



STATEMENT

BY

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MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, INTERNATIONAL
COOPERATION & GAMBIANS ABROAD**

**ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION 2: ASSESSING PROGRESS
AND ADDRESSING GAPS AND CHALLENGES IN THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COMMITMENTS OF THE
COPENHAGAN DECLARATION ON SOCIAL
DEVELOPMENT**

QATAR, DOHA

4th NOVEMBER

- **Your Excellencies, Co -Chairs,**
- **Distinguished Delegates**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

We meet today with a shared conviction that our deliberations will mark an important step toward redefining the posture and scope of our collective efforts to secure lasting solutions for our peoples. As nations and as an international community, we stand united to confront the growing challenges that threaten sustainable development and to craft effective responses to the most pressing issues of our time.

The **Copenhagen Declaration** emerged from the bold vision of leaders who recognized that social development and social justice lie at the heart of human progress, and that prosperity can only be sustained through unity, inclusion, and collective action. Today, we pay tribute to that legacy and to the work that has since advanced our shared mission.

We commend the progress achieved thus far and reaffirm The **Gambia's commitment** to remain fully engaged in shaping our shared development path. Yet, we must also acknowledge the Declaration's limitations. Despite its noble intentions, poverty persists and structural inequalities continue to impede opportunities for women, youth, persons with disabilities, and indigenous communities particularly across the Global South.

As Member States, we must strengthen our resolve to address the multidimensional nature of poverty and inequality, reinforce state institutions and civil society, advance human rights, and build resilient and peaceful societies. Sustainable development cannot be achieved without peace, just as peace cannot thrive without sustainable development.

Furthermore, the security challenges worsened by climate change especially in the Sahel demand urgent and coordinated action. Climate resilience must remain central to our collective agenda.

As we align our efforts with the principles of inclusivity, transparency, and equity set out in the Pact for the Future, let us approach today's work with determination and optimism. Together, we can realize the promise of decent work, human dignity, and shared prosperity.

Thank you.