

Madam President,

Excellences, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

We thank, the Amir, State of Qatar, its leadership and people for hosting this Summit, with skill and warm hospitality. We also thank the UN.

Madam President, I bring greetings from the Prime Minister Phillip Davis, The Government and the people of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas. We believe in the Rule of Law, the fundamental rights of our people, including the right to respect and to live in dignity.

We consider ourselves a friend to all and the enemy of none.

Madam President, in 1995, world leaders convened at the first World Summit for Social Development in Copenhagen, pledging to make the eradication of poverty, full employment, and social integration, overriding objectives of development.

Today, three decades later, we reaffirm our commitment to the Copenhagen Declaration, advances the 2030 Agenda, and ensure that no one is left behind.

Expansion of Economy

Madam President, over the past 30 years The Bahamas has made expansion of the economy a priority. We have seen major hotel developments, including mega resorts, new airports, docks and port facilities to boost our tourism product; thereby increasing employment and creating better opportunities for our citizens. We have diversified our economy and expanded the middle class through direct foreign investment. We are working towards food security. We have lowered unemployment rates and improved quality of life.

Inclusion

Madam President, the role of woman in leadership has increased. A woman now holds the position of Governor General, speaker of the House, Senate President, Cabinet Ministers, Senators, Commissioner of Police, Deputy Commissioner of BDCS and the Deputy Commodore of the RBDF, and other leadership roles in Government Agencies and private companies. The Government has implemented policy for hiring persons with disabilities within the workplace. The principal for the school for the blind is a blind person.

Gender, Family and Disabled Legislation

We have enacted legislation to protect women, children and disabled communities from various forms of violence and abuse, including gender-based violence. We continue to promote stronger families.

Education and Training

Madam President, we have provided training opportunities in technical and vocational areas. We have built new schools and upgraded COB to UB. We provide support for our youth, sports and culture, and creative arts through nutrition facilities, grants and subventions with deliberate focus on our remote islands.

Social Assistance Benefits

Madam President, we have implemented minimum wage and unemployment benefits and increase pension benefits. We have provided entrepreneurial opportunities through collaboration and grant funding for woman and the disabled community.

Through MOH we provide free prescription drugs for children, the elderly and the infirmed, and free advanced health care inside and outside the country. We continue to improve our health care system through new hospitals and

clinics, we have built thousands of Government low-cost homes

Infrastructure Upgrade

Madam President, we are modernizing our government agencies with digital upgrades and through legislation made digital assets available.

Climate Change

Madam President, climate change is a reality in The Bahamas. Storms are more frequent and intense, Dorian caused billions of dollars and loss of lives. We stand by our friends in Jamaica, Cuba, Haiti and Dominican Republic, who are suffering from the effects of Melissa.

Alternative Energy

Madam President, The Bahamas is committed to alternative sources of energy to reduce our carbon print.

Community Empowerment and Local Support

Madam President, through collaboration we provide structured counselling, food, burial, transportation, temporary shelter and medical assistance, and other support for vulnerable populations including persons with disabilities to improve self-sufficiency and quality of life.

Conclusion & Call to Action

Madam President, The Bahamas reaffirms its commitment to the enduring goals set forth at the first Summit in. We thank our partners for their assistance.

We encourage global partners to prioritize policies and programs that advance social equity, gender equality, and disability inclusion,

Madam President, together, we can translate the commitments of 1995 into tangible progress in 2025 and beyond, building societies where no one is left behind, and where social development truly benefits every person.

Thank you.