active member of many of the Asian organizations, urging for the Member States that deepening interaction and partnership between international organizations in the region will contribute further to strengthen confidence and cooperation. Emphasizing the significance of the financial institutions, including the Asian Development Bank, Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, the Islamic Development Bank and other agencies and initiatives, including One Belt One Road, His Excellency highlighted the importance to increasing mutual interest for mutual cooperation between the region, as well as with other region, for mutually beneficial trade and cooperation.

(20) **H.E. Nuran Niyazaliev**, First Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic, thanked the States of Qatar for being the host and expressed deep condolences to the people of Sri Lanka for the recent terrorist attack. His Excellency emphasized that with the rising role of international laws and the trend of economic protectionism, the Kyrgyz Republic is in favor of developing partnership between international and multinational organizations, emphasizing Kyrgyz' chairmanship to the Summit of Shanghai Cooperation Organization. In other context, the His Excellency reaffirm Kyrgyz' supports to the intention of Thailand to modernize existing area of cooperation and ACD Vision 2030, as well as other projects and initiatives by the Member States. At the end of his statement, His Excellency expressed appreciation to the Secretary General for his dedicated hard work, and thanked the State of Kuwait for hosting the ACD Secretariat .

(21) **H.E. Thongphane Savanphet**, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Lao's People Democratic Republic, started his statement with expressing appreciation to the State of Qatar for the generous hospitality and the arrangements made for the meeting, and the offer to host the 3rd ACD Summit in 2020. He also expressed gratitude to the Secretariat for the preparation and to Thailand for being the ACD coordinator. With regards to the them "Partners in Progress", His Excellency reaffirmed the significance of working together to strengthen cooperation to contribute towards achieving economic growth, stability, and prosperity in a sustainable manner. He reiterated that Lao PDR is committed to the ACD six pillars of cooperation, to the ACD Blueprint 2017-2021, and to the various activities organized by Prime and Co-Prime Movers. As a Co-Prime Mover in energy, he recalled the successful hosting of the Seminar on "Sustainable Hydropower Development and Regional Power Exchange of Lao PDR" in 2014, and announced that Lao PDR will be a Co-Prime Mover in Culture and Tourism Cooperation, given the importance of culture and tourism in Asia. In other context, His



Excellency shared an important point that secure source of funding to support ACD activities are crucial, suggested to encourage funding contributions from development partners. He also stressed the need to implement activities under the ACD Blueprint 2017-2021 and translate the vision into tangible results. In addition, he stated that culture and tourism in Asia contains various potentials, encouraging Member States to promote this area of cooperation further. After appreciating the State of Kuwait for supporting the Secretariat as the host and welcoming the adoption of the Doha Declaration, His Excellency congratulated the Republic of Turkey for being the next ACD Chair and expressed Lao PDR commitment to continuously being active member of ACD.

(22) **H.E. Iikhamdjan Nematov**, First Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan, appreciated the State of Qatar for hosting the meeting. After reaffirming that Uzbekistan consistently supports the enhancement of the role of ACD, His Excellency stressed that the cooperation in the region is becoming increasingly significant based on good neighborliness, mutual consideration of interests, and reasonable compromises. With more open policy of Uzbekistan, the country was able to achieve healthy climate, friendly atmosphere, and favorable conditions for the development of mutually beneficial cooperation between the countries in the region, he added. His excellency ended his remark by expressing confidence that ACD will become another important step in deepening understanding of the Asian continent.

(23) **H.E. Dr. Mohammad Maliki Bin Osman**, Senior Minister of State for Defense and Foreign Affairs of Singapore, expressed his appreciation to the host and the State of Qatar for the hospitality and the Secretariat for the preparation and organization of the meeting. His Excellency also conveyed Singapore's condolences to the people of Sri Lanka on the recent terrorist attacks. Commending the theme "Partners in Progress", His Excellency stated that Singapore, strongly believes that close cooperation between the partners are essential to overcome challenges and that Member States are encouraged to share experiences and find solutions together on the developmental processes and practices, providing an example from the Singapore Cooperation Program where officials from many countries are trained with skills and know-how on various tasks. Given the diverse number of the member in ACD, His Excellency reaffirmed that collaboration is the way to lead our platform to achieve our missions and benefit the region as a whole.

(24) **H.E. Mingming Chen**, Special Envoy of Foreign Minister of People's Republic of China, first appreciated the State of Qatar for hosting the 16th ACD Ministerial Meeting and the Secretary General for his continuous dedication and contribution to the ACD. His Excellency joined other delegates in expressing heartfelt condolences to the people Sri Lanka for the terrorist attack. ACD became an important platform of deepening cooperation and



strengthening partnership, and in this connection, His Excellency emphasized the important role of ACD as the only intergovernmental dialogue and cooperation mechanism facing the whole Asia and stressed China's intention to strengthen ACD cooperation and cooperation with ACD members, calling for building Asian community with a shared future. Further to this, His Excellency reaffirmed China's commitment to ACD, citing that over the past 16 months, China launched 5 ACD related activities and will host two more seminars in 2019, making China a very active member with 7 ACD related activities over a period of two years. In this connection, His Excellency encouraged that China's record will be broken by further initiatives by other Member States to actively host more activities. In other context, China has also succeeded in hosting the Belt and Road Forum, stressing that Belt and Road and ACD are mutually reinforcing process. His Excellency reassured that China is ready to offer opportunities created by Belt and Road to advance cooperation among the Asian countries. Before ending his remark, His Excellency welcomed all ACD Member States to join the Conference of Dialogue of Asian Civilization which will be hosted in China in two weeks. His Excellency reaffirmed China's commitment to continuously work with all members towards the goal of creating common vision in Asia.

(25) **H.E. Dr. Siphana Sok**, Senior Adviser to the Royal Government of the Kingdom of Cambodia, thanked the State of Qatar for the hospitality and for hosting the meeting, complementing the rapid development of the country. His Excellency then joined other delegates to express deepest condolences to the people of Sri Lanka for their loss resulting from the terrorist attacks. After reflecting the successful milestone of the ACD, he reiterated that the partners in progress is essential to keep ACD moving towards achieving peace, stability, and prosperity in a sustainable manner, citing the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and ACD Vision 2030. His Excellency thanked Thailand for hosting the meeting in July regarding the replacement of Secretary General Bundit and commended that the position is important and needs to be filled on a timely manner. He followed by agreeing to establish a proper institutional mechanism for the appointment and selection of the Secretary General, adding that a mechanism for reviewing a request of new membership is also essential as we see a rapid growth in the number of our members. His Excellency stated that the involvement of think tanks and the private sector should be considered in order to realize the vision of an Asia Community, citing an example of ASEAN Community. Lastly, His Excellency supported Kuwait's initiative on the assessment of ACD after 17 years to reflect the strengths and lessons to be learnt. In other context, he recalled successful hosting of the 2nd ACD Tourism Ministerial Meeting in June 2017 in Siem Reap, Cambodia, as a Co-Prime Mover on Tourism, His Excellency ended his remark by appreciating the State of Qatar for being the host to the 3rd ACD Summit in 2020.

(26) **H.E. Imtiaz Ahmad**, Special Secretary of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, first thanked the Foreign Minister and the government of the State of Qatar for the warm hospitality and



arrangements of the meeting. Given large economic contributions and geographical landscape of the Asian continent, His Excellency reaffirmed ACD's opportunities under the theme "Partners in Progress" to tackle various challenges, including inequality and poverty, water scarcity and food insecurity, environmental degradation and climate changes. He expressed confidence that ACD is the platform to find unity through diversity and voice out our concerns to the world through its informality, voluntarism, openness and respect for diversity, reassuring Pakistan's commitment to fulfill ACD objectives and Vision 2030, ACD Blueprint 2017-2021 and Roadmap for Regional Connectivity. As the Prime Mover for Connectivity and Co-Prime Mover for Tourism and Culture, he addressed the Belt and Road Initiative by the President Xi Jinping, underscoring the significance of connectivity for the positive outcome of our platform and promising the Executive Committee meeting among the Working Group on Connectivity. He also reassured of the support to ACD's agenda on Tourism and Culture given Pakistan's diverse geography, rich history and culture. As the first step, His Excellency announced the revised visa policy, lowering visa fees, and introducing e-visa and visa-on-arrival facilities. Given a rapid expansion of ACD and various activities and projects, His Excellency reiterated the need for Permanent Secretariat, appreciating Kuwait for hosting and supporting the Secretariat. His Excellency ended his remark by emphasizing the significance of developing synergies with other regional and sub-regional organizations.

(27) **H.E. Ms. Lourdes Ortiz Yparaguire**, Acting Undersecretary for International Economic Relations for the Republic of the Philippines, thanked the State of Qatar for the hospitality and for hosting the 16th Ministerial Meeting. Asia and the global economy has been facing challenges in the past few years, including economic slowdown due to protectionism and unilateralism and the consequences affect people at all level, she stated. In this regard, Her Excellency reaffirmed that collective commitment to a multilateral trading system should be encouraged from all countries. She also emphasized the need to confront natural disaster, climate change, and violent terrorism. In this connection, Her Excellency expressed condolences and heartfelt sympathies to the people of Sri Lanka for the attack in April. She also underscored the rapid change in technological advancement, stating that jobs and human resources need to adjust to meet the need of the changing market forces. Her Excellency stressed the significance of building partnership to form common vision and shared responsibilities to face various complex issues, emphasize the applicability of the theme "Partners in Progress", providing key areas of policy to focus on. Firstly, Human Resource Enhancement through basic education systems to provide education systems and training to develop human resources to meet the demand of the market, stressing the importance of research and innovation. This is associated with the second point of Boosting Innovation where MSMEs must be supported to improve productivity and promote greater access to the global value chain. Lastly, she stressed the importance of Infrastructure Development by providing the example "Build Build Build Program", which is an infrastructure development plan launched in the Philippines. Her Excellency restressed the theme "Partner in Progress" that the



proficient movement of people, goods, and services will improve living standard of our people as a whole, eradicating poverty, expressing confidences that ACD forums are the ways to interactively and informally discuss various issues to inspire ideas, leading Asia to be more of an innovative region and community

(28) **Ms. Muna Abbas Radhi**, Director for Afro-Asian Affairs for the Kingdom of Bahrain, started her remarks by appreciating the State of Qatar for hosting the meeting, Thailand for moving the ACD agenda forward, the State of Kuwait for hosting the ACD Secretariat and expressed sincere condolences to Sri Lanka for the recent attacks. Her Excellency highlighted Bahrain's commitment in advancing ACD cooperation and Bahrain's particular attention to sustainable development, stressing her belief that sharing experiences and cooperation in various fields among the Member States will benefit from available potentials of a diverse continent of Asia, commending all the efforts and contribution from all members. As a Co-Prime Mover in various areas of cooperation, Her Excellency reaffirmed Bahrain's commitment to host the first Secretary General meeting to develop and strengthen partnerships with other regional and sub-regional organizations. Her Excellency ended her remark by joining other delegates in welcoming Palestine as the 35th ACD member and reaffirmed Bahrain's commitment in continuously and actively contributing to ACD to achieve its objectives.

(29) **H.E. Fizauah Kakar**, the Ambassador of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan to Qatar, began by appreciating Foreign Minister of Qatar for hosting the meeting and the dedication during Qatar's chairmanship, and congratulated Turkey for being the next ACD Chair. His Excellency joined other delegates in conveying condolence to the people and the government of Sri Lanka for the recent terrorist attacks. He emphasized that the meeting provided opportunity for all the Member Countries to revitalize the commitment to realize the vision of ACD, reaffirming that connectivity, trade, science and technology, energy and food, and water security persist. After stressing the potential offered by the Asian continent and the necessity to synergize advantages in connection with food, water, and energy security, as a country located between South and Central Asia, he reaffirmed Afghanistan's commitment, on strengthening regional connectivity. His Excellency reiterated Afghanistan's role in the RECCA Process, TAPI Project, and CASA 1000 in the areas of energy and electricity. In addition, His Excellency shared his belief in the significant impact of promoting business, tourism, culture, and education for the future of Asia, highlighting that investing in these areas will strengthen people to people connectivity and enhance flow and exchange of innovation. In this connection, he congratulated the holding of ACD Education Workshop in March and expressed enthusiasm in the outcome of the ACD Business Forum. His Excellency reaffirmed Afghanistan commitment to fight against terrorism and extremism, encouraging all ACD Member States for greater cooperation to promote security in Asia. His Excellency ended his remark by reassuring Afghanistan's devotion to promote partnership within ACD framework and on a bilateral basis to meet ACD objectives and expressed best wishes to Turkey for their chairmanship.



(30) **H.E. Ashud Ahmed**, Ambassador of People’s Republic of Bangladesh to Qatar, after expressing appreciation to the Chair and the State of Qatar for hosting the meeting, congratulated Turkey for being the next Chair, joined other delegates in expressing deepest condolences to Sri Lanka for terrorist attack. His Excellency revitalized that Asia continues to be the major driver of economic growth, stressing the importance of SMEs and entrepreneurs. In this connection, he stated that ACD has great potential but it yet needs to realize it and we should work together to put efforts in brining ACD Vision 2030 into reality. Further to this context, His Excellency congratulated 6 universities for signing the ACD-UN earlier today. Due to its geographical location, Bangladesh positioned itself as regional hub and commits itself to guard against protectionism, His Excellency called for strengthening regional cooperation to reduce poverty and encouraged higher investment in the area of agriculture. To end his statement, His Excellency expressed appreciation to Thailand for the efforts to strengthen ACD Secretariat, announcing that Bangladesh will host tourism meeting as well as workshop on SMEs in 2019, and reaffirmed its commitment to revitalize ACD.

(31) **H.E. Getse Penjor**, Ambassador of The Kingdom of Bhutan to the State of Kuwait, began his statement by expressing condolences to Sri Lanka for the recent attack and congratulated the State of Qatar for assuming the chairmanship for the ACD. His Excellency the Ambassador reaffirmed Bhutan’s confidence that ACD will gain momentum, and the country is committed to the shared goals and aspirations. He reiterated that the theme “Partners in Progress” is timely as building partnerships will contribute to Asia’s growing wealth, promoting international peace, prosperity and security. After recognizing the efforts of Prime and Co-Prime Movers of the six pillars of cooperation, His Excellency reaffirmed Bhutan’s commitment to the planned activities and the visions of ACD. He also expressed appreciation to the State of Kuwait for proposing the establishment of the ACD Development Fund. His Excellency ended his remark by welcoming Palestine as a new member of ACD and thanking the State of Qatar once again for hosting the meeting. His Excellency reiterated Bhutan’s commitment in working with ACD aiming to enhance Asia cooperation.

(32) **H.E. Seiichi Otsuka**, Ambassador of Japan to Qatar, appreciated the State of Qatar for hosting the meeting and reaffirmed Japan’s commitment to value the priorities of the 6 pillars of cooperation. With regards to the theme “Partners in Progress”, His Excellency stressed that connectivity is important and is the key for building partnerships, contributing to the significance of enhancing regional connectivity through infrastructure development. His Excellency shared Japan’s Vision, namely (1) freedom of navigation; (2) enhanced connectivity to ensure regional prosperity; and (3) continuous focus on developmental projects in other countries. In this connection, His Excellency reassured that Japan will cooperate with Pakistan in enhancing connectivity. To end his remark, His Excellency expressed commitment for the continuous supports other countries in the region to enhance regional connectivity in Asia, emphasizing the significance of inclusiveness as one of the core values.



(33) **H.E. Changmo Kim**, Ambassador of Republic of Korea to Qatar, congratulated the State of Qatar for the arrangement and hosting of the 16th ACD Ministerial Meeting. His Excellency extended heartfelt condolences to Sri Lanka for the terrorist attack, stressing the terrorism is crime against humanity. His Excellency reaffirmed that ACD has been the heart of endeavor to bring Asia countries together and is the platform for the members to realize diverse issues, adding that our forum has been keen in finding ways to ensure that all Member Countries develop together without leaving any countries behind. In this connection, he reiterated that the theme “Partners in Progress” will continue to bring the Member States to work together towards achieving our mutual goal, and the engine of long term growth is addressed by the members. His Excellency stated that Korea plans to carry out the total of 389 projects in ACD countries, reassuring supports and commitment to the neighboring countries. Korea as a Prime-Mover in science, technology, and innovation, remains committed to realization of the ACD goals, he added. To end his remark, His Excellency stressed the role of Korea in different countries in the region and supported the Doha Declaration adopted today, convincing that it will act as a mechanism to polish ACD where members can continue to share their knowledge and experiences.

(34) **H.E. Moe Kyaw Aung**, Ambassador of the Republic of Union of Myanmar to India, congratulated and appreciated the State of Qatar as the Chair for the meeting and for the warm hospitality extended to his delegates, and expressed heartfelt condolences to Sri Lanka for the recent terrorist attack. His Excellency emphasized that the pride of Asia has risen in terms of economy around the world, including in the area of socio-economic development. In this connection, he stressed that Asian leaders need clear and concrete cooperation to utilize the diverse trends visible in the region and that networking in Asia acts as one of the most important priority that needs to be acknowledged. With over half of the world population living in Asia, our market continues to expand with greater demand for medical services, other public facilities, education and food, he reaffirmed that ACD needs stronger bond both between the Member States and with other regional organizations, reiterating the theme “Partners in Progress”. Before ending his remark, His Excellency expressed confidence that ACD can create stability and prosperity region, reaffirming Myanmar’s commitment to work together for effective implementation of the declarations. His Excellency welcomed Palestine as the 35th ACD member, appreciated Turkey for hosting the 17th ACD Ministerial Meeting as a Chair, and appreciated Qatar for hosting the 3rd ACD Summit.

(35) **H.E. Nurmakhmad Kholov**, Ambassador of the Russian Federation to Qatar, began his speech by welcome all the delegates to the 16th Ministerial Meeting and emphasized the role of Asia as the center of global growth in which constructive interaction of various state systems and social structures without political bias as the main objective. H.E. Ambassador reassured that Asia represents various opportunities for building a common interrelated economies and promote connectivity among the Member States. In this connection, His Excellency expressed



Russia's proposal of the establishment of Eurasian partnership which aims at integrating national development strategies and multilateral integration to maximize the potential of all economies. In addition to this context, he reiterated that trade and interaction based on mutual respect will also be one of the main focus in building partnerships, citing that a free trade agreement was signed between Eurasian Economic Community and Vietnam. Trade negotiations also continue with other countries, including India, Israel, and Egypt, and more agreements are ready to be signed with Singapore and Serbia, he added, and large infrastructure projects aiming to promote transport connectivity in the Asian region are among the development plan proposed by Russia. His Excellency ended his remark by reaffirming the commitment to the joint efforts to achieve sustainable growth and development.

(36) **H.E. Thao Dinh Nguyen**, Ambassador of Socialist Republic of Viet Nam in Qatar, expressed heartfelt condolences to the people and government of Sri Lanka for its tragic loss resulted from the terrorist attack, emphasizing the need for international community to fight against all forms of terrorism. He then joined other delegates in appreciating the State of Qatar for its warm hospitality and for hosting the meeting. Given the increasingly active role of Asia as the growth engine of the world, His Excellency reiterated that there are still various challenges that our continent needs to address, necessitating ACD's position to further strengthen cooperation and dialogue among the Asian countries to overcome these challenges and achieve sustainable and inclusive growth. In this connection, His Excellency provided suggestions to further fortify cooperation, namely (1) stressing that sustainability is an imperative to the future of Asian continent and ACD should foster cooperation among its Member States to attain 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, especially the matters related to climate change, water, food, and energy security; (2) the importance of SMEs as the key component to economic development and poverty alleviation, utilizing public-private partnerships to achieve sustainable growth; and (3) appreciating Bahrain's initiative to host the meeting of Secretary Generals of regional and sub-regional organizations to build synergies and promote communication, as well as appreciating Secretariat in drafting and circulating the concept note of the Meeting. To end his remark, His Excellency reaffirmed Viet Nam's commitment to support ACD towards achieving peace, stability and shared prosperity.

(37) **H.E. Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani**, on behalf of the Chair invited the ACD Secretary General to conclude the meeting.

(38) **The ACD Secretary General**, closed the meeting by adopting the Doha Declaration, expressing confidence that the adopted declaration reflects the wish and will of all Foreign Ministers to work together to ensure the prosperity of Asia. The Secretary General also expressed appreciation to all active participation and supports from all ACD Member States for the 16th ACD Ministerial Meeting.

(39) **H.E. Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani** of the State of Qatar expressed



appreciation to all ACD Member States and the ACD Secretary General for the positive discussions towards adopting the Doha Declaration, reiterating the main objectives of ACD. His Excellency wished Turkey for the success of being the next Chair and ended the 16th ACD Ministerial Meeting.

The ACD Secretariat
11 May 2019