



## **MANAMA DECLARATION 3**

### **“Achieving the SDGs: Entrepreneurship and Innovation, Investing in the 4<sup>th</sup> Industrial Revolution in a Digital Economy”**

#### **World Entrepreneurs Investment Forum 2019**

**11 to 13 November 2019 / Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain**

We, participants in the World Entrepreneurs Investment Forum “Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals through Entrepreneurship and Innovation: Investing in the 4th Industrial Revolution in a Digital Economy” held concurrently with the 18<sup>th</sup> Arab Businessmen and Investors Conference under the patronage of His Majesty King Hamad Bin Isa Al Khalifa, the King of Bahrain, met in the capital, Manama, from 11 – 13 November 2019 along with experts and entrepreneurs, gathered from 83 different countries, engaged in this forum and appreciating Bahrain’s leadership efforts towards sustainable development, express our gratitude to the vision of His Majesty towards achieving economic empowerment of youth and women in Bahrain and the World.

We highly appreciate the statement received by Mr. Antonio Guterres, Secretary General of the United Nations for the World Economic Investment Forum highlighting the 21<sup>st</sup> century entrepreneurs’ responsibility “to consider the climate the most venerable for future generations. “The participants took note of the Secretary General’s high-level panel on digital cooperation which calls for improved connectivity, smart regulations that foster innovation, and a global architecture that promotes trust, security and cooperation.

Recognizing the UNIDO role towards fostering inclusive and sustainable industrial development and the considerable achievements of previous editions of WEIF in 2015 and 2017, we welcome the progress and environment it created, effectively enabling the importance of promoting entrepreneurship and innovation for sustainable development in the backdrop of the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR).

We reiterate our gratitude and support to the WEIF secretariat in Bahrain for its role in promoting the spirit of entrepreneurship and innovation; having examined all aspects of entrepreneurship and innovation within the digital revolution during the three day deliberations and discussions, and being aware of the crucial importance of the United

Nations General Assembly Resolution 70/1,25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”;

1. We express our strong commitment to achieving the 17 Goals outlined in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
2. We recognize that entrepreneurship and innovation are impetus leading to the creation of jobs, spurring of economic growth and the realization of social gains;
3. We recognize the significance of contributing to the formulation of national and regional policies to support the integration of efforts and the development of mechanisms supporting innovation and creativity within the framework of gender balance, and thus enhance the participation and contributions of women in these areas;
4. 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;
5. We believe that comparing national efforts and initiatives with international efforts and reviewing global practices to create opportunities that contribute to the development of the field is crucial in order to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals;
6. 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;
7. 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;
8. 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;
9. 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;
10. 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;

11. 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 economic empowerment at the national, regional, and global level;
12. 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 providing necessary framework conditions, developing economic infrastructure, incubation management systems, and so forth.
13. We urge the international community, the United Nations family, including UNIDO, and other relevant national, regional and international stakeholders, think-tanks, academia and the civil society to take these recommendations into account when shaping their policies and strategies to support entrepreneurship and innovation for inclusive and sustainable development.