



STATEMENT

BY

**H.E. SERING MODOU NJIE
MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION & GAMBIANS ABROAD**

**NATIONAL STATEMENT
AT THE WORLD SOCIAL SUMMIT UNDER THE TITLE
"THE SECOND WORLD SUMMIT FOR SOCIAL
DEVELOPMENT"**

QATAR, DOHA

4th - 6th NOVEMBER 2025.

- **His Highness, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, Emir of the State of Qatar,**
- **Your Excellency, Anna Baerbeck, President of the 80th Session of the General Assembly,**
- **Distinguished Heads of States and Government,**
- **Mr. Secretary-General, Antonio Guterres**
- **Heads of Delegation, Ladies and Gentlemen**

On behalf of **His Excellency President Adama Barrow**, and the people of The Gambia, I wish to extend our sincere gratitude to **His Highness Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani**, the Emir of the State of Qatar, as well as the Government and the brotherly people of Qatar, for the warm hospitality and excellent arrangements accorded to me and my delegation since our arrival in this beautiful city of Doha.

Excellencies,

We gather at a time marked by unprecedented global uncertainties and intensifying geopolitical fragmentation. Conflicts, climate-related crises, widening inequalities, and economic volatility continue to strain our collective resilience.

These challenges are complex, interconnected, and accelerating at a pace that demands renewed multilateral cooperation. Amid persistent poverty and unequal economic landscapes, we must

ensure that our actions are guided by a shared sense of humanity, solidarity, and responsibility.

This Summit provides a critical moment to reflect on these realities and reaffirm the value of multilateralism. It compels us to strengthen global cooperation so that we may respond effectively to the pressing social challenges of our time, especially those affecting the most vulnerable populations.

Excellencies,

Thirty years ago, world leaders adopted the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action, committing to eradicate poverty, promote employment, and foster social inclusion. While progress has been made, today poverty and inequality remain the greatest global development challenge.

In **Africa and across the Global South**, poverty levels continue to rise, with over one billion people living at or near extreme poverty. Limited fiscal space, growing debt burdens, and unequal access to global financing mechanisms further hinder development aspirations and weaken resilience.

This prevailing financial architecture deepens disparities, limits opportunities for youth empowerment and innovation, and undermines national development agendas.

To reverse this trajectory, we must forge a new global consensus, one that unites us behind inclusive and sustainable development, rooted in equity, accountability, and shared prosperity.

Excellencies,

As we prepare to adopt the **Doha Political Declaration**, we must recommit to its central promise: to leave no one behind and place people at the heart of development. The Gambia welcomes this important declaration as a foundation for renewed hope and collective action.

The Gambia continues to prioritize social development, enduring peace, economic empowerment, and poverty eradication. Through policy and institutional reforms, we are strengthening democratic governance, promoting inclusive growth, and expanding opportunities for all, particularly women and youth.

We further welcome the ***Sevilla Commitment*** emerging from the **Fourth International Conference** on Financing for Development, which calls for reforming the global financing architecture and renewing the spirit of the Addis Ababa Agenda. We urge timely and meaningful political commitment to ensure adequate and predictable financing for development.

Excellencies,

In conclusion, we enthusiastically support the adoption of the **Doha Political Declaration** and call for its robust implementation, backed by adequate resources. As a Least Developed Country, The Gambia appeals for strengthened international solidarity, climate financing, technology transfer,

and meaningful debt relief to build resilient economies and achieve the 2030 Agenda.

The Gambia reaffirms its commitment to this noble cause. You can count on us to work in the spirit of shared humanity, partnership, and progress.

I thank you for your kind attention.