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Third Conference of Interreligious Dialogue

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*Al-hamdu lillah.* Good morning. I am honored to be part of this historic meeting. As Jews, Muslims and Christians learning to speak to one another together, we are pioneers, rediscovering a conversation between our faiths that is still in its early stages in our era. This is true everywhere, but especially in the Middle East. His Highness, the Emir of Qatar brings his vision and energy to this dialogue, as well as so many other areas. I add my sincere thanks to those that have been expressed already. I also want to thank Dr. Aisha Al Mannai for her intelligent and courageous leadership. It is truly an honor to be part of this pioneering gathering.

I know something about being a pioneer. When I was ordained as a rabbi 23 years ago, all the women rabbis in the world could have a meeting in a very small room—which we did, once a year in Princeton, N.J. Now there are hundreds of women rabbis throughout the non-Orthodox Jewish world. While women's role is not my topic today, I invite anyone who wants to talk to me about that—or anything else—to come over and chat later during a meal or break. I look forward to the connections in