

*The Honorable Mayor Carlos A. Gimenez  
Reception to Honor the Qatar World Cup 2022 Delegation  
January 30, 2014  
Miami Beach, Miami-Dade County, Florida*

*\*\*\* remarks as prepared for delivery \*\*\**

Thank you Bill, Mayor Levine.

Ambassador Ziadeh, Members of the Committee, distinguished guests, friends.

It's my pleasure to welcome you to Miami-Dade County.

You couldn't have picked a better time to visit.

While the rest of the U.S. is covered in snow and cold temperatures, we've made sure it never snows here in Miami. In fact, to make you feel more welcome, we also made sure that the temperature is as similar to Qatar as possible. I think you'll agree that one should only live in places where palm trees can grow – and we have plenty of those here!

Doha and Miami are both waterfront cities. We have impressive skylines. We are global centers for trade and economic development. And we serve as the bridge between different cultures and different parts of the world.

Here in Miami, we are known as the Gateway to Americas and the Caribbean. We're leaders in international trade and tourism. We host major sporting and other large scale events, including Art Basel, one of the most important art fairs in the Americas. We're emerging as a hub for health care tourism, and technology based businesses.

But most importantly, our people are open and diverse. Miami welcomes people from throughout the world. In fact, over 60% of our population is foreign born. We prosper from this diversity. It drives our dynamic growth. And it's turned us into a place for innovation and creativity.

We have opened our arms to the world, and the world now comes to us.

This is why there's no reason why we shouldn't explore further linkages between Qatar and Miami.

To that end, just late last year, Qatar Airways announced that starting this summer, they will add Miami to their routes, making us one of six U.S. cities serviced by the airline. Not only are we honored by this distinction, but we're glad because it furthers the connection between two global destinations – and brings your part of the world closer to ours.

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You'll always feel welcome and at home here in Miami, and we look forward to having you here again.

And now it's my pleasure to ask Mr. Nasser Al-Khateer to accept on behalf of Secretary General Hassan Al-Thawadi a distinguished visitor certificate in commemoration of this day.

Also, on behalf of the residents of Miami-Dade County, Madam Ambassador, let me present you with this gift in appreciation of your visit.

Thank you all, and please enjoy your visit!

