



MANAMA DECLARATION

“Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals through Entrepreneurship & Innovation”

World Entrepreneurs Investment Forum 2017

31 October – 2 November 2017 / Kingdom of Bahrain

We, participants in the World Entrepreneurs Investment Forum “Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals through Entrepreneurship and Innovation” held under the patronage of HRH Prince Khalifa Bin Salman Al Khalifa, the Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Bahrain, met in the Capital, Manama, from 31 October to 2 November 2017 along with experts and entrepreneurs gathered from 90 different countries engaged in this forum.

Appreciating Bahrain’s leadership efforts towards sustainable development, we express our gratitude and encouragement to HRH Prince Khalifa Bin Salman Al Khalifa, Prime Minister, for his personal and government’s contribution to the global efforts.

Recognizing the UNIDO role towards fostering inclusive and sustainable industrial development and the considerable achievements of the First International Entrepreneurs Investment Forum of January 2015 held in Bahrain and the momentum it created regionally and worldwide, we welcome the progress and environment it created, effectively enabling the importance of promoting entrepreneurship and innovation for sustainable development.

We once again reiterate our gratitude and support to the WEIF secretariat in Bahrain for its role in promoting the spirit of entrepreneurship and in its efforts to integrate entrepreneurs from around the world; hence we reconfirm organizing WEIF every two-years in Bahrain and in between in any country which requests to host it.

Having examined all aspects of entrepreneurship and innovation during the three day deliberations and discussions, and being aware of the crucial importance of the United Nations General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015 entitled “The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”;

- We express our strong commitment to achieving the 17 Goals outlined in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
- We recognize that entrepreneurship and innovation are impetus leading to the creation of jobs, spurring of economic growth and the realization of social gains;
- We are united in our belief that the empowerment of women at all economic levels is crucial in order to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals through innovation and entrepreneurship;

- We recommend that all efforts are deployed to translate our collective belief that achieving sustainable development through entrepreneurship and innovation can be accomplished via strong, inclusive, sustainable and resilient economic growth;
- We call on the international community to incorporate entrepreneurship and innovation in all economic and social dimensions as central objectives in their national strategies of sustainable development;
- We recommend that developing strong partnerships are built between entrepreneurs, women and men alike, to share best practices in line with linking financial to non-financial services towards the development of entrepreneurs and MSMEs;
- We urge stakeholders to foster the dynamic private sector as the main engine behind economic growth, structural change and innovation, as we identify the pressing need to promote competitive MSMEs as the main driving force behind the empowerment of women and youth;
- We recommend that the active involvement of women in all sectors related towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals through entrepreneurship and innovation are adopted to foster both public and private sectors;
- We recommend that sound economic policies, legislation and programs be adopted as important strategies and elements of sustainable development to strengthen and ensure women's empowerment at the national, regional, and global levels;
- We call upon governments, the private sector, academia, civil society, media, and international organizations to cooperate in facilitating the promotion of entrepreneurs and innovative enterprises towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals; through developing economic infrastructure, incubation management systems, etc.
- We urge the international community, United Nations Organization, UNIDO, and other relevant international and regional organizations, think-tanks, institutions, civil societies and various stakeholders to take these recommendations into account when shaping their policies and strategies to support entrepreneurship and innovation for sustainable development.