The DOHA Review Conference on Financing *for* Development

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Chapter 1

Doha Declaration on

Financing for Development: outcome document of the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus

Reaffirming the goals and commitments of the Monterrey Consensus

1. We, Heads of State and Government and High Representatives, gathered in Doha, Qatar, from 29 November to 2 December 2008, almost seven years after the landmark International Conference on Financing for Development,[1] held in Monterrey, Mexico, reiterate our resolve to take concrete action to implement the Monterrey Consensus and address the challenges of financing for development in the spirit of global partnership and solidarity. We once again commit ourselves to eradicate poverty, achieve sustained economic growth and promote sustainable development as we advance to a fully inclusive and equitable global economic system.

2. We reaffirm the Monterrey Consensus[2] in its entirety, in its integrity and holistic approach, and recognize that mobilizing financial resources for development and the effective use of all those resources are central to the global partnership for sustainable development, including in support of the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals. We also reaffirm the importance of freedom, peace and security, respect for all human rights, including the right to development, the rule of law, gender equality and an overall commitment to just and democratic societies for development, as spelled out in the Monterrey Consensus. We reiterate that each country has primary responsibility for its own economic and social development and that the role of national policies, domestic resources and development strategies cannot be overemphasized. At the same time, domestic economies are now interwoven with the global economic system and, inter alia, the effective use of trade and investment opportunities can help countries to fight poverty. National development efforts need to be supported by an enabling international economic environment.

3. We recognize that the international context has changed in profound ways since we met in Monterrey. There has been progress in some areas, but inequality has widened. We welcome the substantial increase in public and private flows since 2002, which has contributed to higher economic growth in most developing countries and a reduction in global poverty rates. Yet we express our deep concern that the international community is now challenged by the severe impact on development of multiple, interrelated global crises and challenges, such as increased food insecurity, volatile energy and commodity prices, climate change and a global financial crisis, as well as the lack of results so far in the multilateral trade negotiations and a loss of confidence in the international economic system. While acknowledging the response of the international community to these crises and challenges to date, such as the High-level Conference on World Food Security, held in Rome from 3 to 5 June 2008, and the recent Summit on Financial Markets and the World Economy, held in Washington, D.C., on 15 November 2008, we are

[1] *Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18-22 March 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7).

[2] Ibid., chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

determined to take immediate and decisive actions and initiatives to overcome all these obstacles and challenges through achievement of people-centred development and to devise important measures for the full, effective and timely implementation of the Monterrey Consensus.

4. We recall that gender equality is a basic human right, a fundamental value and an issue of social justice; it is essential for economic growth, poverty reduction, environmental sustainability and development effectiveness. We reiterate the need for gender mainstreaming into the formulation and implementation of development policies, including financing for development policies, and for dedicated resources. We commit ourselves to increasing our efforts to fulfil our commitments regarding gender equality and the empowerment of women.

5. The spectre of terrorism continues to haunt us and is on the rise. This has serious implications for economic development and social cohesion, apart from its horrific human misery. We resolve to act together stronger than ever to address terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.

6. We reaffirm the political declaration on "Africa's development needs: state of implementation of various commitments, challenges and the way forward",3 adopted at the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on 22 September 2008. We further reaffirm our commitment to provide and strengthen support to the special needs of Africa and stress that eradicating poverty, particularly in Africa, is the greatest global challenge facing the world today. We underline the importance of accelerating sustainable broad-based economic growth, which is pivotal to bringing Africa into the mainstream of the global economy. We reaffirm the commitment of all States to establish a monitoring mechanism to follow up on all commitments related to the development of Africa as contained in the political declaration on "Africa's development needs". All commitments to and by Africa should be effectively implemented and given appropriate follow-up by the international community and Africa itself. We underscore the urgency of addressing the special needs of Africa based on a partnership among equals.

7. We welcome the decision to convene the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries at a high level in 2011.

Mobilizing domestic financial resources for development

8. In the years following the Monterrey Conference, a number of developing countries have made significant progress in the implementation of development policies in key areas of their economic frameworks, often contributing to increased mobilization of domestic resources and higher levels of economic growth. We will continue to build upon this progress through promoting inclusive and equitable growth, eradicating poverty and pursuing sustainable development in its economic, social and environmental dimensions, and by ensuring the necessary enabling environment for mobilizing public and private resources and expanding productive investments. Greater efforts are required to support the creation and sustenance of a conducive environment through appropriate national and international actions.

9. We reaffirm that national ownership and leadership of development strategies and good governance are important for effective mobilization of domestic financial resources and fostering sustained economic growth and sustainable development. In this context, we should take into account the different characteristics and specificities of each country.

10. We recognize that a dynamic, inclusive well-functioning and socially responsible private sector is a valuable instrument for generating economic growth and reducing poverty. In order to foster private-sector development, we shall endeavour to promote an enabling environment that facilitates entrepreneurship and doing business by all, including women, the poor and the vulnerable. The international community, national Governments and regional economic groups should continue to support these efforts.

11. We will continue to pursue appropriate policy and regulatory frameworks at our respective national levels and in a manner consistent with national laws

to encourage public and private initiatives, including at the local level, and to foster a dynamic and well-functioning business sector, while improving income growth and distribution, raising productivity, empowering women and protecting labour rights and the environment. We recognize that the appropriate role of Government in market-oriented economies will vary from country to country.

12. Human development remains a key priority, and human resources are the most precious and valuable asset that countries possess. The realization of full and productive employment and decent work for all4 is essential. We will continue to invest in human capital through inclusive social policies, inter alia, on health and education, in accordance with national strategies. The provision of, and access to, financial and credit services to all is also important. Such facilities have begun to show results, but increased efforts, where appropriate, supported by the international community, are needed. We stress the importance of fostering diverse local and supporting industries that create productive employment and strengthen local communities. We will strive to ensure social security systems that protect the vulnerable in particular.

13. To advance towards the goals of the Monterrey Consensus, policies that link economic and social considerations are required to reduce inequalities within and among countries and guarantee that the poor and vulnerable groups benefit from economic growth and development. Measures aimed at integrating the poor into productive activities, investing in the development of their labour skills and facilitating their entry into the labour market are necessary. In this regard, greater efforts are required for mobilizing more resources, as appropriate, to provide universal access to basic economic and social infrastructure and inclusive social services, as well as capacity-building, taking special care of women, children, older persons and persons with disabilities in order to enhance their social protection.

14. The increasing interdependence of national economies in a globalizing world and the emergence of rules-based regimes for international economic relations have meant that the space for national economic policy, that is, the scope for domestic policies, especially in the areas of trade, investment and international development, is now often framed by international disciplines, commitments and global market considerations. It is for each Government to evaluate the trade-off between the benefits of accepting international rules and commitments and the constraints posed by the loss of policy space.

15. We reiterate that macroeconomic policies should be aimed at sustaining high rates of economic growth, full employment, poverty eradication, and low and stable inflation, and seek to minimize domestic and external imbalances to ensure that the benefits of growth reach all people, especially the poor. They should also attach high priority to avoiding abrupt economic fluctuations that negatively affect income distribution and resource allocation. In this context, the scope for appropriate counter-cyclical policies to preserve economic and financial stability should be expanded. Public investment, consistent with medium- and long-term fiscal sustainability, may have a proactive role and encourage a virtuous cycle of investment.

16. We will continue to undertake fiscal reform, including tax reform, which is key to enhancing macroeconomic policies and mobilizing domestic public resources. We will also continue to improve budgetary processes and to enhance the transparency of public financial management and the quality of expenditures. We will step up efforts to enhance tax revenues through modernized tax systems, more efficient tax collection, broadening the tax base and effectively combating tax evasion. We will undertake these efforts with an overarching view to make tax systems more pro-poor. While each country is responsible for its tax system, it is important to support national efforts in these areas by strengthening technical assistance and enhancing international cooperation and participation in addressing international tax matters, including in the area of double taxation. In this regard, we acknowledge the need to further promote international cooperation in tax matters, and request the Economic and Social Council to examine the strengthening of institutional arrangements,

including the United Nations Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters.

17. The development of a sound and broad-based financial sector is central to the mobilization of domestic financial resources and should be an important component of national development strategies. We will strive for diversified, well-regulated, inclusive financial systems that promote savings and channel them to sound growth generating projects. We will further refine, as appropriate, the supervisory and regulatory mechanisms to enhance the transparency and accountability of the financial sector. We will aim to increase the domestic supply of long-term capital and promote the development of domestic capital markets, including through multilateral, regional, subregional and national development banks.

18. To achieve equitable development and foster a vibrant economy, it is vital to have a financial infrastructure that provides access to a variety of sustainable products and services for micro-, small- and medium-sized businesses, with particular emphasis on women, rural populations and the poor. We will make sure that the benefits of growth reach all people by empowering individuals and communities and by improving access to services in the fields of finance and credit. We recognize that microfinance, including microcredit, has proven to be effective in generating productive self-employment, which can contribute to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals. Despite some progress, there is widespread demand for microfinance. We underline the need to appropriately support, in a coordinated manner, the efforts of developing countries, including in capacity-building for their microfinance, including microcredit institutions.

19. Gender equality and women's empowerment are essential to achieve equitable and effective development and to foster a vibrant economy. We reaffirm our commitment to eliminate gender-based discrimination in all its forms, including in the labour and financial markets, as well as, inter alia, in the ownership of assets and property rights. We will promote women's rights, including their economic empowerment, and effectively mainstream gender in law reforms, business support services and economic programmes, and give women full and equal access to economic resources. We will further promote and reinforce capacity-building of State and other stakeholders in gender-responsive public management, including, but not limited to, gender budgeting.

20. Capital flight, where it occurs, is a major hindrance to the mobilization of domestic resources for development. We will strengthen national and multilateral efforts to address the various factors that contribute to it. It is vital to address the problem of illicit financial flows, especially money-laundering. Additional measures should be implemented to prevent the transfer abroad of stolen assets and to assist in the recovery and return of such assets, in particular to their countries of origin, consistent with the United Nations Convention against Corruption,[3] as well as to prevent capital flows that have criminal intent. We note the efforts of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the World Bank Group through the Stolen Asset Recovery Initiative and other relevant initiatives. In this regard, we urge as a matter of priority all States that have not yet done so to consider becoming parties to the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism, and call for increased cooperation with the same objective.

21. The ongoing fight against corruption at all levels is a priority. Progress among countries has varied since 2002. Corruption affects both developed and developing countries, and both the public and private sectors. We are thus determined to take urgent and decisive steps to continue to combat corruption in all of its manifestations in order to reduce obstacles to effective resource mobilization and allocation and avoid the diversion of resources away from activities that are vital for development. This requires strong institutions at all levels, including, in particular, effective legal and judicial systems and enhanced transparency. We welcome the increased commitment of States that have already ratified or acceded to the United Nations Convention against Corruption, and, in this regard, urge

[3] Resolution 63/1.

all States that have not yet done so to consider ratifying or acceding to the Convention. We call upon all States parties to fully implement the Convention without delay and to work jointly in the establishment of a mechanism for follow-up on implementation of the Convention.

22. While the pursuit of economic resilience is important for all countries, it requires constant and more concerted efforts in small and vulnerable economies. These national efforts need to be reinforced by international support for capacity-building, including through financial and technical assistance, and United Nations operational activities for development in accordance with national development strategies and priorities. In development cooperation policies, we will pay special attention to the efforts and specific needs of Africa, the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States. Similarly, special and sustained attention is needed to support post-conflict countries in their rebuilding and development efforts.

Mobilizing international resources for development: foreign direct investment and other private flows

23. We recognize that private international capital flows, particularly foreign direct investment, are vital complements to national and international development efforts. We appreciate the rise in private international capital flows to developing countries since the Monterrey Conference and the improvements in business climates that have helped encourage it. However, we take note with concern that a significant number of developing countries have not experienced a rise in private international capital flows. We will seek to enhance such flows to support development. In this context, we will strengthen national, bilateral and multilateral efforts to assist developing countries in overcoming the structural or other constraints which currently limit their attractiveness as a destination for private capital and foreign direct investment. To that end, we acknowledge the need to particularly assist those countries that have been at a particular disadvantage in attracting such flows, including a number of African countries, least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, small island developing States and countries emerging from conflict or recovering from natural disasters. Such efforts could include the provision of technical, financial and other forms of assistance; the promotion and strengthening of partnerships, including public-private partnerships; and cooperation arrangements at all levels.

24. We will enhance efforts to mobilize investments from all sources in human resources, transport, energy, communications, information technology and other physical, environmental, institutional and social infrastructure that serve to strengthen the business environment, enhance competitiveness and expand trade in developing countries and economies in transition. We recognize the need for bilateral and multilateral partners to provide technical assistance and share best practices relating to these efforts. The programmes, mechanisms and instruments at the disposal of multilateral development agencies and bilateral donors can be used for encouraging business investment, including by contributing to mitigating some of the risks faced by private investors in critical sectors in developing and transition economies. Official development assistance (ODA) and other mechanisms, such as, inter alia, guarantees and public-private partnerships, can play a catalytic role in mobilizing private flows. At the same time, multilateral and regional development banks should continue to explore innovative modalities with developing countries, including low- and middle-income countries and countries with economies in transition, so as to facilitate additional private flows to such countries.

25. Experience has shown that providing an enabling domestic and international investment climate is fundamental to fostering domestic and foreign private investment. Countries need to continue their efforts to achieve a stable and predictable investment climate, with proper contract enforcement and respect for property rights. We will continue to put in place transparent and appropriate regulations at the national and international levels. Efforts should be enhanced to upgrade the skills and technical capabilities of human resources,

improve the availability of finance for enterprise, facilitate public-private consultative mechanisms and promote corporate social responsibility. Bilateral investment treaties may promote private flows by increasing legal stability and predictability to investors. It is important that bilateral investment treaties, as well as tax treaties and other tax measures to facilitate foreign investments, take into account regional and multilateral cooperation, including at the regional level. We acknowledge the importance of supporting capacity-building in developing countries aimed at improving their abilities to negotiate mutually beneficial investment agreements. It is important to promote good tax practices and avoid inappropriate ones.

26. To complement national efforts, there is a need for the relevant international and regional institutions, as well as appropriate institutions in source countries, to increase their support for private foreign investment in infrastructure development and other priority areas, including projects to bridge the digital divide in developing countries and countries with economies in transition. To this end, it is important to provide export credits, co-financing, venture capital and other lending instruments, risk guarantees, leveraging aid resources, information on investment opportunities, business development services, forums to facilitate business contacts and cooperation between enterprises of developed and developing countries, as well as funding for feasibility studies. Inter-enterprise partnership is a powerful means for the transfer and dissemination of technology. In this regard, strengthening of the multilateral and regional financial and development institutions is desirable. Additional source country measures should also be devised to encourage and facilitate investment flows to developing countries.

27. We recognize that the development impact of foreign direct investment should be maximized. We further recognize that the transfer of technology and business skills is a key channel through which foreign direct investment can positively impact development. We will strengthen national and international efforts aimed at maximizing linkages with domestic production activities, enhancing the transfer of technology and creating training opportunities for the local labour force, including women and young people. It is also important to enact and uphold, as appropriate, labour and environmental protection and anti-corruption laws and regulations in accordance with obligations undertaken in relevant international conventions. We welcome efforts to promote corporate social responsibility and good corporate governance. In this regard, we encourage the work undertaken at the national level and by the United Nations, including through the United Nations Global Compact, and the promotion of internationally agreed corporate social responsibility frameworks, such as the International Labour Organization Tripartite Declaration. We reaffirm that every State has, and shall freely exercise full permanent sovereignty over, all its wealth, natural resources and economic activity. We support measures to enhance corporate transparency and accountability of all companies, taking into account the fundamental principles of domestic law. We take note of voluntary initiatives in this regard, including, inter alia, the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative.

28. We realize that the perception of a country's current economic conditions and prospects influences the international private financial flows that it attracts. The provision of objective, high-quality information from all sources, including private and public entities, such as national statistical agencies, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the World Bank, the United Nations system, investment advisers and credit-rating agencies, is vital for informed decisions by potential domestic and foreign investors alike. We will continue to strengthen modalities, including through the efforts of the country itself, the United Nations system and relevant multilateral agencies, to enhance and improve the level and objectivity of information regarding a country's economic situation and outlook.

29. Remittances have become significant private financial resources for households in countries of origin of migration. Remittances cannot be considered as a substitute for foreign direct investment, ODA, debt relief or other public sources of finance for development. They are typically wages transferred to families, mainly to meet part of the needs of the recipient households. The manner of their

disposal or deployment is an individual choice. A large portion of migrants' incomes is spent in destination countries and constitutes an important stimulus to domestic demand in their economies. In this regard, we will strengthen existing measures to lower the transaction costs of remittances through increased cooperation between originating and receiving countries and create opportunities for development-oriented investments.

International trade as an engine for development

30. We reaffirm that international trade is an engine for development and sustained economic growth. We also reaffirm that a universal, rules-based, open, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system, as well as meaningful trade liberalization, can substantially stimulate development worldwide, benefiting all countries at all stages of development. We are encouraged that international trade, especially the trade of developing countries as a group, has expanded at a fast pace in the current decade. Trade among developing countries has now become one of the most dynamic elements in world trade. However, many developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, have remained at the margins of these developments and their trade capacity needs to be enhanced to enable them to exploit more effectively the potential of trade to support their development. We also reaffirm our commitment to meaningful trade liberalization and to ensure that trade plays its full part in promoting economic growth, employment and development for all. We recall our commitment in the Monterrey Consensus to the decisions of the World Trade Organization to place the needs and interests of developing countries at the heart of its work programme and to implement its recommendations.

31. A well-functioning multilateral trading system can bring benefits to all and can contribute to enhancing the integration of the developing countries in the system, in particular the least developed countries. We reiterate our urgent resolve to ensure that the ongoing efforts to improve the operation of the multilateral trading system to better respond to the needs and interests of all developing countries, in particular the least developed countries. This is particularly important at a time when the systemic impact of the financial crisis is affecting us all. We call for the implementation of the ministerial declaration of the World Trade Organization adopted at its Sixth Ministerial Conference, held in Hong Kong, China, on the central importance of the development dimension in every aspect of the Doha Development Agenda work programme and its commitment to making the development dimension a meaningful reality. We emphasize that maximizing the benefits and minimizing the costs of international trade liberalization calls for development-oriented and coherent policies at all levels.

32. We are very concerned that, despite significant efforts, the Doha Development Agenda round of multilateral trade negotiations has not yet been concluded. A successful result should support the expansion in the exports of developing countries, reinforce the potential for trade to play its due role as the engine of growth and development, and provide increased opportunities for developing countries to use trade to support development. It is important to make progress in key areas of the Doha Development Agenda of special interest to developing countries, such as those outlined in paragraph 28 of the Monterrey Consensus, reaffirming the importance of special and differential treatment referred to therein. To this end, flexibility and political will are essential. We welcome recent commitments concerning trade and the critical importance of rejecting protectionism and not turning inward in times of financial uncertainty, especially as this might particularly affect developing countries. On this basis, we will urgently reengage and strive to reach agreement by the end of the year on modalities that lead to a successful and early conclusion to the World Trade Organization Doha Development Agenda with an ambitious, balanced and development-oriented outcome.

33. We acknowledge that the optimum pace and sequence of trade liberalization depends on the specific circumstances of each country, and that each country will make this decision based on its own evaluation of the costs and benefits. Trade

liberalization must be complemented by appropriate action and strategies at the national level for the expansion of productive capacities, the development of human resources and basic infrastructure, the absorption of technology and the implementation of adequate social safety nets. Achieving the positive impact of trade liberalization on developing countries will also depend to a significant extent on international support for the above measures and actions against policies and practices that distort trade.

34. We recognize the particular challenges faced by least developed countries in integrating beneficially into the international trading system. We acknowledge that least developed countries require special measures and international support to benefit fully from world trade, as well as in adjusting to and integrating beneficially into the global economy. We welcome the decision at the Sixth World Trade Organization Ministerial Conference, held in Hong Kong, China, from 13 to 18 December 2005, on improved market access for least developed countries as set out in the decision and its annex,[4] and call for its full implementation. We also welcome the actions taken by some individual countries since Monterrey towards the goal of full duty-free and quota-free market access for all least developed countries, and call on other developed and developing countries declaring themselves in a position to do so to take steps towards this objective. We will also reinforce efforts to provide technical assistance to least developed countries that request it in order to enable them to participate more effectively in the multilateral trading system, including through the effective operation of the Enhanced Integrated Framework for Trade-related Technical Assistance to Least Developed Countries and by providing support to allow them to participate effectively in international trade negotiations.

35. We also recognize the particular challenges that may be faced by other developing countries, including small and vulnerable economies, to fully benefit from the multilateral trading system. Appropriate consideration and support should be provided to these countries to help facilitate their effective participation in the global economy. In this regard, we encourage progress in the implementation of the World Trade Organization work programme on small economies, mandated in the Doha Ministerial Declaration.[5]

36. Aid for Trade is an important component of the measures that will assist developing countries in taking advantage of the opportunities offered by the international trading system, the outcome of the Doha round and regional trade agreements. A critical aim of Aid for Trade should be to enhance trade capacity and international competitiveness while ensuring ownership and alignment with national development strategies of individual developing countries. Aid for Trade should aim to help developing countries, particularly least developed countries, with trade policy and regulations; trade development; building productive capacities; trade-related infrastructure; trade-related adjustment and other trade-related needs. However, Aid for Trade is a complement and not a substitute for a successful outcome of the Doha Development Agenda or any other trade negotiation. Successful programmes under the Aid for Trade Initiative require joint efforts by concerned partners. The commitments by individual donors relating to Aid for Trade should be fully implemented in a timely manner. It is also important that the Aid for Trade needs and priorities of recipient countries are fully integrated and reflected in their national development strategies. United Nations specialized agencies that have a relevant mandate in this field should continue to help developing countries build their trade-related productive capacities.

37. Broader and effective participation of developing countries in the multilateral trading system, including in any round of multilateral trade negotiations and in the World Trade Organization Doha Development Agenda negotiations, are key objectives. We note progress in this area since Monterrey, as evidenced by the countries that have acceded to the World Trade Organization, the countries that have newly engaged in World Trade

[4] International Labour Organization Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization; see, inter alia, Economic and Social Council resolution 2007/2.

[5] United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 2347, No. 42146.

Organization accession and the countries that have made progress towards World Trade Organization accession over the past six years. We welcome additional progress in this regard. We also reaffirm our undertaking in Monterrey to facilitate the accession of all developing countries, particularly the least developed countries, as well as countries with economies in transition, that apply for membership in the World Trade Organization. In this regard, we note the decision of the Sixth World Trade Organization Ministerial Conference to give priority to the ongoing accessions with a view to concluding them as rapidly and smoothly as possible.

38. We recognize that regional integration as well as bilateral trade and economic cooperation agreements are important instruments to expand trade and investment. We should continue to ensure that these agreements promote long-term development, advance the goals of the World Trade Organization and are complementary elements of the multilateral trading system. International support for cooperation in trade and other trade-related areas can be catalytic in strengthening and consolidating regional and subregional integration. We stress the importance of increased support to South-South trade and cooperation initiatives in trade-related areas, including through triangular cooperation, consistent with World Trade Organization rules.

39. We welcome the ongoing work of international institutions that assist developing countries in realizing the benefits of trade liberalization, in particular the United Nations, the World Trade Organization, the World Bank, IMF and the regional development banks, and encourage their continuing efforts to facilitate trade that results in economic growth and development. In this context, we welcome the outcome of the twelfth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), held in Accra from 20 to 25 April 2008, and reaffirm the role of UNCTAD in trade and development.

Increasing international financial and technical cooperation for development

40. We recognize the severe impacts that the current financial and economic crises are having on the ability of developing countries to mobilize resources for development. We stress the importance that ODA plays, leveraging and sustaining financing for development in developing countries. In this regard, we recall our commitments to the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and call for the international community to redouble its efforts to facilitate the achievement of these goals.

41. We reaffirm the essential role that ODA plays, as a complement to other sources of financing for development, in facilitating the achievement of development objectives, including the internationally agreed development goals, in particular the Millennium Development Goals. For many African countries, least developed countries, small island developing States and landlocked developing countries, ODA is still the largest source of external financing. ODA can play a catalytic role in assisting developing countries in removing constraints to sustained, inclusive and equitable growth, such as enhancing social institutional and physical infrastructure; promoting foreign direct investment, trade and technological innovation; improving health and education; fostering gender equality; preserving the environment; and eradicating poverty.

42. We are encouraged by the recovery of ODA from its declining trend before the Monterrey Conference (ODA in real terms increased by 40 per cent between 2001 and 2007), while noting that a significant part of aid flows after 2002 comprised debt relief and humanitarian assistance. However, we note with concern the overall decline in ODA in 2006 and 2007, driven in particular by the drop-off in debt relief from its peak in 2005. We are encouraged by the fact that some donor countries have met or surpassed the ODA targets referenced in the Monterrey Consensus (0.7 per cent of gross national product (GNP) for ODA to developing countries and 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of GNP for ODA to least developed countries). We

are also encouraged by others that have established timetables for fulfilling their long-standing commitments, such as the European Union, which has agreed to provide, collectively, 0.56 per cent of GNP for ODA by 2010 and 0.7 per cent by 2015 and to channel at least 50 per cent of collective aid increases to Africa, while fully respecting the individual priorities of Member States in development assistance. We welcome the more than doubling of ODA by the United States. We also welcome the declaration by the leaders of the Group of Eight in Hokkaido, Japan, that they are firmly committed to working to fulfil their commitments made at Gleneagles, Scotland, including increasing, compared to 2004, with other donors, ODA to Africa by $25 billion a year by 2010. We encourage donors to work on national timetables, by the end of 2010, to increase aid levels within their respective budget allocation processes towards achieving the established ODA targets. The full implementation of these commitments will substantially boost the resources available to push forward the international development agenda.

43. The fulfilment of all ODA commitments is crucial, including the commitments by many developed countries to achieve the target of 0.7 per cent of GNP for ODA to developing countries by 2015 and to reach the level of at least 0.5 per cent of GNP for ODA by 2010, as well as a target of 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of GNP for ODA to least developed countries. To reach their agreed timetables, donor countries should take all necessary and appropriate measures to raise the rate of aid disbursements to meet their existing commitments. We urge those developed countries that have not yet done so to make additional concrete efforts towards the target of 0.7 per cent of GNP for ODA to developing countries, including the specific target of 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of GNP for ODA to least developed countries in line with the Brussels Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010,[6] in accordance with their commitments. To build on progress achieved in ensuring that ODA is used effectively, we stress the importance of democratic governance, improved transparency and accountability, and managing for results. We strongly encourage all donors to establish, as soon as possible, rolling indicative timetables that illustrate how they aim to reach their goals, in accordance with their respective budget allocation process. We stress the importance of mobilizing greater domestic support in developed countries towards the fulfilment of their commitments, including through raising public awareness, and by providing data on aid effectiveness and demonstrating tangible results.

44. We stress the importance of addressing the development needs of low-income developing countries, including through the provision of technical, financial and other forms of assistance, the promotion and strengthening of partnerships and cooperation arrangements at all levels.

45. We recognize that middle-income countries still face significant challenges in the area of poverty eradication and that their efforts to address those challenges should be strengthened and supported by the United Nations system, the international financial institutions and all other stakeholders, in order to ensure that achievements made to date are sustained. We also acknowledge that ODA is still essential for a number of these countries and has a role to play in targeted areas, taking into account the needs and domestic resources of these countries.

46. We welcome increasing efforts to improve the quality of ODA and to increase its development impact. The Economic and Social Council Development Cooperation Forum, along with recent initiatives, such as the High-level Forums on Aid Effectiveness, which produced the 2005 Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness, and the 2008 Accra Agenda for Action, make important contributions to the efforts of those countries which have committed to them, including through the adoption of the fundamental principles of national ownership, alignment, harmonization and managing for results. Continued building on these initiatives, including through more inclusive and broad-based participation, will contribute to enhancing national ownership and making aid delivery more effective and efficient and lead to improved outcomes. We also encourage all donors to improve the quality

[6] See WT/MIN(05)/DEC, para. 47 and annex F.

of aid, increase programme-based approaches, use country systems for activities managed by the public sector, reduce transaction costs and improve mutual accountability and transparency and, in this regard, we call upon all donors to untie aid to the maximum extent. We will make aid more predictable by providing developing countries with regular and timely, indicative information on planned support in the medium term. We recognize the importance of efforts by developing countries to strengthen leadership of their own development, national institutions, systems and capacity to ensure the best results of aid by engaging with parliaments and citizens in shaping those policies and deepening engagement with civil society organizations. We should also bear in mind that there is no one-size-fits-all formula that will guarantee effective assistance. The specific situation of each country needs to be fully considered.

47. We note that the aid architecture has significantly changed in the current decade. New aid providers and novel partnership approaches, which utilize new modalities of cooperation, have contributed to increasing the flow of resources. Further, the interplay of development assistance with private investment, trade and new development actors provides new opportunities for aid to leverage private resource flows. We re-emphasize the importance of the Development Cooperation Forum of the Economic and Social Council as the focal point within the United Nations system for holistic consideration of issues of international development cooperation, with participation by all relevant stakeholders. We shall pursue efforts, both in the United Nations and in collaboration with other relevant institutions, such as the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)/ Development Assistance Committee (DAC), to advance dialogue and cooperation among the increasingly diverse community of development partners. All development actors should cooperate closely to ensure that increased resources from all sources are used in a manner which ensures maximum effectiveness. We shall also pursue enhanced collaboration at the country level with the private sector, non-official donors, regional organizations and official donors.

48. There is a growing need for more systematic and universal ways to follow quantity, quality and effectiveness of aid flows, giving due regard to existing schemes and mechanisms. We invite the Secretary-General, with relevant United Nations system agencies, in close cooperation with the World Bank, the regional and subregional development banks, OECD/DAC and other relevant stakeholders, to address this issue and to provide a report for consideration by the Development Cooperation Forum.

49. We reiterate our support for South-South cooperation, as well as triangular cooperation, which provides much needed additional resources to the implementation of development programmes. We recognize the importance and different history and particularities of South-South cooperation and stress that South-South cooperation should be seen as an expression of solidarity and cooperation between countries, based on their shared experiences and objectives. Both forms of cooperation support a development agenda that addresses the particular needs and expectations of developing countries. We also recognize that South-South cooperation complements rather than substitutes for North-South cooperation. We acknowledge the role played by middle-income developing countries as providers and recipients of development cooperation. Regional cooperation could also be strengthened as an effective vehicle for mobilizing resources for development, inter alia, by strengthening regional financial institutions to better assist in upgrading critical sectors in developing countries.

50. We encourage developing countries in a position to do so to continue to make concrete efforts to increase and make more effective their South-South cooperation initiatives in accordance with the principles of aid effectiveness.

51. We recognize the considerable progress made since the Monterrey Conference in voluntary innovative sources of finance and innovative programmes linked to them. We acknowledge that a number of the initiatives of the Technical Group created by the Global Action Initiative against Hunger and Poverty and the Leading Group on

Solidarity Levies to Fund Development have become a reality or are in an advanced stage towards implementation. These include, inter alia, the International Finance Facility for Immunization; the pilot advance market commitments and the airline ticket solidarity levies, which finance health programmes in several developing countries, including the international drug purchase facility UNITAID to help combat HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria; and instruments based on the carbon market. Other noteworthy initiatives include the United States Millennium Challenge Corporation, the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, the India Brazil-South Africa Fund, the Egyptian Fund for Technical Cooperation and support to African countries the Libya-Africa Investment Portfolio and the PetroCaribe Initiative. We encourage the scaling up and the implementation, where appropriate, of innovative sources of finance initiatives. We acknowledge that these funds should supplement and not be a substitute for traditional sources of finance, and should be disbursed in accordance with the priorities of developing countries and not unduly burden them. We call on the international community to consider strengthening current initiatives and explore new proposals, while recognizing their voluntary and complementary nature. We request the Secretary-General of the United Nations to continue to address the issue of innovative sources of development finance, public and private, and to produce a progress report by the sixty-fourth session of the General Assembly, taking into account all existing initiatives.

52. We reiterate our resolve to operationalize the World Solidarity Fund established by the General Assembly and invite those countries in a position to do so to make voluntary contributions to the Fund. We also recall the establishment of the Digital Solidarity Fund and encourage voluntary contributions to its financing, including through considering innovative financing mechanisms.

53. We underscore the importance of capacity development and strengthening technical cooperation as important avenues for developing countries to attain their development objectives. In this regard, we reiterate the importance of human resources development, including training, exchange of expertise, knowledge transfer and technical assistance for capacity-building, which involves strengthening institutional capacity, project management and programme planning. The capacity of developing countries to absorb long-term development aid has begun to increase.

54. We underline the important role of an effective, well managed and adequately resourced United Nations system through its operational activities in delivering capacity-building support for development with long-term sustainability. This is particularly important for least developed countries. Given that the level of core funding inevitably affects the ability of the United Nations system to fulfil this mandate, we urge donor countries and other countries in a position to do so to substantially increase voluntary contributions to the core/regular budgets of the United Nations development system, in particular its funds, programmes and specialized agencies, and to contribute on a multi-year basis, in a sustained and predictable manner. We also note that non-core resources represent an important supplement to the regular resource base of the United Nations development system to support operational activities for development, thus contributing to an increase in total resources, while recognizing that non-core resources are not a substitute for core resources and that unearmarked contributions are vital for the coherence and harmonization of operational activities for development. We welcome the efforts to improve efficiency, coherence and effectiveness of the United Nations development system.

55. The multilateral development banks, including the World Bank, regional and subregional development banks and other international institutions that promote development, can be an important source of financing for development. They provide strategic resources, including in the form of technical assistance, for such areas as governance, institution and capacity-building and the promotion of best practices. They play an important role in enhancing the integration of developing countries in the world economy and in supporting regional integration and other cooperation efforts. They also constitute a valuable forum for exchange of information on best practices between developing countries. For

some countries, the net outflow of resources from some of these institutions has become negative and, therefore, we will work with these institutions to enhance their financing to developing countries as part of the measures for further implementation of the Monterrey Consensus. These institutions should continue to explore innovative ways to use their capital to leverage additional finance to foster development while preserving their capital and ensuring their activity is sustainable.

External debt

56. The debt stock of developing countries as a group continues to increase, while key debt sustainability indicators have improved significantly since Monterrey, but care needs to be taken to avoid a recurrence of unsustainable levels of debt. Debt repayment by several developing countries, debt relief under the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative (HIPC), the Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative (MDRI) and the Evian treatment in the Paris Club, together with other debtor countries' efforts and ongoing initiatives, such as the World Bank/IMF Debt Sustainability Framework, have contributed to achieving such progress. The HIPC initiative is estimated to provide a total of US$ 71 billion to 41 eligible countries, while MDRI is expected to provide an additional US$ 28 billion.[7] Borrowing countries have also enhanced their debt management programmes and many have built reserves. Debt relief initiatives also helped beneficiary countries mobilize much-needed resources for poverty reduction, as part of wider efforts to mobilize financial resources for development. We recognize that the current global financial and economic crises carry the possibility of undoing years of hard work and gains made in relation to the debt of developing countries. The situation demands the implementation of existing and any future bold and encompassing initiatives and mechanisms to resolve the current debt problems of developing countries, particularly for Africa and the least developed countries, in an effective and equitable manner, including through debt cancellation.

57. We stress the importance of continued flexibility with regard to the eligibility criteria for debt relief under HIPC and MDRI. We recall our encouragement to donor countries to take steps to ensure that resources provided for debt relief do not detract from ODA resources intended to be available for developing countries.

58. We underline that heavily indebted poor countries eligible for debt relief will not be able to enjoy its full benefits unless all creditors, including public and private, contribute their fair share and become involved in the international debt resolution mechanisms to ensure the debt sustainability of low-income countries.

59. We emphasize that middle-income developing countries are mainly responsible for the achievement and maintenance of a sustainable debt situation and for addressing their external debt situation. While welcoming the Evian approach, we emphasize the importance of sustained efforts by all towards achieving sustainable debt of middle-income countries, including by improving their sustainable debt management and through debt relief based on current debt mechanisms and debt swap mechanisms on a voluntary basis.

60. We recognize that important challenges remain. Debt service accounts for a significant portion of the fiscal budget and is still unsustainable in a number of developing countries. The existing international debt resolution mechanisms are creditor-driven, while taking into account debtor country situations. More efforts are needed through international debt resolution mechanisms to guarantee equivalent treatment of all creditors, just treatment of creditors and debtors, and legal predictability. We are deeply concerned about increasing vulture fund litigation. In this respect, we welcome recent steps taken to prevent aggressive litigation against HIPC-eligible countries, including through the enhancement of debt buy-back mechanisms and the provision of technical assistance and legal support, as appropriate, by the Bretton Woods institutions and the multilateral development banks. We call on creditors not to sell claims on HIPC to creditors that do not participate adequately in the debt relief efforts.

[7] See WT/MIN(01)/DEC/1, para. 35; and WT/L/447.

61. We will intensify our efforts to prevent debt crises by enhancing international financial mechanisms for crisis prevention and resolution, in cooperation with the private sector, and by finding solutions that are transparent and agreeable to all. These mechanisms need to be underpinned by principles that have served us well in dealing effectively with many debt problems. These include the need to ensure that debt resolution is a joint responsibility of all debtors and creditors, both State and commercial; to recognize that furthering development and restoring debt sustainability are the main objectives of debt resolution; to strengthen transparency and accountability among all parties; to promote responsible borrowing and lending practices; to improve debt management and national ownership of debt management strategies; and to facilitate equivalent treatment of all creditors.

62. We recognize that a shift has occurred from official to commercial borrowing and from external to domestic public debt, although for most low-income countries external finance is still largely official. We note that the number of creditors, both official and private, has increased significantly. We stress the need to address the implications of these changes, including through improved data collection and analysis.

63. In debt renegotiations, we stress the need for full involvement of debtors as well as creditors and the importance of taking into account debtors' national policies and strategies linked to attaining the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals.

64. Technical assistance to manage debt and address debt problems can be crucial for many countries, in particular the most vulnerable. We reaffirm the importance of adequate capacities of debtor countries during debt negotiations, debt renegotiations and for debt management. In this regard, we will continue to provide developing countries with the necessary assistance, including technical assistance, upon request, to enhance debt management, negotiations and renegotiation capacities, including tackling external debt litigation, in order to achieve and maintain debt sustainability. The Bretton Woods institutions and other relevant organizations should continue to play an important role in this field, as appropriate, given their respective mandates. Preserving long-term debt sustainability is a shared responsibility of lenders and borrowers. To this end, we encourage the use of the joint IMF/World Bank Debt Sustainability Framework by creditors and debtors, as appropriate. Borrowers should strive to implement sound macroeconomic policies and public resource management, which are key elements in reducing national vulnerabilities.

65. Particular attention should be paid to keeping the debt sustainability frameworks under review to enhance the effectiveness of monitoring and analysing debt sustainability and consider fundamental changes in debt scenarios, in the face of large exogenous shocks, including those caused by natural catastrophes, severe terms-of-trade shocks or conflict. We stress the need to construct debt indicators based on comprehensive, objective and reliable data. We also need to increase information-sharing, transparency and the use of objective criteria in the construction and evaluation of debt scenarios, including an assessment of domestic public and private debt in order to achieve development goals. We are convinced that enhanced market access to goods and services of export interest to debtor countries is an important factor in enhancing debt sustainability.

66. Debt sustainability frameworks should also give due weight to the development needs of debtor countries, including benefits from expenditures and investment that have long-term social and economic returns. Given the imperative of maintaining debt sustainability and the external financing requirements for meeting development goals, particularly in least developed countries and low-income countries facing increased risks of debt distress, bilateral donors and multilateral financial institutions should seek to increasingly provide grants and concessional loans as the preferred modalities of their financial support instruments to ensure debt sustainability.

67. We acknowledge the need to continue to address all relevant issues regarding external debt problems, including through the United Nations,

and we will consider ways to explore enhanced approaches of sovereign debt restructuring mechanisms based on existing frameworks and principles, with broad creditors' and debtors' participation and ensuring comparable burden-sharing among creditors, with an important role for the Bretton Woods institutions.

Addressing systemic issues: enhancing the coherence and consistency of the international monetary, financial and trading systems in support of development

68. Some results have been achieved since Monterrey in addressing systemic issues, but significant additional progress is needed. This is all the more urgent given the current financial crisis. The progress expected after Monterrey with the mandated work of the multilateral financial institutions, including the role of IMF in strengthening surveillance, giving high priority to the identification and prevention of potential crises and strengthening the underpinnings of international financial stability, remains incomplete. The current financial crisis, as well as the continued weaknesses in the international financial system, further underline the need to strengthen the international financial architecture. The reform of the international financial architecture should focus on providing greater transparency and strengthening the voice and participation of developing countries and countries with economies in transition in international decision-making and norm-setting. Thus, we resolve to undertake appropriate and timely steps to improve the functioning of the international economic and financial system. It is essential to maintain the involvement of the United Nations in these undertakings. This is crucial for an integrated implementation of the Monterrey Consensus.

69. We resolve to strengthen the coordination of the United Nations system and all other multilateral financial, trade and development institutions to support economic growth, poverty eradication and sustainable development worldwide. Greater cooperation between the United Nations, the Bretton Woods institutions and the World Trade Organization is needed, based on a clear understanding and respect for their respective mandates and governance structures.

70. We encourage better coordination and enhanced coherence among relevant ministries in all countries to assist in the formulation and effective implementation of policies at all levels. We also encourage international financial and development institutions to continue to enhance policy coherence for development, taking into account diversified needs and changing circumstances. In order to complement national development efforts, we call on all countries whose policies have an impact on developing countries to increase their efforts to formulate policies consistent with the objectives of sustained growth, poverty eradication and sustainable development of developing countries.

71. Stable international financial markets require sound macroeconomic and financial policies. It is crucial that all countries manage their macroeconomic and financial policies in ways that contribute to global stability and sustained economic growth and sustainable development. Solid and strong financial institutions at the national and international levels are essential pillars of a well-functioning international financial system. Countries should continue to pursue sound macroeconomic policies and, as appropriate, structural reform while also strengthening their financial systems and economic institutions.

72. New and highly globalized financial instruments continue to change the nature of risks in the world economy, requiring continuing enhancement of market oversight and regulation. To strengthen the resilience of the international financial system, we will implement reforms that will strengthen the regulatory and supervisory frameworks of financial markets as needed. We will strive to improve key accounting standards to remedy weaknesses and deficiencies, including those exposed by the current financial crisis. National regulators should enhance financial information and transparency at the domestic level. We will further enhance cooperation among national regulators from all countries to strengthen international financial standards. These efforts should address timely

and adequate risk disclosure standards in order to improve the foundation of decisions of investors. There is also a need for enhanced transparency by financial institutions. Enhanced disclosure practices and transparency should assist efforts to reduce illicit capital flows.

73. We reaffirm that the international financial institutions, including the Bretton Woods institutions, need to be further reformed. The reformed multilateral financial institutions should have the technical capacities, credit facilities and financial resources to deal with the management and swift resolution of financial crises in a manner that elicits and facilitates international cooperation and that is consistent with their respective mandates. The international financial institutions should continue to foster the multilateral cooperation needed to restore and safeguard international monetary and financial stability and should stand ready to quickly make available sufficient resources to help countries in overcoming crises. The International Monetary Fund, in collaboration with an expanded and representative Financial Stability Forum and other bodies, should work to better identify vulnerabilities, anticipate potential stresses and act swiftly to play a key role in crisis response. Similarly, the World Bank can also play a significant role to mitigate the difficulties countries face. The Bretton Woods institutions must continue, within their respective mandates, to help developing countries to deal with the adverse effects of exogenous shocks, such as large fluctuations in the prices of key commodities, for example, through the reformed IMF Exogenous Shocks Facility. We also recognize the need for keeping under review the allocation of special drawing rights for development purposes.

74. Regional development banks play a vital role in supporting economic development and assisting regional integration efforts. We encourage continued cooperation and coordination among the regional development banks and other international financial institutions, as appropriate. We should review the adequacy of resources required to accomplish their tasks, as necessary. Other regional cooperation frameworks, such as financial and monetary arrangements that complement the international financial system, can be instrumental in fostering development and financial stability among their members and should be in line with multilateral frameworks, as appropriate. Those arrangements can facilitate financial flows and lower transaction costs and may serve as mechanisms that assist in the prevention of financial crises and render parties to such arrangements more resilient.

75. Credit rating agencies also play a significant role in the provision of information, including assessment of corporate and sovereign risks. The information provided by credit rating agencies should be based on broadly accepted, clearly defined, objective and transparent parameters. The ongoing financial crisis has revealed weaknesses and raised concerns about accounting standards and the way credit rating agencies currently operate. We will exercise strong oversight over credit rating agencies, consistent with the agreed and strengthened international code of conduct, and take additional action to strengthen financial market transparency and enhance the convergence of global accounting standards.

76. We recognize the need to address the often expressed concern at the extent of representation of developing countries in the major standard-setting bodies. We therefore welcome the proposed expansion of the membership in the Financial Stability Forum and encourage the major standard-setting bodies to review their membership promptly while enhancing their effectiveness.

77. We underscore that the Bretton Woods institutions must be comprehensively reformed so that they can more adequately reflect changing economic weights in the world economy and be more responsive to current and future challenges. We reaffirm that the enhancement of voice and participation of developing countries in the Bretton Woods institutions, in accordance with their respective mandates, is central to strengthening the legitimacy and effectiveness of these institutions. We recognize the governance reforms that the international financial institutions have already undertaken, including the recent agreement regarding the quota review and voice reforms

at IMF and related steps in the World Bank, and encourage further reforms in that direction.

78. Welcoming the ongoing international discussions on global economic governance structures, we acknowledge the need to ensure that all countries, including low-income countries, are able to effectively participate in this process. This debate should review the international financial and monetary architecture and global economic governance structures in order to ensure a more effective and coordinated management of global issues. Such a debate should associate the United Nations, the World Bank, IMF and the World Trade Organization, should involve regional financial institutions and other relevant bodies and should take place in the context of the current initiatives aimed at improving the inclusiveness, legitimacy and effectiveness of the global economic governance structures. Greater cooperation among the United Nations, the Bretton Woods institutions and the World Trade Organization is needed, based on a clear understanding and respect for their respective mandates and governance structures.

79. The United Nations will hold a conference at the highest level on the world financial and economic crisis and its impact on development. The conference will be organized by the President of the General Assembly and the modalities will be defined by March 2009 at the latest.

Other new challenges and emerging issues

80. We commit ourselves to reinvigorating the global partnership for development in order to effectively address the full range of financing for development challenges facing the world today. We recognize that multiple financing for development challenges and opportunities have emerged since the Monterrey Conference, including the impact of the financial crisis, additional costs of climate change mitigation and adaptation and damage to the Earth's environment, price volatility in international markets of key commodities, expanding economic cooperation and the growing needs for reconstruction and development of post-conflict countries. We reaffirm our resolve to take concerted global action to address all these areas while consistently furthering economic and human development for all.

81. We are deeply concerned by the impact of the current financial crisis and global economic slowdown on the ability of developing countries to access the necessary financing for their development objectives. Developing countries and countries with economies in transition risk suffering very serious setbacks to their development objectives, in particular the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals. It is critical to adopt further decisive and prompt actions to contain the current crisis and restore sustained economic growth. Given this global context, we call the attention of all donors to the situation and needs of the poorest and most vulnerable. We also urge all donors to maintain and deliver on their ODA commitments and call on the international community, including the World Bank and IMF, to draw on the full range of their policy advice and resources, as appropriate, to help developing countries and countries with economies in transition to strengthen their economies, maintain growth and protect the most vulnerable groups against the severe impacts of the current crisis. In this context, it is also important for developing countries to maintain sound macroeconomic policies that support sustained economic growth and poverty eradication.

82. The concern of the international community about climate change has increased markedly since the adoption of the Monterrey Consensus. We reiterate the importance of reaching an agreed outcome at the fifteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, to be held in Copenhagen from 30 November to 11 December 2009, and urge all parties to engage constructively in negotiations consistent with the Bali Action Plan. Ongoing and potential responses to tackle this phenomenon have major financing for development implications and will incur substantial additional costs on all countries, thus requiring additional resource mobilization, including from the private sector, particularly for developing countries to address

the challenges of climate change, in order to support appropriate national adaptation and mitigation strategies and actions. We reiterate that it is critical to address the pressing needs of developing countries, especially those that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change, such as the least developed countries, small island developing States, and other affected countries in Africa. In this regard, we urge all parties to engage in the ongoing process in a manner that will ensure an agreed outcome commensurate with the scope and urgency of the climate change challenge. The States parties to the Kyoto Protocol welcome the launching of the Adaptation Fund within the structure of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and look forward to its early operationalization with full support.

83. We also underscore the special challenges emerging from volatility in international commodity markets, particularly the volatility of food and energy prices. We take note of recent initiatives and will continue to mobilize resources to assist developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, attain food and energy security. At the same time, we recognize the necessity of a substantial sustainable expansion of food production in developing countries by enhancing investments and productivity in the agricultural sector, including in small-scale farms, promoting rural development and intensifying agricultural research. It is critical to eliminate barriers to food production, to improve processing and distribution over time and to have carefully targeted safety nets in the event of food crises. We recognize that food insecurity has multiple and complex causes and that its consequences require a comprehensive and coordinated response in the short, medium and long terms by national Governments and the international community. We thus encourage the development of an inclusive global partnership for agriculture and food. We acknowledge the work of the High-level Task Force on the Global Food Security Crisis established by the Secretary-General and encourage its continued engagement with States Members of the United Nations, relevant organizations, the private sector and, especially, farmers.

84. We acknowledge the recent volatility in energy markets and its impact on low- and middle-income countries. We will strengthen cooperation to develop energy systems that can assist in meeting development needs and are consistent with the efforts to stabilize the global climate, in accordance with the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities. We will strengthen our efforts to substantially increase the share of renewable energies and to promote energy efficiency and conservation. We reaffirm that access to basic energy services and to clean and sustainable energy is important to eradicate extreme poverty and to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals.

85. We acknowledge the recent efforts to bring to light the particular challenges faced by middle-income countries in the area of development, poverty eradication and inequality. We note the conferences held in Madrid in March 2007, in Sonsonate, El Salvador, in October 2007 and in Windhoek in August 2008 on international development cooperation with middle-income countries. We welcome the positive impact of expanding economic relations among middle income countries, as well as recent initiatives by the international financial institutions to enhance their facilities for them.

86. Consensus has emerged since Monterrey that countries emerging from conflict are an important part of the international agenda. Many of the poorest continue to live in post-conflict States where inadequate infrastructure and low investment prevent the delivery of basic social services and limit the productive capacity of the economy. We affirm the importance of providing seamless assistance to peacebuilding efforts, including humanitarian assistance, rehabilitation and nation-building, and assistance for governance and improvement of social and economic infrastructure. We welcome the efforts of the international community to provide flexibility to post-conflict developing countries regarding debt relief and restructuring and stress the need to continue those efforts in order to help those countries, especially those that are heavily indebted and poor, to achieve initial reconstruction for economic and social development,

particularly for the early recovery period. We will step up our efforts to assist countries in accessing financing for development in the post-conflict context. In this regard, we welcome the valuable work of the United Nations Peacebuilding Commission and the Peacebuilding Fund, as well as commitments outlined in the Accra Agenda for Action.[8]

Staying engaged

87. We recommit ourselves to staying fully engaged, nationally, regionally and internationally, to ensuring proper and effective follow-up to the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus, taking into account the intergovernmentally agreed outcome document adopted at this Conference. We will also continue our unremitting efforts to build bridges between all relevant stakeholders within the holistic agenda of the financing for development process. We appreciate the role played by the United Nations as a focal point for the financing for development follow-up process. It will be important to maintain this role to ensure the continuity and dynamism of our process. We reaffirm the need to further intensify the engagement of all stakeholders, including the United Nations system, the World Bank, IMF and the World Trade Organization in the follow-up and implementation of the commitments made in Monterrey and reiterated here at Doha.

88. We recognize that maintaining a comprehensive and diverse multi-stakeholder follow-up process, including with civil society and the private sector, is critical. We also recognize the core responsibility of all participants in the financing for development process to exercise ownership of it and to implement their respective commitments. It is important that the follow-up process be undertaken in an integrated fashion, including through the continued engagement of all relevant ministries, in particular ministries of development, finance, trade and foreign affairs. An integrated treatment of financing for development issues in national development plans is also important in enhancing national ownership and implementation of financing for development. The international community should continue to draw upon the expertise, data and analysis available in multiple forums, while enhancing information-sharing and dialogue between the various United Nations and non-United Nations bodies that monitor progress on financing for development issues. There is substantial room to enhance the sharing of best practices.

89. We acknowledge the need for a strengthened and more effective intergovernmental inclusive process to carry out the financing for development follow-up, which would review progress in the implementation of commitments, identify obstacles, challenges and emerging issues and propose concrete recommendations and actions, taking into account various proposals that have been put forward. We request the Economic and Social Council to consider this matter during its spring meeting and at its substantive session of 2009, in consultation with all relevant stakeholders, with a view to making appropriate and timely recommendations for final action by the General Assembly as early as possible in its sixty-fourth session.

90. We will consider the need to hold a follow-up financing for development conference by 2013.

[8] A/CONF.191/11.

Chapter 2
Opening Summit Plenary Session

Qatar

Opening Statement by Host Country:

His Highness
Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al-Thani
Amir of the State of Qatar and President of the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus

29 November 2008

In the Name of God
The Most Compassionate, The Most Merciful
Your Excellencies and Highnesses,
Your Excellency President of the United Nations General Assembly, Your Excellency the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Honourable Audience,

It is my pleasure to welcome you in Doha and to wish your Conference success in attaining its goals. While we appreciate the General Assembly's decision to hold the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus in Qatar, we underline the vital role being played by the Conference in the economic, social and related fields to shape a wide-scale developmental vision.

History teaches us that man could only obtain the keys to progress when he began to develop his resources and capabilities. Politics teaches us that people only felt secure when they learned to develop their economy and culture.

Crises such as the violent financial crisis that is now afflicting the whole world teach us that the stability of individuals and societies is associated with the effectiveness of development rather than merely the accumulation of investments and profits.

In fact, if we look at the causes of recession which the developed world is about to enter, dragging along with it the rest of the peoples on our planet, we shall discover that when development is delayed, the social balance is at risk. And if we look at crises, especially the recent one, we shall discover that the lack of development and hesitation in addressing it has much to do with the causes of crisis.

The effects of the current world crisis confirm that there is no special privilege or exemption from crisis because we live in the same world. This is a lesson which all of us must learn and remember as a basis for discussing the issue of the comprehensive development of societies as a necessity, requirement and hope for all peoples of the world. Comprehensive development in its true sense means striving to improve the quality of life of individuals, communities and homelands in all spheres, from the economic, social, intellectual and pragmatic to the health, welfare, constitutional and legal spheres.

In short, the meaning of full-scale development, which has no single dimension but many dimensions associated with the movement and vitality of world communities and their potentials and resources.

Development has been considered by many from only one dimension, namely the financial dimension, but we have learned from the lessons of history, politics and crisis that development is a comprehensive whole that is not subject to division

because it represents the wider arena of extensive human progress.

If in this Conference we are interested in, and work under the slogan of, "Financing for development", then it should be evident at the same time that financing is merely a stimulus for all to take action to implement their due and legitimate rights. We know that several homelands and peoples do not lack hopes and aspirations but they do lack the means and tools to realize them, and financing is one of the most important of these tools, therefore when we pay attention to it, we do so hoping that it will be an incentive for progress and implementation. But we have to agree that financing is only one of many human incentives and we should always ensure that other key incentives are fully integrated into our efforts and regulated by all the necessary controls, the most important of these being integrity and transparency guarantees.

Here I want to refer to two points which I feel I must put forward with the utmost sincerity and impartiality.

First, sometimes we have the impression that there is an attempt to put the whole burden of development on the oil-producing countries, and in that attempt we see some prejudice and denial, and we believe when we talk about Qatar that our country has fulfilled its obligations in the past and continues to fulfil them in the present within the context of its responsibility and capacity. But frankly speaking, sometimes we feel that expectations are imposed on the oil-producing countries beyond their capabilities, even to the point of confusion.

Second, the developed countries have no right to tell other countries what to do, giving them advice and guidance while exempting themselves from their due contributions to the issue of development according to their capabilities. Some of the developed countries should recognize that development is a peace umbrella that protects all, and in many conditions of human progress it is more helpful to peacekeeping than merely piling up weapons.

Honourable Audience,

Development is a great responsibility in this global community and it is not only a just and decent request but also a path for stability, progress, peace and security for the community of States in all continents. We must turn the hardships facing us to our advantage by strengthening our determination and unifying our efforts to serve the advancement of human life in the whole world.

May God guide you to success and may the peace, mercy and blessings of God be upon you.

General Assembly of the United Nations

Opening Statement by

Mr. Miguel D'Escoto Brockmann
President of the General Assembly of the United Nations

29 November 2008

Your Highness, Emir of Qatar,
Honourable Heads of State and Government,
Excellencies,
Mr. Secretary-General,
Representatives of Civil Society,
Dear Friends,

1. As President of the General Assembly, I am pleased and honoured to welcome you to this Conference, which has been facilitated with the generous and able support of the Amir of Qatar, Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani. I wish to express my deep gratitude to His Highness for his kind generosity and hospitality in hosting this major Conference. I admire the way in which Qatar has chosen to play an ever more important role as a leader in the international community—trying to convince the haves of this world to pay more attention to the increasingly urgent demands of the have-nots.

2. All the splendour of beautiful Doha must not for a minute allow us to forget why we are here. We have gathered to reflect on the lives of the half of the world's people who know no splendour—only squalor, hunger and levels of poverty that contradict their inherent human dignity and rights.

3. But we are here to take action as well—actions proportionate with the immensity of the multiple,

confluent crises that are causing so much suffering and death, particularly among the poor.

4. For our meeting to be meaningful, we must adopt the point of view of the victims of our faltering economic and financial system. We have a moral duty to do more than rearrange our faltering system: we must transform it as well. More than new regulations, the world needs new alternatives.

5. Every day, tens of thousands of our brothers and sisters die from hunger. Entire peoples watch as their cultures and ways of life disappear. As our environment deteriorates due to hyper-consumerism and exploitation by the wealthy nations, millions are forced to leave their homes, uncertain whether they will be accepted in other lands. This systemic war against the poor, I believe, is the most pervasive form of terrorism in today's world. We must put an end to this by moving from profit-centred development to people-centred development before it is too late.

6. With the trillions that are currently being spent on wars of terror, this whole process could be reversed. But this, obviously, requires a change of logic. The world desperately needs for us to move away from the logic of "I and mine", which is the logic of death and terror, towards the logic of "We and ours", which is the logic of solidarity, life and peace.

7. We have come together here as a perfect storm continues to gather force around us, a confluence of crises that overshadow our work and add ever-greater urgency to our central task. In spite of the news of sporadic violent outbursts around the world, we are experiencing, perhaps, the calm before the storm, one whose devastation could overwhelm us. We must take advantage of our gathering here in Doha to prepare as calmly, but also as quickly as we can, to avert the human catastrophes that now threaten us all.

8. In 2002, with their economies staggering under the burden of neo-liberal economic policies, developing countries pressed for an International Conference on Financing for Development, which was held in Monterrey, Mexico, in 2002. Our meeting today is a follow-up to evaluate compliance with the Monterrey commitments to financing the development of the world's poorer countries.

9. The Monterrey meeting marked the first time that the Group of 77 had orchestrated a major United Nations conference. It was also the first time that systemic issues relating to the financial and economic system were dealt with in the United Nations and not just within the Bretton Woods institutions, as had always been the case.

10. Even now, six years after Monterrey and in the face of crisis, the G-8 has only reluctantly expanded its ranks to become the G-20, but some countries still want to keep systemic issues outside of the United Nations and its all-inclusive grouping—the G-192. Those who noisily advocate democracy in the world recoil from the idea of democratic governance of our international institutions, including the United Nations.

11. According to the Monterrey Consensus, free trade was to be the main force that would eradicate poverty. But the massive agricultural subsidies and protectionist policies of the European Union, Japan and the United States have made this impossible to achieve. Foreign direct investment has also failed to significantly reduce poverty.

12. The long-standing commitment to provide 0.7 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP) by the wealthy countries as development assistance for the developing world has also remained unrealized; and debt-servicing remains a staggering burden on many developing countries, crippling their capacity to provide adequate social services or meet the Millennium Development Goals.

13. There is no doubt that the international community has been dragging its feet with regard to compliance with the commitments assumed at Monterrey. Our purpose here in Doha is to expedite these promises and infuse the development process with a sense of urgency in the face of new global challenges. For this reason, it is imperative that the outcome document of this Conference be as strong and clear as possible.

14. As you know, delegations of United Nations Member States in New York have been working very hard over the last two years to make this

Conference a reality and we should be proud of their work, particularly the many initiatives of developing countries.

15. As a result, I have the great honour to present and submit for your consideration the draft outcome document of the Conference as contained in document A/CONF.212/3. On behalf of all of us, I wish to pay special tribute to the two very able Facilitators who were appointed for this purpose, Maged Abdelaziz of Egypt and Johan Løvald of Norway. They have given generously of their time all throughout the process and I am personally deeply grateful to them. Now it is your job to complete this document and arrive at an early and balanced consensus that reflects appropriately the needs and aspirations of all our nations during these troubled times.

Friends,

16. Without taking too much time, let me say a few words about some of the issues that we will be tackling at this Conference. There is ample recognition that these crises demand concerted global action and they offer us a tremendous opportunity to improve our way of doing things, of interacting with one another and with the environment.

17. We cannot revert to a status quo. Rather, profound changes must be made in the governance of the global financial system and in the values driving it. We must take advantage of the unique forum provided by the United Nations to work towards agreement on building such a system, including viable international financial, monetary and trading structures and institutions. The recent G-20 Summit in Washington, D.C., on the international financial crisis was an important first step, but it was only that, a first step towards raising inclusiveness in international economic decision-making.

18. As President of the General Assembly, I am deeply committed to the objective of the democratization and reform of the United Nations and its system of agencies, which includes of course the international financial and trade institutions as part of the architecture of the international economic order. I have appointed a Commission of Experts to advise me on these and other related matters, and I hope that the results of this Conference will give us new ground on which to build together.

19. New proposals and ideas on innovative sources of finance for development have been put forward, including for climate change and food security, and these should be explored further. This is also an opportunity for us to seriously consider supporting the proposal to create an ad hoc commission to identify innovative solutions on debt.

20. At the same time, developing countries need support to strengthen domestic resource mobilization. They need to improve their domestic governance, create standards for regulating the economy and institutionalize an equitable and democratic rule of law. These will help to attract healthy, non-speculative foreign direct investment, which when it complies with national laws and priorities and is embedded with social responsibility constitutes an important complement to public investment and official financial aid.

21. On trade, let us decide to restart negotiations on the Doha development round and hold all countries to their commitment to make international trade agreements give particular attention to the needs of poorer countries. Brothers and sisters, friends all.

22. The above measures and ideas should be seen, rather than expressions of charity, as a moral duty of social justice. I think this is what the Monterrey Consensus was all about, and we must keep, and build on, that spirit here in Doha.

23. It is hard to exaggerate the importance of this Conference. Some important players in the international arena didn't attend this gathering because they honestly want the world to continue on the same course that has led us to where we are today. Others didn't come because they honestly have lost hope in our capacity to come up with meaningful change. But the vast majority of the countries of the world are represented here and want to see an open, inclusive process unfold in the months ahead.

24. Together, we must rise to the occasion and send a clear message of hope to our dispossessed brothers and sisters who are hungry not only for food but also for the good news that their voices are being

heard. As people of profound ethical convictions, let us act according to our conscience. But as people of faith, let us also ask the most loving, merciful and compassionate God to strengthen our collective political will so that we may decide to do what is right and just and thus ensure a better and safer world for all present and future generations.

Thank you.

United Nations

Opening Statement by

Mr. Ban Ki-moon
Secretary-General of the United Nations

29 November 2008

Your Highness Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani, Amir of the State of Qatar,
Heads of State and Government,
Mr. President of the General Assembly,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the outset of this meeting, I would like to reaffirm our solidarity with the Government and people of India, as they mourn the victims of the outrageous terrorist acts in Mumbai. Leaders around the world unanimously condemn in the strongest terms the violence we have seen in Mumbai in the past three days. No cause or grievance can justify indiscriminate attacks against civilians and the perpetrators must be brought swiftly to justice.

Thank you, Your Highness, for your generosity and hospitality in hosting this Conference. We gather at a fateful moment. I am particularly grateful to the many Heads of State and Government who, in spite of their very busy programmes, have endeavoured to join us here today to show their Governments' strong commitment to the global partnership for development that is the foundation of the Monterrey Consensus. Without exaggeration, we can say that the well-being of our people and the health of our societies—even the future of our planet—depend on what we do today and in the weeks to come.

The global financial crisis has brought an abrupt end to a long era of global growth. It compounds other major threats: climate change, food insecurity and the terrible persistence of extreme poverty. No nation has been spared. But it is the poorest countries that will feel the blow most sharply. If not handled properly, today's financial crisis will become tomorrow's human crisis. Social unrest and political instability will grow, exacerbating all other problems Major economies have responded with fiscal and monetary rescue packages and stimulus plans.

The emergency G-20 summit in Washington showed that Governments are deeply concerned and trying to coordinate their actions. This is welcome. But we need to do more. Probably much more. Wherever possible, fiscal measures must be bold and decisive. And many studies show that they will be much more effective if they are strongly coordinated. To promote that coordination, we need to build **a bridge between the G-20 and the rest of the world—the entire community of nations.** That is what I told our informal, high-level gathering yesterday. And today I repeat it to you, the full membership of the United Nations.

That bridge must stand on three pillars. **One pillar is cooperation.** Our stimulus programmes must be well coordinated among all nations. The old proverb puts it just right: we must hang together or else we shall most assuredly hang separately. And as we work together, we must protect the poorest and most vulnerable. Rescue and assistance packages should not stop at the borders of rich and powerful countries. The Millennium Development Goals are in jeopardy. Are we to "economize" on official development assistance (ODA), worth some hundred billion dollars, while trillions of dollars are mobilized in the rich countries to fight their financial problems?

Another pillar is sustainability. Through low carbon green growth, we can create jobs, conserve energy and combat climate change—in short, address several challenges at once. We must all think along these lines.

A third pillar is inclusive governance. We need a new multilateralism that recognizes the world of

the twenty-first century. Virtually all growth in 2009 will come from emerging and developing economies. Without them, the global economy would sharply contract. The new multilateralism must acknowledge this role—not merely because this is fair and just but also as a matter of practical necessity.

Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Monterrey Consensus was a major achievement. At the time, it was seen as opening a new era of cooperation, bridging the old North-South divide. The Monterrey vision could yet deliver all that, and more. Faithfully implemented, it is a path out of our current predicament.

Let me briefly discuss six aspects of development financing as I see them in our current context. **First, liquidity.** The wealthiest nations have moved to keep credit flowing at home. We must ensure that developing countries can do so as well. We therefore need additional emergency financing from the IMF, the World Bank and other sources. Without it, the credit crisis will spread to emerging economies. Growth will stall, hurting them and the world as a whole.

Second, the Millennium Development Goals. An increase in grants and long-term lending should be part of our response. Above all, we must hold to our pledges of assistance. I welcome the announcements by several Governments, the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank in this regard. Reducing aid to the poorest nations under current circumstances would have devastating consequences.

Third, climate change and green growth. We must rededicate ourselves to fighting climate change as part of the solution to the current economic downturn. Investments in green technologies will yield pay-offs in the long term for a safer environment and more sustainable growth. Already, the record shows that green investment can produce jobs and spur growth.

Fourth, debt relief. We must step up the debt relief programmes granted to the poorest nations so that a greater number can benefit. This burden will only weigh more heavily in the current climate, impeding investment and government spending that might otherwise contribute to growth and economic development.

Fifth, mobilizing local resources. In the new climate, financing for development will come increasingly from within. National Governments must develop new ways to raise revenues, while encouraging domestic firms to make productive investments. We need to help show the way. Specifically, we need more international cooperation to minimize harmful tax competition and to stem the loss of tax revenues, particularly in resource-rich nations.

Sixth, protectionism. Beggar-thy-neighbour trade policy responses benefit no one. Instead, we should renew our commitment to ensure a truly development outcome for the Doha round of multilateral trade negotiations. We need to see the Doha trade round revived and concluded successfully as soon as possible.

Excellencies,

Like wayfarers in a boat on troubled seas, we are all in this together.

I cannot stress enough that now, more than ever, we must be bold and summon the will to lead.

Thank you for your commitment and leadership in being here today.

World Trade Organization

Opening Statement by

Mr. Pascal Lamy
Director-General

29 November 2008

Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

The World Trade Organization (WTO) might be called the best advertising agency for the city of Doha and the State of Qatar; there's no need to pay for expensive spots on Al Jazeera, CNN or the BBC. The new series of global trade negotiations that was launched in this city about seven years ago was called the Doha development round and since then, the names of Doha and WTO have been closely linked.

It is therefore no surprise that you, like many other WTO members, are doing your utmost to ensure that "Doha" means "success"—a success commensurate with the developing countries' hope for a better life thanks to a more open and more equitable trading system.

The Doha round was launched out of a shared conviction that trade can be an engine for development and that a multilateral trading system based on more open, more transparent and more equitable rules and better able to address the problems of its poorest members is necessary in order to fulfil this potential.

WTO simply translated into its area of activity the hopes expressed in the Millennium Development Goals that were adopted by the United Nations in 2000. World leaders recognized their collective responsibility by laying the foundation for a more peaceful, more prosperous and more just world. They undertook to cooperate more closely in addressing global economic challenges, including those of trade.

Completion of the Doha development round will therefore promote achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

While trade can serve as a catalyst, a new mindset has appeared during the past 10 years. If trade is to make its full contribution to sustainable development, growth and job creation, it must be accompanied by adequate financial resources to address infrastructure and supply constraints. Aid for Trade exists. But making trade possible is only one aspect of the question: we also need to make it happen.

As we all know, it was long thought, first that the solution was trade, not aid, and then the reverse—that it was aid, not trade. The United Nations Millennium Declaration established a new consensus: yes to a more open, more equitable world trade system, but also yes to development financing for the members of our global family that have limited resources. We've gotten as far as trade for development; now we need to get to aid for trade.

Since 2005, we have been working in close cooperation with our United Nations partners, the World Bank, the regional development banks, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the regional economic communities and governments to mobilize resources and political support for the global Aid for Trade programme in order to supplement the outcome of the Doha development round.

In 2007, we all met in Geneva for the First Global Aid for Trade Review. We gained a better understanding of national and regional priorities and launched a process aimed at implementing projects on the ground.

In 2008, there was considerable progress in the implementation of trade capacity-building projects. Major development partners such as the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank, the Islamic Development Bank and many others formulated Aid for Trade programmes and a network began to develop. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and many United Nations agencies are helping the developing countries incorporate trade into their development strategy, and we are also trying to improve follow-up to and evaluation of these projects in order to measure the progress made and the multiplier effect of these projects on the ground.

All this work will feed into the Second Global Aid for Trade Review, which the World Trade Organization will host in June 2009.

But this will not be possible if resources are not mobilized, if financing does not flow, if promises are not kept. And this is why this Conference is a timely reminder that, despite the dire economic situation, we must keep our focus on our global solidarity endeavour.

But if Aid for Trade is important, the success of the Doha development round is a bigger prize.

The Doha development round will address the distortions in agricultural trade caused by unfair agriculture subsidies, an issue of vital importance for many developing countries. Let us not forget that more than two thirds of the world's poor live in rural areas. Let us not forget the African cotton producers for whom the World Trade Organization is their only chance of disciplining the subsidies given by the United States of America and the European Union to their producers.

The Doha development round will reduce tariffs and barriers in industry, clean technology and services and thus create new trade opportunities, in particular in sectors of interest to developing countries. It will deliver on the promise of duty-free and quota-free access for the exports of the world's poorest. It will facilitate trade by addressing the customs red tape that imposes a huge burden on small and medium-sized traders. It will for the first time discipline the fishery subsidies that are contributing to the depletion of our oceans. And I could continue the list.

After seven years of continuous negotiations, many of these elements are already on the table, but they will not materialize unless we conclude the whole package. In the meantime, the potential benefits of the Doha development round remain in limbo.

Any good negotiators would want to maximize the results. A 2 per cent increase here and a 5 per cent increase there. The question we have to ask ourselves today is: "Would this be worth it if we have to wait three, four or five years for it?" As the saying goes: "A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush".

In recent months, we have witnessed unprecedented fluctuations in oil and commodity prices. We have witnessed a severe food crisis. And as if all that was not enough, we are facing one of the worst financial crises since the 1930s. We are faced with policy challenges on a scale not seen since the end of the Second World War.

A major difference between the current economic crisis and previous ones is that the world is today more globalized. Today, we are all in the same boat—big countries and small, rich and poor, strong and weak. There is also a growing consensus that only multilateral solutions can address these challenges.

A few days ago, during a visit to Cambodia, I learned that the majority of their textiles and clothing companies that export to rich-country markets do not have contracts from buyers beyond February 2009. This is an industry that currently employs 300,000 people. Now imagine what the impact to the Cambodian economy will be if these people lose their jobs.

But there are also growing difficulties in servicing existing contracts for the lack of availability and affordability of trade finance. Roughly 90 per cent of international trade is financed with short-term credit, and therefore any drying up of this financing channel will have a serious impact on developing countries. The World Trade Organization recently hosted regional and financial institutions, together with export credit agencies, to address this problem. And we are starting to see responses, including the recent World Bank announcement of the tripling of the ceiling for its trade finance guarantees, action by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development and by export credit agencies. This issue needs to remain high on our list of priorities to cushion the impact of the current financial crisis on developing countries.

In the current economic conditions, there may be a tendency to embrace inward-looking policies that put domestic interests ahead of international cooperation. In tough times, it is too easy for

politicians to blame the foreigner for the nation's ills, shutting foreign products out of the market and slashing foreign-aid budgets.

The community of the United Nations, meeting this weekend in Doha, can send a powerful message to the world:

- That we stand united to address global challenges.
- That we will strive to find multilateral solutions.
- That we will avoid unilateral, beggar-thy-neighbour responses.
- That we will maintain our commitment to help the poorest and weakest among us.

This weekend, Doha must send a signal of the urgency of delivering on trade and aid. There is no better place to reaffirm your commitment to ensuring that development is placed at the heart of the global trading system than here in Doha, where it all began.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, please, keep the Doha promises alive.

Thank you for your attention.

Chapter 3

Statements by Heads of State or Government

Benin

Statement by
His Excellency
Mr. Yayi Boni
President of the Republic of Benin

29 November 2008

Allow me, at the outset, to express my sincere condolences, on behalf of the people of Benin, to the people and Government of India, following the targeted and planned terrorist attacks that have taken place in that country over the past few days.

Mr. President, I would like to add my voice to those speakers who have congratulated and praised you on your election. I should also like to express my deep gratitude and that of my delegation to the Government of Qatar and to the Emir for the invitation, the warm hospitality and the excellent facilities provided to ensure the success of this Conference. As well, I wish to express to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, His Excellency Mr. Ban Ki-moon, the happiness and gratitude of the people of the Republic of Benin for his continuing efforts to ensure that the issue of financing for development remains the focus of the international communities concerned, thus increasing the chances of achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

By adopting the Monterrey Consensus in March 2002, the international community committed itself to resolving the problem of financing for development in order to achieve the internationally agreed development goals. Now, more than six years later, it has to be said that despite the efforts that have been made the record remains mixed, particularly with regard to countries in sub-Saharan Africa. Furthermore, it is worth highlighting that as this meeting is taking place, the world is encountering an enormous financial and economic crisis; and although it started in the industrialized countries, it has sparked off serious consequences for the economies of developing countries. This crisis shows more than ever the scale of the challenges facing those countries who are already encountering a food crisis, coupled with an energy crisis, not to mention the negative effects of climate change.

In the face of this situation, allow me to remind the international community that in order to attain the Millennium Development Goals, bold measures must be taken in terms of the main pillars of the Monterrey Consensus. Hence, in terms of mobilizing domestic resources, it is vital that we help poor countries to use the benefits from their own resources by stepping up international cooperation in the area of combating capital flight and tax evasion. To do this, we can enhance the United Nations Committee of Tax Experts. For its part, my country has striven over the last several years to improve its public finances. This has led to an increase in domestic resources of 9 per cent annually, on average.

Furthermore, Benin has adopted a National Development Plan based on the Millennium Development Goals. This requires a budget of

approximately $1 billion over seven years. Despite the efforts which have allowed us to increase our domestic resources, it will be difficult to mobilize such an amount, particularly in this time of crisis, where the urgent measures that have been taken by my Government have unfortunately worsened the budget deficit.

All this means that in terms of mobilizing international resources, developing nations, and that includes my country, Benin, are still awaiting developed countries to respect their commitments to allocate, by 2015, 0.7 per cent of their grosss national income for official development assistance (ODA), with 0.15 to 0.2 per cent going to the least developed countries. So far, the level of ODA coming from most developed countries has remained level or has actually declined. In Benin, for example, it has plunged from 13 per cent of gross national product in 2001 to only 7 per cent in 2006. Benin believes it is possible to increase development assistance. This has been illustrated by the many efforts that have already been made by developed countries to mobilize in record time several trillions of dollars in order to stem the current financial crisis. Furthermore, I believe it is indispensable that the multilateral institutions should take a greater part in efforts to mobilize resources for poor countries, particularly through the African Development Fund and the International Development Association of the World Bank.

I would also like to point out that the idea of increasing the percentage allocated to agriculture in ODA from 3 to 10 per cent is a strategic choice, which should be implemented with a political will that is up to the level of the challenge. It is appropriate to pay tribute to those countries that have already made solid pledges to allocate additional resources to this end.

In Monterrey in 2002, the international community declared that trade was the engine for development. Greater attention must, therefore, be paid to the issue of international trade. We must seek a trade system at the international level that is fair and that favours development. It is therefore vital to relaunch the Doha trade talks, which represent a light of hope for many developing countries. Benin once again appeals to developed countries to put a stop to the practice of trade-distorting subsidies to the detriment of agricultural producers in our countries.

Our fervent hope is to see poor countries participating alongside rich countries in transforming the architecture of the international financial system. Once updated, that system must take account of the development aspirations of countries that are currently marginalized when it comes to managing international crises for which they bear the brunt.

I express the hope that the talks here will allow us to develop a consensual vision on the best way to breathe new life into the Monterrey Consensus in order to promote a financing for development strategy that allows all States to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, with a view to eradicating poverty.

In this respect, it would be important to establish a monitoring mechanism that could inform the international community about events taking place, and alert them particularly to crises which make it more difficult for us to achieve the Millennium Development Goals by the deadline of 2015.

Bulgaria

Statement by
His Excellency
Mr. Georgi Parvanov
President of the Republic of Bulgaria

29 November 2008

Allow me, on behalf of the Republic of Bulgaria, to thank the Government of Qatar and our host, His Highness Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani, for their hospitality and the excellent organization of this Conference. I join in the condolences expressed by others to the people of India for the tragedy that befell them. I would also like to express our high appreciation for this forum, while underscoring our support for the final document and our satisfaction with the constructive spirit of all the countries involved, whose tireless efforts, patience and dedication have made this a success.

Financing for development in most of its aspects is one of the significant means of eradicating poverty, for overcoming inequality on a global scale and for bringing nations closer together in the process of globalization. In 2002 in Monterrey, we achieved consensus with respect to the main directions in which we should make our efforts for development. The Monterrey Consensus, adopted six years ago, is comprehensive and balanced. It is a framework document for global partnership, based upon the shared and differentiated responsibilities of all participants in the process. This Conference in Doha makes it possible for us to review what we have accomplished and agree on increasing the effectiveness in pursuing the goals of Monterrey.

We can take stock of the fact that significant progress was made in recent years. The economic growth in many developing countries shows high rates, while in the countries of Africa, including sub-Saharan Africa, it is 2 percentage points higher than the average for the world. Positive trends are observed in the development of trade and investments, official development aid is growing, and the writing off or alleviation of national debt provides an impetus for the development of the economies of a number of countries.

Alongside that, the new challenges, such as the financial, food and energy crises, have raised more acutely than ever the issue of eradicating poverty and providing a just and dignified future for ordinary people all over the world, but mostly in developing countries. In this sense, Bulgaria, as a member of the European Union, is supportive of the results achieved in the Group of Twenty (G20) meeting in Washington, D.C., and fully shares the conclusion that national "rescue measures" by themselves are not enough. What we need today is a concerted international reaction that would lay down the main principles of the world economy in the twenty-first century: public control, transparency and accurate risk assessment.

Bulgaria has successfully effected the transition to democracy and a free-market economy, and the process of reform has become a powerful factor for attaining the Millennium Development Goals. The country has high economic growth rates, and it has become a favourable place for investment and tourism. At present, Bulgaria is setting itself even more ambitious goals, commensurate with those of other European member States. Turning the country from a net beneficiary into a net donor in the international community will make our contribution to the international cooperation and development system even more significant. In addition, Bulgaria is prepared to share with other countries in the region, and of course with other regions in the world, its experience of the transition to democracy and a market economy and in building democratic institutions of the State.

Here at this forum, as a representative of a country whose transition to democracy has recently finished, I would like to ask you several questions: first, what in your view is the basis for development, and what makes the significant push for speeding up development? My answer to this is that there are two key elements: modern and adequate infrastructure, and quality education for all. Building transport, energy, communications and infrastructure is one of the most effective means to stimulate the development of any country, region or a whole continent. This is one of the fastest ways to provide sustainable growth for coping with poverty, disease and war.

On the other hand, the second element, in my view, is no less important than the others. And I am talking about education. We all agree that a State cannot attain sustainable development if its nationals are illiterate. We all agree that education is the basis of technological and scientific progress for mankind. We are all aware that underdeveloped countries have huge unused human potential in which they should invest. I take the liberty of saying that on behalf of a country which until recently, the 1990s, has provided education and training to thousands of students from Africa, Asia and Latin America, who have graduated from Bulgarian universities to become doctors, engineers and specialists in a range of other fields. As I recall this contribution of ours, I would like to underscore that Bulgaria will continue to uphold the need for high-quality, modern education for all, and state with conviction that it will participate fully in the deliberations relating to this part of the final document

of this meeting because we believe that education is the key to resolving many other issues of the developing world, such as the fight against poverty, illegal migration, crime and corruption.

This meeting is taking place at a difficult time. Without a doubt, the present economic and financial situation in the world raises additional serious challenges to the efforts to attain the Millennium Development Goals and to fulfil the commitments undertaken, by both the developed and the developing countries. But the fact that we are gathered here today means that we have the political will to cope with these problems, and I sincerely believe that we will succeed.

Burkina Faso

Statement by
His Excellency
Mr. Blaise Compaoré
President of Burkina Faso

29 November 2008

As I address my enthusiastic and warm congratulations to the organizers of this Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development, I wish to express to His Highness Emir Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani and the people of Qatar our sincere and ongoing friendship, and pledge our will to continue to consolidate the links of solidarity and cooperation which unite Qatar and Burkina Faso. I pay tribute to His Highness for the enlightened leadership with which he has been guiding the destiny of his country, whose prestigious capital Doha, already the namesake of the second round of global trade negotiations, has greeted us in its pure tradition of legendary hospitality.

I add to these tributes one to Mr. Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations, as well as to the competent heads of specialized agencies, who, for the last five years, have not stopped developing initiatives to improve the well-being of the world's most vulnerable.

For six years now, the history of the Monterrey Conference has engendered hopes to see a just and unified world built, one in which the most developed countries would accept the necessity of providing more support to the less well-off. That was the Monterrey Consensus.

This Conference, which is held under the auspices of the United Nations and whose initiative we appreciate, gives us an opportunity to examine the progress made in implementation of the Monterrey Consensus. The global economic evolution of the last few decades has been characterized by ongoing poverty in developing countries. The underperformance of the economies of these States has been exacerbated by the arbitrary lowering of official development assistance (ODA) flows in spite of commitments made by the international community.

Additionally, the recent hike in food commodity prices has taken a heavy toll on the economies of African countries, in particular those of the Sahel region, already facing the whims of the weather. This situation risks destroying the progress made in combating hunger and malnutrition.

It would also be useful to recall that the slow down of global economic growth, punctuated by the financial and energy crises, is in addition to the challenges already faced by developing countries. Moreover, subsidies granted by developed countries to their own agricultural sectors have continued while, at the same time, the agriculture of developing countries has suffered a merciless financial crunch. Even worse, our countries have had to abandon any type of public assistance to their own agricultures. This paradox is not one on which we can build through the efforts made by the countries of the South to increase agricultural production. For us cotton producers, this paradox is even more meaningful. It could even call into question the philosophy underpinning development. Greater mobilization of additional resources is therefore needed to support the effort of our countries in seeking higher performance from our agriculture, as well as an elimination of subsidies of rich countries to their producers.

Six years after the Monterrey Consensus, we must recognize that the State and the private sector alone will not be able to establish sustained economic growth, nor will they be able to implement

the Millennium Development Goals by 2015. And so the partners need to stick to their commitments in terms of ODA by providing 0.7 per cent of their gross national income to low-income countries.

However, in spite of the lukewarm will of rich countries to free up enough funding, allowing equitable market access, I would note that Burkina Faso has benefited from the assistance of the international community, mainly focused on financing developmental projects and programmes. So it is appropriate for me to welcome the community of partners involved in my country and to ask them for an even more vigorous and harmonious participation.

The issue of partnership for development has been one of the major concerns of the Monterrey Conference. In fact, an effective partnership is vital in order to generate a long-term sustainable path of progress. And so in this area, it is important not only to increase external supports and volume but also to improve the quality of the assistance and to take into consideration the priorities of beneficiary countries under the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness.

Moreover, our conviction is affirmed that the instability of international financial markets, as we are currently experiencing it, is an instruction to regulators, particularly the Bretton Woods institutions, to readjust the mechanisms of the financial system. This type of reorganization/reorientation would allow us to do a better job of preventing financial crises and help economies and developing countries, as well as support those economies that are most vulnerable in dealing with the deleterious effects of commodity price fluctuations.

And so Africa wishes to be fully associated with decision making on the critical reorganization of the international financial system. Moreover, we must highlight among global priorities the Millennium Development Goals and all international objectives having to do with development, including the successful conclusion of the Doha Round of negotiations. It is my hope that, together, as we leave this Conference, we will be able to commit ourselves with more determination, commit ourselves with true solidarity, so that we may implement the commitments of Monterrey more quickly and take up the challenges of development, thereby making it possible to achieve the Millennium Development Goals on time, by 2015.

Burundi

Statement by
His Excellency
Mr. Pierre Nkurunziza
President of the Republic of Burundi

29 November 2008

We would like to express to the people of India our sympathies following the terrorist attacks and to offer our deepest condolences to the families of the victims.

Mr. President, I should like to add my voice to those of previous speakers in congratulating you on your election. We firmly believe that your experience will allow this Conference to have a promising outcome. We would also like to pay special tribute to the United Nations and to its Secretary-General, Mr. Ban Ki-moon, for his commitment and the efforts he is making in favour of peace and the reduction of poverty throughout the world. It is our wish that the work of this Conference will lead to practical decisions that will achieve the aspirations of humanity as a whole, for the well-being of all, in a climate of cooperation and solidarity.

My country, Burundi, has just emerged from a civil war that lasted for more than ten years, causing the deaths of many people and leading to an increase in the number of widows and orphans. It also wiped out considerable infrastructure, led to internally displaced peoples and destroyed the social fabric. Burundi has now drawn a major lesson from its history. Our Government is firmly convinced that dialogue is the main way to achieve reconciliation between the sons and daughters of our nation and to attain a lasting peace.

This is the very first time in the history of Burundi that it has enjoyed more than three years with democratically elected institutions. The hope in a better future for Burundi and its people is now possible because steps have been taken by our

Government for peace, stability and national unity; it has taken the proper measures to ensure that people enjoy the benefits of peace.

Amongst these measures, the Government has promoted education, infrastructure, agriculture, free health care for children up to five years of age and for pregnant women, and has provided infrastructure for public health. We welcome the fact that the people of Burundi have supported these measures by building many schools, while the Government has provided material that has been difficult to obtain, including cement and other resources. This is the moment to thank, in particular, the Secretary-General of the United Nations for his commitment to the cause of peace and development, which he has continued to demonstrate to our country, by helping it to consolidate peace and stability.

The current global economic situation requires that all States should enhance their relations of cooperation and solidarity in order to establish a fair and balanced economic order that allows us to establish a genuine partnership between developing and advanced countries, resulting in enhanced security and stability throughout the world. We firmly believe that in face of the growing gap between industrialized and developing countries, there is a need to undertake measures which will allow all States to catch up with technological progress and to draw benefits from the possibilities that are opened up by the computer revolution and by economic changes that are more and more rapid.

Burundi welcomed with considerable enthusiasm the challenge that is represented by the Millennium Development Goals that were adopted in 2000, and which were reasserted in the outcome document of the meeting of Heads of State and Government in September 2005. We are glad to be able to tell you that with the policy of free primary education and health care for children up to the age of five years, and for pregnant women through childbirth, Burundi has made considerable progress; however, it needs to be supported.

While thanking those countries and peoples that have helped us since the launch of this policy in 2005, we would like to call for international solidarity because it requires considerable government resources which we cannot find on our own. Yes, indeed, the World Solidarity Fund for Poverty Eradication and the Promotion of Social and Human Development, as well as the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, do exist. However, despite these initiatives, the progress that has been made has been mixed. We therefore make an appeal to developed countries that have not yet done so to implement the promise of allocating 0.7 per cent of their gross national income to official development assistance.

I would like to close by expressing the hope that this international Conference will be a major step forward in establishing international relations that embody these objectives and that prepare a better future for humanity as a whole. Long live international cooperation! Long live North-South cooperation!

Cambodia

Statement by
His Excellency
Mr. Keat Chhon
Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Economy and Finance, the Kingdom of Cambodia

30 November 2008

We are really pleased to represent Cambodia at this very important and timely Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus. At the outset, we would like to join other speakers in expressing our deep gratitude to the Government and people of the State of Qatar for their warm hospitality, and to the Financing for Development Office for organizing this important Conference. We would also like to extend our sympathy to the Indian people and Government and to the families of the victims of the tragic events in Mumbai.

Given time constraints, I will not read my whole statement, which I would like to submit to the Secretariat for the record and circulation, but rather focus on the following: we are meeting today under the very dark clouds of a continually accelerating financial meltdown, of unprecedented and

unforeseen proportions, never known before. As Cambodia is moving rapidly towards integration with the global economy, we are not immune from the impact of this global crisis. We are beginning to feel the pain of high inflation, a slowing economy, decreased tourism and reduced exports, as mentioned by Mr. Pascal Lamy, Director-General of the World Trade Organization, yesterday. This has put our recent impressive success in reducing poverty at risk. We can no longer sustain the double-digit growth rates which we enjoyed in the past few years, and inflation will remain higher than we would like for some time. Our immediate concern is to protect the poor from sliding back into poverty, from which they have recently emerged.

To mitigate the negative impact of the current global financial crisis on our path of growth and poverty reduction, the Royal Government of Cambodia has adopted three strategic measures for the immediate and medium term. First, to focus on investment to enhance agricultural productivity, which will help to broaden the economic base and sustain growth, as well as accelerate poverty reduction; second, to continue to mobilize resources, including domestic ones, for investment in infrastructure, which has a high potential for promoting growth; and third, to strengthen the country's absorptive capacity to mobilize official development assistance (ODA) to finance reform programmes and development projects, using it in an efficient and effective way.

Our experience has shown that the key to increasing the mobilization of domestic resources for development is a high level of sustained economic growth. Like a number of other developing countries, Cambodia has been able to make significant progress in implementing policies which have contributed to double-digit growth rates and a sizeable increase in the mobilization of domestic resources in the recent past. We have been successful, and widely recognized for making great strides, in the area of fiscal reform through the enhanced Public Financial Management and Accountability Project.

We are putting in place various measures to increasingly modernize our budgetary process, thus enhancing the transparency of our public finance management. Under the Financial Sector Development Strategy, we are also rigorously implementing measures which are central to mobilizing domestic financial resources and strengthening our financial system.

While Cambodia is making sustained efforts in these areas, developed countries must recognize that without a substantial increase in, and better targeting of, ODA, the liberalization of trade and an end to protectionism and the opening of markets in their countries, as well as the removal of the barriers to a greater flow of foreign direct investments, our economic growth cannot be sustained. This would have a negative impact on our efforts to increase the mobilization of domestic resources to finance development.

We reiterate that the current global financial crisis was caused by the rich countries, and poor and vulnerable countries must not be made to suffer as a result. We, therefore, urge the rich nations and the developed world not to shy away from their commitment to increase their ODA to the level agreed upon at Monterrey, so that the agreed Millennium Development Goals can be achieved. We also call for faster and larger debt relief for the least developed countries and other vulnerable economies, and for an increase in the grants and concessional loans by multilateral financing institutions as the preferred instruments for ensuring debt sustainability.

We look forward to successful negotiations at the Doha trade talks and agreements on fair, balanced and equitable market openings for our manufactures and agricultural products and services. Finally, we seek the full implementation of the 2005 Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness and the 2008 Accra Agenda for Action, to enhance greater ownership and leadership in the recipient countries for the effective use of ODA. In conclusion, we would like to express Cambodia's support for the Doha outcome document on reviewing the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus. We commit ourselves to staying fully engaged to ensure its proper and timely implementation, in the spirit of global partnership and solidarity.

Central African Republic

Statement by
His Excellency
Mr. Faustin-Archange Touadéra
Prime Minister of the Central African Republic

30 November 2008

The President of the Republic and Head of State, His Excellency General Francois Bozize, who took part in the opening ceremony of the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development yesterday, has asked me to convey to you his sincerest apologies for being unable to be with you this morning. He has had to return to our country for the commemorations tomorrow, 1 December 2008, of the fiftieth anniversary of the proclamation of the Central African Republic. As I speak on his behalf, may I commence by thanking you for inviting the Central African Republic to this Conference and for the very warm welcome extended to our delegation. Mr. President, I wish to join my voice to those who have congratulated you. I wish also to express our thanks to the Government of Qatar for the warm welcome given to us and for all the measures taken to ensure that this Conference proceeds smoothly.

The choice of the title, Financing for Development, is a most apposite one. Indeed, in this time of globalization and technological progress, a corporation, even when it is very solid, has to meet new demands which require new reactions. As I thank you for having invited us here, may I just emphasize the relationship between certain issues that have been raised since this Conference started? Official development assistance (ODA) is an essential source of financing for the aims and objectives of the programme for the least developed countries (LDCs). It is important, therefore, to examine both the qualitative and quantitative aspect of effective coordination. Amongst the conditions which are necessary to achieve our goals, we need to recall the requirement for a significant increase in the volume of ODA. There is no need to emphasize the benefit here for all stakeholders in terms of economic and social results, not solely in terms of loan reimbursement. In this way, we can break the vicious cycle of debt accumulation and avoid a difficult future for our upcoming generations. This is the place to remind ourselves of our common need to involve LDCs in decision-making on development. This requires aid coordination as well as debt mitigation. The question that we have to answer is what other resources can we mobilize when it comes to ODA which are not solely budgetary in origin? This is the meaning then of the Doha Conference. We trust we shall be able to emerge with new solidarity. As we seek new resources, a tribute must be paid to France, which pointed the way with its airline ticket solidarity levy. This is a pioneering step that should be an example to all States. For its part, after this Conference, the Central African Republic will prepare consultations at the sub-regional level within the Economic and Monetary Community of Central African States (CEMAC) to adopt measures within the framework of development funding. You can rely on us to become actively involved in the movement of solidarity. Our country will be first in the line of beneficiaries. New mechanisms of funding for development must be established so that our States can effectively combat poverty. But the challenge is not just one of mobilizing resources. In addition, developing countries in Africa must shoulder their responsibility to ensure good governance of the means made available to our States and in this regard combating corruption is very important.

Despite the restrictions curbing international migration, unlike other factors leading to globalization, recent deliberations have shown that the links between migrants and their countries of origin are a determining importance in the world economy. The relationship between international migration and the opening up of trade or foreign direct investment (FDI) is a complementary one. The transfers of savings from emigrants' remittances, together with other sources of financing, provide substantial resources for southern countries as public and private aid fluctuates and drops. The return of highly-qualified migrants, under certain conditions as to information regarding levels of qualification and technology transfers, can have a positive effect on human capital in the countries

of origin. It is important to reduce the cost of dispatching remittances, as it would benefit all the parties involved: the host countries, the countries of origin and the migrants, both men and women.

As we committed ourselves to achieving the Millennium Development Goals in 2015, we have caused legitimate hope to arise in the developing world. We have no right to create disappointment when it comes to these hopes as there is a risk of worsening the North-South divide, with incalculable risks for governance and stability amongst our States. A little more than five years have passed since the Millennium Summit and progress has been achieved, but we must acknowledge that there are many countries in Africa and elsewhere whose people still live in abject poverty. The Millennium Development Goals are the best way of ensuring progress and welfare for our countries. We need stable, adequate and predictably lasting funding to achieve them. We consider, therefore, that this Conference is a logical sequel to the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, leading to the greater involvement of international institutions, and also to consciousness-raising, in order to mobilize and transfer appropriate financial resources to meet the commitments entered into at the Brussels Conference.

I wish to address a particularly important subject, that of debt reimbursement. It is undeniable that debt weighs heavily on our fragile economies. It curbs economic growth and development, which is one of the major causes of the failure of previous programmes of cooperation established to support developing countries and their development policies. We appreciate the debt alleviation measures adopted but they are still inadequate. Our countries need a new impetus. We believe that the rapid and total cancellation of all bilateral public debts and all multilateral debts of all LDCs would be a contribution to the eradication of poverty. At the same time, a development-funding action must be intensified and should involve grants, rather than loans, to a greater degree. This, then, is why we appeal to the international community, especially the most developed countries, particularly the Group of Eight. We urge them to increase their contributions to multilateral institutions, particularly the regional development agencies, the World Bank group, the African Development Fund, and all regional or sub-regional development-funding banks. While we acknowledge that our countries are largely dependent on ODA, we continue to endeavour to attract other external resources, either from FDI or income from exports, which we hope would go to more equitable markets. FDI in LDCs exists, but, measures aimed at attracting more are essential in our national development strategies. These must be supported with basic infrastructure so that investment costs can be reduced. Exports, again, must enable us to obtain these resources as well as those from ODA and private capital.

We therefore appeal to the international community so that the Brussels measures for LDCs can be implemented without delay. This Conference must not just be isolated without any connection to the past or the future. Its conclusions must contribute to the effective implementation of the commitments of the Millennium Summit and those in the Brussels Programme of Action for LDCs. It is therefore of paramount importance that the follow-up procedure for the Brussels Conference be carefully coordinated so that the development of all LDCs can be achieved and financial resources can be examined as an issue.

I address this Conference as a representative of one of the poorest LDCs. I urge industrialized countries to ensure that the ranks of our group be reduced by the next conference because some of us wish to change categories, thanks to our efforts and the support we received. On the occasion of various international conferences we have made relevant statements. We now have to "walk the talk". We have the means. If we act with resolve in solidarity, then the time that we so ardently desire will come for a true, new partnership.

Chad

Statement by
His Excellency
Mr. Idriss Déby Itno
President of the Republic of Chad

29 November 2008

Allow me, first of all, on behalf of the people of Chad, the Chadian Government, and on my own behalf, to convey my condolences to the people and Government of India for the terrorist acts which have claimed so many lives in Mumbai. Through me, Chad vigorously condemns this hateful act.

On behalf of my delegation, I should also like to warmly congratulate His Highness Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al-Thani, Emir of the State of Qatar, and the Secretary-General of the United Nations, for the organization of this important Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development.

This Conference is being held at a crucial moment in the development of economic relations and international financial ties. These ties are profoundly marked by a series of major crises. The food, energy and financial crises pose challenges to the international community and are obstacles that we must overcome. I welcome the broad mobilization conveying the spirit of international solidarity and the growing resolve to find common solutions to the woes affecting our planet.

The risks currently unsettling our global, financial and economic order oblige our States to meet the commitments made both in the Millennium Declaration as well as in the Monterrey Consensus on Financing for Development. Indeed, the international financial crisis persists. It has given rise to harmful consequences for the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus, particularly official development aid, trade flows, the debt of countries of the South and global trade.

We are here today due to our staunch resolve to eradicate poverty, to attain viable economic growth and to promote sustainable development. However, we must acknowledge that the proliferation of local, sub-regional and regional conflicts in Africa have laid waste to efforts and have reduced the scope of actions undertaken. As a result, the restoration of peace and peacebuilding in these regions remain prerequisites for the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals and allowing our people to thrive.

Since actions in 2003 for the exploitation of our oil resources, my country has devoted the bulk of its resources to basic infrastructure to underpin our socioeconomic development. Unfortunately, however, our national financial resources fall short of our needs. Therefore, external assistance is indispensable in numerous sectors in order to strengthen our capacity to better meet the challenges posed by poverty and growth. In this regard, in implementing its investment projects, Chad favours an approach based on co-financing with all our external partners.

All the efforts of our Government, already hampered by punishing natural obstacles, are further undermined by the security situation in the country, as the Darfur crisis has resulted in a massive displacement of peoples. Currently, there are more than 300,000 Sudanese refugees in Chad and 60,000 more refugees from the Central African Republic, in addition to 180,000 Chadian displaced persons.

We welcome the significant support of the international community to help secure refugee camps, displaced persons camps and the camps of humanitarian organizations through the implementation of a United Nations and European presence. May all contributing countries receive the gratitude and acknowledgment of the Chadian people. We have no doubt whatsoever that improving the living conditions of these peoples currently in distress is a major concern for many of you. We must not lose sight of the need to preserve the environment in this part of my country, which is already greatly affected by the pressure exerted by the influx of refugees.

In conclusion, allow me to recall the legitimate expectation of our peoples to see a further strengthening of the spirit of solidarity and of global partnership derived from the Monterrey Consensus. At a time when global governance has been severely affected by a whole host of difficulties, the

reaffirmation of our commitments for a more resolute mobilization of resources for development is more necessary than ever before. This is a major challenge that we can meet, that we must meet, and that we can meet together.

Comoros

Statement by
His Excellency
Mr. Ahmed Abdallah Mohamed Sambi
President of the Union of the Comoros

29 November 2008

At the outset, I would like to join the previous speakers who have spoken here at this august rostrum and express to His Highness Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani, Emir of Qatar, and to the people and Government of Qatar, the profound gratitude of the delegation of the Comoros not only for the warm and fraternal welcome they have given us, but also for the facilities they have made available for this meeting as it is so important for the community of nations to take stock of the situation regarding financing for development. I would also like to express our thanks to His Excellency, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Ban Ki-moon, for the exemplary way that he is carrying out his noble duties.

For several months, all continents and all countries have been experiencing an international financial crisis that is unprecedented, and which experts are calling the most serious since that of 1929; this has been preceded by the dual food and energy crises. This crisis today is having an effect on both rich and poor countries. If the recession affects the well-off countries with full force, you can imagine the situation for developing countries, including my country, the Union of Comoros, a small developing State which is poor and in a post-conflict situation, where all of the efforts made by the Government to reduce poverty and to achieve the Millennium Development Goals have largely been compromised.

How can we not be alarmed when official development aid (ODA), which has seen a decrease in recent years, could see a drastic fall in the months and years to come if promises are not kept? How can we remain indifferent when the likely fall in consumption and demand in rich and emerging countries could also lead to a fall in prices on commodities, which for many African countries continue to be the main source of foreign exchange? How could we not be alarmed in this uncertain time when we expect a slow down in private investments and in the transfer of funds from the diasporas, which for a country like mine are vital sources of foreign exchange? Finally, how can we continue to respond to the basic social needs of our populations while at the same time keeping our commitments to repay external debt, which places more and more constraints on our national economies?

However, paradoxically, this time of uncertainty, which is also full of challenges, has also never been so full of extraordinary promise. If we have the courage to make the decisions which could change the course of history, and which could make poverty a thing of history, the commitment of the international community to development and to respect for human dignity has shown in recent years that poverty, which is intellectually indefensible and morally unacceptable in the world today, can and must be conquered. Thus, the determination shown by members of the international community to carry out large-scale concerted action to eradicate poverty, particularly by achieving the Millennium Development Goals. This determination must be given effect.

The Monterrey Consensus was the point of departure for a new partnership between rich and poor countries, for mobilizing leaders, citizens and groups of civil society. This Consensus gave rise to popular movements, which has put great pressure on leaders. It is also proving necessary to assess world trade today, which is not favourable to development, in moral terms. It is necessary to allow African countries to have the means to make efforts on an equal footing against unjust subsidies and prohibitive customs duties through more equitable representation within the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and the Group of Twenty (G20).

We countries in development are increasingly making commitments to formulate strategies for growth and poverty reduction while respecting human rights. And we are sparing no effort to establish microeconomic policies and incentives to mobilize domestic savings, to attract international investment and to make more effective use of ODA.

Much remains to be done to keep the promises that have been made to invest in their human capital and to mobilize the national resources. And the doors of our countries are largely open to enterprises and to investments. However, in facing the current crisis, which compromises these efforts, we need assistance without fail from our development partners and we await concrete and ambitious decisions from them. We expect that the commitments made with respect to the cancellation of debt will be scrupulously upheld and that development aid that has been promised will be effectively mobilized to help the fight against poverty. We have everything to gain from this if society is more stable, markets are stronger and the global economy is well-regulated.

The cardinal principle of the Monterrey Consensus, and the very essence of the development partnership, is that States are responsible not only to the people that they serve but also to each other. Thus, we must act together so that this Conference will yield the expected results. This is an opportunity to be seized to serve the cause of development as well as the causes of security and human rights, which are closely linked. Thus, the international community has a duty out of solidarity with the least developed countries to acknowledge that they cannot live in economic distress, and that they are making efforts in the absence of universally accepted rules for all.

We are aware that responsibilities are a two-way street for rich and poor countries. Many countries, including my own, have thus made a commitment to uphold their promises, to strengthen the rule of law, uphold legality, fight corruption and develop their institutions. Developed countries, on their part, that have committed to help us must more than ever uphold their promises, particularly by making the international financing mechanism effective, by doubling aid to Africa, by mitigating the adverse effects of the transfer of private capital, which is volatile, and by allowing developing countries to be better heard and more closely involved in decisions with respect to the global economy.

We can, and we must, refute poverty because it is an absurdity which has no place in our world. I would not want to conclude my intervention without expressing the sincere condolences of the people and Government of the Comoros to the people and Government of India, and to all the victims of the terrible acts that have been carried out in Mumbai. My country condemns with the greatest firmness these barbarous and unjustified acts, the goal of which is to sow terror and chaos.

Costa Rica

Statement by
His Excellency
Mr. Óscar Arias Sánchez
President of the Republic of Costa Rica

29 November 2008

It is an honour for me to be on Arab soil, where my veins still feel the flow of the blood of the past. The Islamic world runs parallel in the lineage of all ancestral descendants of the Spanish people, who, in the midst of adventures and racial mixes, have forged what we call Latin America. My land of magical realism and enchantment holds onto its nourishing element. This is why my visit, from one of the youngest regions of the world to one of the most ancient, is also a return, a return to the roots that nourish our culture and our history. The discussion that brings us together today is one of the most fundamental of our modern times. It is a discussion with an ethical basis, a discussion on the solidarity that should govern a globalized world.

At this stage, it cannot be debated that our national destiny is increasingly determined by the progress, or lack of progress, of all mankind. Frontiers can divide our territories but they do not divide our problems or our challenges. Perhaps there is no better example of this phenomenon than the energy, financial, food and climate crises

that at the present time lead into one and the same maelstrom of pessimism and confusion. What happened on a New York Stock Exchange thousands of kilometers from the home of a Latin American, Arab or Asian mother has affected her ability to purchase food for her children. Those hectares of forest that somebody cut down in a tropical jungle meant the ruin for an Indian peasant who has seen his crops lost in the heat of a long summer. The oil barrels that Chinese consume as purchased last year have meant that a young African has had to drop his secondary school studies to contribute to income in his home. If we have collectively suffered the misfortunes of our species, how is it that we still do not share the profits? The development of all of the world's nations that we have desired for centuries has so far bought a banquet for the chosen few, where only they sit at the table and the rest of us pay the bill.

It is not correct that developing nations are presently facing the consequences of a crisis that we have not caused, but it is more unjust that we are doing this without the aid of those nations that have brought it on. Here, at this summit, all the leaders of the world have decided to come to discuss the issue of financing for development in accordance with the commitments of Monterrey. However, in this room some of the representatives of the most powerful countries of the world are absent. They are the ones who should be providing that financing. The gap between poor and rich countries will continue to grow remorselessly until we learn to be partners in good times and bad.

As I mentioned in our meeting prior to this exchange, there are three issues that Costa Rica believes are absolutely necessary to include in a discussion on financing for development: the need to maintain or even increase the objectives proposed by the United Nations, which means that developed countries need to provide as a minimum 0.7 percent of their gross national income (GNI) to international development assistance. Then, there is the need to revive Article 26 of the United Nations Charter, and the need to include in the international financial mechanisms criteria that will favour investment in human development as opposed to military expenditure.

This crisis cannot be looked at as an essentially internal or national one. Its effects have been felt in the farthest corners of the world and it is in those countries that it can create the worst harm. Incipient economies simply will not be able to weather the storm without considerable economic flow in terms of international assistance.

Developed countries have two options: either they provide resources to the poorer countries or they provide resources to combat immigration coming from the poorest countries. I believe that the first option is the most profitable and is certainly also the most ethical. The developing world is a world forever standing and waiting. Its importance has always been secondary on the agenda of developed nations. The figure established by the United Nations, that of 0.7 percent of GNI for development assistance, is a tiny figure in comparison with the budgets of developed countries. To me too, it will not lead to anyone's bankruptcy but denying it could lead to moral bankruptcy, the collapse of the bank of justice, the bank that Martin Luther King Jr. spoke to us about in one of the strongest speeches in the history of the world. And what we are talking about is morality.

Certainly, it is no badge of honour that world military expenditure is $3.3 billion a day, while a sixth of mankind survives in abject poverty. If the international community is going to discuss the issue of financing for development, it needs to start by ensuring that such financing be in fact for development. This might appear to be a tautology but it is not when some of the poorest nations of the world prefer to supply and provide for armies before educating their children; when money is being spent on a single combat which would, or could, purchase 200,000 laptops for children with low incomes; and when the purchase of one single helicopter means that those countries are depriving 5,000 children at risk of dropping out of school of a scholarship of $100 per month. Although it is painful to acknowledge, many developing nations have further turned their populations into canon by denying them the resources that they require for a dignified life and dedicating this to the military operators.

In 1946, when the smoke of the worst war in human memory was only just vanishing, the founders of the United Nations wrote in Article 26 of the United Nations Charter the following: "In order to promote the establishment and maintenance of international peace and security with the least diversion for armaments of the world's human and economic resources, the Security Council shall be responsible for formulating … plans … for the establishment of a system for the regulation of armaments." The drafting of this article of the Charter is deliberate. It establishes an opinion which should be understood in full. The expenditure on weapons is a diversion of human and economic resources, that is to say, for a use which is not appropriate, at a minimum. The Charter asked that we accept that excessive military expenditure has an infinite opportunity cost. Article 26 so far has been a dead letter in that enormous symmetry of intentions for peace in the world. But the possibility of reviving Article 26 is in our hands, in providing the content that those who preceded us dreamt up.

Our nation, Costa Rica, is a nation without weapons but it is not a naïve nation. We have not come here to pressure for the abolition of all armies. We have not even come to ask for the drastic reduction of world military expenditure. But a gradual reduction is not only possible, it is absolutely necessary, especially so for developing nations.

I know full well that no country can decide how many resources should be expended by others on arms and soldiers, but it is possible to decide how much international assistance should be provided to those countries and based on what principles. This is why my Government has promoted the Costa Rica Consensus, an initiative that would establish mechanisms to forgive debts and support with international financial resources those developing countries that invest increasingly in environmental protection, education, health and housing for their people and correspondingly less on weapons and soldiers. In other words, this initiative seeks to provide assistance to developing countries that are poor or middle income and to reward those countries for diverting less economic and human resources to the purchase of weapons as established by Article 26 of the United Nations Charter. All I ask for is your support to ensure that the Costa Rica Consensus can become a reality. At this moment in this international crisis, we will see if we are able to reward not only those who spend in an orderly fashion, as so far, but also those who spend ethically.

Friends, the history of assistance for development in the world has been for decades the history that we read of in "One Thousand and One Nights". In each crisis, at every extraordinary moment, we start discussions on change but they hang from one day to the next as the stories of the famous Arabian storyteller. We cannot continue along this path. The Millennium Development Goals were courageous words but they will never be more than words if we do not take action here and now, if we do not strengthen the commitments that we have already entered into in terms of assistance for development, if we do not comply with the promises that are within the United Nations Charter, and if we do not introduce ethical criteria into international financial mechanisms that allow us to reward those who stand for people and not for weapons.

We are still in time to invite excluded nations to the development banquet. We are still in time to share the profits of this global economy, which brings us together in its indissoluble grasp of fears and hopes. We are still in time, but we need to be up to it, up to the promise that we always have been on the pages of history.

Côte d'Ivoire

Statement by
His Excellency
Mr. Laurent Gbagbo
President of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire

29 November 2008

I would like to express my condolences and sympathy to the Government and people of India for the disaster that has hit them in the last recent days.

At the outset, I would like to thank His Highness Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani, and the Government and people of Qatar, for the warm

welcome we received upon our arrival and the attention we have been given. I would like to take advantage of this meeting to welcome the President of the sixty-third session of the General Asembly, Miguel d'Escoto Brockmann; and, Mr. Secretary-General, to thank them both for their tireless efforts in favour of peace and development.

This meeting in Doha is taking place in the context of the international financial crisis, which is mobilizing the major powers and is a source of serious concern to the world, particularly to small and developing countries. It is in this context that we are meeting here in Doha, to take stock of progress made in the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus.

Six years after this commitment, what can we say about the results? Several other conferences have dealt with the question of financing for development since the Monterrey Consensus. In this respect, I would like to cite just the most recent, and most important, initiatives: the Paris Declaration in 2005 on Aid Effectiveness, the Accra Agenda for Action in 2008, the global forum on Aid Effectiveness, also in Accra, and the Group of Eight (G8) Summit in Gleneagles in 2005. And we must note that the results in terms of flows of aid and targeting of aid are still far from being satisfactory. Although, acknowledging the efforts that are being made in terms of debt relief and humanitarian assistance, we regret that these operations have not led to an increase in the resources available for financing for development.

For Africa, in spite of the commitments made, flows of official development aid (ODA) have not changed greatly since 2004. Moreover, the targeting of ODA to social sectors and to emergency assistance does not assist the productive sector, which leads to growth and sustainable development. The Monterrey Consensus recognized that ODA would not be enough to finance development in poor countries and thus urged the search for new and innovative sources of financing. This appeal led to the establishment of tools such as the International Finance Facility for Immunisation, the air ticket levy and guaranteed market access.

This Conference is taking place at a time when prospects for development have been obscured by repeated crises, which the world in general and developing countries, in particular, are facing. Global financial markets are facing unprecedented turbulence, characterized by slowdown in growth and uncertainty about economic prospects. This does not spare developing countries from facing such a situation, even as developed countries continue to be worried about their own fate. The consequences for financing for developing countries are problematic because what guarantees do we have that we will see the promises made implemented when they were not when the economic situation was good?

For my part, I continue to believe that the salvation of developing countries lies in their ability to provide assistance to themselves against external shocks. And accordingly, I would like to recall our proposal to the Group of 77 and China during the meeting in June in Yamoussoukro in Côte d'Ivoire. We talked about the urgency of strengthening South-South cooperation, particularly in the financial areas. We believe that it is urgent to create a South development bank, a development for the South financed by our export revenues. We are prepared in Côte d'Ivoire to hold the meeting of experts of the G77 and China to examine the modalities for implementing this proposal.

One of the major problems that the developing world is getting used to, especially on the African continent, is that of debt, which continues to pose a major challenge to African policy makers and the entire continent. While welcoming the Heavily Indebted Poor Country (HIPC) Initiative, we do express regret with respect to its implementation, and to its ability to provide long-term solutions to the problems of external debt. Moreover, it is worrying to see that in some countries the resources freed up by debt relief are spent on public and social services and very little is spent on productive sectors of the economy. We continue to encourage investment in the social sectors because it helps to reduce poverty, but at the same we cannot neglect the productive sectors.

It is well-recognized that Africa makes up only a very small part of global trade. This is why one

of the major challenges will be to reverse the trend in world trade and to make trade a driving force for development in Africa. This would be done by diversifying production and exports in African countries, which largely depend on commodities that are sensitive to external shocks and to terms-of-trade instability. Development partners, therefore, have an important role to play in helping African countries to achieve their goals and diversification. To do so, it is necessary for Africa to have improved access to developed country markets. Developed countries can also help Africa with its diversification efforts by increasing financial flows and by creating infrastructure.

Finally, it is necessary to strengthen capacity building to help with trade and infrastructure. This initiative must be associated with the classical proposals for capacity building. That is a fact. That support is not enough if the interest of the donors has been put ahead of the interest of the beneficiaries.

The current crisis means that there is a need to reform the international financial institutions and to establish a system for regulation of financial markets that would be independent and would better take into account the points of view and the needs of developing countries. Africa, in spite of its demographic weight, has been insufficiently represented in organizations which take very important decisions that have major consequences for Africa. However, the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank have made important efforts to strengthen the voice of African countries in their decision-making bodies. It is essential to correct the democratic deficit that the governance of the Bretton Woods institutions suffers from, and to adequately take into account the evolution of economic realities. Parity between advanced and developing countries in voting structures must be affirmed.

Croatia

Statement by
His Excellency
Mr. Stjepan Mesić
President of the Republic of Croatia

29 November 2008

First of all, let me express my sincere condolences to the people and Government of India and to condemn the terrorist attacks in Mumbai.

We have met to discuss a topic which is both important and pressing. And I believe that I share the expectations of all of us present here that this meeting in Doha, in spite of the modest past results, will end on an optimistic note. Or, in other words, that we shall leave this place with the conviction that the world will succeed in establishing more equitable conditions in international exchange. I have in mind relations which would justify our proposition according to which the right to development is one of the fundamental human rights. More precisely, it is the right of States and their citizens alike.

But at the very beginning of our considerations, we must ask ourselves: do realistic prerequisites for that exist? Today, probably they do not, but I expect that they will come into being at an accelerated rate in the next period. My voicing such an expectation at a time when the world is swept by the global financial and economic crisis may appear to be odd, but this very crisis is the basis of my conviction. I believe that it is precisely the crisis that should open the door to the changes that have been awaited for decades when we talk about the development of poor and underdeveloped countries.

The development of these countries ground to a halt in a period coinciding with the prevalence of the so-called neoliberal economic model. It produced the request for the maximum deregulation of economic life and the least possible interference by the State in the economy. The State was to be concerned with stability and fiscal discipline and not with development. At the same time, the underdeveloped were asked to open up their own markets

to foreign goods and capital, to privatize everything, including both services and natural resources, and to adjust their labour legislation to the interests of the employers. All these are common knowledge.

Both the theoreticians and the practitioners of neoliberalism claimed that their model would balance out wages in the global economy, and that poor countries would develop faster than the rich ones. Their predictions did not materialize. Quite the contrary—the gap between the poor and the rich has even widened. This has also been tragically demonstrated by the latest food crisis. We have all felt it, but it has affected the poorest countries most of all.

When some people gave it a thought, they recalled that the richest countries developed in a way totally differing from what is being prescribed by the current neoliberal economy model. Without exception, they all protected their own production and their own markets, whether by customs or by various non-customs barriers. There is no need to list those countries individually. Still, no changes occurred. The neoliberal model donned the halo as the main weapon for the breakup of the remnants of the communist economy and, thereby, communist ideology. It was proclaimed the most important element of transition to modern capitalism. In the process, it has become an ideology rather than an economy.

Moreover, need I remind you of a proverb, existing in many languages, which says that everything is ephemeral, only interests are eternal? In other words, once the specific rules of the game are set, interests served by the rules follow in their wake. There is no need to add anything to that.

As long as an important part of the world followed the neoliberal model, as long as international financial institutions implemented it as their fundamental ideology, all efforts to promote faster development of poor countries had few chances, even those under the umbrella of the United Nations. This is also the reason why we are basically repeating what we concluded in Monterrey seven years ago, but even before that in Cancun, Hong Kong and elsewhere, at such or similar meetings. Yet, let me repeat, I think that today our chances of success have improved. Experience has taught us that no crisis can be overcome by damage control or cosmetic measures.

Deep changes have always been necessary, and the State has played a major role in them. This point has recently been discussed at great length. Thus, essential changes are being announced even in the global economic order. It is here that I see our chance, maybe even our last chance! This does not mean that I am advocating the abandonment of globalization or of the liberalization of international trade. I am not, nor would that be possible. However, let me make this concluding point: the rules must also give poor countries an adequate opportunity for development.

Although a small country of relatively modest material potential, Croatia has always been prepared to provide its own contribution to the creation of a more equitable and more humane world order. I am only sorry to note that, barring exceptions, I see no representatives, at the highest level, of those who need to lead the efforts focused on that goal, and who need to understand and accept their responsibility for the materialization of such a common venture.

Djibouti

Statement by
His Excellency
Mr. Deleita Mohamed Deleita
Prime Minister of the Republic of Djibouti

30 November 2008

On behalf of my delegation and on my own behalf, let me convey my warm thanks to His Highness Emir Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani and to the fraternal people of Qatar for their cordiality and hospitality since our arrival in this beautiful city of Doha. There is no doubt that with this important event, which is dedicated to a review of the commitments of the Monterrey Consensus, the State of Qatar has become a reference point on the international scene.

I would like to join with those who have preceded me in expressing my sadness and my compassion towards the innocent victims of the reprehensible attacks in Mumbai and to present our concerned condolences to the Government and people of India in the face of these tragic events. We are unified in their grief.

I would also like to address my thanks to the United Nations Secretary-General and his team for all the efforts leading to the organization of this Conference, the holding of which has unfortunately coincided with the current financial crisis. I am very pleased to be participating in this Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development, being held after the 2005 World Summit on a review of the Millennium Development Goals and the High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development, which was held in New York in October 2007.

The time has come today to take stock honestly of the situation in terms of combating poverty and economic growth of the countries most heavily hit by it. The holding of this Conference halfway through the Millennium Development Goals, which we have been following since September 2000, shows how important the objectives are to our strategy for economic development and poverty reduction.

We must all be aware that implementation of the Millennium Development Goals in Africa has become a genuine challenge because, according to the studies of experts, only 13 countries will reach even one of the goals. The Republic of Djibouti, unfortunately, is among those States for which the Millennium Development Goals will remain a difficult challenge to meet by 2015 without the support of our partners. With this alarming thought in mind, it is the attitude of the international community and the non-compliance with commitments by them which need to be highlighted, more particularly, those made in Greeneagles to double, by 2010, official development assistance for Africa and to reduce the weight of external public debts. The Accra Agenda for Action, developed on the basis of the objectives of the Paris Declaration, is to be an echo of these concerns, trying to study the path of financing for development according to the principles of predictability, assistance by donors, appropriation of assistance, adapted conditionality—where assistance will be granted based on the specific objectives of the receiving country—and the conditions of aid. We are aware that good governance, characterized by a legal and institutional environment that is conducive to financing by the private sector, and an efficient policy valuing human resources through policies on employment, education and health, are critical to draw in financial resources.

Today, our concern is even greater since the financial crisis that is now hitting industrialized countries is spreading like a contagion to emerging countries. This crisis has become economic, more than financial, and now we are seeing the beginnings of recession for developed countries as well as a slow down of growth for other countries. For Africa, we have noted the weak liquidity of the financial sector as well as the low degree of impact of this crisis on the financial sector. Nevertheless, economically speaking, some effects of the crisis are already beginning to be felt in Africa, with the plummeting of raw material prices that results from a decline of growth in developed economies and emerging countries. Additionally, some bankable projects could be suspended or cancelled and, in the short term, some analysts are predicting a reduction of activity in export sectors for raw materials, tourism and manufacturing. Everything militates for reorganization of the international financial architecture so that the response to this crisis will be global. Africa must have its voice heard, so that as a major player it is not absent from the new structure. Africa is not asking for handouts but rather development assistance, allowing it to be a solid and enduring passenger on the train of economic growth and human development. This crisis must not be a pretext for shrinking public assistance for development, because implementing the Millennium Development Goals is both an economic and moral necessity. Furthermore, in the end, the development of poor countries with potential will open up encouraging long-term prospects for international trade. It is the principle of win-win which needs to prevail in our partnership.

Moreover, the food crisis, coupled with the energy crisis, has dealt a serious blow to our economies, which are already fragile and have already compromised social stability as a condition of our development. Of course, healthy though the reactions of the international community are to help us deal with the harm done by skyrocketing food commodity prices, they are not in and of themselves sufficient to bring about long-lasting solutions to the crisis.

It is crucial to attack the causes of the crisis—particularly the crisis of agricultural production, caused by knee-jerk use of fossil fuels and the policy of subsidies in developed countries—rather than its symptoms.

Against the backdrop of this crisis, I would like to take the opportunity given to me to briefly present to you the economic and social situation in the Republic of Djibouti, which is strategically located on one of the most used sea lanes and is one of the least developed countries. My Government has realized since the beginning that the best way to consolidate and maintain the major bedrock of all development is peace and stability. This way, for the last 30 years, has been distinct in our country, in a region regularly buffeted by conflicts and instability. The second choice of approach is that from the beginning the Government has called for an economy that is open, one based on development of the private sector, on trade and the development of transport infrastructure. Since 2000, public-private partnership has been the model advanced by our Government where we are trying to gain advantages for development. Our geographical position, our convertible currency and membership in the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) makes our country an ideal port for roll-on/roll-off of cargo and for merchandising. Also, the Government has called for public-private partnerships in giving the management of the ports, the international airports and the free trade zone to Dubai Port World, one of the largest global port operators. This exchange of know-how has truly strengthened the performance of the port, which is now positioned as one of the hubs on the sea lane between Asia and Africa. This vision is part of the approach of regional economic integration contemplated by COMESA, because we are convinced that if regional integration is very strong in Africa it will allow us to have better integration globally. A result of this bold policy is that a growth of 5.3 per cent in gross domestic product was achieved in 2007, and direct foreign investment is increasing very much. Nevertheless, this growth is insufficient to turn around the phenomenon of poverty for now. Our efforts at socio-economic development are being thwarted by shortages of water and chronic drought, caused by climate change, that we are suffering from in our country. The expansion of the desert, reducing food and livestock, has upset the life of rural populations, while scarce rainfall is causing floods and major damage to our infrastructure. The significant actions that we have undertaken under the Millennium Development Goals are being undermined by the resurgence of inflation and by the skyrocketing prices of oil and raw materials. The Monterrey Consensus has embraced the concept of trade as the engine of development, with the central idea of more access for products from developing countries to markets of developed countries. But now we note that access to these markets has been limited, culminating in the impasse in the trade negotiations in Doha. As a result, there must be an agreement for an adequate space for a trade policy allowing developing countries to determine their priorities and strategies. Hyper-liberalization must not be imposed upon us when we are in a critical phase of our own development. I must say, in conclusion, that we are very much committed to the Monterrey Consensus and we are fully mindful that what we have to do has been going slowly but is critical for the future of our nations.

El Salvador

Statement by
Her Excellency
Ana Vilma de Escobar
Vice-President of the Republic of El Salvador

29 November 2008

On behalf of the Government of El Salvador, I wish to thank His Highness Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al-Thani, Emir of the State of Qatar, for his kind hospitality and leadership in hosting this Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development.

In turn, I would like to commend Father Miguel d'Escoto Brockmann, in his capacity as the President of the sixty-third session of the United Nations General Assembly, for the coordination and successful conclusion of the preparatory meetings of this Conference, as well as for the tireless work of the co-facilitators, Ambassador Magued Abdel Aziz of Egypt and Ambassador Johan Løvald of Norway. I should also like to thank the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Ban Ki-moon, for the substantive and logistical support of the Secretariat in the preparation of this Conference.

We would like to convey our deepest heartfelt condolences to the people and Government of India for the recent acts of terrorist violence which have taken place in Mumbai, leading to the irreparable loss of human lives. El Salvador reiterates its most energetic rejection of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and calls for the strengthening of multilateral actions to combat terrorism.

El Salvador welcomes the convening of this significant Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development, in particular, six years after meeting the commitments established within the Monterrey Consensus and at a time when the international community is facing challenges resulting from the severe impact of multiple and interrelated unprecedented crises. They have affected the economic sphere, as reflected in food and security and energy price volatility. They have also affected the global financial sphere and the environment, in particular with regard to climate change, as well as the stalemate of multilateral trade negotiations within the World Trade Organization, leading to a loss of confidence in the institutions that shape the international economic architecture.

We wish to express our concern as the confluence of all of these obstacles jeopardizes the achievements that our country has made to date in implementing the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals. El Salvador recognizes that every country bears the principal responsibility for its own economic and social development. However, we reaffirm our belief that international private capital flows, in particular foreign direct investment and international cooperation for development, are a vital tool to strengthen efforts geared towards sustainable development. Further, we remain convinced of the urgent need to adopt coordinated measures in the multilateral and national sphere to overcome the negative effects of the financial crisis, seeking to promote a broad and comprehensive approach to resolve these problems. The Group of Twenty (G20) meeting was a positive step in this regard. However, we acknowledge that in these circumstances we must adopt new measures to address this crisis. We must consider the need for all United Nations Member States to unite in finding a collective and coordinated solution to it. This Conference here in Doha is a first opportunity to make progress in this direction.

El Salvador reaffirms its conviction of the necessity of ensuring that the human individual is placed at the centre of development policies, so that human development remains a top priority in national and international political agendas. Full and productive employment and decent work for all are fundamental in order to overcome the current global economic and financial crisis. For this reason, we welcome the multilateral initiatives geared towards improving aid effectiveness and international cooperation, avoiding new conditionalities, which limit the principle of national ownership. We underscore the urgent need for a substantial increase in official development assistance (ODA) and other additional resources so that developing countries, including middle-income

countries, are able to attain sustainable development. We highlight the need to implement the proposal taken up by the Paris Club for debt swap for social capital invested in projects linked with the Millennium Development Goals and environmental protection projects.

El Salvador reiterates its acknowledgment of those countries that have met the objective of allocating 0.7 per cent of their gross national income to ODA and calls upon donors that have not yet done so to reaffirm their political commitment and to adopt specific measures in order to attain this goal.

We underscore the need for continued support for middle-income countries in their efforts to fight poverty and reduce internal asymmetries. At the same time, we recall the invitation issued to the international community to consider additional, more effective, criteria for providing assistance to them, including through implementing new and innovative mechanisms for cooperation that is better focused, as needed.

We reaffirm the significance of South-South cooperation and of triangular cooperation, as these are complementary instruments for the provision of aid. We recall that South-South cooperation has significant features that distinguish it from North-South cooperation. El Salvador acknowledges the key role played by multilateral and regional development banks in addressing the development needs of developing countries, including middle-income countries.

We also reaffirm the commitments made in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and in the Kyoto Protocol. We appeal for a further strengthening of the financing mechanisms for activities related to climate change, recalling the aspiration that such mechanisms be inclusive and equitable, and that they implement the guidelines in accordance with the principles and mechanisms of development aid, such as national ownership and alignment with national development priorities.

We welcome the efforts of the United Nations support group for the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, which is working to promote the formulation of national policies for risk prevention and disaster risk mitigation to address natural disasters as well as improve disaster response capacity. El Salvador underscores the need to further strengthen the follow-up mechanism agreed upon in Monterrey, which in our delegation's opinion has not lived up to its expectations. Therefore, we emphasize consideration of the proposal of the Rio Group, submitted during the preparatory process of this Conference, which is geared towards improving the current follow-up mechanism of the Monterrey Consensus and for the agreements to be attained here in Doha.

To conclude, allow me to reaffirm the political resolve of the Government of El Salvador to continue the implementation of the commitments enshrined in the Monterrey Consensus as well as the outcome of this Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development, which, without a doubt, will contribute to finding a comprehensive and coherent response to the challenges that we face in the twenty-first century for the benefit of our peoples.

Equatorial Guinea

Statement by
His Excellency
Mr. Aniceto Ebiaca Moete
Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea

30 November 2008

On behalf of the President of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea, His Excellency Obiang Nguema Mbasogo, and the delegation with me, may I briefly congratulate the other participants in this important Conference. Mr. President, may I echo the congratulations of speakers who have taken the floor before me in expressing the recognition and tribute that you so richly deserve, for the great responsibility that you hold in conducting this very important event.

Let me take this opportunity to express our total rejection and condemnation of the terrorist

acts perpetrated in India, which have led to the deaths of so many innocent people, and extend our solidarity in condolences to the bereaved families and the people of India.

We are living in times of great upheaval on the international front, where the trends of global ills that we have recently seen in our planet, such as hunger, war, armed conflict, social conflict, natural disasters, the great pandemics: AIDS, malaria, and other endemic diseases, the use of terrorists and mercenaries whose sole purpose is to destabilize nations and overthrow legitimate Governments, and also the international networks of unlawful trafficking of migrants, women and children and other social ills—together with the economic and financial crises, the food crisis, the energy crisis and others—undermine and jeopardize the basic principles and objectives of the United Nations. In the face of these threats, we feel that it is necessary and timely to work together to eradicate these ills besetting our planet and work, in particular, to achieve peace as an essential condition for guaranteeing the development of peoples.

This meeting in Doha is being held at a time of particular importance due to the international financial crisis, the solution of which does not appear to be on the immediate horizon. We are most concerned to note that the historic consensus in Monterrey is being undermined by this crisis. If in times of plenty in the world economy the developed countries had not yet met the commitments entered into in this connection, then we wonder what will happen now that we are entering a period of huge economic upheaval.

The reflections of the Government of Equatorial Guinea on the review of the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus are based on the following aspects: for nations such as ours, whose economies depend to a large extent on oil resources for the allocation of domestic resources, it is not only necessary to stimulate economic development but also to achieve intergenerational equity once these natural resources have been exhausted. To this end, in response to the Monterrey recommendations regarding the mobilization of national financial resources, and during the period 2002-2008, the Government of Equatorial Guinea adopted a macroeconomic and fiscal policy of a countercyclical nature based on the hypothesis of ongoing revenues and a long-term view expressed at the second National Economic Conference held in 2007, which set out strategic guidelines up to 2020. In this connection, public investment in infrastructure, economic diversification, human resources, degeneration of fiscal surpluses, the implementation of stabilization and saving funds for future generations, are just some of the main aspects of our Government's economic policy. In addition, combating corruption, good governance and transparency are crucial factors in administering public resources. To this end, the participation of civil society plays an essential role and, for this reason, we feel that Equatorial Guinea's support of the initiative of transparency in extractive industries will make it possible to improve the administration of oil revenues.

The mobilization of foreign direct investment, primarily through international financial resources, is one of the main mechanisms to promote private investment to ensure technology transfer and training of local labour, with a view to achieving sustainable economic growth. In this regard, efforts to attract foreign investment should not only be directed towards the extractive activities but also to sectors that generate added value that help to achieve diversification of the economy and thereby guarantee sustainable jobs. This will make it possible to achieve economic security and will ultimately lead to a reduction of poverty and ensure sustainable development. To that end, we must improve the climate for business and mobilize international financial resources directly towards the private sector, and we welcome some initiatives that have been raised during this meeting. We also congratulate all those speakers who have dwelt on such matters.

The opening of the economy to international trade will make it possible to improve efficiency and this is a key factor in enhancing well-being. Nonetheless, we must recognize that the intransigence of economies that have thus far dominated the globalized world economy hampers the conclusion of negotiations at the Doha Round and

jeopardizes the increase of exports from developing countries and the transition economies and, thus, the increase of the share of the least developed countries in world trade. As a result, we urge Governments to work in a sincere and dedicated manner to conclude the Doha Round in order to ensure a fair and equitable agreement, bearing in mind the specific circumstances of each individual country. Regional integration and bilateral agreements are other instruments that should be used to achieve a growth in trade and, thus, the States of Central Africa, through the Economic Community of Central African States, of which our country is a member, have made progress in this direction. Therefore, we request the support of the international community to implement the Regional Economic Programme that our community is preparing to achieve greater sub-regional integration. In the case of Africa, the international financing of technical cooperation should be directed primarily to achieving the Millennium Development Goals and combating HIV/AIDS and other diseases, such as tuberculosis and malaria. Thus, both donors and beneficiary countries would improve coordination to avoid fragmentation of resources and overlap of effort. Although it is true that countries like Equatorial Guinea have improved their per capita income substantially through oil revenues, nonetheless, the human development indicators continue to be low. This situation calls for focused technical assistance to eradicate poverty and generate a more equitable society. In this connection, our Government is developing programmes to meet the needs of the most vulnerable sectors of the population through the establishment of the Social Development Fund.

Since the adoption of the Monterrey Consensus, progress has been noted in reducing external debt. Nonetheless, domestic debt in many countries has increased and servicing this debt is a major burden on budgets and ultimately creates greater vulnerability. For my country, the foreign debt constitutes almost less than 0.5 per cent of gross domestic product. Likewise therefore, we urge the Bretton Woods institutions, and especially the International Monetary Fund, to focus particular attention on this matter. Turning now to systematic subjects, we should recognize that the world economic crisis was triggered by financial problems. As a result, it is urgent to strengthen the monetary and financial systems. Governments should do everything possible to improve transparency and the regulation of financial intermediation in an increasingly globalized world.

The world is facing new challenges: increasing food prices, the negative effects of climate change, the volatility of capital flows and exchange rates, and also swings in the prices of main commodity prices. All these lead to uncertainty and prevent a clear, long-term view. In this regard, Governments should coordinate action and restate their commitment to moving forward to achieve the objectives of the Monterrey Consensus. Lastly, we should ensure that all nations can participate in the reform of the international financial system, thereby ensuring their representation in the administration and governance of that system.

These and other thoughts show us that we should achieve the development goals that were agreed upon in Monterrey, with a view to equipping our peoples with better conditions and opportunities for achieving well-being. We hope, therefore, that the conclusions and recommendations emanating from this Doha Conference will serve as a reference for carrying out our obligations in our respective countries in a cordial environment of mutual understanding, with a view to achieving the development of the whole planet.

I would not like to end without repeating our thanks to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, His Excellency Mr. Ban Ki-moon, for his outstanding efforts on the international scene. Also, we extend our congratulations to the President of the United Nations General Assembly, Mr. Miguel d'Escoto Brockman, and our thanks to His Highness, the Emir of Qatar, Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani, for his guidance of the people of Qatar and in offering hospitality for this event in the beautiful city of Doha. We also thank the organizing committee and all those who have directly or indirectly contributed to the Conference.

European Commission

Statement by
Mr. José Manuel Barroso
President of the European Commission

29 November 2008

I fear I must begin on a somber note, by offering my sincerest thoughts of solidarity and condolence to the Government and people of India for the terrible attacks they have suffered in Mumbai and, of course, in particular to the victims and their families. The terrorists have hit out at the most populous democratic state in the world, and they must understand that we will always stand together to oppose terror. Those who act in such a barbarous manner must never prevail.

As we meet here in Doha, we confront an unprecedented global financial crisis, hundreds of millions of people facing extreme poverty, the challenge of climate change, global concerns about food and energy security, stalled World Trade Organization talks for a new trade round, and the reality of economic recession for many economies. So we are facing a global and multi-dimensional crisis and we have to address it in a truly multilateral manner. That is why I really welcome and congratulate Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon for the leadership he is giving to the global community, putting so high in the agenda development and climate change concerns.

As I said in Washington, D.C., at the Group of Twenty (G20) meeting, it has to reach out to the rest of the world. We need human rescue as well as financial rescue. This is the first major international meeting since Washington, and here, in Doha, we need to build a bridge, a basis of understanding on what needs to be done between all economies, whether developed or developing. So, none of us can do it alone. We need each other more than ever. We must swim together or sink together. This global crisis requires global answers and global alliances, based on shared responsibilities. Doha is the place to build this bridge for the future. At the G20 meeting in Washington, we agreed on principles that paved the way for a response to the financial crisis. But that response should not only address the global financial and economic governance. Here, too, we need not only a stronger, more inclusive, multilateralism but also coordinated efforts for a global economic recovery and a renewed commitment to promote global prosperity, namely, through development and trade.

We must retain our commitment to reach the Millennium Development Goals under the development targets. They are all the more necessary. 1.4 billion people are living in extreme poverty, notably in Africa, on less than one $1.25 a day. I am proud to tell you that the European Union reaffirmed its 0.56 per cent and 0.7 per cent targets in the European Council this June. I join what was said by President Sarkozy, as President in Office of the European Council, some minutes ago. All donors must respect their commitments. We also have to be very innovative about financing, including adaptation for climate change, which is going to be crucial for developing countries.

This Conference in Doha and the one in Poznan that will start next week on climate change have to move forward together, hand in hand. Climate change is also part of the development agenda. We must also meet new challenges along the way. That is why I am so proud of the agreement by the European Union last week to adopt a €1 billion Food Facility, in line with the proposals I made earlier this year. This is additional assistance above and beyond the €800 million that we pulled together earlier in the year to help poor farmers prepare for a better harvest.

Finally, trade. Probably the most significant action we could take right now would be the rapid conclusion of the Doha Trade Round. Let us not forget that this is also the Doha Development Agenda. We need trade for development and the European Union is committed to improving both the quality and the volume of the Aid-for-Trade it provides to developing countries.

A successful Doha Trade and Development Round will be a major boost for the world economy and show that we reject protectionism. It will be good for development and good for the global economy. So we want to see an action-

oriented outcome this week to maintain, promote and implement the Monterrey Consensus. We are determined, as the European Union, to see this Doha Conference succeed. The success of Doha in trade and Doha on aid will be crucial for the prosperity of the peoples of our planet.

Fiji

Statement by
His Excellency
Mr. Josaia Voreqe Bainimarama
Prime Minister of the Republic of Fiji

1 December 2008

Let me begin by extending my appreciation to the Government of Qatar for the warm reception and hospitality extended to me and my delegation, as well as my congratulations on the excellent facilities provided for this Conference.

It would be remiss of me if I proceeded without joining others in extending my Government's condolences and sympathy to the Government of India and to the families of those affected by the tragic events of the last few days. These recent acts of violence and terrorism in Mumbai bring to the fore the greater need to reaffirm our commitments and promises to each other, to ensure that the economic and financial gap between the "haves and have-nots" is narrowed, that poverty is eradicated and that the dividends of global growth are shared more with the developing world.

On the home front, I have conveyed my condolences to the Prime Minister of the Republic of Korea, His Excellency, Dr. Han Seung Soo, for the deaths of four Korean nationals who were involved in a tragic vehicle accident in Fiji. To their families, I wish to express the condolences of the Government and the people of Fiji.

We are meeting at a moment when the stability of the global financial system has been badly shaken and threatened by the financial crisis. The second-round effects of this crisis on our different economies are still unfolding, and to most developing countries these will exacerbate the adverse impact brought about by the increased food insecurity and volatility of commodity prices. These unfavourable developments will put a strain on our economies and could further weaken our capacity to deliver on some of our Millennium Development Goals.

In this regard, the convening of this International Conference as a follow-up to the Monterrey International Conference on Financing for Development is a timely and appropriate one, and I congratulate the United Nations Secretary-General for the arrangement of this meeting.

I would like to join those earlier speakers who have called for more official development (ODA) flows, and for our development partners to deliver on the commitments made in Monterrey, Mexico, in 2002. We cannot over-emphasize the importance of these commitments in supporting our endeavour to eradicate poverty in our own developing economies. While the quantum of ODA is critical, its effectiveness and implementation are perhaps more important. The 2005 Paris Declaration stresses that aid effectiveness can be enhanced by increased recognition and alignment of procedures and processes for delivering external assistance to local systems. While increased harmonization to local systems has generally been accepted to increase aid effectiveness, very slow progress has been made. I also wish to add that our development partners need to place greater recognition in using local human resources when delivering aid. They play an effective role in reducing transactional costs.

I recognize the primary responsibilities of developing countries to design and own their national policies and strategies to development. In this process, we recognize the inextricable links between our domestic economies to the global economic system. We, in Fiji, like other developing countries, continue to review our development policies and strategies to assist us in addressing our own economic and political challenges. We continue to pursue reforms on the fiscal front, including tax reforms, to encourage private investments and enhance transparency in public finance management.

Recently, fiscal measures were announced to assist the poor in absorbing the impact of rising food prices. These include the reduction of fiscal duties on basic food items and the raising of the tax threshold. The management of the national budget has now been strengthened by centralizing budget information and monitoring the spending of all Government ministries through a new financial management information system.

In the 2009 budget, additional incentive measures were announced in various areas, particularly in the agricultural sector. These are aimed at attracting private investment funds to increase the productivity of the agriculture sector and our land resources. In this policy, we recognize that the mobilization and more effective use of domestic resources are critical to increasing growth and domestic wealth. But, most times, our efforts to ensure an environment conducive for investments are constrained by the level of domestic resources we channel into infrastructure development, especially in the rural area. This is where we can unleash the economic potential that can generate more economic opportunities for our people, and in an area where we fervently believe our development partners can support us.

At this juncture, I would like to recognize the contributions of a few understanding bilateral partners that have stayed engaged, true to their commitments to see us progress, and who continue to provide funds for the development of our small island economy, in the midst of our political challenges.

I reaffirm my Government's commitment to continue to bring peace and security to all our people and to ensure that respect for human rights continues to prevail. My Government has progressed well towards finding a home-grown solution to our political challenges in communicating and consulting with the people of Fiji through the national charter process. To our development partners, I cannot stress enough the importance of understanding and patience in these challenging times in Fiji's history. I remain fully committed to this process and its outcomes. We will continue to seek the engagement of our multilateral partners, where appropriate, to support us in achieving our desired and collective goals.

I reiterate the calls made by a few small island economies for greater recognition of small island States, like ours. We tend to be forgotten and obscured from international aid, and trade and development policies. In this regard, we support an early conclusion to the Doha Development Round of trade negotiations, with a sharpened focus on the management of the impact of international trade on small island states like Fiji. I would add that in any new trade agreement greater emphasis should be placed on increasing the opportunities for small island States to widen and deepen their export bases, with better conditions to access bigger markets.

We, in Fiji, have continued to ensure a sound, well-regulated and inclusive financial system, which is central to mobilizing domestic resources and accumulating savings that can be channelled to sound growth-generating projects. But, the failure of the international monetary and financial system to detect early warning signs of the recent financial meltdown is of great concern to us and our financial system. I, therefore, fully support reforms in our Bretton Woods institutions and welcome the initiative taken by the United Nations to set up a Commission to review the workings of the global financial system. I urge the Commission to take on board the interests and vulnerabilities of small island economies, like Fiji.

Mr. President, I submit the above issues for consideration, and I thank you very much for your attention.

France

Statement by
His Excellency
Mr. Nicolas Sarkozy
President of the French Republic
(on behalf of the European Council)

29 November 2008

As President of the European Council, my role here was to be in Doha. This is my place to tell you without any ambiguity whatsoever that development of countries that most need it cannot be sacrificed

to the economic crisis. Given this unprecedented financial crisis, in addition to an economic crisis which is also unprecedented, Europe called for the meeting of the Group of Twenty (G20), which took place in Washington, D.C. Europe wanted the African Union to be represented through its chairman; we wanted the Chairman of the African Union to be present at that meeting. Unfortunately, that did not happen. Europe also wanted the Gulf Cooperation Council, through the Emir of Qatar's presidency, to also be present at that meeting, and I regret that that did not occur. I hope that at the next Summit of the G20, which will take place in London, the African Union and the Gulf Cooperation Council will be represented.

Why did Europe seek this Summit? It is because we are facing a global unprecedented crisis now. Because of this crisis we could adopt two attitudes. The first would be to do business as usual, and to continue with that policy without learning any lessons from the past. And the second would be to turn this unprecedented crisis into an opportunity to change the world, to change the world's institutions, to change the global financial system, to use this as an opportunity for regions such as Africa, in particular, to develop. In our globalized world, our futures are interconnected. The environmental world is interconnected. We countries need to develop with the developing countries. We need to restore growth in the world. We need you to do this. You need us to do it.

At the the next Summit of the G20, Europe will bring its desire to adapt the global institutions to the new political, economic and financial realities. And I say this for the benefit of the African Heads of State and Government, many of whom are present today. Africa must have a seat—you have to have your fair place—in international global institutions. The United Nations Secretary-General, France and Europe appreciate your work and we say that it is not reasonable that there is not a single African country that is a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council.

One cannot resolve the major problems of the world when a billion inhabitants of Africa do not have their seats at the table. We think that within the International Monetary Fund the developing countries must have a seat and a much more important role to play. We believe that the Group of Eight (G8) format that was useful is now obsolete. Who can think that one can resolve this financial and economic crisis without China, without India, without Brazil, without Mexico, without any South American country? And we know perfectly well how important South Africa is, but it alone cannot represent an entire continent.

From this crisis, let us turn it into an opportunity for change. This is the twenty-first century and we have been working with the institutions of the twentieth century. What do people expect us to change? You are not the only ones able to make this change. We need to help you. We need all the regions of the world, and we demand this change. And if we do this then things will change. In this crisis, we have debated this question within the European Union, but we are all facing growing difficulties, including increasing unemployment.

We decided not to sacrifice the Millennium Development Goals and to live up to the promises made in terms of official development assistance (ODA). Those promises are real because right now 60 per cent of ODA comes from Europe—60 per cent, Mr. Secretary-General. That's why I really wanted to be here today, to reaffirm this basic political commitment of Europe. Many people throughout the world talk of ODA: Europe pays 60 per cent of it, $61 billion for 2007, and it has just decided to add €1 billion for food aid to deal with the unprecedented food crisis.

Europe will keep its commitment of 0.7 per cent. That is a major political commitment. It is a political choice, which was unanimously accepted, and I call upon countries that are present here and that are not part of Europe to consider that with these social difficulties, with the economic, financial and political difficulties that we are facing, this choice must be a fundamental choice.

Gabon

Statement by
His Excellency
Mr. Jean Eyeghe Ndong
Prime Minister of the Gabonese Republic

30 November 2008

It is my honour to convey to you the message of His Excellency El Hadj Omar Bongo Ondimba, President of the Republic of Gabon, to the International Follow-Up Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus. It is as follows:

As this Conference proceeds, I would like to say to you how much I would have wished to be with you and to take part in your deliberations personally. Major internal political reasons, unfortunately, have not enabled me to do so. And so I have asked the Prime Minister, Head of the Government of the Republic of Gabon, to represent me.

I am pleased, first of all, to congratulate and thank the Emir of Qatar, as well as Mr. Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations, for having organized and greeted us at this important meeting on the critical question of financing for development. I would also like to take this opportunity in this important meeting to present my sincere condolences to the Government of India and to the bereaved families after this reprehensible terrorist action, which we condemn vigorously.

This Conference must get down to a scrupulous evaluation of the progress made in implementing the Monterrey Consensus. We should recall its contents to better appreciate the objectives sought. The Consensus divides responsibilities for mobilizing national and external resources for the purposes of development. It notes that international trade is the true engine for development. It attributes to public developmental assistance, another source of external financing, a critical place in policies seeking to increase developmental capabilities. The Consensus establishes a causal link between debt viability and growth. It calls for a retooling of the global financial system.

Of course, some timid progress has been made on a number of these points, but we must recognize that if you look at them all together the results achieved to date are hardly satisfying. We are surprised at how few tangible results have been achieved in terms of mobilizing external resources. While net transfers to developing countries have continued to progress, we must still note that only the least developed countries are truly the real beneficiaries of these amounts. What, then, about medium-income countries, such as Gabon, which had already talked about possible exclusion in March 2002 with respect to the objective of strengthening its national trade? Gabon can only regret the suspension of the Doha Round, which was launched in 2001 by the World Trade Organization, and was supposed to open an era of developing fair trade.

The general assessment of results obtained by official development assistance (ODA) is hardly a source of optimism either. Since 2006, the volume of ODA has been going down on a steady basis so that today not only projections for years to come remain well below the volumes of assistance necessary to implement the Millennium Development Goals, but it is regrettable to note as well that up to now only one country, Norway, has gone beyond the threshold of 0.7 per cent of gross national income, enshrined by the Monterrey Consensus. Beyond these hardly flattering statements, we must admit that some significant progress has been made and this should be welcomed, such as the innovative approaches which have emerged for financing developments. We should be pleased with that, of course. But the efforts made should be extended to other sectors just as critical, particularly on questions of the environment, and our country is paying specific attention to this. For example, among other things, we are establishing a carbon fund.

Whatever the record might be, the Monterrey Consensus must be consolidated. So it is from this standpoint that my country has been resolutely determined to respect commitments contracted in this framework. In fact, year after year, Gabon has been resolutely committed to improving its economy. By better mobilizing national financial

resources, the Government has been continuing to consolidate its macroeconomic framework, thus allowing it to achieve a satisfactory gross domestic growth product rate. It is also doggedly pursuing its efforts to improve public finance. In addition, in order to make better use of our natural resources, we are unswervingly implementing an economic policy that is favourable to direct foreign investments.

With respect to the viability of the debt, Gabon has reached an accord on the early retirement of its external public debts in an agreement with creditors of the Paris Club. This operation had the major advantage of reducing debt servicing and improving the profile of our country. It has also allowed Gabon to have access to international capital markets and has assisted in developing the regional financial markets. My country remains deeply committed to the Monterrey Consensus and we are available to assist in its implementation, bearing in mind, of course, the challenges related to the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals, such as the food crisis and the global financial crisis, which risk mortgaging success in this area.

We must courageously and vigorously attack the dysfunctions which undermine the international financial architecture so that it will give more attention to concerns of development. I call on partnering countries to join us in a new tone in their commitments. We would like their efforts to correspond to ours, to our wish to strengthen global partnership for development.

May the Monterrey Consensus have a shared momentum, an appropriate path for the emergence of a world full of life, of prosperity and of vigour. Such is the major hope that I would like to leave you with, and that Doha will mark a phase which is of major significance and determinative in its process.

I would add that in these changes that I am calling for, and following what Mr. Lamy said just now, there is a major problem: the world food crisis. The world cannot feed itself. So that the world does not forget the priority that agriculture is, 900 million people in the world are dying of hunger. The task should be to develop agriculture, rather than to reduce agricultural production. That is what I proposed, on behalf of France on 3 June in Rome, speaking to the Food and Agriculture Organization. I stated that Africa needs to be helped to feed itself, and to help feed the world. Europe has therefore decided to open up its markets without any duties on agricultural products produced by the poorest countries of the world.

ODA is important, but at the same time we have learned that it is not the only condition for development. We must help private investment to take place. We need to help out with micro-credits. France has established €200 billion to help small African businesses. For us, the development of Africa is an absolute priority, and I would like to close on that point. We are aware of our responsibilities. We are aware of our duties. The world has just skated across a catastrophe because it reflects financial speculation rather than economic development. The world was so close to disaster because it had grown used to profits which were used by banks to hand out loans to anyone who asked for them. The world had grown used to some becoming richer and richer, whereas others became poorer and poorer.

We have a historic opportunity to change the situation, and I am making this point to our African friends. We will keep our development promises, and I am telling developing countries now that we will live up to them in Europe. We in France, we in Europe, will introduce a new balance to the financial institutions, but each country must do its part in these changes, in these reforms. The world can wait no longer.

You need our support, our economic and financial support. We need your political will. It is not that there are those who live outside the world and others who live in it. No, it is the same world. It is the same political will that is required.

Mr. Secretary-General, Europe did respond to your appeal because this was a just appeal. Europe wanted to be in Doha with our friends from Qatar because this meeting is a meeting of the millennium. We will live up to our promises. South African, South American and African friends, let us

all pull together for reform. Let us all pull together for change. Let us all pull together to reject paralysis. We are much stronger acting together. Let us tackle these causes because if we continue with business as usual the same causes will produce the same effects.

Gambia

Statement by
Her Excellency
Ms. Isatou Njie-Saidy
Vice President of the Republic of the Gambia

29 November 2008

First and foremost, I have the singular honour to read the statement of His Excellency Dr. Alhaji Yahya A.J.J. Jammeh, President of the Republic of The Gambia, to this very important and timely Conference.

The President expresses his solidarity with the Government and people of India, and, like the rest of his colleagues here present, extends his condolences to them. He indeed joins the international community in condemning this very heinous act.

Let me also express our sincere gratitude to His Excellency, the Emir, the Government and the people of Qatar, for the very warm welcome and brotherly hospitality that we have received since our arrival in this very beautiful city of Doha. I also want to express our sincere appreciation to the United Nations for organizing this very critical Conference at a time when global growth is decelerating, reflecting the three major unwelcome interrelated global developments of food, fuel and financial turmoil crises, in addition to climate change. Without a doubt, the impact of these global crises will be felt more by least developed economies, such as ours, and especially so in the social sectors and, indeed, among vulnerable groups, for example, the disabled, the old, women, youth and others, who usually bear most of the brunt.

The Gambia enjoyed broad macroeconomic stability, characterized by low inflationary growth and healthy reserve cover since the introduction of the Structural Adjustment Programme in 1986. After a pause between 2002 and 2003, there was a surge in productivity growth, with rising consumer confidence and investment supported by prudent monetary and fiscal policies. Real growth in gross domestic product (GDP) averaged 6.3 per cent between 2003 and 2007. Economic growth was broad-based, with increased value added in all major sectors of the economy, showing the effects of sound macroeconomic policies, structural reforms and efforts by the Government to diversify the economy.

However, for 2008, GDP growth is projected to decline to 6.1 per cent, due largely to contraction in the services sector, which reflects the ongoing instability in the global financial markets, resulting in tighter lending conditions and exacerbated by higher energy and food prices. These unfavourable developments, however, will no doubt lead to reduced exports, tourism receipts, remittances and foreign direct investment, all of which will surely hinder growth.

It is an agreed fact also that fast and sustained economic growth is a pre-requisite for poverty reduction. However, due to recent developments in the international economy, these pose challenges and constraints to the fight against poverty, the promotion of food self-sufficiency, the maintenance of broad macroeconomic stability and the attainment of our Millennium Development Goals.

In response to these challenges, my Government continues to implement appropriate policy measures and structural reforms, aimed at mitigating the impact of the unsettled conditions in the global financial markets and the rapid deceleration of global growth. Furthermore, to sustain the momentum of good economic performance in The Gambia, my Government is enjoined to focus on improving the investment climate in areas such as infrastructural development, creating a mass of skilled workforce, efficiency in public service and its delivery, and a free, fair and speedy justice delivery system.

We also do recognize that we live indeed in an interconnected and interdependent world, a world

in which economic transformations in one part of the world affect the rest of the world economies. A case in point, of course, is the financial crisis in the United States of America, which currently is having a ripple effect in all parts of the world—as the saying goes, "When America sneezes, the world catches the cold," and vice versa. We must, therefore, recognize the fact that no country can achieve economic growth and development by itself alone. Hence, there can never be a better time than now for us to stand together as partners in finding a global solution to the current global problems.

In order to avoid the looming threat of an additional 100 million people falling below the poverty line, we would need to mobilize not only domestic resources but also urgent international finance for development. Substantial resource flows therefore from our development partners in the form of balance of payments support, foreign direct investment and other forms of aid would significantly assist us to maintain broad macroeconomic stability, sustain output growth and increase pro-poor spending.

The emergence of non-traditional bilateral donors is also a welcome move. In addition, the resumption of the Doha Round of trade negotiations and its successful conclusion would hopefully foster an increase in exports, employment and income growth in our developing economies in particular.

In conclusion, I call on development partners to make good on their pledges to developing countries in the spirit of partnership and solidarity in order to achieve sustained economic growth, eradicate extreme poverty, improve the living standards of our people and position our nations to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. I therefore keenly look forward to greater commitment from our partners in our collective drive to make the world a better place for all of us.

As Europe and France, through President Sarkozy this morning, have reaffirmed, and José Manuel Barroso has reiterated, Europe at least is committed, and we hope the rest of the international community will come forward and complement their efforts in this regard.

Georgia

Statement by
His Excellency
Mr. Mikheil Saakashvili
President of Georgia

2 December 2008

I am honoured and inspired to be here in Doha, a stunning city that has come so far in such a short time. In just one decade, it has become a pre-eminent financial, cultural and intellectual capital of the twenty-first century. It is a great inspiration to every small country that aspires to become developed, to create a solid basis for the development of the future generations of its own citizens. So, I would like to thank our gracious hosts, especially, His Excellency the Emir of Qatar, Sheik Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, whom I had the honour of meeting earlier today.

No cause is more urgent than the one that brings us here this week. In the midst of a global crisis, we are being asked to come together to lift the poorest people from the depths of poverty and to honour the commitments we made six years ago in Monterrey. This is not a matter of charity. It is a matter of equity, justice and human rights—the very values that tie us together as part of the international community—and it is also a matter, quite frankly, of mutual survival.

In a world where the grain grown in the Ukraine feeds millions of mouths in China, where the natural gas beneath the Caspian heats homes in Cologne, and where capital from London underlies the building of a hospital in Liberia, no country is an island and we are all in this together. We gather under the darkest economic clouds our world has seen in a century. Over the past few days, we have heard the experts tell us that we are on the verge of the first drop in global production since the 1930s. Investment flows to developing countries are plunging, trade flows slowing and financial markets tumbling. This pathway of an investor, as such, might disappear altogether for a while! The euphoria we felt just eighteen months ago has turned to despair.

In Georgia, we have had our experiences with how quickly fate can turn. Indeed, there were predictions on the agenda. If you look back at newspapers one year ago, two years ago, we predicted totally one thing for the world, and then we found ourselves in totally another place. And we in Georgia have also learned the hard way that development can only be built on a foundation of security, democracy and sustainability, in the context of the strong international alliances found in our values.

Five years ago, I took over a country which was a failed state by every measure. It was steeped in corruption, cronyism and incompetence. Our people made a choice to ally ourselves with countries that shared our values and, thus, to put Georgia on a democratic path. In a few short years, we tamed corruption. According to the World Bank, we became the number one fighter of corruption among traditional economies. We moved up several dozen positions on the Transparency International list. We eradicated cronies and incompetence. In addition, we basically turned little Georgia into the fastest growing economy in Europe.

The World Bank named us the number one reformer in the world. We were the number one recipient of foreign direct investment in our region per capita. We were ranked by the World Bank—in terms of a business-related environment, business climate, the assurance credential business environment, and business regulations—ahead of every country, rising from the 147th position to the 15th position in the world this year. So, things were looking very well. Despite even the economic embargo imposed on us by our biggest trading partner in 2006, we still managed to have 12 per cent growth—sustainable growth—and we almost tripled our economy in nominal terms for the last five years.

Then, this summer, tragedy struck. We were reminded that development can be derailed from one day to the next by the violent force of a neighbouring army. As we talk here about so many critical aspects of development—from international trade to external debt, to mobilizing domestic and foreign financial resources—we should pay heed to the role of security and development. The invasion of Georgia should serve as a parable for how development depends, above all, on security. There were no winners from the conflict in August. Today, over 30,000 Georgians remain displaced by the war, joining another 450,000 who were forced to flee Abkhazia in the 1990s. And the occupying army rests just 40 kilometres from our capital, on Georgian soil..

Meanwhile, the international markets have exacted their own revenge on Russia, which has seen its equity markets lose –three-quarters per cent of their value since the invasion and are currently decimating foreigners. Foreign investors are fleeing the country and the reputation of Russia's investment climate is ruined, as well. So they did not benefit from this at all, as well. The people of Georgia, however, have proven extraordinary resilient in the face of strife and hardship. This is due in large part to the solidarity of the world community. This was generously demonstrated in an exceptional way in October when over 50 countries joined forces to pledge $4.5 billion to help revive our economy, rebuild our infrastructure and house those Georgians who remain homeless after being forced to flee during the invasion. In addition, the International Monetary Fund has come up with additional funds to stabilize Georgia's currency. Georgians are humbled by this generosity, especially at a time of grave financial stress around the world, and we understand that in receiving the world's political and financial support we incurred a profound obligation in return.

I am not speaking of the need to use the reconstruction funds wisely, well and with full transparency. This is self-evident. And my Government is doing everything possible to ensure that not a cent is wasted. I am speaking of another, deeper commitment, the one we feel to rebuild Georgia's democracy even stronger than it was before. Following the invasion, my Government understood that Georgia's very survival depended on becoming an even more open and democratic society, firmly embedded in the country of the community of free nations. To be sure, our democracy like many others is still a work in progress, but it is a beacon in a difficult, yet vital part of the world. Given that Georgia lies at a crucial energy crossroads,

an open, transparent government is of that much more importance. The Georgia we will rebuild will contribute to the prosperity and security of our citizens and to that of the entire international community. It will do so by providing sustainability in our part of the world, serving as a model for democratic development.

Each and every day, post-war Georgia moves on, one more step away from the August invasion. Our answer to the assault we experienced this summer is not closing down, is not circling the wagons, but, rather, a greater openness on many fronts. As a democracy, Georgia should have nothing to fear. As a democracy, we have an obligation to our people and to the international community to be even more open and transparent. Georgia was attacked because it was a successful democracy and had a successful economy in our part of the world, where it didn't come naturally. Our response is to make our democracy and economy even more robust ones. We will, in short, fight the specter of aggression with the most potent weapons in our arsenal, namely, our commitment to ever-expanding freedoms within our own borders: stronger democracy, broader rights of free expression, a fiercely independent judiciary, rule of law, more robust checks and balances among our democratic institutions, further liberalization, further deregulation, further combat with corruption and further economic success. So, we have learned the lessons of security and solidarity the hard way.

Here, in Doha, we do not aspire to create global security architecture, but we are charged with a task that is equally important, that is to say, of establishing a sense of true solidarity, rooted in deeds among all the peoples of the world. We must not fall short of our commitments in this regard despite the dire crisis we face. The Monterrey Consensus is nowhere near to being fulfilled. We are falling short of our pledge to reach $130 billion for international development aid by 2010, as a part of the Millennium Development Goals. Such a grand and vital vision takes true leadership.

Many times, as Georgia faced one obstacle to its development after another, I have turned to the wisdom of one of the great architects of Europe, Robert Schuman. He said, so eloquently, in 1951: "Europe will not be made all at once, or according to a single plan. It will be built through concrete achievements which first create a de facto solidarity". The same could then, and must be, said about the international community's efforts to fulfill the Monterrey Consensus. It will be built concrete step, by concrete step. It will not be easy, not at all. But I have enormous faith in the international community, just as I do in my own people, the fighting people of Georgia.

Guinea-Bissau

Statement by
His Excellency
Mr. Carlos Correia
Prime Minister of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau

30 November 2008

I am privileged to address this august assembly on behalf of His Excellency João Bernardo Viera, President of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau. It is indeed a privilege for me to express the deep appreciation of my delegation to the Government and friendly people of the State of Qatar for their warm and friendly hospitality. We are most grateful to His Highness, the Emir of the State of Qatar, Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani, for hosting us so gracefully, and for the increasingly prominent role played by Qatar on the international stage in the pursuit of lasting peace and security in the world and in promoting international cooperation for development, in particular.

At this time, as we meet in this beautiful city of Doha, which has become a world forum for international trade negotiations, and specifically the Doha Round, the international community is facing its most challenging crisis during the first decade of this century. Although it was not caused by the weakest and most vulnerable among us, its consequences are not confined to the most powerful countries in the world. The current international economic and financial crisis adds further obstacles to the already insurmountable difficulties and

even disasters caused by the energy crisis and the food crisis, as well as the devastating consequences of climate change in different parts of the world that are felt so harshly in the sister countries of the Caribbean, such as Cuba and Haiti, in particular.

Six years after the adoption of the Monterrey Consensus, which remains a historic achievement in fostering international cooperation for development based on greater equity and solidarity among peoples and nations of our world, this Conference could not be timelier. We are grateful to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Ban Ki-Moon, and the presidents of the General Assembly who served during this period, for their tireless efforts in bringing about this international gathering.

I salute the presence among us of our distinguished partners for international development from so many different countries, financial institutions, international organizations, the private sector, non-governmental organizations and civil society, that are represented here. We are gathered in Doha to generate a synergy to tackle the many challenges currently faced by the international community and, most particularly, in combating poverty and hunger in the world. It remains a fundamental question as how best to support the endeavours of the developing countries, and it should be addressed in a practical and efficient manner, in a spirit of human solidarity. Obviously, we are aware of the effects the present world economic and financial crisis might have on the willingness of our partners for development to honour their commitments to ensure that the decisions of the Monterrey Consensus are put into practice. There can be no doubt that much remains to be done. The temptation to focus primarily on addressing domestic issues by some in the developed countries, and the possibility of a return to protectionist measures, are matters of serious concern to the most needy among us. We must therefore build our capacity to adapt to the new situation and challenges by seeking new and innovative sources of funding and financing that are commensurate with the nature and complexity of a global crisis, the solution to which calls for more effective international cooperation.

We express our gratitude to the members of the European Union for their decision to maintain their strong support for developing countries and those in Africa, in particular. It is indeed important for us all to remain engaged in the fight to eradicate poverty and endemic diseases, such as HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria, which, unfortunately, continue to have such damaging consequences for the populations of poor countries. It is essential that we stand shoulder to shoulder in bringing about the most needed reforms in the international financial system, in particular, by creating new mechanisms and greater equity and larger participation in the decision-making of the Bretton Wood institutions. The developing countries and the emerging economies especially must play a more prominent role in defining the policies of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. The world economy and the international financial system cannot remain hostage to a speculation-based system, whose sole concern is to consistently make profit at any cost. Urgent changes are needed and the participation of the international community is essential here, as is political support from us all, in order to ensure the success of these reforms.

In this global village of ours, where interdependence has become a tangible reality, it is in our common interest to find innovative and practical ways of strengthening cooperation and solidarity in order to address the many challenges, new and old. We must work together; we must join hands, minds and resources in creating better conditions of living for the poorest and neediest of the world. Achieving the Millennium Development Goals by the year 2015 should remain the priority of the entire international community. We must work together in mitigating the disastrous consequences of climate change on our planet, with particular focus on the most vulnerable among us, the island States, especially. We must act decisively to combat international terrorism which, unfortunately, yet again, has taken innocent lives without distinction of race, religious belief or social background in Mumbai in India.

I would like to take this opportunity to present from this rostrum, on behalf of +the Government and people of my country, Guinea-Bissau, my

deepest sympathy and condolences to the Government and people of India for the loss of so many human lives, including citizens of foreign countries.

In these challenging times, global issues demand bold and concerted responses. International cooperation and solidarity are indeed the new paradigms of our global village. It is this reality that should inspire us in our deliberations and guide us in the pursuit of practical and durable solutions.

Guinea

Statement by
His Excellency
Mr. Ahmed Tidiane Souaré
Prime Minister of the Republic of Guinea

29 November 2008

On behalf of His Excellency General Lansana Conté, President of the Republic of Guinea, it is a great pleasure for me to convey to the distinguished participants in this important Conference the warm wishes of the people of Guinea, who also wish it every success.

I would like to express the sympathy of the Republic of Guinea to the Government and people of India, who have encountered terrorism once again, and which is a challenge to peace and security throughout the world. I would also like to express to His Excellency, the Emir of Qatar, the deepest gratitude of my delegation for having agreed to host this Conference. This illustrates once again his commitment to greater international solidarity for development. I would also like to thank the President of our Conference and the President of the sixty-third session of the General Assembly, as well as the United Nations Secretary-General, Mr. Ban Ki-moon, for having taken this excellent initiative to organize the Conference.

Allow me to speak on behalf of both the Pilot Group on International Solidarity Contributions for Development, of which Guinea is currently the Chairman, as well as the Government of the Republic of Guinea. The Government has set forth its vision on financing for development and the urgent measures that must be taken by the international community in order to achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

On behalf of the 58 members as well as the observers of the Pilot Group, it is my honour to give you a summary of the statement that was adopted at its fifth ministerial meeting, held in Conakry from 6 to 7 November 2008. In a comprehensive review of the measures it has taken since 2006, the Pilot Group highlighted the broad range of financing mechanisms for development that have been tried out. These include taxes on globalized activities, pre-financing mechanisms in the financial markets, and financing mechanisms supported by the markets, and the facilitation by public authorities of voluntary contributions coming from the private sector.

With the contribution of the solidarity tax on airline tickets, the tax on international financial transactions, the Digital Solidarity Fund, remittances, efforts to combat illegal capital flows and voluntary contributions through credit cards, the Pilot Group now has a range of instruments to collect funds. Nevertheless, coordinating and harmonizing these different mechanisms is essential in order to avoid duplication and ensure an effective global impact.

Because of the range of the challenges and the timetable for the Millennium Development Goals, the Pilot Group has decided that for the period 2009-2015 it will launch a phase of identifying and implementing new innovative financing mechanisms. The setting up of the task force on airplane tickets, the enlargement of innovative funding in sectors for infrastructure, transport, housing, rural development and enhancing South-South cooperation, and also aid effectiveness, as well as institutional reforms to enhance the effectiveness of the Pilot Group and its permanent secretariat, are all measures that are certainly the main features of this new phase.

If, in general terms, innovative financing must always respect the principle of aid effectiveness as defined in the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness, and the Accra Plan of Action of September 2008, the Conakry Declaration shows clearly how

much the added value of the sources of financing depends upon them being additional and stable, compared with traditional public assistance. With its aim to enlarge and broaden its activities, the Pilot Group is now established as an emerging force. It will mobilize additional resources for development needs that cannot be met either by traditional public assistance or by the market.

The Pilot Group, therefore, calls upon the Conference to stress the importance of innovative financing in the final declaration of Doha. It calls for the entire international community to support the spirit and the letter of the innovative mechanisms. We also express the hope that other States and organizations will join the Pilot Group to better ensure that we meet the Millennium Development Goals by 2015.

On behalf of the Republic of Guinea, I would like to stress that our Conference is taking place in a particularly difficult international context. Everybody has pointed this out. There is a combination of crises that threaten the main macroeconomic and financial equilibrium, particularly those affecting fragile countries, such as my own. They create concern and uncertainty in the financial markets and bring about new concerns for the traditional players in development.

Indeed, the opening of markets to trade and investment is now threatened by the upsurge in protectionist trends. Financial turbulence and the destructive effects on real economies are a real threat to growth and international economic relations. Food, fuel and metal prices are varying at uncontrollable rates.

Finally, we have the risks linked to climate change, which are increasing the vulnerabilities at the national and international levels. The financial crisis and its economic consequences introduce the threat of a considerable drop in official development assistance and the freezing, or at least the slowing down, of direct investment.

For all these reasons, it is to be hoped that this Doha meeting will not be yet another meeting. To ensure that this is not the case, the same rapid response that the international financial crisis has enjoyed should also apply to efforts to combat poverty and underdevelopment, which are indeed ongoing crises. It all depends on the capacity of the international community to respect its many commitments.

I would like to close by reasserting the fact that the Government of Guinea, for its part, and this despite the current very difficult situation, is continuing with determination to strive towards good governance, democracy, peace and sustainable development.

Iran

Statement by
His Excellency
Mr. Mahmoud Ahmadinejad
President of the Islamic Republic of Iran

29 November 2008

I am grateful to the Almighty, and pleased to be here at this gathering. I thank His Highness, the Emir, and the Government of Qatar, for their warm hospitality. I should like to express my condolences to the people and Government of India regarding the killing of a number of people in the terrorist attacks in India,

We have come together to discuss different methods of financing for development. But in view of the current crises, it is necessary to review together the consequences arising from the unprecedented economic crisis in the capitalist bloc. There is no doubt that knowing the root causes and reasons is the best way to address the problem. Although the capitalist bloc is facing fundamental problems, and has reached an impasse both in its conceptual and philosophical thinking and in cultural, political and economic arenas, I will focus only on economic difficulties. The main causes of the current crises are as follows:

1. The nature of the capitalist economy

The foundation of the capitalist system is based on profit maximization, without any boundaries and limits, and the omission of rules and regulations

in the name of economic freedom. Ethics, human values and justice have no place in this system. This arises from the general attitude of the capitalist ideology toward humankind and the world. If, for argument's sake, all nations of the world pursued profit maximization, would we not eventually face a dead end and collapse because of the limited resources of the earth? Thus, this economic system cannot be universal and be embraced by all nations. Only certain groups and a number of Governments can plan for a future that is based on the foundation of the capitalist system. The creation of a world of haves and have-nots, the domineering and the dominated, is the direct result of the capitalist system.

2. Unjust and imposed behavior

The capitalist bloc regards itself as the principal owner and the superior class of this world and allows itself the right to impose its standards unilaterally on others. For example, while it prices its goods by itself and imposes such prices on others by using political and cultural tools, at the same time it determines the prices for the commodities of other nations to secure its own interest by using deceptive economic ploys. The situation of the oil and commodities markets comes into play by using financial monetary and economic mechanisms, even political pressure. The capitalist system imposes its problems on others and diverts the wealth of other nations towards its economy.

3. Unlimited and frequent creation of money and paper assets

By using unfair methods of repeated money and paper-asset creation many times over—through banks, speculation and risky transactions—without equal tangible goods, services, labour and real assets, and by consuming the fruits of the excessive generation of money, the capitalist system transfers the destructive consequences to other nations. The misuse by the Government of the United States of America is sufficient enough to create a crisis for the whole world.

4. Development planning

In accordance with existing development planning, which has been borrowed from Western models, all countries aspire to have a positive balance of trade and payments, and an endless race evolves that will only take us to a dead end. The principal purpose of such a development planning system, which is a remnant and an imposition by the capitalist bloc on other nations, is designed first to swallow and digest all self-reliant economies into the global economy, and then to establish mechanisms that are tools to transfer budget deficits and capitalist inflation and distortions to others. In turn, they pump the resources and wealth of other nations to countries of the capitalist bloc. This planning system destroys culture, national values and self-reliant national planning.

5. Global financial, monetary and banking systems

Although the capitalist system tries to justify its economic policies and programmes by resorting to scientific explanations, we have seen that these only serve to disturb the balance and order of self-reliant economies and to make them more dependent on capitalist economies.

It is regrettable that the capitalist system has imposed its intentions and views for many decades in the form of absolute principles of economy and finance. It is even more regrettable that this system, led by the Government of the United States, permitted tens of thousands of dollars to be put into circulation in other countries as the prevailing monetary unit but has never allowed other parties, or even its own people, to oversee the working of the Federal Reserve system and its financial centres. Also, complacency by international monetary and banking institutions in evaluating Western financial systems, as well as their inability to predict crises, has led to the unrealistic risk assessment of a number of economies. Today, the heart of the crisis is inside countries that for years, based on the assessment of such organs and international institutions, were considered the safest of locations for economic investment. This inappropriate and unjust behavior provided an undeserved attractiveness and the concentration of activities and

resources in limited locations around the world, and the subsequent concentration and increase in global risk. For more than 40 years, these factors worked together. The consequences of creating and printing tens of thousands of billion dollars of unreal and cheap money fueled greed and profiteering from speculation and bubbles in the financial market. They, in turn, have imposed heavy and one-sided conditions on other countries. Today, as a result of the economic growth of other nations, and the inability of global economies to absorb more cheap dollars, the waves of this crisis have now washed over the epicenter of the crisis: in other words, the United States, some parts of Europe and, by association, economies which have had the greatest connection with the capitalist system.

Some believe that the recent developments are a great ploy or game by the United States to weaken its rivals and to attract their wealth to the American economy. Although this argument, assuming that it is true, is another reason that proves the corruptness of the capitalist system, we must note that the American economy before the invasion of Iraq was on the verge of a crisis. One of the goals behind the Iraqi campaign was to delay the economic crisis in the United States. Today, the crisis has manifested itself fully. Also, the depth and scope of the crisis are much greater than what has been reported by the capitalist media.

Unfortunately, leaders of the Western bloc, instead of learning from their mistakes due to their wrongful and bullying behaviour, have started to design and adopt two parallel measures to save themselves and to revive their ill-intended policies of the past.

First, they are trying to extend their own crisis to the rest of the globe, to portray it as global, if you will. But they are facing a crisis that came into being as a result of their own improper behaviour. They imply and act as if this crisis is a global one, hoping to compensate for their own losses by misusing the resources of other countries. By false portrayals and force, they intend to cope with their financial and economic losses by using the assets of other nations. They have dispatched different delegations to other countries, and hold regional meetings and conferences, in order to force other Governments to get involved in this crisis, to cover part of their losses. We have been told that they have even prevented the withdrawal of oil-rich and Arab countries assets from the United States and insist that $300 billion of the financial reserves of these countries be confiscated as financial aid. In the past, they made huge profits and were dismissive of including others, and today they wish to get others involved in their losses; they only look for, and speak of, partners when it is time to share them.

Second, those who are the main culprits of the existing global crisis wish to portray themselves as the initiators of a new economic system by criticizing the current financial status quo and by calling for justice and change. This deceptive behaviour is in fact the continuation of the same capitalist policy. We were expecting the leaders of the capitalist bloc to learn from the existing situation and correct their behaviour. Everyone should know that the era of the merciless, unilateral and unjust capitalist economic system has come to its end. And the capitalists' current efforts will be fruitless. Socialist economies also met with the same fate and will never return.

This is the question which we are facing. As I said earlier, after the fall of socialism and the capitalist system and the free market economy, the economy which was totally in the control of capitalists and acted in their favour has completely failed. What do we need to do to reform the world's economy?

For the establishment of a flourishing and sustainable global economy, I propose the following:

(1) All Governments, intellectuals and those whose hearts beat for the world must work towards an economic system based on real justice, respect for the rights and dignity of all peoples and nations, and on friendship and service to our fellowmen. A system of deceit, destruction of the economy of others, creation of false money, a domineering approach, speculation and creation of economic bubbles, shall have no place. The new system will be based on ethical values, sincerity, respect for others, and will contribute to justice, prosperity and welfare for all. It will not be based on unlimited maximization

of profits. The monetary, financial and banking mechanisms of such a system must especially be new and must incorporate spiritual teachings, religious teachings and non-usury practices.

(2) A new development planning scheme shall be established, based on indigenous and humanistic models, which will generate wealth from within. It shall be based on the concept of justice, and the increased and real participation of all people.

(3) We also need to resist impositions and the expansionist policies of global capitalism and call on those leaders to act in a just manner and friendship, and to renounce bullying and oppressive tactics. We must also work to prevent the tattered and decrepit existing economic system from being rebuilt and revived.

The United Nations at this juncture has a great and historic responsibility to shoulder. It must fulfill its mandate and support independent nations.

The Islamic Republic of Iran is fully prepared to take all measures to help realize the above ideas. It also extends its full cooperation to all Governments and bodies which favour prosperity and justice for all nations and the design of a justice-based economic system.

Before I end my comments, it is necessary for me to mention the oppressed people of Palestine and the dear inhabitants of Gaza, who, under the worst conditions and the atrocities of uncivilized Zionists—who, in turn, enjoy the undying support of arrogant powers—have been denied their most basic human rights. Women and children are denied water, electricity and medicine. I sympathize with the people of Gaza and Palestine and warn murderous Zionists. I announce that the Zionist regime has reached the end of the road, and by increasing its atrocious behavior it cannot save itself. In the near future, the concepts of aggression and Zionism will fade from this world.

I pray to the Almighty, to guide humanity towards a better life, under the leadership of perfect human beings.

Jordan

Statement by
His Excellency
Mr. Nader Dahabi
Prime Minister of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

30 November 2008

Like previous speakers, I wish to express my sympathy to India for the tragedy which occurred in Mumbai. We are determined to combat terrorism by every possible means.

May I express my very warm thanks to His Highness, Monsieur bin Khalifa Al-Thani, the brother and leader of Qatar, for hosting this Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development, because it is a matter of primordial importance given the economic problems affecting both developed and developing countries.

This year has seen a major economic challenge facing countries throughout the world. We have witnessed an unprecedented rise in energy prices and this has been coupled with the food crisis. The effects have been sorely felt in both developing and industrialized countries in a similar fashion. Hence, many countries have seen their economies plunge. Forecasts are pessimistic with regard to the possible worsening of the situation unless urgent measures are adopted, making it possible to overcome the crisis affecting the world today. This is why an invitation, indeed an appeal, must be put out to world leaders to shoulder their responsibilities to restore confidence in the international financial system.

The policies and reform programmes which we have adopted in Jordan have made it possible to mitigate the effects of this international financial crisis in our country. Our policy is one of openness. Jordan is a member of the World Trade Organization and we have therefore been able to increase our exports. Like other developing countries, Jordan is highly dependent on external aid as well as on soft loans, and we attribute great importance to improving our relations when it comes to aid and loan mechanisms. We have been able to fund our

development projects in order to achieve our aims regarding sustainable development. Aid has thus borne fruit and helped the worst-off in our society.

The hike in food prices will negatively affect Jordan and other developing countries. It will lead to an increase in poverty and deterioration in the living standards of our fellow citizens. It is therefore imperative that, first and foremost, the food crisis must be resolved. In Jordan, we are ready to overcome this challenge. We have, therefore, designed national strategies to increase our agriculture production and to reduce poverty. We have also endeavoured to improve agriculture yields. This is in accordance with the White House initiative of the United States administration. As far as we are concerned, the agricultural sector is the cornerstone of our national food security. It lies at the basis of our national security. If we are to overcome the challenges facing us and to achieve that sustainable development to which we all aspire, both developing and developed countries must strive together. In this connection, the meeting of the Group of Twenty (G20) in the United States is a step in the right direction. The states there account for roughly 80 per cent of world production. States throughout the world expect to receive aid from the privileged countries. In Jordan, we launched an appeal to the major economies of the world so that they will help the most vulnerable countries to overcome the food crisis and the development crisis by 2015. Technical aid and food aid, as well as an increase in investments and the opening of markets to developing countries, are called for.

As I conclude, I should like to express my deep thanks to His Highness, the Sheikh of Qatar, as well as all our friends and brothers in Qatar, for the lavish, warm reception to the participants in this Conference.

Kenya

Statement by
His Excellency
Mr. Mwai Kibaki
President of the Republic of Kenya

29 November 2008

I wish to begin my remarks by joining other leaders who have conveyed their sympathies to the people of India, following the deadly terrorist attacks in Mumbai. Kenya condemns the attacks on innocent citizens and calls on the world community to join hands in our concerted efforts to fight terrorism.

I also take this opportunity to express my compliments to the Government and the people of the State of Qatar for hosting this important Conference. We are most grateful for the generous hospitality that has been extended to us since our arrival in Doha. It is my hope that the Conference will mark an important step towards the achievement of our common goal of development and the creation of a secure and better world for all.

As will be recalled, the International Conference on Financing for Development was held six years ago in Monterrey. At the Conference, both the developed and developing countries came together under the auspices of the United Nations to forge a bold new partnership for development. In the consensus that was reached, developing countries took primary responsibility for their development through the mobilization and appropriate utilization of domestic resources. On the other hand, developed countries pledged to promote an international environment conducive to development through an increase in official development assistance (ODA) to developing nations to enable them to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, among other development objectives.

At the midpoint since the Consensus, progress on the Monterrey commitments has been one of mixed blessings. Some regions, particularly in sub-Sahara Africa, are clearly not on track, and expectations under the Consensus have not been met. Moreover, the commitment to increase ODA has not been achieved as expected. While levels of

ODA, including new commitments, increased after the year 2002, they fell beginning in 2006. Indeed, the sustained increase in aid required to meet targets agreed at Monterrey have not materialized. Furthermore, the commitment to create an international environment conducive to the growth of developing countries has remained elusive, following the collapse of the World Trade Organization negotiations here in Doha.

Accordingly, progress on the Monterrey Consensus must be cast in a less than flattering light. Many people in the developing world remain steeped in poverty and other challenges of underdevelopment. In recent times, the situation in most developing countries has been worsened by the challenges of climate change, the high costs of food and energy, as well as the current global financial crisis. These dynamics and the overall situation in most developing countries underline the need for a review of the Monterrey Consensus and the strengthening of the international partnership for development.

In reviewing the Consensus and in seeking to forge a stronger partnership, there are several considerations that require, in my view, our close attention. First, for the majority of the developing countries, consensus finance remains an essential input for the realization of the Millennium Development Goals and other development goals. The need for developed countries to enhance ODA flows, particularly meeting the 0.7 per cent target, is therefore an absolute imperative. In addition to this, there is need for harmonization and coordination of available donor funding. This is critical in ensuring predictability, proper planning and optimal utilization of resources to guarantee greater aid effectiveness.

Second, foreign direct investments play a critical role in spurring economic development through capital outlays, especially in critical sectors such as infrastructure. Many developing countries lack the ability to attract private investment flows required to finance expensive projects, which are fundamental to sustained development. The United Nations system, in collaboration with relevant stakeholders, should put together a plan of action here in Doha aimed at enhancing the ability of developing economies to attract private and multilateral investments. In this regard, we should consider the introduction of international and national investment guarantee schemes. Revised risk rating arrangements should also be considered in order to direct larger private investment flows to developing countries that cannot attract such transfers through normal market mechanisms.

Third, while we welcome debt relief initiatives under the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative and the Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative, much more needs to be done. Indeed, the resources released through debt relief are inadequate to enable developing countries to realize the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals. The gap in the availability of net concessional financing remains far too large. The situation clearly demands urgent, bolder and more encompassing initiatives to solve the external debt problems of developing countries in an effective, enabled and development-oriented manner.

Fourth, there is need for a comprehensive reform of the international finance architecture. The world needs to develop a strategic consensus on a comprehensive reform of the international financial and monetary system to facilitate rapid, balanced and sustained economic growth across the world. In particular, action is needed to increase the voice and participation of developing countries in the international financial institutions. This is essential for the legitimacy, ownership and effectiveness of these institutions.

Fifth, in an integrated and globalized world economy, developing countries are increasingly vulnerable to actions and policies originating in the developed countries, over which they have no control. This is particularly true as regards the innovative and complex financial products developed and introduced in the markets of the advanced countries. There is clearly a need for stronger regulatory mechanisms and greater transparency in the management of such new products and instruments considering the recent impact they have had on global financial markets.

Finally, developed countries should demonstrate the political will and commitment required

to break the current deadlock in the Doha Round of trade negotiations and to work towards their resumption and timely completion. In this regard, it is important to recognize the mandates contained in the Doha Ministerial Declaration, the World Trade Organization General Council decision of August 2004, and the Hong Kong Ministerial Declaration, in order to meaningfully integrate the developing countries into the multilateral trading system.

As regards my country, Kenya, it remains dedicated to the commitments of the Monterrey Consensus. Indeed, we have developed Vision 2030, which is our blueprint towards transforming Kenya into a newly industrializing, middle-income economy, providing a high quality of life to all its citizens. We are acutely aware of the massive resources that are required to fully realize our objectives under Vision 2030.

Nevertheless, although we are exploring innovative ways and means of mobilizing our resources, we will require the support of our development partners in order to succeed. Kenya, like other developing countries, can only be on a sustained growth path if increased development assistance and debt relief supplement our efforts.

In conclusion, I wish to express my hope that this Conference will arrive at concrete positions that will re-energize the international community towards tackling challenges facing the developing world. The challenges are certainly surmountable. What is remaining is a genuine commitment amongst us all to create a better world of equal opportunities for all mankind.

Kuwait

Statement by
His Excellency
Mr. Sheik Mohammad Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the State of Kuwait

30 November 2008

It gives me great pleasure to represent His Excellency Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, the Prince of Kuwait, at this important Conference. I would like to take this opportunity to extend my congratulations on his behalf to those who succeeded in organizing this Conference, and to express our thanks for the generous hospitality. I would also like to express the condolences of the State of Kuwait to the people and Government of India and to the victims of the recent terrorist acts. We reiterate our condemnation of these acts, regardless of the motives.

As we meet here six years after the convening of the International Conference on Financing for Development in Mexico, we are all facing this financial crisis that has affected all economies of the world. Of course, we know that there are many reasons for it, including financial speculations rather than planning for economic development. The endeavour to meet the needs of the present at the expense of those of future generations also fails to meet the commitment to support and assist the poorer countries in coping with disease, poverty and hunger. The international community is now called upon more than at any other time to confront the dangers of this international financial crisis and its repercussions on the international economy, as well as on the economies of the developing countries, in particular.

We know, of course, that in order to meet the Millennium Development Goals by 2015, we need to get together to actually implement the Monterrey Consensus and to increase developmental assistance from the developed to the developing countries so that the internationally agreed upon objectives of 0.7 per cent of gross national income

can be attained. In addition, the making of a just international economic system would decrease the burdens on exports from developing countries and enable them to have more access to the world market. We would also like to call upon the financial institutions established as a result of Bretton Woods to really take the developmental ambitions of the developing countries into consideration.

Naturally, the State of Kuwait is anxious to meet its commitments and also to contribute to just causes in the world. It calls for holding an Arab economic summit in January next year in order to discuss issues related to different aspects of development in Arab countries, as well as to study the repercussions of the financial crisis. We foresee in the summit an emphasis on the continuous policy of tackling regional issues and facing concerns and challenges. Undoubtedly, the recommendations and decisions of that economic summit will represent a collective social responsibility to ensure sustainable development, which we do hope will meet our common interests.

My country, the State of Kuwait, is in the forefront of the countries that extended assistance to the developing countries and the least developed countries. We contributed about 0.2 per cent of our gross domestic product, equaling three times more than the agreed percentage. Within this framework, since its establishment in 1961, the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development has contributed to social and economic efforts in more than 100 countries around the world—especially in developing countries and, more specifically, in lower-income countries—by extending loans and easy-term credit to finance infrastructure projects. The total amounts of assistance include 750 projects in agriculture, transportation, energy, telecommunications, water, sewerage, health and education, with a total value of $14.5 billion.

With an awareness of the Millennium Development Goals in 2000, the Kuwait Fund took measures to support the procedures taken by developing countries to combat poverty. It also encouraged beneficiaries to give special attention to projects in the sectors of food (and in the provision of food), education and health, in addition to projects aimed at protecting the environment. The Fund also gives special attention to supporting organizations that implement developmental projects, particularly small projects and micro projects, by extending assistance to local development banks and also to social funds. In addition, it finances small businesses and job-creating businesses, which especially contributes to the efforts exerted by the low-income population. Last April, because of the importance of giving incentives to the economy and raising living conditions in order to decrease poverty to the utmost extent possible, the Prince of Kuwait, Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, announced the initiative to establish the Decent Living Fund, with a capital of $100 million, to support the countries that are damaged by the rise in the prices of basic food products, and also to enhance their capability to increase agricultural production. The State of Kuwait allocated $300 million to combat poverty in Africa through the Islamic Development Bank, in addition to extending lots of humanitarian assistance to countries that faced natural disasters.

In conclusion, in wishing every success to the work of this Conference, I would like to emphasize the full commitment of the State of Kuwait to its recommendations.

Lebanon

Statement by
His Excellency
Mr. Fuad Siniora
Prime Minister of the Lebanese Republic

30 November 2008

At the outset, I would like to express our deep appreciation to His Highness, the Emir of Qatar, for hosting this Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus. We are quite confident that under the capable chairmanship of His Highness we will be able to make substantive progress and would like to assure you of Lebanon's continued support and cooperation in this international effort.

We would also like to express our appreciation to the President of the General Assembly and the Secretary-General for their insightful statements and for their continued efforts to make this Conference a success. We would like, furthermore, to associate ourselves with the statement made by the distinguished representative of Antigua and Barbuda, on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

We have all joined together at this Conference against the backdrop of financial and economic events of historic magnitude. The implications of the turmoil will be felt everywhere and at every level. The progress made over the last years, that brought us closer to achieving the Millennium Development Goals, is at risk of being jeopardized.

Our Conference should not be content with just renewing the unequivocal and crucial commitment to eradicate poverty and promote development, as stated in the Monterrey Consensus. It should strengthen the follow-up mechanism for the implementation of the commitments made as well as address the new and emerging challenges which could adversely impact development.

Good governance at the international level, especially within the global financial, economic and trading regimes, is essential. Developed and developing countries, alike, need to address corruption and elicit financial flows. In addition, the building or boosting of institutions both locally and globally that promote transparency, the rule of law, freedom and democracy are as urgent as ever.

No efforts spent on dealing with the consequences of the global financial crisis will fully bear fruit unless we understand the fundamental forces behind it and draw the appropriate lessons from it. What we are witnessing today are the direct consequences of the economic and financial policies of the developed world that create significant and unsustainable imbalances. Unless we take away some crucial lessons from this crisis, we are at risk of putting our global economic system to a serious test every decade or so.

The first lesson is that coordinated international regulation is essential in an interconnected world with new global threats. It has become clear that when a crisis occurs there are no longer borders or rules that would keep a group of countries or any region immune from being affected by it. This is true about financial crises and economic slowdowns or recessions, as well as poverty, violence, terrorism, climate change and many other calamities. Most recently, terrorism hit Mumbai and nationals of many countries were victims of this act of violence that we all condemn. Let me, on behalf of Lebanon, express our deepest condolences to the Government and people of India for the loss of these innocent lives, and also to the rest of the world, which really suffered the same losses. Hence, it is high time to realize that the problems we face are global and that to be effective the solutions to them should be global as well. However, solutions cannot be the responsibility of the wealthy few. All need to join their efforts, including, most noteworthily the industrialized countries. The Millennium Development Goals, which are the reason for our meeting today, cannot be met unless we exert a coordinated global effort to sincerely help achieve them.

The second lesson is the need to rethink, with a view to improving not altering it, an economic model that has sometimes emphasized unsustainable growth over fundamentals, financial innovation over financial stability and wealth of the few over inclusiveness. Policies, and sometimes politics, have often placed a much greater weight on fast growth rather than on the right growth. Furthermore, consideration of weights to the advantage of economic fundamentals, financial stability and social inclusiveness is not only long overdue but is a must today, so that our global economic and financial system is placed back on the right track.

In this respect, more coordination and better supervision of financial markets and banking sectors that protect without choking them is a must. What would be very dangerous and wrong would be to draw the wrong lesson: that more protection and restrictions are the way to lessen the painful implications of the crisis on the real economies of the developed world.

When the storm came along, we realized we were all in the same boat and that the barriers within it make us more vulnerable and weaker. If the

developed countries' reaction to the crisis is more protection, more tariffs and more bans and not more free trade, more implementation of Doha Round recommendations and more accessions of developing countries to the World Trade Organization, then they will have sadly, I repeat sadly, missed another chance to turn a challenge into an opportunity

We have managed in Lebanon—as a result of sound macroeconomic policies that were designed to handle the specific conditions that the country went through, as well as with the coordinated efforts of the Government and the Central Bank—to protect our banking and financial system from the crisis. Our well-regulated and conservative banks had no exposure to any toxic debt relating to the global crisis. We continue to believe that creating an enabling environment for private sector activity can only be done through financing productive investments, providing microcredits and access to financial services affordable and accessible to all who are capable of generating and adding value.

Still, we are not complacent. We are pushing ahead with our reform agenda, including on the fiscal front, the infrastructure upgrade and, most importantly, on the social component, in order to fortify our domestic market. We are also seeking ways to launch a private-public partnership that would implement a balanced development and sustainable growth strategy on the local regional level, thereby stimulating the inner forces of supply and demand of our nation. But we are well aware—well aware—that we do not live alone either in the world or in the global village. What was decided was undertaken and implemented at the global level. This has affected our small open democracy in the most direct ways.

As we realize how interconnected our world has become, we in Lebanon, are convinced more than ever, of the need to address the true obstacles to development in our region: I mean the continuing occupation that our people and our country suffer, and the lack of progress in solving the Palestinian problem. The role of the United Nations and the industrialized world is central to making peace and stability reign to reduce the impediments to development.

We do appreciate Conferences such as this one, as it allows our voice to be heard and, hopefully, to be considered. We, therefore, express our full support for the establishment of a follow-up mechanism and for holding a follow-up conference by 2013.

Lesotho

Statement by
His Excellency
Mr. Pakalitha Bethuel Mosisili
Prime Minister and Minister for Defense and Public Service of the Kingdom of Lesotho

29 November 2008

Allow me, at the outset, to express our sincere gratitude to you, Mr. President, and, through you, the Government and People of the State of Qatar for the warm welcome and generous hospitality extended to me and my delegation. I should also like to acknowledge and, indeed, commend the United Nations initiative in convening this important Conference.

This Conference takes place at a time when the world economic and financial environment is quite different from that of the Monterrey Conference held in March 2002. Today, the concerns are different, though the basic goals of achieving growth, development and financial stability remain unchanged. Since the Monterrey Conference, developments in the economic arena have shifted in favour of the developing countries, particularly the high-performing ones like those in Asia.

The current era of globalization has been associated with a considerable rise in world income as well as rapidly expanding trade and investment flows. For many years, the developing world, particularly the least developed countries, has not shared in these benefits. But since 2000, that situation has begun to change. Today, some developing countries are enjoying a positive economic performance, boasting record levels of economic growth, export growth and foreign direct

investment. However, despite these uplifting signs, serious challenges remain.

Although private capital flows have continued to increase, they remain concentrated in a handful of rapidly growing economies, bypassing the vast majority of poor countries, which continue to have low rates of economic growth, low levels of exports and 1ow inflows of foreign investment. Their weak performance is due to a strong dependence on a narrow range of primary commodities or low-tech manufactures, such as garments. Consequently, the economic growth of these countries cannot be sustained. Furthermore, economic growth in these countries has frequently failed to generate significant productive employment opportunities. Thus, it has failed substantially to reduce poverty.

The implementation of Monterrey commitments has, by and large, been mediocre. Delivery on the commitments to increase official foreign aid has been particularly disappointing. It seems unlikely in these circumstances that aid will reach the target of the $150 billion a year needed to achieve the internationally agreed Millennium Development Goals by 2015. The Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness of March 2005 set out to remedy weaknesses in aid delivery and architecture. But progress towards giving aid recipients greater control over how they want to use the resources, as well as on harmonizing programmes among donors, and generally reducing the cost of doing business, has been limited.

The Highly Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Initiative has helped to reduce official external debt for some of the poorest countries, but it has not succeeded in pulling many of them from the burden of debt. The Initiative itself had its own limitations. For instance, it is not only unfortunate but ironical that some least developed countries, like my country, Lesotho, got punished for being able to service their debt efficiently, while those that borrowed beyond their means to pay were rewarded with debt cancellation.

The economies of the developing world, at present, face a number of uncertainties including the problem of climate change, which poses disproportionate risks for those least able to adapt to it. These are further complicated by the current crisis in the world financial markets. We therefore urge the industrialized countries to honour their promises and fulfil the commitments which they made at the Monterrey Conference in 2002. In addition to the issues raised in the Monterrey Consensus, the developing countries need the following:

1. A commitment that while serious effort is made by donors to reach the aid levels needed for realizing the Millennium Development Goals by 2015, aid programmes will be aligned with the national development priorities of the recipient countries and that aid delivery mechanisms will be harmonized and aid made more predictable.

2. A strategy that will result in private foreign capital flows reaching a wider set of developing countries, instead of being concentrated on only a few, and a strategy that will support economic development, rather than one that engages in speculative activities.

3. Genuine discussion on ways of resolving the external debt problem of developing countries within the framework of Financing for Development.

4. Resuscitation and conclusion of the Doha Development Round of negotiations, which is now deadlocked. It is disappointing that the developed countries continue to press for greater opening up of markets on the part of developing countries while offering modest reductions in their own agricultural protection.

We call for a successful conclusion of the Doha Development Round of trade negotiations. We also call for opening up the discussion on the neglected international trade issues of special interest to developing countries, such as commodity problems and the high market concentration of export markets of developing countries.

Furthermore, we are concerned about the proliferation of bilateral trade arrangements, which undermine the efforts of the developing countries to industrialize, while violating the World Trade Organization's core principles of most-favoured-nation treatment. It is our belief that this Conference will make a clear and unequivocal commitment to expedite the conclusion of the Doha

Round so as to restore the wor1d's confidence in the multilateral trading system and in the WTO as an organization.

Lesotho is hopeful that this Conference will be fruitful and results oriented. Its outcome, however, depends wholly on the willingness of our development partners to engage in a serious dialogue on issues that threaten global prosperity and the ability of poor countries to achieve decent living standards.

Malawi

Statement by
His Excellency
Mr. Bingu Wa Mutharika
President of the Republic of the Republic of Malawi

29 November 2008

First of all, I wish to convey Malawi's deepest sympathy to the leadership, Government and people of India for the loss of life through terrorism. Malawi believes that terrorism has no place in civilized society and, therefore, calls for comprehensive international action to combat it in all its forms.

I am happy to have this opportunity to address this distinguished gathering on International Financing for Development as a follow-up to the Monterrey Consensus. I thank His Highness Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani, the Emir of the State of Qatar, the Government and the people of this great nation for the warm hospitality extended to me and to my delegation since we arrived in this beautiful city of Doha. I would also like to thank the Secretary-General, His Excellency Mr. Ban Ki-moon, and his dedicated staff for the preparations for this Conference.

I believe that we all agree that the most important challenge facing developing and developed countries alike is how to achieve sustained economic growth and to eradicate poverty. The challenge of global poverty is an issue that requires collaboration. We must work together.

We are now meeting here in Doha six years after adopting the Monterrey Consensus and under the dark cloud of the collapsed Doha trade negotiations and global financial crisis. We appreciate the opportunity to assess the progress made in its implementation, reaffirm our commitments to eradicate global poverty, and to share best practices and lessons for attaining sustainable growth and development. It is my hope that this Conference will not turn out to be another talk shop.

You are aware that as part of their commitment towards the Monterrey Consensus, developing countries have introduced sound economic and social policies to improve governance, eradicate corruption and create a domestic regulatory environment aimed at achieving sustained socioeconomic development. On the other hand, although the industrialized countries pledged to provide financial resources to kick-start macroeconomic growth and to reduce poverty in Africa, little or no progress has been achieved in this direction. Africa still faces formidable problems of access to markets of developed countries.

We are also concerned that the development dimension of the Doha Round of the World Trade Organization is now in limbo and that the flow of foreign direct investment (FDI) to Africa is not sufficient to promote greater technology transfer and improve the international financial architecture in order to protect African countries from the financial crisis.

Malawi appreciates the concrete action taken by some donors to increase resource allocation to Africa, including FDI to promote development. We realize that such aid flows involve great sacrifices for the Group of Eight (G8) and member countries of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). However, Malawi wants to draw the attention of the world to the need to guarantee more donor financing to mitigate the impact of the current global financial crisis so that more people in Africa do not slide into the poverty trap. Specifically, Malawi wishes to highlight the following:

First, Malawi is concerned that over the past three to four decades there has been a reduction in financing to agriculture by the World Bank

and other multilateral and bilateral development finance institutions. This has led to chronic food shortages, insecurity and soaring world food prices. We therefore appeal to donors to shift their mindset and to significantly increase aid and investment to finance agriculture, food production, irrigation and water development to ensure adequate food production at an affordable cost.

Development finance should also be channelled to climate change, the environment, rural infrastructure, food storage facilities, and soft loans and credits to poor as well as commercial farmers. In that regard, Malawi appreciates the European Union's allocation of €1 billion towards agriculture in Africa. This will save millions of lives from poverty, hunger and malnutrition.

I believe that an investment made in agriculture and food now will guarantee world economic and financial stability. This observation is made against the background that less than 10 per cent of arable land in Africa is under agriculture and less than 4 per cent of Africa's vast water resources are now used for irrigation farming and power generation.

Second, Malawi appeals to this Conference to consider agricultural input subsidies as an integral part of the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus. In Africa, much of the food production is in the hands of poor farmers who cannot afford to buy fertilizers, improved seeds, insecticides and herbicides. Therefore, without subsidies to enable peasant farmers to produce beyond subsistence, Africa will be harder hit by the financial crisis than is generally realized.

Third, Malawi appeals for subsidies for agriculture. We feel that each Member State of the United Nations has a sovereign right to introduce subsidies as part of its national development policy. Therefore, we understand why the American and European countries have been granting huge subsidies to their farmers. Similarly, we appeal to these developed countries to equally understand why subsidies are needed for our farmers in Africa.

Fourth, Malawi wishes to add its voice to request developed countries to facilitate the resumption and successful conclusion of the Doha Development Round of multilateral trade negotiations so that African countries would have a chance to generate adequate earnings from exports. Malawi further supports the call upon developed countries to open their markets to products from developing countries, including industrial and agricultural manufactured goods.

Fifth, Malawi appreciates the measures taken to bail out the financial and banking institutions in North America and Europe. But let us not forget the commitment of the Millennium Development Goals to eradicate poverty. The solution to the financial crisis should not divert resources away from poverty reduction programmes. Malawi therefore appeals to the G-8 and OECD member countries and Governments to understand that the world's poorest people, mostly in sub-Saharan Africa, who live in absolute poverty, need to be bailed out of poverty, hunger, malnutrition, maternal mortality, infant mortality, illiteracy, deprivation and readily preventable diseases. One way is through a fair and equitable international financial and trading system that developing countries are seeking under the Doha Round.

Let me conclude by assuring you that Malawi strongly believes that the Monterrey Consensus and this Follow-up Conference give us a unique opportunity to make a difference for future generations. This is a defining moment and a challenge to world leaders to address the issue of global financing for development and global poverty.

In that regard, the financial and monetary supervision by the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank needs to be revived as part of the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus. It is my hope that we will leave this place with a new commitment to achieve the objectives of the Monterrey Consensus and that mechanisms will be put in place to protect poor African nations against the ongoing global financial crisis.

Mauritania

Statement by
His Excellency
Mr. Moulaye Ould Mohamed Laghdaf
Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania

30 November 2008

Allow me, at the outset, to express my sincere condolences to the Government and people of India for their losses as a result of the brutal bombings in Mumbai. I also would like to express our deep gratitude to His Highness, the Prince of Qatar, Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani, Emir of Qatar, for the splendid reception and generous hospitality we have enjoyed since we reached this great country amidst these wonderful people. As well, we wish to convey our thanks to the President of the General Assembly for organizing this Conference and to the people and Government of Mexico for their great efforts that led to the success of the Monterrey Conference on Financing for Development in 2002.

Our meeting today takes place more than six years after the Monterrey Convention on Financing for Development. However, the challenges and difficulties that we faced at that point have increased today more than ever before because of the accelerating events in relation to the world food crisis. These have been added to recently by the world financial crisis, which is expected to lead to a reduction of 3.8 per cent in the global rate of growth of 2007.

As a result, some economies in the developed countries have, in fact, started suffering from a recession. In poor countries, the effect is expected to be even worse. It is anticipated that they will face a decrease in the prices of primary goods that they export as well as a reduction in the financial assistance that they receive. All this comes on top of the growing natural disasters that they suffer, primarily caused by climate change.

Undoubtedly, development in general has received great international attention, whether it was in relation to the Millennium Summit and its outcome document or to the Monterrey Conference and the Monterrey Consensus, leading to the Doha Conference today and its expected outcome. Yet, in spite of international efforts in this regard, developing countries remain far from achieving the desired Millennium Development Goals because of their difficult economic circumstances, which have been aggravated by the successive international crises that I have just mentioned. Therefore, I am going to take this opportunity to appeal to developed countries, especially rich countries, to enter into a true partnership with developing countries that takes into consideration the need to open their markets to the exports of developing countries and to remove barriers, including customs barriers. Every effort should be exerted to create a trade balance between the two parties, including, for example, debt relief, because debts are a great obstacle to development in developing countries and have a direct negative effect on the balance of payments of these States. Developed countries should also try to supply developing countries with advanced technology in all industrial and agricultural fields, as these are the cornerstones of any sustainable development.

The Government of Mauritania, with instructions from the Head of the State Supreme Council and the President of the State, has been actively working very hard, despite our limited means, in order to embody the substance of the Monterrey Consensus on Financing for Development, based on our faith that the primary source for development is each human being. Therefore, the Government of Mauritania has sought to achieve universal education and to make primary education compulsory, as well as to provide health education throughout the country, paying special attention to the youth.

We have also tried to promote foreign trade as a primary source of funding for development through the encouragement of investment in our country and by attracting investors. To this end, we prepared a comprehensive investment code that provides investors with all the necessary guarantees and a suitable investment climate. In addition, the Government has established an appropriate ministerial staff with the task of promoting investment in the country, supported by a strong judiciary and a modern banking system. In terms of eliminating and combating poverty, the Government has

created a commission in charge of food security that is tasked with combating poverty through a national strategy for its elimination. This involves financing microprojects that create income in the countryside and small villages, in order to complement the role that is carried out by credit funds and saving funds by providing credit on easy terms to citizens with limited means, as well as other efforts to develop the agricultural sector and to reform it. The Government is implementing a national plan to strengthen infrastructure, starting with distributing plots of land to residents of the slums surrounding the capital, building new roads and providing them with water, electricity and other sanitary services, as well as hospitals and schools.

In this quest, we emphasize the need for our partners in development to continue supporting us in our efforts to implement our development plans, all of which will lead to improving the living conditions of ordinary Mauritanian citizens.

The individual efforts of States will remain incapable of dealing with problems of this scale. Therefore, it is necessary, as I stated earlier, for the international community to collaborate in a manner that can confront the challenges facing us today. In the same vein, we must also tackle with strong resolve the problem of climate change, which has varied effects on development. At the same time, we appeal to industrialized States to exert efforts to limit the emissions that cause the greenhouse effect.

Mongolia

Statement by
His Excellency
Mr. Miyegombo Enkhbold
Deputy Prime Minister of Mongolia

30 November 2008

At the outset, I wish to extend my delegation's high appreciation to the Government of Qatar for hosting the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus. It is an important global event that has brought together world leaders to take stock of progress in the past several years and to discuss emerging issues for financing for development.

The Monterrey Consensus has a critical role to play in forging a global partnership for development and achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals. The ongoing global financial, energy and food crises continue to evolve in ways, and in directions, over which neither international institutions nor most Members States have much influence or control. Therefore, comprehensive global solutions are called for. It is crucial to identify ways and means to collectively survive the current odds. In this respect, Mongolia attaches importance to this Review Conference, that holds promise for renewed international cooperation and provides an opportunity to reaffirm the commitments of both the developing and developed countries regarding development assistance, as well as internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, amid the deteriorating global economy and worsening global financial crisis.

Although there have been major developments and achievements in implementing the Monterrey Consensus since its adoption by Heads of State and Government in Monterrey in 2002, the international community, particularly the developing countries, are still facing new challenges in order to sustain development efforts against the backdrop of the global crisis.

Mongolia considers that the current crises highlight the need for effective fiscal policy and sound macroeconomics management. It firmly believes that each country has the primary responsibility for its own economic and social development, and that effective national policies play an important role in bringing about long-term growth and development. In this regard, our Comprehensive National Development Strategy is a major long-term development policy that Mongolia strives to implement, in close cooperation with bilateral and multilateral donors and partners in coming years.

Increasing complexity in international capital flows and new developments in areas such as foreign

direct investment (FDI) in both developed and developing countries show that greater efforts need to be made at the national, regional and international levels in order to better utilize these sources to assist the real development efforts. Mongolia recognizes the importance of sharing best practices in promoting and attracting FDI by enhancing domestic institutional capacity and physical infrastructure.

I wish to reaffirm Mongolia's position that trade could play a vital role in promoting economic growth and development if developing countries were better placed and prepared to benefit from global free trade. In this respect, we express the hope that the Doha Round of multilateral trade negotiations will be completed soon, with due focus on its development dimensions. We believe that the international community should provide real, tangible support for the efforts of small and vulnerable developing economies, especially the landlocked developing countries, to cope with the consequences of the world economic slowdown that has severely hit their fragile, commodity-based economies.

Effective aid is an important, and often the largest, source of external financing for development in many developing countries. Effective utilization of official development assistance (ODA) and strengthening good governance and the absorptive capacity of developing countries will be crucial in making aid work for the poor and to achieve the intended results. In this respect, Mongolia is committed to the 2005 Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness. It is making the utmost effort to strengthen aid management in coordination by improving the legal environment, by adopting the Law on the Coordination of Foreign Loans and Grant Aid, and by setting up a mechanism for ODA.

Many developing countries remain mired in the vicious circle of poverty, lacking productive capacity and with supply side constraints, dependent often on a single commodity. They are vulnerable to external economic turbulence and are unattractive for commercially driven investment. Many of them are far from achieving the Millennium Development Goals by 2015. Mongolia stands committed to the implementation of its Millennium Development Goals. Recently, the Parliament considered the national report on their implementation. The progress made looks mixed: along with encouraging achievements, difficult challenges remain. In cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme, Mongolia also conducted a Needs Assessment/Costing exercise which concluded that achievement of the Millennium Development Goals would require $14 billion. Mobilization of such resources will entail increased and focused support on the part of our development partners as the total gross domestic product of Mongolia stood in 2007 at approximately $3.9 billion.

With a view to achieving national development goals, increasing foreign trade and creating a favourable business environment, the policies that promote entrepreneurship and competitiveness, harmonization of aid and other technical assistance are set forth as priorities in the Action Plan of the newly formed Government of Mongolia. Although Mongolia is not immune to the current global economic slowdown affecting many developing countries, it is embarking on a path of rapid economic development, relying on its abundant natural resources and export-oriented vibrant economy. Innovative and effective measures aimed at increasing financing for development would greatly contribute to this growth and progress.

In conclusion, amid the global crisis and its imminent negative impact crisis on developing countries, I am confident that the Doha Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development will be successful in finding common solutions to common problems, and will act decisively to fulfill the promises and commitments in implementing the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals.

Morocco

Statement by
His Excellency
Mr. Abbas El Fassi
Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Morocco

30 November 2008

I would like at the outset, in the name of the Kingdom of Morocco, to express my sincere condolences to the Government and people of India, and to the families of the victims.

His Majesty, the King of Morocco, has asked me to convey his best wishes and to deliver his statement to this Conference, which is follows.

First, I wish to express my sincerest thanks and appreciation to my dear brother, His Highness Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani, Emir of the State of Qatar, for the arrangements made for the successful outcome of this important gathering. I also want to commend our sister nation, Qatar, for the influence it carries with the international community, especially in respect of its support for development.

We are meeting today at a critical juncture in the international environment, marked by an acute global financial crisis, combined with the crises relating to energy and basic food commodities. All these factors are likely to have a significant impact on the Monterrey process. Morocco's participation in this Conference reflects our firm commitment to carry on with the process initiated by the Monterrey Consensus. The aim is to tackle the major challenges facing developing nations in the area of development financing, mainly through targeted actions and initiatives which are commensurate with the scope and magnitude of the current challenges. In this connection, I wish to praise the collective commitment that has been expressed in support of the effective implementation of the Monterrey Consensus. Developing countries have made significant headway in their endeavour to upgrade their macroeconomic policies and foster an investment-friendly environment at the domestic level.

At the international level, praiseworthy efforts have been made by donor countries, especially to support government aid for development and increase its efficiency, and also to alleviate the external debt of the most indebted poor countries.

However, there is still a wide gap between the results achieved and the pledges made, especially the commitment to allocate 0.7 per cent of gross national income to official development assistance (ODA). Moreover, there is still a wide range of obstacles and constraints facing the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus. The most significant impediments are related to indebtedness, the slackening flow of capital and faltering multilateral trade negotiations, in addition to the growing trade deficits and increasing capital flows from countries of the South towards developed countries.

Most countries, especially in the South, are now unable to keep up with the functioning of the existing international financial system, or to impact it. In addition, there is no system of economic and financial governance which makes it possible to correct such malfunctions and disparities and which would also reflect the growing influence of the countries of the South on the world economy. Furthermore, the increase in the prices of agricultural products, the fluctuations of energy prices in the global market, as well as the effects of climate change, have all jeopardized the efforts made by most developing countries and undermine their chances to achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

Thus, the High-level Meeting on Africa's Development Needs, and the Summit on the Millennium Development Goals, held in New York last September, have provided an opportunity not only to take stock of what has been achieved thus far, but also to identify the impediments and determine the steps to be taken, at domestic and international levels, so as not to miss the 2015 target.

Although certain developing and middle-income countries are on track to achieve some of these objectives, wide gaps still remain among these countries and even within the same country. We, therefore, call on the international community to focus its attention and action on the poorest countries, which cannot do without ODA. In addition,

donor countries and international financial institutions should continue to provide their support to middle-income countries.

As for the situation in Africa, the entire international community should remain concerned that, in spite of the fact that most African countries have taken bold measures to liberalize their economies, establish good governance practices and enhance the rule of law, they still will not be able to achieve the development goals without meaningful support from their partners.

Morocco, together with developing countries, is hopeful that the international community will seize the opportunity we have today to make substantive decisions with a view to giving fresh impetus to implementing the Monterrey Consensus and upgrading international cooperation for development, in order to meet current and future challenges. We, therefore, wish to use this platform to call upon the international community to lay down and endorse a precise road map which takes into account existing constraints and potential challenges.

In this connection, efforts should be made to increase the flow of development assistance and bring it up to the level set by the international community, in terms of quality, efficiency and predictability. This requires enhancing national ownership capabilities, in light of the priorities of the countries benefiting from such aid, as provided for in the Paris Declaration and the Accra Plan of Action.

Moreover, it is necessary to adopt the necessary instruments and mechanisms to identify innovative financing sources, and ensure follow-up and implementation of initiatives that have been launched since 2006. At the same time, the debt burden of developing and middle-income countries must be alleviated.

We also call on all countries, particularly advanced countries, to display the necessary flexibility in order to bring the multilateral trade negotiations to a conclusive and successful end. In addition, we urge them to undertake a comprehensive reform of the international financial system to make it possible for developing countries to take an active part in shaping financial policies and play a greater role in international financial institutions.

In its ongoing endeavours to achieve the Monterrey objectives, the Kingdom of Morocco has exerted relentless efforts to meet its commitments. Substantial progress has already been made, mainly through overhauling our macroeconomic policies.

Morocco has embarked, since the early 1980s, on an ongoing process of structural and sectoral reforms. It is pursuing an economic and financial policy aimed at fostering the appropriate environment to achieve strong, sound and sustainable growth, which is the key to achieving the Millennium Development Goals. It is our firm intention to carry on with this readjustment process, by initiating a new generation of economic and social reforms, while strengthening democratic practices, consolidating the rule of law and observing good governance across the board. We have been able to carry out these reforms, thanks to rational management of our resources and stimulation of productive investment.

As far as the management of public debt is concerned, Morocco has opted for a strategy to replace foreign debt by domestic debt, with a view to reducing the vulnerability of public finance to the fluctuations of exchange rates and interest rates on international financial markets. In an effort to promote good governance and bolster economic activity, substantial reforms have been introduced in the tax system, including the modernization of fiscal administration. These measures have been behind the good performances achieved with respect to tax income over the last few years. In addition, Morocco is pursuing an open economic and commercial policy and is, thus, supporting the multilateral trade system. In an effort to diversify and expand existing opportunities, Morocco has set out to modernize the legal framework for trade, foster a more appropriate environment for business, and implement a number of free trade agreements concluded with our major partners, in particular.

As for its commitment to the Millennium Development Goals, Morocco has managed to achieve several of them, especially those related to promoting human development, improving social

and health care services for needy and vulnerable populations, and providing infrastructure and basic facilities.

In this connection, the National Initiative for Human Development, launched in May 2005, has begun to bear fruit, thanks to a policy based on close proximity and monitoring, which is aimed at ending poverty and precariousness in urban, as well as rural areas, in addition to improving living conditions and achieving balanced development at regional and local levels. Notwithstanding these important achievements, there are still major challenges which need to be tackled, including the risk of slackening economic growth, climate change hazards, and the relative inadequacy of some social indicators in the areas of education, health and employment.

There is still a long way to go. However, Morocco is firmly determined to rise to the challenges of sustainable development, and to build on effective solidarity with the countries of the South and on fruitful cooperation with the countries of the North.

The Kingdom of Morocco is firmly committed to applying the recommendations of the final Declaration, the outcome document, which will emerge from this evaluation Conference. They will be duly taken into account in our National Development Strategy, which aims to support international solidarity and to bolster the development process which is underway in our country, for the benefit of present and future generations.

Mozambique

Statement by
Her Excellency
Ms. Luisa Dias Diogo
Prime Minister of the Republic of Mozambique

29 November 2008

Allow me, at the outset, to express our profound gratitude to the Government of the State of Qatar for the warm hospitality accorded to us since our arrival in this beautiful country, particularly in the city of Doha. I would also like to extend our appreciation to the United Nations for convening this Conference related to the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus and commend the United Nations Secretariat for the substantive and logistical support available to us.

Mozambique subscribes to the statement made by the President of the African Union, the President of the United Republic of Tanzania, His Excellency Jakaya Kikwete. Six years have elapsed since the Monterrey Conference on Finance for Development, held in Mexico in 2002. I vividly remember, as if it was yesterday, the enthusiasm, the cohesion, the harmony that drove us to the milestone agreement reflected in the final document known as the Monterrey Consensus.

Over the last six years, tremendous efforts have been made to deliver on the promises made in Monterrey, cognizant of its importance to foster sustainable socioeconomic development and achieve the Millennium Development Goals. Nevertheless, the recent review of global development achievements indicates uneven progress in fulfilling our commitments and in achieving our goals, with Africa lingering behind in most of the agreed goals. This scenario is exacerbated by the high costs of pursuing the Millennium Development Goals and the unparalleled global crisis that the world has been witnessing.

It is worth emphasizing the tremendous impact that the energy and food crises, as well as climate change and the financial crisis, are having on our economic growth and the serious threat it represents to our security, stability and development.

In terms of access to financial resources, world economic prospects also give us a very pessimistic scenario with developed countries' foreign aid expenditures declining for the second consecutive year. We note with concern the stagnation of official development assistance (ODA) in recent years, as well as its decline in 2007. We hope that the current financial crisis will not be used as a justification to reduce ODA. If the declining trend continues, in the medium term the impact will be more visible and painful in developing countries, where the lack of financial resources will make it impossible

to maintain the economic development achieved so far. Therefore, the United Nations should lead the international community, as a whole, to bear its responsibility and take the appropriate measures to alleviate the consequences posed by this clash, particularly in non-oil producing countries.

I would like to highlight the commendable efforts made by developing countries to ensure national ownership of the commitments made in Monterrey and thus fulfil their responsibilities as one of the stockholders in the process that we all agreed to successfully undertake. In this regard, Mozambique undertook measures to improve the business environment and provide incentives for foreign and national investors. Significant progress has also been made in good governance and macroeconomic policy reforms. As a result, the national overall economic performance was reasonably good in the last five years, with continued growth reaching about 7 per cent of real gross domestic product. In 2005, the Government of Mozambique had decided to align the New Partnership for Africa's Development and the Millennium Development Goals with the national development policies and priorities, through integrating them into the Government's five-year programme that reflects our action plan to combat poverty as a unique mechanism for planning and monitoring the country development.

The sustainability of our economic achievements relies on the shared responsibility between us, developing countries and our development partners. In this context, we strongly call upon developed countries to double their efforts with a view to fulfilling their commitment and making available the already pledged 0.7 per cent of their gross national income for development assistance, as well as increase the participation of foreign aid capital flows, including foreign direct investment and public-private partnership, so as to enable them to finance development programmes.

In the context of aid effectiveness, we would like to reiterate the position stressed in the Accra Conference which was held recently to see our development partners more harmonized and committed to issues like ownership, predictability, use of national systems, procurement and capacity building.

Last but not least, financing for development is not all about aid effectiveness alone. Debt relief is an issue that is still claiming our attention, at the same time as we address the urgent need for a successful conclusion to the Doha Round of multilateral trade negotiations. Those are also important elements in our joint efforts for the desired development of our countries.

It is our hope that at the end of this Conference we will be able to come up with new constructive strategies that will guide us in our task for building a prosperous world.

Republic of Korea

Statement by
His Excellency
Mr. Han Seung-soo
Prime Minister of the Republic of Korea

29 November 2008

I would like to begin by expressing my deep appreciation to the United Nations and the State of Qatar for organizing and hosting this Conference on Financing for Development. My special gratitude goes to His Highness Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al-Thani, the Emir of Qatar, and His Excellency Mr. Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations, for their stewardship in consolidating international efforts for development at this critical time.

As we were gathering here in Doha, we were all shocked and outraged by the terrorist attack in Mumbai, India. On behalf of the Korean Government, I strongly condemn these heinous acts of terrorism and extend my deepest condolences to the Government of India and to the families of the victims.

The tragedy in Mumbai painfully reminds me of 11 September 2001. In the afternoon of that very day, I was to be elected President of the fifty-sixth session of the United Nations General Assembly. The election was delayed until the next day, and the first resolution of that session was to

condemn the terrorist attacks. It is saddening and outrageous to witness the recurrence of terrorism today despite the efforts we have made all these years to prevent it.

In spite of the tragic incidents at the beginning, my Presidency of the General Assembly had some moments of enthusiasm and success as well. The Monterrey Conference of 2002 was one of them. I still recall how so many leaders of the world worked hard to reach the Monterrey Consensus, united by the determination to push for poverty reduction and to advance the Millennium Development Goals.

Now, six years after the Monterrey Consensus, though we have come a long way, our goals still remain in the distance. We are also facing new challenges ranging from climate change, the energy and food crises, to the current global financial crisis. The unstable nature of the global system makes developing countries more vulnerable. The poorest of the poor are being threatened to fall off the track towards a better life through development. This global financial crisis reminds us once more of the importance of addressing the uneven benefits of globalization, which requires constant effort to fix the volatile international systems.

The international financial system should be reformed in a way that strengthens financial stability and transparency. The international community must strengthen its cooperation mechanism to prevent a recurrence of the financial crisis and of poor countries bearing the brunt of the volatile system. Now, more than ever, given the growing share of the emerging economies in global economic activities, I hope that the voices of these countries could be better reflected in the system.

Over the past few years, many developing countries have been undertaking initiatives to mobilize domestic financing for development that have yielded tangible results. I would like to express Korea's full support for these endeavours to assume ownership for national development. We encourage them to strengthen those efforts.

As demonstrated by the case of Korea, domestic investment financed by savings and the growth of strategic industries played pivotal roles in our development. I also recognize the increased contribution of foreign direct investment and other private investment flows that expand development resources. However, I would like to point out the need to address the imbalance of the benefits and the concentration of these resources in a limited number of countries. Greater efforts at the multilateral level should be directed at channelling the private flows into those countries in need, particularly the least developed countries.

We also need to further boost Aid for Trade and adequate national strategies to enhance export competitiveness of developing countries. As illustrated in Korea's export-driven growth strategy during its developmental stage in the 1970s and the 1980s, international trade plays a critical role in promoting economic development, consequently leading to poverty reduction. In this regard, special efforts should be made for a successful conclusion of the World Trade Organization's Doha Development Round negotiations at the earliest possible date. We should avoid at all costs reverting to economic protectionism as a misguided option for overcoming the current crisis.

I am encouraged that the global official development assistance (ODA) volume has steadily increased since the Monterrey Consensus. This momentum should be further strengthened. By doing so, we can squarely address the concern that the financial constraints of donors due to the current crisis could lead to an aid crisis. All donor countries should take proactive actions to enhance their efforts to fulfill commitment to increasing ODA. It is notable that innovative financing mechanisms developed thus far are yielding concrete results. I hope that more countries participate in these efforts and contribute to mobilizing further development resources. On our part, Korea joined in 2007 the initiative of the Air-ticket Solidarity Levy.

Having transformed itself from a recipient to a donor country in a relatively short period of time, the Republic of Korea is firmly committed to support the development of other countries and to share our development experiences. We are doing our best to increase our contribution

to international development cooperation. Korea places high priority on enhancing the quantity, as well as the quality, of ODA. Korea's ODA, which stands at around $l billion today, has been scaled up three times since 2000 and we plan to achieve another threefold increase by 2015. Korea is also launching the East Asia Climate Partnership to support developing countries' adaptation to climate change with funding of $200 million over the next five years.

To cope with the food crisis, we have pledged $100 million over the next three years for emergency food aid and agricultural capacity-building in developing countries. In order to strengthen and harmonize our development cooperation with the development community, Korea plans to join the Development Assistance Committee of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development by 2010. Based on our unique experience of development, we hope to contribute to bridging the gaps between traditional donors, emerging donors and partner countries.

In closing, I would like to underscore once again the importance of having developing countries more integrated into the world economy with new flows of financing for development. At this critical juncture, which threatens our progress for the goals of poverty eradication and sustainable development around the globe, it is now the time for us to reaffirm our commitment to the Millennium Development Goals and to the pledge we originally made in Monterrey.

Samoa

Statement by
His Excellency
Mr. Tuilaepa Sailele Maliele Gaoi
Prime Minister of the Independent State of Samoa

30 November 2008

It is an honour for me to address this auspicious forum as Prime Minister of one of the smallest and vulnerable island developing States. It is against a backdrop of deteriorating global economic performance, persistent and new crises and challenges that we have come to Doha, with positive expectations and hope, to add our contribution, small as it may be, to the collaborative identification of pathways to tackle the challenges we face.

Since the Monterrey Consensus, and even well before that, developing countries like Samoa, my own country, have liberalized and significantly reformed their macroeconomic policy framework, upgraded their infrastructure and enhanced their decision-making processes. We have strengthened fiscal management and legal systems towards improved governance structures, and to a large extent we have met most of our commitments towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals, with the dedicated support of the small number of donor countries and multilateral financial institutions that are engaged in our development efforts.

In the spirit of a coordinated global approach to this Doha meeting, we have concurred strongly that it is time that there is serious effort to address the systemic issues necessary to enhance the consistency of the international monetary, financial and trading systems in support of development.

While the onus for financing our development is on us, we continue to urge for a renewed commitment to increase official development assistance (ODA) to complement domestically generated resources. ODA should be scoped and committed on a long-term basis and should come in a variety of forms. We would emphasize that mutually agreed alternative pathways for delivery should be the focus of ongoing dialogue. This situation is crucial to my country as we head towards graduation out of our least developed country status. Furthermore, we would welcome assurances that resources provided for debt relief do not detract from ODA resources intended for developing countries like mine.

Let us, together, take the commitments of the Accra Agenda for Action to the next level. We ask for greater predictability so that we can exercise forward planning and enhance risk management capabilities. We applaud the efforts by a number of donors to put in place multi-year programmes. We ask for greater use of national financial management

and procurement systems and, in return, we will focus on results and build on a better framework for mutual accountability.

Furthermore, we acknowledge the emergence of increasing cooperation amongst developing countries, an alternative pathway that is open and responsive to us, as and when needed, and delivered on a timely basis. Emerging new donors provide a solution to a perennial problem we face, namely, the low levels of foreign direct investment, particularly in the infrastructure sector. Similarly, we acknowledge the readiness of our donor partners to continue to provide support through new approaches, despite the rippling impacts of the financial crisis on all our economies. The impacts, as we see today, remind us of how integrated the global economy is and that the same coordinated approach is the way to find solutions to the challenges we face.

As a small island developing State, our vulnerability to climate change poses a real challenge to our already fragile environment. Therefore, we would request that assistance towards mitigation and adaptation be additional to current levels of ODA. Urgent attention must be paid to programmes to reduce vulnerability and climate-proofing of investments. Additionally, small island countries that are also least developed should not be obligated to take out loans to adapt to rising sea levels, a phenomenon due mainly to the carbon footprints of other countries.

The food crisis we are witnessing today clearly underscores the urgency for a new agenda in agriculture. Despite the demonstrated high rates of return and the reduction of hardship that come from investment levels and policy commitments in agriculture, real attention to this vital sector continues to decline. A more robust agriculture sector will need to be framed within a new agenda that not only matches today's rural and global realities but also engages smallholder farmers and rural households to generate sustainable livelihoods.

Will we ever see the windfalls of the international trade regime? It has been more than 15 years since we applied for membership in the World Trade Organization, yet the goal towards accession remains distant. We see Aid for Trade as an important component of measures to effectively benefit from the Doha Round, but this should be complementary to a successful conclusion of the Doha development agenda and not a substitute. We emphasize the importance of increased support to South-South cooperation initiatives in trade related areas, including through triangular frameworks.

Finally, I wish to thank the Government and people of Qatar for the generous support towards the participation of my delegation, and for the wonderful hospitality extended to us.

It is up to all of us to ensure that Doha aptly transforms the challenges of today, to meet our expectations of tomorrow.

Sao Tome and Principe

Statement by
His Excellency
Mr. Fradique Bandeira Melo de Menezes
President of the Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe

29 November 2008

At the outset, I would like to make note of the fact that you are listening to me in French because Portuguese, which is the official language of Sao Tome, is not being used at this Conference. This means, I must speak in another language. I would like to start by thanking His Highness, the Emir of the State of Qatar, for hosting this Conference. I would also like to thank you, Mr. Secretary-General, for your continuing concern over the situation in which we, the developing countries, find ourselves.

The Monterrey Consensus of 2002 created great hopes for us and great expectations for our peoples. Unfortunately, it must be noted that these hopes today have not been justified and we must think about doing better. With respect to Sao Tome and Principe, one can take issue with that in a framework such as this Conference. I will speak of the important issues of roughly 20 years ago. My country undertook a structural adjustment programme, facing a vicious cycle of poverty,

with restrictions on our people who had not been mobilized and provided with the minimum level of financing to be able to launch the development of the country. But in spite of the partial debt relief that we received last year, debt continues to be an obstacle for the national economy, which is the future of our nation.

The Monterrey Consensus called on the international community, particularly the multilateral development banks, to continue to play a vital role in responding to our needs, the needs of developing countries. With the application of structural adjustment programmes, it must be said that my country today has had its agricultural sector bankrupted, and this is as a result of following the advice given by international experts, advice which failed us. The development of human resources has been under-financed and they are, therefore, of mediocre quality.

We are not able to finance the essential infrastructure for development, which requires higher levels of financing than those we have. All of these restrictions are leading to dissatisfaction within the population, and this is creating social and, even, political problems. This is a threat to the stability of our democratic regime, the proof of which is that there have already been two attempted coups.

We believe that it is time for a few more imaginative efforts and for us here to find other ideas. Perhaps we will be capable of designing other approaches which would be more creative and helpful to our populations and would take account of their suffering. Perhaps it is time for us here to think about development with a human face.

Should countries like mine continue to implement structural adjustment programmes as we have been doing for another 20 years? This is our question. That would be difficult for our development. And, those are some of the questions that we would like to see discussed in this forum.

Seychelles

Statement by
His Excellency
Mr. James Alix Michel
President of the Republic of Seychelles

29 November 2008

First of all, I would like to join the previous speakers in conveying to the Government and people of India my thoughts and prayers following the recent act of terrorism and violence, which has inflicted so much pain and grief on innocent people.

In times of uncertainty such as this, leadership is essential. As leaders, we are gathered in Doha to find the solutions which will allow us to move forward. We cannot content ourselves with platitudes. We must be able to put forward solutions for our peoples. We must be able to direct our goodwill into concrete solutions. As leaders, we all have a global responsibility. Sometimes when we get rich, we forget about the less fortunate. We forget that prosperity is not something that just happens when the right conditions are in place; it has to be nurtured and shared. In this Conference, we have to devise new ways by which future prosperity can be shared for the benefit of all.

The meltdown of the global financial markets has left many countries reeling. The collapse of the housing market, banks and the currencies of a few countries reflects how deeply the crisis is entrenched. Throughout this year, I have travelled to Rome, Tokyo and New York to highlight the issues we small islands did face. I called for action. I pleaded for less hypocrisy. I pleaded that we move away from reams of resolutions to concrete actions and swift implementation of decisions. I pleaded for more justice and fairness because I believe that small islands can be the barometers of the world, even if we are rarely on the front pages. Whether we are talking about commodity prices, food security or energy issues, small islands feel it first. And while cutting interest rates as well as providing corporate bailouts may provide acceptable fixes for large economies in the short term, they cannot make the current international financing system sustainable.

In recent years, the concept of sustainable development had been high on the international agenda, but with current conditions the international financing of such development will remain only a myth. From the perspective of a small island State, the current negative situation in terms of the international economy poses a challenge. There was a concept of development itself. Development implies progress. That concept means that every State aspires to a better tomorrow, improved education, better health care and eradication of poverty.

In Seychelles, we are proud of our achievements in terms of being able to provide free universal education and primary health care. But we are now faced with a development paradox, a middle-income trap. There are many small- and medium countries in a similar situation that have effectively used development financing in the past and now find themselves asking "where to now?", as they watch their achievements being eroded by unfair principles and unfair practices.

We aspire to further develop our economies and diversify. However, the constraints in the global context are evident. Small island developing States and middle-income countries are not eligible for most forms of grants and concessionary funding. But we are often the ones that are most vulnerable to shocks. We are most often the countries that are most reliant on imports and we are the ones with the least room to maneuver through economies of scale. But we are determined to look forward and not back. We are determined that we should be able to rise to the challenges before us.

Seychelles, a small island State with a population of 85,000, has recently entered into a stand-by arrangement with the International Monetary Fund, as have many other countries. I would like to take this opportunity to express our appreciation to all our friends who are supporting us through this process. We are making the necessary fiscal and microeconomic adjustments to ensure that we emerge stronger and more resilient. It is essential that in this difficult period we maintain our social cohesion, that we are able to preserve our social skin. We are extremely encouraged by the importance of investment in human capital, which has been recognized by most international development institutions. Today, we reiterate that human resources are our most valuable asset. Sustained investment in infrastructure is also essential. We need to identify the financing mechanisms that will make this possible as a matter of urgency.

I will also take a moment to talk about the issue of debt, which is a pressing one for all countries at this time. Sustainability of debt involves both lending institutions and countries contracting debt to re-look at the process involved.

Seychelles has contracted debt over a number of years that has proved unsustainable in the recent climate. We thank all our partners who are supporting us in various ways as part of a structuring exercise. I hope that we can count on the goodwill of others who have not yet done so. But we are not ashamed of our debt. We progressed because we spent concessionary loans judiciously. Subsequently, Seychelles no longer qualified for soft loans and we had to borrow at commercial terms to meet development goals. We have put the funds to good use and invested in our children's future by building schools, hospitals and social housing.

There are no easy answers to debt problems, but playing a blame game will not get us any closer to solutions. The way forward involves tackling debt burdens in a realistic manner, while also ensuring that those who need affordable credit can have access to it.

Since the Monterrey Consensus set the framework for international development corporations six years ago, there have been encouraging commitments from individual countries and institutions. However, it would be foolish to assume that existing financial structures are sufficient to deal with our current problems.

The world we face today is very different. We need new architecture for development financing. We need to re-look at the concept of sustainability and think not only of the sustainability of individual countries but of the system as a whole. We recognize the leadership role to be played by the United Nations system in developing this architecture. We recognize as well the central role of Bretton Woods

institutions in this process, as also regional funding agencies, such as the Asian Development Bank. But we must not procrastinate. We must move fast and resolutely.

For the way forward, I would like our partners to consider the following. We need green financing. Investment in the environment, in conservation and in alternative energy is long term and does not always bring immediate returns. Preferential terms should be available for all grants and loans linked to environmental sustainability. We need a just trading system that recognizes specificity of countries and regions. Marginalization from the world trade system is a real risk for many countries and communities. Let us carefully consider the benefits of different trading regimes. Those that provide advantages to the weak, vulnerable and marginalized should be enhanced. Yes, it is difficult. No, it is not impossible. More funds are needed, but funds committed also need to be disbursed more quickly, and more directly, to the areas where it is needed.

I began my intervention by stressing the need for leadership and I cannot end without saluting the leadership of His Highness Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani, the Emir of Qatar, in hosting this Conference, which is of ultimate importance at this time.

I also thank His Excellency Mr. Ban Ki-moon for providing inspired direction within the United Nations system.

Solomon Islands

Statement by
His Excellency
Mr. Fred Fono
Deputy Prime Minister of the Solomon Islands

30 November 2008

First of all, as have all the other delegates, let me extend my sincere gratitude to His Highness Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani for his generous hospitality and for the wonderful arrangements made for this Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development in this beautiful city of Doha. Our special thanks go to the Government of Qatar for providing invaluable support to the delegation from Solomon Islands to participate in this Conference.

Secondly, let me also join my fellow delegates in condemning in the strongest possible terms the wanton destruction of life and property in the Indian city of Mumbai. I wish to express our most sincere sympathy to the Government and people of India, especially those who have lost their loved ones.

Let me now turn to the task at hand. Solomon Islands notes the difficulties faced by all nations of the world, especially the Group of 77, in achieving local, regional and international development goals in an environment of complex partnership, the management of deteriorating governance and declining resources and the ensuing adverse effects of climate change.

It is unfortunate that when it comes to global issues, especially the macroeconomic considerations, the focus on the Pacific region is diminished and at times gets completely forgotten. Let me remind this Conference that the Pacific region is an important and integral part of planet earth and it is time that the United Nations system and international conferences took account of the realities of the region and the problems that we face, impinging as they do on what we are talking about in this Conference.

The Pacific Island States are characterized by remote and dispersed geographical locations, small populations, narrow natural resource endowments and frequency of natural disasters. The populations of the Pacific region are highly dependent on biological resources and healthy ecosystems for survival. The region is globally significant from both a terrestrial and a marine perspective.

Climate change, extreme weather events and the rise in sea levels constitute some of the greatest barriers to sustainable development in the Pacific. The extent of these effects is hard to predict because of the complexity of the global climate. International action to stabilize greenhouse gases in the atmosphere under the Framework Convention on

Climate Change and its Kyoto Protocol has been slow. International and regional collaboration is, therefore, essential in maintaining international calls for mitigation, and for securing resources and best practice methods for adaptation in the quest for development.

There are worrying health trends in a rapidly epidemiological transition with traditional infections like malaria, tuberculosis and the emerging HIV/AIDS epidemics and an increasing prevalence of diabetes, heart disease and strokes. The populations of some Pacific Island States and Territories continue to grow at arguably unsustainable rates that are unmatched by natural resources or economic growth. There are serious challenges in education, gender issues and economic development.

In this context, let me bring to the attention of this Conference that Solomon Islands, like other Pacific Island States, is vulnerable to all forms of external shocks, whether climatic or economic. The current global crisis and climate changes impinge on a very fragile ecosystem, and economically vulnerable markets are determined very much by outside forces and the global economy.

I would be failing in my duty if I did not also bring to the attention of this auspicious Conference the special needs of the peoples of the Pacific Island States, who must now be considered and assisted at a magnitude and urgency equivalent to that of other regions of our globe. The importance of the growing geopolitical and the climatic and environmental changes in the Pacific cannot be overemphasized or ignored any longer. We are part of the globe; and what happens to the United States of America will affect the rest of the globe, and what happens to the globe will also affect the United States—for better or for worse, we are in this together.

In reviewing the 2002 Monterrey Consensus, the 2005 Paris Declaration, and the 2008 Accra Accords of the global partnership in development with the main objective of achieving the Millennium Development Goals and its holistic approach to financing development, the Solomon Islands notes with disappointment the overall poor performance in domestic resource mobilization, foreign direct investment, trade, official development assistance (ODA) and debt relief.

Overall, there have not been any major success stories coming out of the Monterrey Consensus, which highlighted many intentions without any binding commitments. The 2008 surveys show that partner countries and donors need to take stock of their commitments and honour them. The major global development partners, like the United States and Japan, have not increased their levels of aid as quickly as some smaller countries within the European Union. Yesterday, I was glad to hear of the continuous commitment stated by the President of France, on behalf of the European Union, and I wish for a similar commitment from other developed countries.

Developing countries, especially the least developed countries (LDCs), landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, seek reaffirmation of this commitment from developed countries at this Doha meeting. The commitment by the European Union, as expressed by the opening remarks of President of France, His Excellency Mr. Nicolas Sarkozy, is both enlightening and heartening, not just to Africa but to the world at large, including the Pacific region.

At this juncture, I would like to thank Dr. A.B Mirza Azizul Islam, the Honourable Finance Minister of Bangladesh, who will be highlighting the key issues and the plight and responsibilities of the LDCs at this auspicious Doha Conference. Solomon Islands reaffirms the concerns and realities being raised and wishes to echo the sentiments that continue to be expressed by others throughout this Conference.

Finally, Solomon Islands wishes to highlight at this auspicious and timely Conference some important issues relating to financing development.

Firstly, let me remind and appeal to all the developed countries to honour their commitment to provide 0.7 per cent of their gross national income as ODA to developing countries and 0.15-0.2 per cent especially to the LDCs, including Solomon Islands.

Secondly, the international financial architecture needs to be reformed to provide duty- and quota-free market access, extended durable solutions to the debt problems of developing countries and continuing assistance for the provision of technologies and technical support.

Thirdly, while Solomon Islands values and gratefully accepts the invaluable support received from our development partners, such as the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank and the International Monetary Fund, in our economic reforms, multilateral development banks/companies and aid agencies should improve the way they do business with the country. They must take into consideration the prevailing economic situation and put in place mechanisms, for example, providing guarantees, that would encourage investors to invest in activities and resources that are economically and sustainably beneficial, like renewable and green energy projects.

Fourthly, financing for development should be devoid of conditions that force developing countries to take on further burdens before funds are released. Development partners providing finance for development should do more to improve mechanisms in providing such assistance. In some of the development partnerships in Solomon Islands, and I suspect in other countries as well, development partners tend to run parallel administrations. In some instances, this requires providing technical assistance through employing non-nationals with higher salaries and better working conditions, totalling up to 60 per cent or more of the finances earmarked for development. This creates an unhealthy relationship with local administrations and defeats the intended purposes of financing development. The components of technical assistance should be no more than 10 per cent, and this should be concluded before any financial packages for financing developments are entered into.

Fifthly, the review process in financing development must recognize the persisting global imbalances and take the initiative of continuing to address it at the United Nations level with a view to ensuring compliance with our commitments, taking up the question of the write-off of debts, strengthening multilateral grant-based partnerships and making concerted efforts to narrow the gap between the developed and least developed countries.

In conclusion, Solomon Islands, as a least developed country and one of the small island States in the Pacific, struggling with governance and developing issues, sees both the Monterrey Consensus and Doha commitments as critical and important to guiding the financing of our own development. Solomon Islands, therefore, anticipates an effective and active compliance with the goals we have all agreed to and a continuing review at these international conferences, to guide sustainable and meaningful development for the benefit of the peoples of our respective countries.

Sudan

Statement by
His Excellency
Mr. Omer Hassan Ahmed Al-Bashir
President of the Republic of the Sudan

29 November 2008

I am pleased at the outset to express my deep appreciation and gratitude to my brother, His Excellency Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, Emir of Qatar, and to the State of Qatar, for taking the initiative in hosting this significant international Conference. I also extend my gratitude and appreciation to Mr. d'Escoto, President of the current General Assembly, for his invitation to take part in this Conference.

I wish to align myself with the statements of those who spoke before me in expressing our deep condolences and sympathy to the Republic of India and its people for their losses in the bombings that took place recently in Mumbai.

This Conference deals with a number of very important topics. As you know, it was preceded by several meetings, some of which were linked directly to issues we are now considering. However, I would like to address myself to those of particular significance, including the question of external debt relief, mobilization of internal resources for development and enhanced usefulness of these resources.

You may recall that the recommendations of the Monterrey Consensus focused primarily on the question of external debt relief. This is undoubtedly a very important subject and it plays a fundamental role in mobilizing available resources to support growth, development and investment, all of which would have a positive effect on efforts to eliminate poverty. Unfortunately, these efforts are moving slowly and are heavily burdened by conditionality and selective criteria. Therefore, we see that it is very urgent to try to create an international mechanism—a fair and effective international mechanism—for the relief of external debts in favour of the heavily indebted poor countries and post-conflict countries without any pre-conditions. In fact, there is a significant amount of displeasure towards the lack of realization by advanced States of their pledges contained in the Monterrey Consensus, as well as their placing too many conditions and procedures that delay the flow of development assistance.

There is also an urgent need to restore the balance in development assistance and its focus so that development needs will get the same attention as purely social objectives. We must send a strong message that it would be impossible to realize the Millennium Development Goals separately from a strategy of economic growth and the creation of productive labour and opportunities for employment, and a leap in agricultural growth in poor countries. We must also emphasize the need for recipient countries to uphold their own responsibilities through institutional reforms. However, bypassing these institutions would make national ownership meaningless and would entail extensive financial costs and effort.

After this crushing economic crisis, the economies of developed countries are moving towards recession, with repercussions rapidly affecting the entire world. In addition, the rising prices of commodities and energy are wreaking havoc on the economies of poor and developing countries, thus hindering the deployment of internal and domestic resources for development.

In the shadow of this severe worldwide economic crisis, we believe in the importance of the recommendations of the Group of Twenty (G20) Summit, held recently, especially those relating to the restructuring of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, to reflect the recent changes in the balance of power in the world. They will, thus, be responsive to the needs and new challenges in the world and better representative of the requirements of developing countries. We also salute the initiative of that Summit towards the Doha Round of trade talks and the emphasis on free, fair and equitable trade for the remainder of this year.

You are all well aware of the integral link between the requirements of development and economic growth, on the one hand, and the realization of peace and stability, on the other. The experience of Sudan in this regard is excellent proof of this. Therefore, we believe it is necessary to mention the efforts of Sudan to maintain this link between development and peace.

Sudan has been successful in reaching several peace agreements in the South of the country, in Eastern Sudan and in Darfur, with the participation of the international community that we truly appreciate. However, these agreements have not had proper support from the entire international community, especially the donor community and the partners who have not realized their commitments made in Oslo relating to the Comprehensive Peace Agreement on Sudan. Consequently, the citizen who has long suffered because of the war in these areas still does not feel the benefits of peace because of the absence of development and services.

We would like to re-emphasize that the Government of the Republic of Sudan remains committed to a peaceful settlement of the problem of Darfur and, on this occasion, we would like to reiterate our gratitude and appreciation to all our brothers and friends who have contributed—and continue to contribute—to our efforts towards the resolution of the problem of Darfur. In this connection, I seize this opportunity to re-emphasize that we welcome, and have great confidence and trust in, the Arab League initiative, led by the State of Qatar, and the efforts of the joint envoy of the African Union and the United Nations.

In conclusion, I must mention the brutal and unfair closure enforced by the Israeli occupation against the Palestinian people in Gaza. This closure and this siege is unprecedented in history and has not been practiced even by the most racist and barbaric regimes. It is a sentence of slow death against the members of this people—the children, the women, the infirm and the elderly. It deprives them of the basic necessities of life: water, food, shelter, clothing and medicine. All this takes place at a time when the world remains unmoved, doing nothing towards this continuous humanitarian tragedy which threatens the lives of an entire people. From this forum, we are appealing to all honest people in the world, to all those with a living conscience to move to rescue the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip from this brutal, unfair and inhuman siege enforced by the Zionist occupation on a daily basis against the Gaza Strip.

Swaziland

Statement by
His Excellency
Mr. Sibusiso Barnabas Dlamani
Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Swaziland

30 November 2008

It is my humble honour and privilege to address this high-level Conference on behalf of his Majesty King Mswati III and her Majesty the Queen Mother, the Government and the people of the Kingdom of Swaziland.

Before I proceed with my statement, I wish to take this opportunity to express my deepest sympathy to the people of India following the recent terror attacks on innocent citizens. The Kingdom of Swaziland strongly condemns such behaviour because it is an enemy of development and social justice.

I should like to express my profound gratitude to His Highness the Emir, the Government and the people of the State of Qatar for the great hospitality that they have accorded us since our arrival in this beautiful city of Doha.

We welcome the opportunity to meet here at the summit level to take stock and be apprised of the progress made since 2002, when commitments were made in Monterrey. A lot has happened since then. The world economy has accommodated a lot of dynamism in its structure and form.

It is evident that globalization is more real than it was a decade ago and that more strides have been made to integrate the regional and mainstream world economy. This only means that the world has more shared goals and targets than ever before. We agree on some and disagree on others. However, the fact remains that we fall as much as we rise as a unit. It is in this light that my delegation notes with great concern the threats and dangers to the stability of the present path of economic growth as a result of the current global food, energy and financial crises. These come at a time when many African countries were beginning to turn the corner. They, therefore, undermine the progress that has been achieved for the last decade in Africa and in many developing nations.

Developing nations continue to be confronted by wide-ranging economic challenges. The dwindling private financial flows, foreign direct investment, official development assistance (ODA), limited market access and non-competitive prices for exports, among others, have all contributed to the stagnation of growth in all sectors of the economy. The persistent problems, for example, poverty, under-development, HIV/AIDS and climate change, only exacerbate an obviously dire situation such as food insecurity. In an effort to address the issue of drought, the Kingdom of Swaziland has embarked on construction of dams for irrigation purposes and household use, within our limited resources. To meet the requirement, there is a need for financial support to increase investment in this area.

We are conscious of the need for acceleration in domestic and foreign resource mobilization in order to stimulate investment in a spontaneous fashion. The importance of trade as an engine of development can never be overemphasized. As developing nations, we look forward to the meaningful conclusion of the Doha Round of trade talks because they are the key to our sustainable development.

The continued delay keeps the world in unnecessary suspense. For this reason, Swaziland underscores the importance of more engagement and negotiation in good faith to move against undesired trade-distorting practices that come with the world economic order. I would like to reaffirm the Kingdom of Swaziland's support for the Director-General of the World Trade Organization. We encourage him to carry the current agenda forward with the clear vision that he has displayed for the benefit of developing countries.

We view with great concern the continued decline of ODA to developing countries, especially the least developed countries. We commend those developed countries who have met the target of 0.7 per cent of gross national income committed at Monterrey. We wish to urge those who have not met it to do so urgently. Without ODA, it is difficult for poor countries to make meaningful strides in their endeavour to uplift the standards of living of the populace. We acknowledge the global financial crisis, but hope, nevertheless, that this will not affect the earlier commitments made by the international community towards financial assistance to developing countries.

Like any other developing nation, the Kingdom of Swaziland remains committed to attain the Millennium Development Goals. We acknowledge that they have reached their halfway evaluation point and that a lot of challenges still remain. We look forward to continued support from our cooperating partners to finance our development programmes. We, as developing nations, are fully committed to ensuring that these resources are allocated appropriately towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals, although the humanitarian crisis, erratic rains caused by climate change and HIV/AIDS, among other things, continue to undermine our efforts to attain them.

The debt burden faced by developing countries continues to be a cause of concern. We share the view that indeed countries that are heavily in debt require the assistance of creditors to disentangle themselves and to increase their prospects of achieving the Millennium Development Goals. In this regard, the Kingdom of Swaziland proposes that a correct combination of appropriate policy measures be found to assist the developing nations to achieve relief from external debt. This should be done in close collaboration with the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, so that tailor-made solutions to suit country-specific situations can be worked on. This would also augment national economic and development strategies and the reallocation of resources in an efficient and effective manner, by creating more fiscal space.

The Kingdom of Swaziland notes with concern that the current debt relief initiatives only focus on low-income countries. In line with the Monterrey Consensus, which emphasizes the importance of continued flexibility in the eligibility criteria for debt relief, Swaziland proposes a review of the criteria, taking into consideration that many of the countries classified as middle-income, including Swaziland, are facing social and economic challenges similar to those of the poor countries. These include poverty, high disease prevalence, unemployment and a low economic growth rate. The HIV/AIDS pandemic continues to undermine development efforts. Serious consideration should be given to the use of the Human Development Index instead of per capita income for classification of countries.

It is unfortunate that the middle-income status also affects the flow of official development assistance, as more attention is paid to low-income countries. ODA to many of the developing countries continues to decline, yet they have financing gaps that make it difficult to invest in pro-growth programmes. Therefore, reducing the external debt burden and increasing ODA could liberate resources, which could then be utilized for pro-growth investment and to address the socio-economic challenges. Swaziland continues to appeal for a review of the country's classification as a middle-income country, in view of the challenges just mentioned.

It is only a few years since the international community convened in Monterrey to chart a way forward on an acceptable world economic order. The commitment to continuous review of the progress in implementation was a good move and this Conference is critical to our efforts to respond

jointly to newly emerging economic challenges. It is important that we take trade as a very important component of our economic development.

While many developing countries, especially in sub-Saharan Africa, have relatively escaped the first-round effect of the global financial crisis, it is unfortunately clear that the second-round effect of the present economic crisis will not spare anybody. In our view, the economic crisis will drastically reduce trade opportunities, access to finance and foreign direct investment. It will also diminish migrant remittances, lower commodity prices, increase unemployment and negatively affect the tourism industry.

In conclusion, we are deeply concerned and challenge the multilateral institutions, including the Bretton Woods institutions, to perform their regulatory function effectively. What heightens our concern is the uncertainty of how deep the financial crisis is and how long it will be with us. Small economies like Swaziland are the most vulnerable in such situations.

Syrian Arab Republic

Statement by
His Excellency
Mr. Abdullah Dardari
Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs of the Syrian Arab Republic

30 November 2008

Allow me to begin by thanking, on behalf of the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic, the State and people of Qatar for their generosity and for a very well-organized event.

The individual remains the ultimate objective of development and its starting point, regardless of region. He has the right to development; the right to live in dignity, free from poverty; and the right to expand his options and liberties in all fields and walks of life. These rights are guaranteed by charters, by covenants and by instruments. They require the development of the potential of the individual through the provision of health and education services, the availability of opportunities, and the realization of sustainable economic development and the equitable distribution of its benefits. Achieving the above requires resources that are often beyond the capabilities of many developing countries.

Despite the fact that, first and foremost, development is a national responsibility, it is also a global one that can be achieved through genuine relationships and partnerships among all countries, developed and developing. We, in Syria, understand that development and the realization of the Millennium Development Goals are costly. We have assessed the development and financial gap by 2015, and it is estimated to be $23 billion. This is a challenge, something that we cannot address or achieve. Let us, therefore, see it as an opportunity, a very genuine development and investment opportunity that will not only contribute to development in Syria and the realization of the Millennium Development Goals, but will also provide development to the Middle East region. In other words, we believe that whoever provides for development in Syria will also be providing development to one of the most important regions of the world.

The wide-scale measures in institutional and economic reforms that have been taken in many of the developing countries can now let us say, probably more than ever before, that transforming current challenges into a development opportunity is something that is more attainable than in the past. It is more attainable, and is also necessary, because Governments and people are asking how long will the reform process continue, given that some of the structural reforms have been pretty painful, and the benefits to be reaped are not apparent? I call on the Conference to send the message to those Governments and people that we shall be working together to attain this objective. We shall not be coerced into accepting non-democratic practices, like the obstruction by the United States of America to Syria joining the World Trade Organization. This obstruction is probably the highest level of political hypocrisy, some kind of contradiction, given the lip service that is often paid to the principles espoused. This probably obstructs our region and prevents—obstructs—our attempts to attain development in our country. The continued occupation

by Israel of the Syrian Golan and Palestinian territories, as well as other occupied territories in Lebanon, is probably the most important factor in obstructing cooperation and development in the Middle East region. The American invasion of Iraq, and the instability that has ensued, led to millions of Iraqis being forced out to neighbouring countries. It obstructed the development plans of those countries, particularly Syria that hosts over 1.5 million Iraqis. This puts pressure on the process of development and on the development resources available to our country. It also strains the infrastructure and major services, like health and education. The response by the international community remains very weak in supporting the daily needs of these Iraqis. One can only ask how can we accept responsibility for managing the international economic crisis, and the challenges of global development, while direct responsibility for the disaster of forcing millions of Iraqis out of their homeland, and for the siege under which Gaza languishes, is not admitted?

Syria recognized that providing financial resources is the basis for economic and social development, particularly for public services like health, education and infrastructure. This was very evident in the tenth development plan where planning was applied to all economic and social sectors through strategies and policies that cover each sector. There were time-bound schedules for each of the above. We also adopted the concept of the economic-social market principle—that is to say, the country is still entitled to undertake its social role in guaranteeing equity in the distribution and sustainability of incomes. To enable it to do so, Syria worked on liberating and rehabilitating the national economy for integration into the global economy. We would like such development to be just and not aligned to one party rather than another.

We created a legislative environment that is favourable to foreign direct investments. While reforming the public sector in the process of economic and social development, we gave additional roles to the private sector and to the civil society. We also developed social capital by guaranteeing access to economic resources for all citizens. As such, the Human Development Index in Syria improved from 0.72 to 0.732, between 2000 and 2007. This is the direct result of the improvement in health and education services and also in the improvement of indicators. The strategy relating to development in education has improved its quality and will put an end to illiteracy. So far, the per capita gross domestic product (GDP) income has risen substantially in real terms.

During the past period, Syria was able to achieve wide-scale economic reforms through which it was able to maintain the social achievements that were recognized in past decades. We were able to benefit from the global changes so that Syria has now become an important centre for investment and trade in the Arab region. At the same time, it was able to achieve a balance in macroeconomic indicators, for example, a decrease in internal and external debt, stability in exchange rates, the accumulation of foreign exchange, and strong growth in GDP as a result of investments and exports, as well as growth in other areas like the tourism and social sectors.

Syria is committed to the Millennium Development Goals. Our indicators point to the fact that we are on the right track, and we have actually achieved many of them. Consequently, we believe that Syria must achieve the position it deserves in managing the global economic system currently underway. Syria is ready to participate strongly and positively in the constructive dialogue for the preparation of such a system. We believe that one of the most important means of dealing with the expected economic recession is by increasing internal demand through greater public and private investment, and by partnership between them, with a concentration on infrastructure and social capital. This investment is sustainable and long range; moreover, it may even be able to address the weaknesses in the equity of development that we have seen in the past two decades. Investment to promote internal demand will revive world demand and will lead us away from recession. However, we also believe that this situation should become a new global opportunity to achieve sustainable development. We have to insist on the development of the rural sector, food security, and water and energy security. In addition, efforts should be

made to ensure that economic and social development would entail recognition that democracy in the current system has to be restructured.

The international and regional financing institutions play an important role in the State. However, banks must also play an important role through genuine financing of real opportunities to find solutions to actual crises. Also, the institutions of export guarantees and investments have a very vital role to reconsider the credit assessment systems that have recently proven their failure. It is certain that any economic or development project in a developing country has more security and confidence than financial instruments that are promoted by speculators in investment banking without any real oversight. The recent financial crisis has confirmed, beyond any doubt, the need to adjust the financial system and of finding a new formula so that the surplus of financial liquidity can be invested in the real economy and is not used for speculative purposes. A real contribution to the process of development for developing countries to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, and which should be one of our objectives, would be to give a larger role to the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and the World Trade Organization, despite the fact that some of them are not represented in this meeting at the appropriate level.

The developing countries, I believe, must play a much bigger role in managing this economic system and introducing the necessary amendments thereto. Growth in developing countries is no longer a moral issue imposed by our brotherhood. However, I can say that growth in these countries is the only hope for the world to be freed from its current crisis. The developed world should view this renewed reality and not deny it in any way or form. The bitter experience of the developed and developing world as a result of the crisis inflicted upon it indicates that we are going—that we are moving—towards a stage in which we should have a balance of interests and not a balance of power. This new balance is no longer geographic in size or in economic or military might. We probably have to go back to the logic of the force of economy of right, culture and history; the creation and the creativity of peoples, no matter how small, have the same power in forming global development. And unless this becomes very clear to the participants here today, and to those who did not participate, we shall not be able to arrive at the solutions we all seek.

Tajikistan

Statement by
His Excellency
Mr. Emomali Rahmon
President of the Republic of Tajikistan

29 November 2008

First of all, I would like to thank the Government of Qatar, the Emir of the State of Qatar, and the distinguished Secretary-General of the United Nations and heads of other leading international organizations, for organizing this Conference and for the excellent conditions that have been created for our work.

The instability of the global financial system, which impacts financial markets and is a major factor affecting an economy, has made developing countries significantly more vulnerable. They are seeing a decrease in capital inflows and a significant slowdown in economic growth rates and income growth.

Another aspect of the financial crisis which has had a negative impact, particularly on the Republic of Tajikistan and other countries of Central Asia, has been a decrease in export revenues as a result of the reduced need for raw materials, such as aluminium and cotton. These are the main export products of Tajikistan and revenues have fallen by roughly 50 per cent. In this connection, we hope that developed States, international organizations and financial institutions will take the necessary political, financial and economic steps to prevent a worsening of the crisis, which could lead to a further increase in poverty levels and would deeply complicate the achievement of the goals set in the Monterrey Consensus.

Given the high level of debt in developing countries, assistance must also be provided in the form

of grants or concessional loans. Thanks to support from the United Nations, in the period from now until 2015, Tajikistan has set itself the task of having poverty level indicators bringing yearly economic growth rates to an acceptable level, updating and streamlining productive infrastructure, making the transfer to contemporary agricultural technology and providing for food security. However, we have realized that without the help and assistance of the international community, without bringing additional financial resources into the economy, and without further integration and involvement in the activity of the main international institutions, it will be very difficult for Tajikistan to achieve these goals. In this connection, we hope that in spite of the negative impact of the global financial crisis, leading countries will be committed to the priorities of the Monterrey Consensus and will continue their efforts to reduce the imbalance among countries and the unequal economic development of individual developing States in the world.

Today's world financial crisis is closely related to the food and energy crises, the impact of which is particularly noticeable in developing countries whose economies are in transition.

I would like to draw your attention to these problems in the case of the Republic of Tajikistan, which is one of these countries. Tajikistan, 93 per cent of whose territory is made up of mountains and has only 7 per cent in flat lands, has significantly felt the changing global prices on main food products and the major impact on the level of consumption of different food products by the population. In 2007, the amount of food imports was more than three times that of exports. We would like to note once more that this increase in the importation of food was mainly because of the changes in global prices. We would further like to draw your attention to another important problem which is having a negative impact on the agricultural sector of developing countries. I am talking about the existing system of subsidies for agricultural producers in economically developed countries, which is an obstacle for access to their markets.

In order to redress the imbalance in these conditions and enhance the competitive ability of agriculture in developing countries, it is necessary either to eliminate the system of subsidies or to spend part of these resources on supporting the agricultural sector in developing countries. The growth in global prices and consumer goods, together with the unprecedented cold weather in 2007 and 2008, and the low rainfall in recent years and subsequent drought, has led to the energy and food crises, thus having a negative effect on the social and economic situation of the population of the country.

In response to the negative impact of the energy crisis, we are currently building and introducing small- and medium-sized hydroelectric power stations. In the middle-term, the main areas of activity will be completing work on building the Roghun hydroelectric power station and building a number of others, including electricity stations. As a result, we will be able to export more than 30 billion kilowatt hours of electricity to countries such as Pakistan, Afghanistan, Iran and India, and elsewhere in the region of Central Asia, thereby making a significant contribution to the so-called green development of these countries. At the same time, the export of electric energy to neighbouring Afghanistan will be an important contribution to international efforts to establish peace, political and economic stabilization in that country.

Tajikistan will find it extremely difficult to deal with these tasks on its own. In this connection, we appeal to the international community and all interested parties for cooperation and partnership on these issues, which are very important not only for development in Tajikistan but also in the entire Asian and Central Asia regions. The provision of special funds to minimize the impact of the energy and food crises could help to achieve this goal to a large extent.

An important element in mitigating the impact of the crisis on the development of the economy in countries in Tajikistan's region is developing trade, transport infrastructure and communications in Central Asia. It is in our common interest to consider building roads which would link countries of the region and also provide access to ports in the Persian Gulf and the Indian Ocean. This is

not only a matter of creating modern communications, but also of enabling the free movement of goods, labour and capital which sometimes come up against artificial barriers.

The world in the twenty-first century is facing new threats and challenges. From the rostrum of the United Nations, Tajikistan appealed to all countries to pool their efforts to overcome the problems of a lack of drinking water. Together with the food and energy crises, this problem is a serious threat to the well-being of a number of States, including Tajikistan and other countries in the Central Asia region.

Upon a decision of the General Assembly of the United Nations, 2005 marked the beginning of the International Decade for Action, "Water for Life". More than 40 per cent of the earth's population today is experiencing moderate or serious water shortages and United Nations experts believe that by 2025 approximately two-thirds of the world's population will be living in regions that are facing water shortages.

An extremely important problem for the Republic of Tajikistan and the entire Central Asia region is the effective and rational use of water. Given repeated droughts, this problem is of particular seriousness because it does enormous damage to the economies of the countries in the region. Global warming has led to a situation where in recent years the water levels in major rivers in Central Asia, the Syr Darya and the Amu Darya, and the area fed by the Panmah Glaciers—which make up 60 per cent of the water in these rivers—have decreased significantly.

One of the reasons for global warming is the industrial activity of developed countries. If, as forecasters predict, such a trend continues, our region could face enormous ecological and related economic and social disasters in the near future.

The Republic of Tajikistan possesses enormous reserves of hydrocarbons, which make up more than 500 billion kilowatt hours, and it is third in the world in terms of their overall volume. In conditions where the prices of hydrocarbons in the world are volatile and reserves are being exhausted, renewable energy and hydropower, in particular, are becoming important factors in sustainable development given global environmental problems, including global warming. The accession of the Republic of Tajikistan to the Kyoto Protocol in our view will help to contribute to the economic development of the country.

One of the most important factors in the progress of Tajikistan's economy is the cooperation and assistance that has been provided by the international community. A new page in the development of cooperation between the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan and its development partners is to be the Joint Country Partnership Strategy, which was recently drawn up. It is a programme that aims by the middle-term period to organize effective cooperation between the Government of the Republic Tajikistan and its development partners in order to achieve the goals of national development and to decrease poverty levels.

During this Conference, the issue of resolving the problems of financing for development in a spirit of global partnership and cooperation will be at the centre of our attention. In this connection, I believe that all countries should make the utmost effort to fully achieve the agreements that were made as part of the Monterrey Consensus. Developing countries should have the opportunity to influence the decisions taken by international organizations which are related to international cooperation and to the development of their economies.

The time has come to review the existing structure of the financial institutions as it was created many years ago. You may recall that many of the international financial institutions were created in the 1940s of the previous century; we are now living in the twenty-first century and the world has changed. We need to change and reform the structure of these international institutions. There also needs to be a change in the makeup of these organizations as this would help to increase the representation of developing countries.

The Director-General of the World Trade Organization, Mr. Pascal Lamy, spoke about this very well. He said that the principles of the work of WTO should be reviewed and that many developing

countries today are on the path towards joining the organization. It is therefore necessary to eliminate the obstacles to their entry, as this could significantly help their development. Today, I am full of optimism that we can make the world better and meet the aspirations and hopes of our peoples.

The Central Asia region has suffered to a large extent because of climate change, which threatens the lives of more than 50 million people. In recent years, drought has also had a negative impact and thus the region itself is facing problems which are greater than those of developed countries because of climate change and global warming. In this connection, may I express our appreciation for the support of all the international organizations which have provided assistance, although here we need to think about whether it is equal to the threats and the challenges that are posed by global warming and climate change.

Thank you very much, and I wish for the success of the work of this Conference.

Togo

Statement by
His Excellency
Mr. Faure Essozimna Gnassingbé
President of the Togolese Republic

30 November 2008

First of all, I would once again like to convey my sincere condolences, and those of my Government and the people of Togo, to the people and Government of India after the tragedy that has taken place in the last few days in that country. We hope that all of those responsible for this wanton act will be arrested and will be brought to justice and punished.

We must sincerely thank the authorities of Qatar, and especially His Highness Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani, the Emir of Qatar, for the warm welcome and cordial hospitality that they have been kind enough to provide to all delegations. Also, Mr. President, we would like to associate our voice with those delegates who have preceded us in congratulating you warmly on your designation to conduct our deliberations. We are assured that with your experience this Follow-up Conference will provide positive results that will allow us to lay a new foundation to speed up implementation of the Millennium Development Goals in the world in general and in Africa, in particular. We would also like to congratulate the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Ban Ki-moon, for the efforts that he continues to make to breathe new life into the implementation of the Millenniuum Development Goals and in combating poverty.

Our meeting here in Doha is due to our common desire to find efficient solutions to problems regarding financing development in order to implement the Millennium Development Goals and to reduce poverty. We certainly do remember that this has been going on for more than six years. When the United Nations International Conference on Financing for Development was held in Monterrey, Mexico, in March 2002, it resulted in the Monterrey Consensus in which responsibilities were split in terms of mobilizing internal and external resources for the purposes of development. This important act, which was designed to speed up implementation of the Millennium Development Goals in order to create a better world for all by 2015, caused developing countries to have great hope. In fact, the partnership defined in the Monterrey Consensus requires developing countries to take on a larger share of their development by doing their utmost to apply rational economic policies, good governance and rule of law, and by using their own resources in a way that is more effective and more rational. It also indicates the main areas in which their partners from developed countries could provide further financial assistance to supplement their own efforts, for example, by increasing private resources for development and highlighting the effect; offering these countries more possibilities for market access in order to create a fair international trading system, one that is based on rules and is favourable to development; increasing the amount and effectiveness of official development assistance, which remain crucial for many countries to implement the internationally agreed Millennium Development Goals, and that this should be done in line with national

priorities; eliminating hyper debts, which decrease the amounts of assistance and internal resources available to reduce poverty and stimulate long-term development; and, finally, by ensuring that the international environment facilitates the efforts of developing countries to mobilize their resources so that they can benefit fully from the global trading and financial system.

In spite of the efforts made by many, the justified hopes raised by the Monterrey Consensus are still far from being realized today. This Conference is an apt opportunity for us to evaluate together the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus and to take stock, without complacency; also, to discuss and adopt vigorous measures which are required in order to reaffirm the commitments we made previously.

Togo went through a long socio-political crisis which very much slowed down the developmental process in our country and entailed a massive reduction in external assistance due to the suspension of cooperation with major partners. In 2006, however, it made a commitment to a wide-ranging programme of political, economic and financial reforms to set up the structures and mechanisms that are necessary to mobilize our internal resources and financial assistance from our developmental partners. Through developing a climate of calm and peace, it has been possible to engage major economic and financial reforms in order to improve public finances, to strengthen transparency in public management, to combat corruption and to stimulate growth areas. At the same time, we have developed and adopted a long-term national development strategy, based on Millennium Development Goals and the interim Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP). As these reforms were implemented satisfactorily, we were able to organize a conference with development partners in Brussels in September 2008 to inform them about recent developments: political, economic and social, and of the visions, strategic orientations and priority options contained in the emergency programme in our country for the recovery and reconstruction of the economy.

At the same time, despite all of this, much remains to be done to create conditions conducive to veritable socio-economic development in Togo and the well-being of its people. In fact, the efforts of our countries will be insufficient to propel our States to meet the Millennium Development Goal indicators, especially those having to do with the elimination of extreme poverty and hunger. One can easily understand, therefore, that the weak performance seen is due in part to problems of financing for development, to the thorny question of debts and to the difficulties that Togo has encountered in using opportunities to the best of its ability.

With respect to financing for development, we should now recall that for Togo to implement its development strategy based on the Millennium Development Goals requires investments estimated to be about $7.2 billion for the period 2006-2015, for all sectors, As can be seen, these needs require significant mobilization of resources, both internal and external, and our partners will need to play an important role in this area. It will be up to our development partners to do more to support our efforts by providing substantial increases in public assistance and more access to their markets for our exports, which are our main source of income for financing development options and for combating poverty.

The question of financing for development is also tightly linked to that of debt. In fact, the majority of our countries, given expenditures that they need to make to pay off the debt, are no longer able to make the necessary investments for sustained growth, which would make a significant contribution to poverty reduction. Consequently, our country is working to prepare a full PRSP, which would open the door to initiatives to lighten the debt, especially the one that is referred to as the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Initiative, where decision points have already been made. At the same time, we should note that the healthy efforts made in these initiatives for poor countries have shown their limitations because some countries have reached the end of HIPC but still have unsustainable debt rates. Our delegation does not doubt the determination of industrialized

countries to do more to deal with the substance of the external debt of African countries.

I would not wish to conclude without alluding to the third United Nations Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010, normally called the Brussels Programme of Action. In fact, the Togolese delegation is concerned with how little progress has been made in the least developed countries in the implementation of this Programme, particularly in terms of eliminating extreme poverty, and of implementing sustained growth and sustainable development. In this regard, my delegation would like to draw your attention to the need to take concrete and bold measures in order to mobilize the necessary resources two years before the end of this Programme so that it will not suffer the same fate as its two predecessors.

Tunisia

Statement by
His Excellency
Mr. Mohamed Ghannouchi
Prime Minister of the Republic of Tunisia

29 November 2008

At the outset, I would like to convey the greetings of the President of the Republic of Tunisia to his brother, his Highness Sheikh Al Hamad Al-Thani, the Emir of Qatar; we wish this Conference every success. It is also my pleasure to express my deep thanks to fraternal Qatar, the Government and the people, for the hospitality and warm reception accorded to us, and for the excellent arrangements made for this Conference.

The convening of this Conference at this juncture is very important in view of the escalating economic and financial crisis, which calls for the concerted efforts of the United Nations in order to lessen its effects. This presents challenges to all countries, especially developing ones. These developments require more than ever before that the commitments made at the Global Summit on Development are reiterated and that the objectives of official development assistance be achieved.

We do appreciate the measures taken by the developed countries to tackle the economic and the financial crisis, especially within the framework of the Group of 20 which met a few weeks ago in Washington, D.C. However, we think that these measures will be limited unless the problems and aspirations of the developing countries are taken into account. That would require practical steps to secure support for the middle-income and low-income countries in order to enable them to cope with the repercussions of the financial crisis.

This crisis cannot be a pretext for the industrialized countries to confine themselves to domestic affairs. On the contrary, it requires a wider approach in order to take into account the interlinkage between the issues in the globalized economic world in which interests are also interlinked. There is no space for unilateral or domestic solutions. It is in the interest of the industrialized countries to build bridges to the developing countries and to give momentum to investment efforts in them. Developing countries have the raw material and potential to carry out very important projects that will have a positive impact on industrialized countries through the enhancement of the exchange of trade and the measures taken to overcome the current crisis.

We need to come together, to pool our efforts, and take the requirements of both the present situation and the future into account. This has been our attitude in Tunisia, as called for by His Excellency President Ben Ali, because he is convinced that there is no permanent and renewable development without considering the social and economic factors together.

That kind of development should eliminate the imbalances and eradicate poverty, as well as involve and integrate those who feel marginalized. Tunisia has always been trying to achieve this kind of approach through liberalization of trade in the economy as well as sharing the results of development with all strata of society. This has had a very positive impact, enlarging the middle class to 80 per cent of the Tunisian people and achieving high rates of development.

This is an opportunity to reach the means of achieving the Millennium Development Goals, to give concrete effect and produce concrete results regarding them. We can also reach economic integration and the exchange of interests. We can also give effect to the International Solidarity Fund, which has become one of the basic and effective mechanisms of the United Nations.

Member States of the United Nations, in particular, initiated the Doha Round of talks with a view to giving developing countries the opportunity to enhance their efforts and have access to world markets. We hope that the efforts here will be pulled together in order to have a better, more equitable and more transparent order that would, in the final analysis, enable developing countries to develop and diversify their economies in terms of industry and other fields, and would have a positive effect on development at the global level, in general.

We also look forward to the Conference producing concrete results that would meet the aspirations of developing countries and serve the interests of the entire international community in response to the aspirations of all peoples.

United Republic of Tanzania

Statement by
His Excellency
Mr. Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete
President of the United Republic of Tanzania and Chairman of the African Union

29 November 2008

Allow me to take this opportunity to commend the Secretary-General, His Excellency Ban Ki-moon, for his wise decision to convene this review Conference, which is as important as it is timely. Indeed, it could not have taken place at a more opportune time.

I also wish to thank His Highness, the Emir of Qatar, Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani, for agreeing to host the meeting here in Doha. On behalf of my colleagues from Africa, I extend to him our deepest appreciation and gratitude for his gracious hospitality and for the warmth of the reception.

Before I proceed, I wish to express my deepest sympathies to the people of India for the terrorist acts which happened in Mumbai two days ago, and claimed the lives of many people from India and other nations. Our thoughts are with you as we come to terms with this sad event, and also during these difficult times. What happened in India should serve as a reminder to all of us to be vigilant, as it could happen anywhere.

This is a follow-up meeting to the one held six years ago at Monterrey, Mexico. As we all know, at Monterrey we solemnly entered into a partnership to address the challenges of financing for development in developing countries. We called our partnership the Monterrey Consensus, which covered six core areas:

1. Mobilizing domestic financial resources for development;

2. Mobilizing international resources for development: foreign direct investment and other private flows;

3. International trade as an engine for development;

4. Increasing international financial and technical cooperation for development;

5. External debt; and

6. Addressing systemic issues: enhancing the coherence and consistency of the international monetary, financial and trading systems in support of development.

Under this unique partnership, countries in the South (Africa included) committed themselves to implement sound economic policies, ensure good governance, invest in the development of their people and establish an investment climate conducive to attracting private capital. On the other hand, developed nations agreed to scale up their financial and technical assistance to developing countries to help them meet the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals.

This review meeting, therefore, provides an excellent opportunity for us to make an assessment of the progress made so far and to identify the obstacles and constraints encountered which are in the way of implementing the Monterrey Consensus. It also offers us a propitious chance to come up with practical and actionable measures to reinvigorate our collective commitment to the development agenda. The meeting taking place at this particular moment in time will also afford us an opportunity to discuss and put into proper perspective the current global financial crisis.

I would like to assure this august assembly that Africa, my country Tanzania included, has always attached great importance to the Monterrey Consensus. Since its adoption, African nations have endeavoured to fulfill their part of the bargain. The continent has so far made significant progress on its commitment to good governance. The majority of African countries have adopted and entrenched democratic governance, the rule of law as well as the protection of human rights. They have also created an investment environment conducive to attracting private capital to their respective countries.

Overall, African countries have made notable progress in the area of mobilizing domestic financial resources. The ratio of domestic savings to gross domestic product has increased from an average of 18 per cent between 1997-2002 to an average of 23.8 per cent over the period 2005-2007. However, domestic resources are still inadequate to finance development expenditures and significantly tackle accelerated growth for poverty reduction. More efforts, therefore, are still needed in order to develop sustainable capital markets, strengthen micro-finance institutions, reduce capital flight and mitigate the impact of trade liberalization on government revenues.

Africa has made encouraging progress in mobilizing international capital flows to the continent. Because economic reforms and policies favourable to private investments were implemented, foreign direct investment (FDI) inflows to Africa increased from $13 billion in 2002 to $45 billion in 2007. However, this is too little a share of FDI flows worldwide; it is only about 2 per cent. Moreover, most of these flows continued to be concentrated in the extractive sector and in a few oil-producing countries on the continent. Our challenge in Africa, therefore, is about how to attract more FDIs in more sectors other than the extractive sectors, particularly in those which have high value-added as well as high potential for job creation. At the same time, they should be environmentally friendly.

Africa can also benefit from harnessing remittances from abroad. A number of African countries are doing that by making it easier for people to use the banking systems and other formal channels to receive remittances from abroad. We call upon developed countries to take action to reduce the transaction costs of remitting money to Africa.

While Africa has done all it can to implement the Monterrey Consensus, the performance of developed countries in meeting their commitments remains wanting. Apart from debt relief, where there has been substantial progress, in the areas of trade, official development assistance (ODA) and systemic issues, developed countries continue to under-perform. In the area of international trade, it is important to note that the volume of African exports has increased. However, Africa continues to experience poor market access and supply-side constraints. The longer the Doha Development Round negotiations remain stalled, the more of a disadvantage it is to the developing countries on the continent. It is in the interest of all of us that they resume at the earliest possible time. It is also in all our best interests to ensure that the development concerns and needs of developing countries, including those of Africa, are properly taken care of in the final agreement.

In this regard, we welcome the recent Aid-for-Trade initiative of the World Trade Organization. It is quite a step in the right direction, although it is taking too long to operationalize. We call for it to be expedited. There is, thus, an urgent need for all the parties involved in the initiative to fast-track its implementation so that valuable time is not lost in increasing the capacity of African countries to take advantage of existing opportunities in the multilateral trading system.

While, I express sincere appreciation for the increase in ODA, from $21 billion in 2002 to $38.7 billion in 2007, let me hasten to say that donors are not on track to meet their commitments to double aid to Africa by 2010 relative to 2004 levels. In fact, there is a wide gap between donor commitments and actual aid flows to Africa. Moreover, the quality of aid is still below what is needed to ensure accelerated and sustained growth on the continent.

Let me take this opportunity to implore our development partners to scale up their efforts to meet their aid pledges to Africa. I urge them to "walk the talk". They should also implement the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness and the Accra Agenda for Action by reducing the transaction costs of aid delivery and untying aid flows to make them more predictable.

Progress on the systemic issues has been limited. To date, African countries still do not have fair representation in the decision-making organs of international institutions. It is unacceptable for this democracy- and governance-deficit to continue in these important institutions, whose decisions directly affect African countries and the lives of their peoples. Efforts should therefore be made by the international community to increase the participation and voting power of African countries in the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and the World Trade Organization. Africa's appeal is not only related to these institutions of international economic and financial governance, but also to those of political governance as well, particularly the United Nations Security Council. We believe that Africa's effective participation or representation will ensure that these institutions are more responsive to the needs and concerns of African countries. They will become more accountable to all of us, whom they are meant to serve. In this regard, we welcome the recent decision to create an additional seat for sub-Saharan Africa on the Board of the World Bank.

It would be remiss of me if I did not say something about the ongoing global financial crisis. Let me hasten to add that the crisis poses great danger to Africa's development. It is a matter of great concern to us in Africa. It threatens to reverse the hard-won socio-economic gains made by African countries over the past few decades. The global economic slowdown will lead to the contraction of international demand for commodities. This may also exert downward pressure on lowering commodity prices. Africa is predominantly dependent on commodities and tourism, which now seem to be vulnerable. The tightening of credit will lower FDI flows to Africa, may reduce access to credit and make it more expensive, and may also curtail the flow of remittances.

Against this background, allow me to propose the following as a way forward:

First, as the global financial crisis concerns and affects all nations and peoples, efforts to find solutions should involve all of us. The current arrangement where the least developed countries are not involved is an omission which needs to be corrected in the future. It has to be all inclusive and Africa should be involved in the discussions and processes.

Second, reform of the international financial architecture and international financial institutions is a matter of the utmost urgency. Something is seriously amiss. How could the world, or how could the developed world, land in a crisis of such magnitude without prior warning? It appears that there is no global mechanism for overseeing the functioning of the global financial system. This is dangerous. We need to correct this anomaly very urgently. In the same vein, I believe that the time has come to look into the pricing mechanism or system of vital commodities, such as oil, which have a pivotal role in the functioning of the global economy.

Third, African countries should also be given a greater voice in the decision-making organs of the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and the World Trade Organization, without forgetting, of course, a permanent voice in the United Nations Security Council.

Fourth, we propose that we must do everything possible to ensure that the Doha Development Round negotiations are resumed and concluded at the earliest possible time. The Aid-for-Trade initiative should also be operationalized.

Fifth, with regard to the Monterrey Consensus, all nations should keep and deliver on their commitments and obligations.

Sixth, developed countries should make good on their promise to double ODA to Africa by 2010. The current financial crisis should not be used as an excuse to reduce aid flows to developing countries. After all, a prosperous Africa may assist the world in its endeavours to overcome the current problems.

Let me conclude by once again restating Africa's commitment to the Monterrey Consensus. We, in Africa, will continue to play our part in the realization of its core objectives. We call upon our development partners to do the same.

I believe that together we can marshal sufficient resources which are urgently needed to finance development in Africa. It can be done—let all of us play our part.

Zimbabwe

Statement by
His Excellency
Mr. Robert Mugabe
President of the Republic of Zimbabwe

29 November 2008

At Monterrey in 2002, we launched a new partnership for financing development, especially the internationally agreed goals, including the Millennium Development Goals. The discourse we are having here today provides an opportunity for us to assess the progress made, recognize obstacles and constraints and identify new challenges, opportunities and emerging issues of concern, particularly those that affect developing countries.

We recognize that primary responsibility for national development is vested in national governments. Zimbabwe, like other developing countries, is, in spite of its present challenges, making all efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals by 2015, and to invest in the crucial areas of agriculture, infrastructure development, health and education. The Millennium Development Goals have provided us with a framework to put poverty eradication and human well-being at the center of our development efforts.

However, rising poverty levels remain a challenge for Zimbabwe, undermining the attainment of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals. The recurrent droughts, compounded by the sanctions imposed on the country by the European Union and the United States of America, the HIV and AIDS pandemic, and—added to these—the current food and energy crises, all continue to slow down economic development in the country.

Nevertheless, despite these challenges, the Government has continued to implement turnaround strategies aimed at steering the economy towards sustained economic growth and development. It is now widely accepted that without a complementary conducive international environment and political will to finance development in developing countries, the objective of achieving internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, will remain elusive. It is this realization that led Governments and multilateral trade and financial institutions, under the aegis of the United Nations, to commit themselves to providing more resources to finance development in Monterrey in 2002.

At Monterrey, we were able to make the correct diagnosis and to identify the constraints that face developing countries in their efforts to eradicate poverty through economic and social development. The immediate objective of the commitments made thereat was to reduce poverty, particularly extreme poverty. In addition, the 2005 World Summit reiterated the need to take concrete action to accelerate development.

Zimbabwe has been, and continues to be, a victim of unilateral and illegal economic cohesive measures which, by and large, were instituted to control the manner in which the country utilizes its own resources. They were also aimed at undermining the Government through regime change, which is illegal. My Government reiterates that these measures are completely at cross-purposes with the principles that guide international cooperation as enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations.

The sanctions imposed on the country have had social and economic effects on Zimbabwe's key economic sectors and have adversely affected the vulnerable groups in our society. The significant progress the country had made in the development of infrastructure, education, health and social welfare delivery systems has been lost due to the loss of the financial and technical support they were given.

Even though the country is well endowed with natural resources, Zimbabweans have suffered, and are continuing to suffer, because of these sanctions which have now negatively affected every facet of their lives. I take this opportunity to appeal to those members of the international community who have imposed illegal sanctions against Zimbabwe to lift them so that the Government can alleviate the suffering of its people through focusing on the attainment of internationally agreed goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and turning the economy around.

Seven years after Monterrey, the remedies that the international community agreed to undertake have not been fully implemented to allow the achievement of targets that were set. It is now very apparent that the current official development assistance (ODA) levels fall short of requirements to meet the targets associated with internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals.

In this regard, developed countries need to fulfill their promises to meet the target of 0.7 per cent of their gross national incomes in ODA to developing countries in the short term. Such assistance needs to be adequate, predictable and continuous in order to have a meaningful impact. In the long-term, new and additional resources are required to enable developing countries to continue to fight poverty beyond the target date of 2015 for the Millennium Development Goals. Whilst we commend those countries that have met and even surpassed the target of 0.7 per cent of the gross national income, we urge those that have not yet done so to continue scaling up aid in order to reach the required level.

Concerted efforts must also be directed towards addressing the problem of the unsustainable external debts faced by a number of developing countries. While we recognize the various initiatives that have been undertaken to reduce the debt burden of a number of developing countries, including the Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative, we are, however, of the view that the process is too slow and does not cover all countries that are indebted. We are also of the view that the real solution to the developing countries' debt problem would be full debt cancellations. Additionally, the inclusion of debt relief in aid statistics can be very misleading. The simple fact is that debt relief does not make available new resources for development.

Since development is a process and not an event, we believe that more attention should be paid to addressing the disparities in the global trade regime by removing trade barriers. If we act now to remove trade barriers, agricultural subsidies and restrictive rules on intellectual property rights, we will be laying a solid foundation for sustainable development that can lead to the eradication of poverty, particularly extreme poverty, that engulfs millions of people. Zimbabwe is therefore concerned about the breakdown of the Doha Round of trade negotiations, as we believe that the successful conclusion of this crucial Round will go a long way in providing market access to developing countries.

The voice and participation of countries in the decision-making process in international financial institutions to make them more democratic is an issue that remains unresolved. The level of participation of developing countries in decision making within these institutions does not reflect their numerical strength and influence in the global system. It is regrettable that the repeated calls to reform these institutions, including addressing the issue of distribution of voting rights at the International Monetary Fund, continue to fall on deaf ears. The policy orientation agenda and organizational bias of the Bretton Woods institutions have tended to favour the interests of the more powerful members against the weak. For instance, even after Zimbabwe had cleared their arrears with the International Monetary Fund, that institution could still

not rise above the bidding of its masters to renew lending to my country.

Furthermore, it is indeed ironic that international financial assistance from these same institutions to developing countries is often tied to democratic governance at a country level while it is rejected at a global level. We share the view that only the United Nations, with its universal membership, has the credibility to ensure that a reformed global financial architecture will have the legitimacy and confidence of the global community to make it viable.

Is it not surprising that the hallmarks of good governance, accountability, transparency and prudence in the financial systems of the developed countries were missing in action and have resulted in a grave global financial crisis? We are concerned that the current international financial crisis, if not handled properly, could spell doom for developing countries, which might be hardest hit in the long run. We hope that the tightening of regulatory instruments will not result in tighter lending policies that make it difficult for developing countries to access financing for development and, thus, result in the derailing of progress towards the achievement of sustainable development. We also wish to point out that had the developed countries reacted to the plight of developing countries with the same resolve and sense of urgency that we see today in their attempts to rescue their floundering companies from the international financial crisis, the world would certainly now be in a better place.

Zimbabwe is of the view that all aid to developing countries should come with no strings attached and should be driven by development priorities and the needs of the recipient country. Furthermore, developing countries should be given policy space to enable them to set their development priorities, particularly in the area of agriculture. We believe that carefully targeted investments in the agricultural sectors of developing countries, particularly in Africa, can overcome the current food crisis. In addition, developing countries should, in the interim, be given leeway to have subsidies in the agricultural sector to increase production and achieve food security.

In conclusion, let me reiterate that, together, when we agree that mobilizing financial resources for development is central to a successful global partnership for development, this current review of Monterrey Consensus could be of great value if it were to infuse some sense of urgency into the fulfillment of commitments made at Monterrey and also at the 2005 World Summit on financing for development, including the establishment of effective mechanisms to measure aid flows. Indeed, at the High-Level Meeting on Africa's Developments Needs held in New York last September, we called for the establishment of a monitoring mechanism to follow up on all commitments related to developments in Africa.

Finally, I associate my country with the previous expressions of condolences and sympathies offered to India over the tragedies facing the country today because of the terrorist bombings and loss of life.

Chapter 4
Statements by Ministers

Andorra

Statement by
Her Excellency
Ms. Meritxell Mateu-Pi
Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Principality of Andorra

30 November 2008

First of all, on behalf of my country, Andorra, let me express condolences to the victims of the acts of terrorism that struck Mumbai, India. We totally reject this type of action.

I would like to thank Qatar for the high quality of the hospitality we have received here and for the excellent organization of this Conference. I would also like to thank the Secretary-General for having successfully led to the implementation of this commitment at a very high level. All Member States agree that the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development is of essential importance. We must face up to the most daunting challenge that the United Nations confronts today, that is to say, the eradication of extreme poverty. However, we recognize that the international context has changed enormously since 2002. There has been some progress on a number of issues, but the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals is, today, particularly threatened by the multiple global crises that are spreading like an infection.

However, we should not sink into pessimism and forget the success that some countries in Asia and Latin America have been able to achieve. Indeed, there are countries that have known economic growth because of the development of their capital, creativity and innovation. They have made great investments in access to knowledge through education, that is to say, they have given an absolute priority to human development and have staked on the capacity to grow and develop through the richness, the wealth of human intelligence. This translates itself in a State budget oriented towards education, particularly higher education, research and innovation; and these countries are now exporters of knowledge.

The global crisis that we are living through today in the financial world—the monetary world—and also the economic and social crises, is without precedent. We are here as witnesses to the fact that each country is, first and foremost, responsible for its own economic and social development. The excesses, the lack of regulation of the global financial system due to different legal traditions, are some of the causes of this crisis. But we should note that the small economic and financial centres are passive actors on this stage that suffer from these processes. It would be false to think that the small-scale economies bear responsibility for the financial crisis. Moreover, they have participated very little in the global finances; mistakes lie elsewhere and we should recognize that, without false excuses.

Monterrey was based on a global partnership and solidarity for development. The current crisis shows that the world is totally integrated and interdependent. The solution to that situation, therefore, lies in a return to multilateralism—an active multilateralism—where everyone has a word to say and a role to play.

Let us go back to the founding principle of the United Nations, which turned inclusion into a model for growth. The central idea coming out of the Monterrey Consensus was a commitment toward the liberalization of trade, which has a role to play in promoting economic growth, employment and development for all. Today, this criterion has been slightly modified. We need to take into account the different characteristics and specificities of each country, and we must adopt appropriate measures at the national level with a view to attracting capital and foreign investment, in a climate of legal safeguards and mutual respect.

We support the Swiss initiative, which has made social responsibility mandatory for enterprises. We are convinced that these factors favour the strengthening of the national private sector, making it more socially oriented and responsible, thus promoting stability and giving confidence and energy to those who are fighting crises and towards an effective world economy. We reaffirm the essential role played today by official development assistance (ODA) in moving towards the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals. For many countries, this assistance is a major source of their external financing. The financial crisis must not put in question the compact of solidarity between developed and developing countries.

The Government of the Principality of Andorra continues to work to make sure that its ODA should reach 0.7 per cent of its gross national income. In this spirit, with a view to giving greater visibility to these objectives, the Government focuses on specific projects, for example, those related towards knowledge in all its aspects, and the protection of the most vulnerable social groups, such as women, children and the aged.

We concentrate our efforts on establishing effective partnerships between donor and recipient States, exchanging workers, volunteers, financing microcredit projects or investing by way of direct economic assistance. Our choice is to support small-scale projects in specific communities, which can progressively grow and spread like a drop of oil spreads on water

In conclusion, from our perspective as a small country, we firmly believe in the need to reform the global financial institutions which, after all, were founded in the context of the end of the Second World War. That context no longer exists. The world of the twenty-first century needs this change to regain confidence, to strengthen legitimacy, with a view to achieving economic efficiency, as well as financial and social effectiveness based on justice, in our globalized world.

We owe this to our children. Thank you very much.

Angola

Statement by
Her Excellency
Ms. Ana Afonso Dias Lourenço
Minister of Planning of the Republic of Angola

30 November 2008

Madam President of the United Nations General Assembly, Secretary-General of the United Nations, Excellencies, Heads of State and Government, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen, we are greatly honored to take the floor at this International Conference to review the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus, occurring at a particularly difficult political and economic juncture.

The main issue under discussion at this conference is the reaffirmation of integrity and a holistic approach of the Monterrey Consensus.

Mr. President, in Africa, problems related to financing for development are well known and have existed for a long time. In this context, we avail ourselves of this opportunity to reaffirm the importance of the Political Declaration on Africa's special Development Needs, adopted in New York on September 22, 2008.

We would also like to reaffirm the role of NEPAD as a mechanism for the coordination of economic cooperation in the continent.

Mr. President, in Monterrey, Mexico, the International Community made commitments to finance development commitments, which were later reiterated in the context of the Summit on Sustainable Development and in the 2005 Summit.

However, before that, at the G8 Summit held in Kananaskis, development partners adopted a Plan of Action for Africa based on the continent's priorities, having also created a Partnership Forum for Africa, an organ that in principle would be in charge of following-up and implementing the commitments made by the international community.

Although we believe that the primary responsibility for development rests with states themselves, Angola is of the opinion that the mobilization of resources and the promotion of trade and the initiatives that have been taken in the domain of external debt are fundamental for the growth and development of our economies.

Mr. President, the world economy has suddenly been affected by a dramatic and profound financial crisis, whose proportion and scope have not yet been fully assessed.

Economic history teaches us that Africa always suffers the heaviest loss in such situations of disruption in the international systems due to its bluntly peripheral position in the world economic system, and always absorbs advantages to a lesser degree when the world economic growth is relatively consistent and sustainable.

Moreover, allow me to underline that the economies of developing countries unfortunately confronted with other adverse factors linked to the flow of financial resources, foreign investment and the flow of private capital, trade, external debt and the architecture of the international financial system.

In this international context, how must we address the problem of financing for development in Africa when on developed economies hovers a climate of great mistrust among the agents of the financial system and GDP growth provisions for 2009 are deeply low.

What implications will there be for the African continent from the climate of global economic recession that has already settled, for example, over the United States—still the largest economy of the world—starting from the third quarter of the current year?

In this context, we welcome the decisions made at the recent G20 Summit held in Washington and we reiterate the importance of the reform of the regulating institutions of the international financial system.

Mr. President, the African continent remains marginalized from the global economy, representing only 2% of the global trade, which makes it more imperative to reach a conclusion for the Doha round on international trade, with the full realization of its development mandate, with particular emphasis on the elimination of agricultural subsidies in developed countries and tariff and non tariff barriers, which in many cases restrict the access to the markets of developed countries.

However, looking at the current situation, we can easily infer that the international community is far from assuming the Monterrey commitments, and in general, from implementing the commitments assumed at the main international conferences in the economic and social field.

Mr. President, finally, allow me to refer to the situation in my country. Our model of financing for development is still anchored in three external components, namely, tax revenues from oil, international loans and foreign private investment.

Between 2004 and 2007, the Angolan economy accumulated growth of 92.4% in real terms. That is, in only 4 years, our GDP was almost duplicated, which is truly remarkable.

Thus, although our social indicators are somewhat distant from the targets of the Millennium Development Goals, Angola registered significant progress in the Human Development Index and encouraging levels of economic growth.

Mr. President, Angola has developed consistent macroeconomic policies. It is consolidating its democracy, and several measures have been

adopted in order to increase transparency in public administration, fight corruption, and improve governance efficiency.

Angola will continue to apply the same energy in order to achieve the Millennium Development Goals and to fulfill the aspirations of the Angolan people, which are sustainable growth and development, as well as the guarantee of a better life, with progress and well-being for all.

Finally, Mr. President, in the context of the present financial crisis, we deem it important and timely to engage in a profound discussion of alternative sources of financing for development which guarantee the effective achievement of the objectives of the Millennium.

Thank you very much.

Argentina

Statement by
His Excellency
Mr. Jorge Taiana
Minister for Foreign Affairs, Trade and Religious Relations of the Argentine Republic

30 November 2008

I would like to begin by thanking the Emir of the State of Qatar and his people for hosting this meeting and also for the hospitality which the delegation of my country has enjoyed. I would also like to reiterate in this forum, on the part of the Government of Argentina, our condemnation of the atrocious terrorist attacks in Mumbai. We wish to express, as well, to the families of the victims and the Indian authorities our condolences and our most heartfelt solidarity at this moment.

We all acknowledge the efforts that have been made in the beginning of the new millennium to tackle with solidarity and multilateralism the challenge of reversing the growing poverty, as well as the pockets of hunger, in the world. However, the implementation of policies that were advocated and led by international financial institutions, such as the paradigm of the path to development, along with the deepening of the deregulation of financial markets, enabled the growth of enormous speculative bubbles outside any reasonable link to the real economy.

Recently, many have become aware of what has been going on, of its scope and of its consequences for the growth of the global economy. This crisis began in developed countries and will affect countries that were not responsible for it. On the contrary, they have been the engine of economic world growth in recent years. It is estimated that developing economies will be affected in their domestic financial capacity as a result of a drop in external revenue and in flows of foreign direct investment, as well as by a toughening of access to credit.

Within this context, it is crucial that developed countries comply with their commitment in relation to official development assistance (ODA) which they formally took on in 2002. The very developed countries acknowledge having provided ODA in other forms and cooperation, the volume of which is not greater than 0.27 per cent of their annual gross domestic product (GDP). From every point of view, this is insufficient and is very far from the 0.7 per cent of gross national income which was taken on as a commitment.

The Monterrey Consensus and its targets with respect to financing for development did not work, or perhaps simply worked minimally, contrary to what was hoped. The flows from funds were invested and it is the emerging countries and other developing countries that are financed with our trade and fiscal surpluses. We have financed the excessive tax deficit and trade balance of the largest power in the world. In this new scenario, it is crucial first of all to emphasize that we are not ready to give up any of the progress that all of us, developed and developing, countries have agreed upon in the Monterrey Consensus.

Secondly, nor is it acceptable that some developed countries attempt to delay their compliance with the goals with respect to financing for development, as well as the Millennium Development Goals. It would be a serious error on our part not to acknowledge that both things are part of the

same problem and that, as a result, they have to be integrated in the upcoming steps that the international community will have to take without further delay in the multilateral sphere. It is only possible through a revamping of financial systems, including the crucial reform of the Bretton Woods institutions, with the broad participation and representation of emerging and developing countries in the design of its architecture and policies. Only in this way can the world be in a position to find solutions to the causes that led to this crisis, as well as the needs in terms of financing for development. This reform must consider official assistance and cooperation for development with a view to improving the structure and mechanisms of international financial cooperation so that this can finance the growth of poor countries effectively.

In order for growth to be sustainable, it has to improve the standard of living as well as the well-being of the entire population. To achieve this objective, it is crucial that wealth be generated from, and for, the real economy. The financial sector, which was globalized before any other sector in our economies, stopped fully carrying out its function as a provider of resources for the genuine growth of companies that produced goods and services, having entered a spiral of speculation. It is, therefore, clear that we are experiencing the end of an era today and, hence, it is very important to find the necessary consensus in order not to lose this historic opportunity.

In this Conference, we must be able to introduce all the changes that we feel are appropriate regarding cooperation and financing for development, with a view to redesigning the new international financial system. In the light of this crisis, we believe that we require coordination among developing countries, first of all at the level of our respective regions, with respect to the most urgent measures that need to be taken to protect our real economies and to maintain a fluent exchange of information on the evolution of the financial crisis. This coordination could be extended to the exchange of information on the development of ODA in our respective countries, as well as experiences in relation to the obstacles or conduct of donors, which even further affect the already deteriorating flows of cooperation in financing for development.

Recalling the links between trade and finance, we must emphasize, within the context of the current financial crisis, the need for multilateral trade negotiations to fully take into account the interest of developing countries, eliminating the practices of developed countries which distort agricultural trade, and to also make it possible for smaller countries to maintain appropriate tariff levels to expand their industrial policies, which are essential to their development.

We should not accept in any situation that there will not be financing to fulfil the annual goal which was set in the Monterrey Consensus, which is just a tiny fraction of the abundant funds of the developed countries that are being designed to support their financial entities and to maintain the current level of internal employment. At the same time, developed countries must commit themselves to increasing the amounts of ODA, as of 2011-2015, to comply with the percentage of the GNI that was previously agreed upon.

We would also want to insist on the need to eliminate the anachronistic system of conditions, both for the use of financial instruments to resolve and to prevent crisis, and also with respect to ODA, and favour a system which is more flexible, without technical or sectoral impositions or trade policies which are incompatible with our development strategies.

We are convinced of the enormous need and utility of having a follow-up mechanism for assistance and cooperation for development which would be part of a new international financial architecture. This follow-up mechanism should garner the broad participation of emerging and developing countries with a view to decision-making power, in accordance with the increasingly large participation of these countries in the global GDP and in trade flows. We must come up with a model which would operate on the basis of a consensus, with objective clear and valid rules of the game which are the same for everyone, donor countries and recipient countries, and with technically agreed-on criteria which would make it possible to determine diversions

from commitments that were made as well as swift compensation for breach of compliance.

Furthermore, Argentina takes this opportunity to reassert the importance of South-South cooperation among developing countries, which have become net exporters of capital towards developed countries in recent years, thanks to having obtained with their own efforts surpluses in their current accounts and, in many cases, in their fiscal accounts, as well. We must find ways to channel the savings towards other developing countries, considering the fact that the emerging countries will continue being the main driver of global growth in the coming years. South-South cooperation must be put into practice through appropriate political decisions, support for the most important emerging economies, as well as coordinated work among all developing countries to come up with a more practical instrument which would facilitate the implementation of projects which, today, are urgent to maintain growth.

In summary, we must acknowledge that overcoming the serious problems that we face today requires a solution based on the responsibility of every State and the central role of national States, both with respect to internal challenges and sustainable development and also to the processes of coordination and regulation of the global economy. For its part, the United Nations must play an active role and contribute to resolving the crisis and reformulating the system—which was inherited from the Second World War—by providing solutions to a different world, which is now more complex and has a larger number of protagonists.

It is time to implement mechanisms that guarantee that financial capital is at the service of production and development and not the opposite. It is time to tackle the structural causes which prevent the growth of the global society and harmony, and to ensure that the economy will be focused on the objectives of an international society which is more fair and equitable, which strengthens democracy and contributes to enhancing cooperation among nations.

Austria

Statement by
His Excellency
Mr. Hans Winkler
Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Austria

30 November 2008

Madam President, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen, at the outset, let me express our deeply felt sympathy for the heinous attacks on Mumbai to the Government and People of India. Let me express on behalf of the Austrian Government and people our full solidarity. At the outset, allow me to stress that Austria fully shares the declaration of the European Union.

Let me also express now my sincere gratitude for having the opportunity to address the Assembly on this most important debate on Financing for Development and let me thank the Government and His Royal Highness, the Amir for the generous support and organizing this conference. Particularly, in the light of the current global challenges, a conference on financing for development not only comes at the right time, but it is even more important than ever.

The year 2008 has seen a number of major events on development cooperation with participation at the highest level of many Heads of States and Governments, all determined to give new impetus to reach the Millennium Development Goals by 2015.

Let me just remind you of UNCTAD XII and the High-Level Meeting on Aid Effectiveness, both held in Accra earlier this year, as well as the Africa and MDG-Summits of the General Assembly, further the High-Level Dialogue on the Midterm Review On the Almaty Programme of Action with focus on Landlocked Developing Countries, and last but not least, the G20 Meeting in Washington about two weeks ago to discuss possible solutions for the global Financial Crisis, resulting in a declaration by which the G20 leaders committed themselves, among others, to continued cooperation and multilateralism, as much as they reaffirmed

their commitments regarding the MDGs, the Monterrey Consensus and other critical challenges like the food crisis, high energy prices and the consequences of climate change.

Madam President, our gathering here in Doha, against the backdrop of all mentioned events in the spirit of development cooperation, will hopefully profit from the momentum generated by these recent conferences.

The current global challenges, in particular the financial crisis and the question of food security, negatively affect the poorest and most vulnerable people in the world. In this extremely difficult situation, it is even more important for the donor community to honor their commitments and support their developing partners.

The first Conference on Financing for Development six years ago in Monterrey, Mexico, and the resulting Monterrey Consensus, set a fundamental basis for our common efforts to find new approaches in financing for development and is also of paramount importance in the light of the internationally agreed development goals, in particular the MDGs.

Although there has been significant progress in our partner countries since 2002, many of them, especially least developed ones in Sub Saharan Africa, still lag far behind in their development efforts and increased efforts are urgently needed for them to be able to reach the MDGs by 2015. Therefore, we have to find solutions for urgent problems of development finance.

Madam President, Austria has actively taken part in the preparatory work for the Doha Conference at UN and EU level. In this regard and in consideration of MDG 8, I would like to reaffirm that Austria is committed to meet its international obligations and fully supports the EU goals of 0.51% of gross national income for development cooperation purposes until 2010, as well as 0.7 % of GNI by 2015.

The Austrian Development Cooperation focuses its work on poverty eradication with special regard to the situation of women in our partner countries.

In the Monterrey Consensus, from our point of view, the gender dimension was underrepresented. As the role of women in the development process is decisive, it is vitally important in our view to integrate gender equality and empowerment of women in all development plans, policies and budgets. For example, we support a UNIFEM project on gender responsive budgeting in South Eastern Europe.

Therefore, Austria was very active in including the gender aspect and empowerment of women, particularly gender budgeting, in the outcome document of the Doha Conference as well as in the council conclusions at EU-level on Guidelines for EU participation in the international Conference on Financing for Development.

Although we are aware of the importance of Official Development Assistance for our developing partners, from the Austrian perspective, ODA is only one means to support development.

The improvement of the basic conditions for economically and socially sustainable development in our partner countries, an adequate infrastructure, support for economic growth and the creation of the basic requirements for secure private investment, thereby increasing public revenues and ensuring public investment, are equally important for the development process.

Madam President, especially for fragile states, the security aspect is one of the parameters eminently relevant for development. Therefore, investment in respective regional structures can obtain some leverage for the development process.

Another important issue we should deal with is based on the high rates of unemployment among young people in our developing partner countries. We have to put in greater efforts in supporting concrete measures to create decent jobs and working conditions for them.

At this point, I would also like to appeal to our developing partner countries to recognize in the sense of country leadership and ownership, their responsibility for their own development process. This understanding I regard as crucial for an effective partnership for development based on the Paris Declaration and the Accra Agenda for Action.

Development requires an active Civil Society, functioning national parliaments and a solid public administration. Moreover, it is vitally important to further investments in developing countries, particularly in infrastructure and agriculture. An enabling economic environment and economic growth based on and with the aim of sustainable development, form, among others, essential cornerstones of a successful development process.

With this in mind, let me conclude, Madam President, by wishing you and all of us a successful Conference.

I thank you very much for your attention!

Bangladesh

Statement by
His Excellency
Dr. A.B. Mirza Md. Azizul Islam
Minister of Finance of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
(on behalf of the Least Developed Countries)

30 November 2008

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the least developed countries (LDCs). The group aligns itself with the statement of the Group of 77 and China.

Let me begin by expressing profound sympathy to the Government and people of India for the traumatic experience they have suffered recently as a result of a contemptible terrorist attack. I also wish to express heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families.

I am privileged to attend this Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development in this beautiful city of Doha. Our warm gratitude goes to His Highness Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani for his generous hospitality and for the wonderful arrangements made for this Conference. Our special thanks go to the Government of Qatar for providing support for the participation of the LDCs in this Conference. We also thank the Secretary-General and his staff for their hard work in making this Conference a success.

The central focus of the Monterrey Consensus relates to the means of implementation of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals. The Monterrey Conference engendered some immediate response, most notably in regard to the present development assistance. The developed countries made commitments to provide 0.7 per cent of their gross national income as official development assistance (ODA) to developing countries and 0.15 to 0.2 per cent to LDCs; provide duty- and quota-free market access to LDCs; find a durable solution to the debt problems; provide technologies and technical support; and reform the international financial architecture. Despite these commitments, the progress has been dismal.

The Review Conference in Doha is taking place at a critical juncture. Persistent global imbalances, sustained net capital export from developing countries to the capital-rich developed countries, high volatility in the exchange rates of major currencies, unregulated expansion of speculative markets, failure of the World Trade Organization trade negotiations, rapid pace of climate change, devastating financial crisis in mature economies, soaring oil- and non-commodity prices, particularly the unprecedented rise in food prices: all pose grave risks to achieving sustained economic growth and achievement of the Millennium Development Goals in developing countries, particularly in the LDCs.

The financial crisis has been highly contagious, casting a pall of gloom over the economic landscape of the entire world. Its debilitating impact on the real economy is no longer a mere possibility, but a stark reality. The LDCs are likely to suffer seriously from potentially dangerous consequences for exports, remittances, foreign direct investment (FDI) and ODA, which constitute the backbone of their economies. Access to credit markets is also under a big threat.

The complex and multifaceted global challenges warrant a strengthened multidimensional global action. The international community must

agree on an ambitious action plan for the full implementation of the Monterrey Consensus as well as effectively address new and emerging challenges through additional resources. We firmly believe that the fast-deteriorating global economic scenario can only be remedied through inclusive multilateralism. In our view, the United Nations General Assembly has the legitimate authority and expertise to lead that process.

We note that the Group of Twenty (G20) Summit on Financial Markets and the World Economy, held in Washington, D.C., on 15 November 2008, can complement the inclusive multilateral process. In this regard, we express our concern that LDCs remain totally unrepresented in this Group. We call upon the G20 countries to include the voice of the 49 LDCs in this process to make it more representative and participatory. We also stress the need to convene a major international summit-level conference, under United Nations auspices, to review the international financial and monetary architecture and the global economic governance structure.

Most LDCs have come a long way in establishing an effective, fair and stable institutional, legal and regulatory framework for public, private and civil society activities, as called for in Monterrey Consensus. In many cases, we have made considerable progress in the promotion of democracy, human rights and the rule of law. These achievements, however, have not made much headway in reducing the perennial savings-investment gaps in many least developed economies. Greater efforts are required to support the creation and strengthening of a congenial environment through appropriate national and international actions. International cooperation in tax matters needs to be strengthened. The Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters needs to be upgraded to an intergovernmental body of the United Nations, with adequate financing.

Despite significant improvements in the investment climate in LDCs, this group of countries remains marginalized within the global production networks. The group, with around 12 per cent of total world population, receives less than 2 per cent of total world investment. The major share of investments in LDCs goes primarily to natural resources extraction and resource-based manufacturing industries. The international community should undertake appropriate measures to increase FDI in the LDCs and ensure its equitable distribution.

The failure of the completion of the Doha Round is no doubt a major setback for the multilateral trading system. We must marshal the political will to achieve the successful completion of the Round and full realization of its development goals. The key development deliverables, particularly duty- and quota-free market access and support for production capacity building for LDCs, should be pursued expeditiously, vigorously and comprehensively. Developed countries and developing ones in a position to do so must provide duty- and quota-free market access to all products from LDCs, unilaterally and without discrimination, even before the conclusion of the Doha Round.

The ODA-GNI ratio has declined from 0.33 to 0.28 per cent in 2007. For LDCs, the ratio is stagnant, only at 0.09 per cent. Conditionality, unpredictability and earmarking of ODA remain some of the key challenges in ensuring aid effectiveness. Developed countries must fulfill their ODA commitment of 0.7 per cent of gross national income to developing countries and 0.2 per cent of gross national income to LDCs by 2010.

External debt is a big challenge for many LDCs. The Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative (MDRI) is a welcome one. However, existing debt relief initiatives should be deepened and broadened, in order to encompass all LDCs who have been facing obstacles in addressing their external debt problems. If a country fulfills the criteria of being a LDC, it should be eligible for debt write-off. It is therefore important that all outstanding debt, both multilateral and bilateral, of all LDCs should be written off immediately. Future development assistance should be grant-based to avert the recurrence of debt unsustainably. We stress the importance of continued flexibility with regard to the eligibility criteria for debt relief under the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries and MDRI Initiatives.

Many LDCs are falling victim to the impact of climate change, for which they bear little or no responsibility. It is crucial that their adaptation as well as mitigation needs to deal with such impact are adequately met, without undermining the flow of normal development assistance.

Access to energy, including renewable sources of energy, and modern eco-friendly technologies at an affordable cost, is essential for LDCs to achieve the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals.

The prospects of South-South cooperation, including triangular cooperation, have significantly increased. However, LDCs are yet to fully reap the benefits offered under it, and they must therefore be provided with special facilities to do so. We call upon the advanced developing countries to extend commercially meaningful duty- and quota-free market access to exports of the LDCs. We also call for the early conclusion of the third round of negotiations under the Global System of Trade Preferences and request all developing countries to join the initiative.

The governance regime of Bretton Woods institutions needs to be changed. To redress their democratic deficit, the fundamental reform of their voting system and accountability structures must occur. The doubling of basic votes, as called for by the Board of the International Monetary Fund last year, would not affect the distribution of power or change the decision-making procedures. Special weightage should be accorded particularly to LDCs in setting the new quota formula as their voice is critical in the Bretton Woods institutions. If such a new architecture is to work, it must involve the Governments of developing countries in its design and implementation.

LDCs are inherently the most vulnerable group of countries due to their structural weaknesses. Many of them will not be able to achieve the Millennium Development Goals and other development goals if the required level of financial and technical resources is not ensured. Financing for development is critically important to them. The Doha outcome must place at its centre the special concerns and priorities of the LDCs.

In conclusion, we feel that the review and monitoring of the implementation of the commitments of both Monterrey and Doha would be critically important. A comprehensive and diverse multi-stakeholder follow-up process is necessary. We look forward to a concrete decision on the follow-up of the Conference.

Barbados

Statement by
Her Excellency
Ms. Maxine McClean
Minister for Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, Barbados

1 December 2008

Mr. President, I would like to thank the Government and people of the State of Qatar for the very warm welcome that you have extended to us and for the excellent facilities that you have placed at our disposal.

I would also like to align the Barbados delegation with the statement made by Antigua and Barbuda, on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. Let me also join other delegations in condemning the wanton destruction of life and property in the city of Mumbai and offer the sincere sympathy of the Government of Barbados to the Government and people of India, particularly those who have lost loved ones.

Six years ago in Monterrey, financing for development was placed firmly on the global agenda. At that time, the Monterrey Consensus represented a building block in the creation of a global alliance for development. World leaders then pledged to translate the commitments made at Monterrey into a particular programme of implementation. The issues covered by the Consensus document were vast, and expectations were high.

Today, the world is a different place. The global financial system is in crisis. Energy prices remain volatile. The global food crisis and the challenges of climate change persist, and the development aspirations of countries, including the achievement of

the Millennium Development Goals, are in jeopardy. This Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to renew the Monterrey Consensus is therefore taking place at a critical juncture in history.

Although the level of progress made towards implementing the Monterrey Consensus has been far from satisfactory, the Government of Barbados remains hopeful and committed to the process, as this Conference presents us all with the opportunity to address current global challenges and, more importantly, the opportunity to take major decisions that emphasize the need to reform the global economic and financial system.

The creation of an effective international financial governance system that is inclusive and that supports the development aspirations of all States, by ensuring the availability of the necessary resources to aid development, continues to be critical if we are to play our part in creating a more just and equitable world.

There is no doubt that trade remains the driving force behind economic growth and development of the global economy. Globalization and trade liberalization have not only changed the structure of the global economy; they have led to rapid expansion in the volume of global trade in the last few decades. Despite this, developing countries, and, in particular, small island developing States like Barbados, have not received the expected economic dividends emanating from trade liberalization—to take full advantage of the opportunities that globalization does present. The maintenance of subsidies and other trade-distorting measures, non-tariff and technical barriers, and scant regard for special and differential treatment for developing countries have, in simple terms, heightened the risk of marginalization of countries like Barbados.

As a small, vulnerable economy, we therefore accord great importance to the creation of a viable, equitable, open, rules-based trade regime which recognizes the diversity in the levels of development and size of countries and their economies, and underscores the principle of special and differential treatment.

The need for improvements of the multilateral trading rules to enhance fairness and bring equity to the system through the reduction and removal of trade-distorting agricultural subsidies and institutional and regulatory reform, particularly in the field of services, remains necessary.

The prospect of a global economic slowdown in 2008, which may trigger a concurrent decline in commodity exports from developing countries, is also likely to have particularly adverse implications for the economic growth of small economies. Within the Caribbean region, many States have already registered increasing trade deficits against the backdrop of a fall in exports. Given that, for the most part, countries in the Caribbean are net importers of goods, we stand to exacerbate our balance of payments problems.

In addition, the expected slowdown in foreign direct investment (FDI) in the Caribbean region will not only affect our ability to trade as individual countries, but it will, in essence, compromise our efforts at creating wealth, of alleviating poverty and of achieving the Millennium Development Goals and other developmental goals.

There is an urgent need for the international community to deepen its understanding and display greater sensitivity to the development needs and concerns of small developing countries. In order to attain sustainable levels of growth, countries like Barbados require greater access to stable, predictable sources of financing. Regrettably, the level of official development assistance (ODA) flows in real terms has declined, and continues to do so, in developing countries.

It is important to note that middle-income countries, such as Barbados, oftentimes borrow commercially to meet critical infrastructure and other development needs. However, in light of the global economic instability, accompanied by rising interest rates and volatile commodity prices, it is the intent of the Government of Barbados to remain prudent in its financial undertakings so as not to increase our debt burden and to prevent dramatic negative effects on our economic growth prospects.

The graduation of Barbados from the World Bank has prevented us from accessing much needed development financing, and we find it increasingly difficult to access the concessionary financing necessary to assure future sustainable growth and development. The graduation of middle-income countries like Barbados needs to be reassessed in light of inherent vulnerabilities caused by their small size and exposure to natural and environmental disasters and, indeed, the vagaries of the international financial system. In these circumstances, and despite our graduation, there remains a need for other forms of assistance, in the form of technology transfer and technical assistance initiatives.

Barbados wishes to reiterate the important role that innovative sources of financing can play in mobilizing additional resources for development. However, such sources should be complementary to, and not substitutes for, ODA and must not impose any burden on developing countries. Furthermore, we also believe that in studying such innovative sources we should not divert our focus and attention away from traditional sources of financing, or send a signal that the international community has given up hope that developed countries will meet their 0.7 per cent aid commitment or their other commitments on trade, debt relief, FDI and governance.

As it relates to the matter of external debt, there is an urgent need for a comprehensive and vigorous approach to addressing the debt burden of middle-income developing countries like Barbados, given that economic indicators and traditional modes of assessment, such as per capita income, often mask the true impact of the debt burden on our populations, the level of poverty and income inequality that exists, and prospects for achieving development goals.

Barbados is also of the view that the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Initiative has proven to be inadequate and insufficient in addressing the debt burdens of the poorest countries. Much greater effort is required to further reduce debt in HIPCs to sustainable levels and thus help to improve the ability of these countries to attract private finance.

Furthermore, the Multilateral Debt Relief Institutions should not be administered solely by the principal international financial institutions, which have a vested interest as creditor in the outcome of their own actions. Barbados calls for further reconsideration of the proposal for establishing an independent debt arbitration mechanism to be developed, including creditors and debtors, as well as impartial expert interlocutors, in assessing, adjudicating and passing judgement on debt reduction options.

In this connection, an International Convention on Sovereign Debt Restructuring in Financial Emergencies may need to be considered to incorporate the lesson that has been learnt over the last twenty years, and from the present financial crisis, and to remove inconsistencies and avoid ad hoc approaches that have been the hallmark of attempts to restructure debt burdens.

The Monterrey Consensus emphasizes that future reviews of debt sustainability should bear in mind the impact of debt relief on progress toward the achievement of the development goals contained in the Millennium Declaration. It is therefore imperative that the international community places greater focus on addressing the lingering debt problems of many small vulnerable States and middle-income developing countries.

The Government of Barbados believes that the current governance structure of the international financial system is simply too exclusive, limited and not sufficiently equipped to meet the requirements of today's complex and interdependent global economy. There is a marked asymmetry between an increasingly sophisticated, yet unstable, world and the institutions that regulate and supervise it.

As the current and past financial crises illustrate, the present international financial system lacks appropriate institutions for financial globalization. The impact of financial volatility and uncertainty is most severe in developing countries, especially small, open economies.

Enhancing the voice and participation of developing countries in international economic decision-making and norm setting remains a fundamental prerequisite for improving global economic governance. We all have a stake in the global economic system and its management, from the biggest and wealthiest among us to the smallest and poorest. In this connection, we believe that the ongoing discussions on quota and voice reform in the Bretton Woods institutions should result in an increasing level of representation of, and a greater voice for, small developing countries.

The importance of the international business and financial services sectors to the economies of most Member States of the Caribbean Community and Common Market (CARICOM) dictates our commitment to international tax cooperation. Barbados is of the view that international cooperation in tax matters is necessary to combat tax evasion and abuse. Barbados fully supported Economic and social Council resolution 2004/69, which converted the Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Tax Matters into a Committee of the Council, with a new and expanded mandate. We were particularly supportive of the conversion as we felt that previous institutional arrangements addressing cross-border tax matters were not inclusive and did not address the concerns of small, vulnerable developing counties.

In addition, the agenda of existing institutions, such as the Organization for Economic cooperation and Development, which address international tax matters, was, and still is, considered devoid of a development dimension and clearly skewed in favour of its members. We remain committed to cooperating with the international community on tax matters and other related issues. We believe, however, that such cooperation must be even-handed and not arbitrary, must operate on a level playing field, and must take into consideration the special and unique situation of small, vulnerable developing economies.

In this connection, Barbados is of the view that the United Nations Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters must be transformed into an intergovernmental body that facilitates the equal and democratic participation of all countries in the norm-setting process at the international level. Barbados strongly supports the mandate of an inclusive United Nations body dedicated to facilitating international tax cooperation and, as such, examining the agenda of emerging issues of importance to small developing countries that are not presently addressed in other organizations.

In conclusion, I wish to reiterate the commitment of my country to working with all partners, Governments, the private sector and civil society, in order to ensure that the challenges to our development aspirations which we all face are dealt with in a coordinated, coherent and timely manner.

Belarus

Statement by
Her Excellency
Ms. Tatyana Starchenko
Deputy Minister for the Economy of the Republic of Belarus

30 November 2008

First of all, on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Belarus, I would like to extend our gratitude to the United Nations, to the Emir of Qatar and the Government and people of Qatar for the excellent organization of this highly representative forum, which is to give new impetus to the international community's efforts to finance development.

The Republic of Belarus advocates a balanced approach in terms of applying instruments of development in accordance with the level of the economies of developing countries, and consistently implements it.

In the early 1990s, Belarus started moving from a planned economy to a market economy. It has largely learned to use market mechanisms and regulatory tools effectively and has achieved impressive economic growth. After the Monterrey Conference, the economic growth of Belarus has been 9.75 per cent a year, on average. The experience of Belarus shows that to ensure sustainable development and economic growth, one must abandon

cookie-cutter, "one-size fits all" approaches in economic policy.

Belarus bases its social and economic policy on a custom-made approach, with a focus on an adequate level of liberalization, openness of the economy, and developing market institutions and the private sector. At present, the Belarusian economy has reached a stage where we can reasonably and effectively benefit from economic liberalization.

Belarus took a number of decisions which have improved the investment attractiveness of our country for international business. At the moment, our economy is open to foreign investments, but today their level is defined by the international environment. We advocate sustainable development for the entire international community. The decisions of this Conference are regarded by us as an important stage in the global process to improve international economic cooperation for development.

The draft outcome document of this Conference is fairly balanced. But we would like to see a more specific appraisal of the status of implementation of the Monterrey Consensus, and of the issues which in recent years have had a considerable impact on slowing down the process of financing development. In recent years in the world's development, opportunities have increased for benefiting from globalization, but the so-called pools of poverty have become more pronounced. Experience shows that not all countries can benefit from globalization. The hope for a radical liberalization of trade regimes, or the exclusive strength of the market, has been dashed.

Without adequate and effective regulatory mechanisms at the national level—without a favourable international environment—these recipes would not work. One wonders at the broadening practice of the use of unilateral trade and economic measures of coercion. Such actions threaten the integrity of the trade and economic system and cannot help the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus. We must take more and more active and resolute steps to eliminate unjust unilateral sanctions, and other measures which prevent us from reaching well-coordinated parameters for sustainable development.

Urgent measures are necessary to conclude the Doha Round of the World Trade Organization's negotiations, and democratization of the process of introducing new members into the process. Economic and political pressure remains a reality of our time. In our view, it is important not only to maintain but to enhance the role of the United Nations in creating effective mechanisms for broadening the financing of development, both globally and nationally, with the focus on specificity and the needs of specific countries.

It is necessary to give a new emphasis to the implementation of the United Nations General Assembly resolution on the integration of States whose economies are in transition into the world's economy. Broadening trade and investment and direction between developing countries and countries whose economies are in transition will strengthen the potential of countries in financing development.

We note with satisfaction the fact that the outcome document pays great attention to the need to improve the system of international cooperation. The time has come to improve it in a coordinated and consistent fashion. The institutional architecture of the international financial system, new world economic realities and the increased pressures of the financial crisis confirm the need to look for adequate tools and levers to manage the international financial system, to reduce its vulnerability, to make it more predictable and to prevent financial crises in the future.

In conclusion, I would like to emphasize the fact that the Republic of Belarus has committed to the international development goals. That commitment remains. We are interested in the further integration of our country into the international community. We hope that all participants will continue to work fruitfully.

Bhutan

Statement by
His Excellency
Mr. Lyonpo Yeshey Zimba
Minister for Works and Human Settlement of the Kingdom of Bhutan

1 December 2008

Honorable President, Mr. Secretary-General, Honorable Head of States andGovernments, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, my delegation would like to thank the Government of the State of Qatar for the excellent arrangements made for the conference, the warm hospitality and for financing the participation of the Least Developed Countries delegations.

Mr. President, eight years ago, when the new millennium dawned, it ushered in renewed hope and aspiration for all the people of the world, particularly the poor and the disadvantaged. The Millennium Summit of 2000, which saw the largest ever gathering of world leaders, adopted the noble Millennium Development Goals with timebound concrete internationally agreed development goals.

These efforts were further strengthened with the adoption of the Monterrey Consensus for Financing for Development in 2002. A beacon of hope for the world's poor emerged on the horizon—or so it seemed.

The Monterrey Consensus has not been realized and the Millennium Development Goals remain a distant dream for most developing countries. The rich nations have become richer but the resource flows to the poor have not increased. The plight of the poor has been further aggravated by the rising cost of food and fuel, amongst others.

Eight years after the Millennium Summit and six years after the Monterrey Consensus, we meet here in Doha to discuss the same problems and issues and sadly discover that nothing much has changed. Unless the global community particularly the rich nations honor their commitments to enhance resource flows to the poorer countries, the plight of the poor will continue to remain grim.

We are all aware of the economic downturn and the financial crunch in the developed countries. We must, however, be mindful of the greater pains that the poor in the developing countries would suffer as a result of the global economic downturn. The need for aid is more urgent during such times as the poor have no option than to endure more pain and degradation of human dignity. The time has come for the global community to realize that we have one common future on this planet and that we need to share our resources for mutual benefit and for sustainable peace and prosperity in the long run. No nation is insulated and problems in any country or region could be the source of problems in other regions or countries. All problems in the world now need to be resolved through global efforts where the rich and the poor must work together as a team.

Mr. President, almost every speaker in this meeting condemned the dastardly act of terrorism which claimed innocent lives in the Indian city of Mumbai. The Indian government had the capacity to deal with the problem and must be commended for having ended the siege with the minimal loss of lives.

Terrorism, however, is today a threat to the peace and prosperity of every country. No nation rich or poor, big or small is spared from its threat. Terrorism is a problem that must be addressed through common and concerted efforts of all countries.

Mr. President, yesterday several distinguished speakers reminded us that peace was a precondition for development and that the basis for peace was justice. I agree with this. There cannot, however, be justice when large numbers of people suffer and struggle everyday just to survive. Every day is a day of uncertainty and great pain. Poverty is the greatest injustice and the greatest threat to peace anywhere. Unless poverty is reduced peace cannot be assured—the poor have no stake in the society and have nothing to lose. Poverty is the breeding ground for social unrest and terrorism. If we want peace then we must reduce poverty. To reduce poverty the poor countries have no choice but to seek the support of richer nations. Global peace needs global efforts and cooperation. The present

economic crisis should not be an excuse for not giving but greater reason for increasing ODA to alleviate the suffering of the poor. The commitments made under the Monterrey Consensus must be honoured.

Mr. President, may I now briefly highlight recent developments that have taken place in my country, Bhutan, including progress towards achieving MDGs. Bhutan is on track to achieve most of the MDGs. Given the highly mountainous terrain, we will however require enhanced financial support from our development partners, particularly for infrastructure building (roads, schools, hospital, electricity, etc) which is the key to poverty reduction.

On the political front, the most important development in the recent history of my country was the transition from Monarchy to Democracy. A free and fair election was held, under the watchful eyes of EU Commissioners, and a new democratic government was elected on 24 March 2008. Democracy in Bhutan was thrust upon a reluctant people by a great and visionary King, who surrendered his powers to the people at the peak of his popularity.

Bhutan's development philosophy of Gross National Happiness, initiated by the King, has given the world a new paradigm for development which places the well-being and happiness of the people at the centre. It aims to bring about greater human happiness through a balanced development framework where economic growth, conservation of natural environment, promotion of culture and traditions are well integrated under a system of good governance. Good Governance is now to be assured by the people through democracy.

People's faith in the King has stood the test of time. People's faith in democracy will depend largely upon the ability of the newly-elected government to meet the aspirations of the people, that is to build infrastructure to reduce poverty. Hence, the financial support of the donor community is needed to improve the well-being of the poor and to build the people's confidence in the institution of democracy.

Thank you and Tashi Delek!

Bolivia

Statement by
His Excellency
Mr. David Choquehuanca
Minister for Foreign Affairs and Worship of the Republic of Bolivia

30 November 2008

On behalf of the Government of Bolivia, I would like to take this opportunity to express our most sincere thanks to His Highness, the Emir, and to the people of Qatar for the very warm welcome and fraternal hospitality which have been extended to us in order to participate in the Follow-up International Conference to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus.

We would also like to express our condemnation of the acts of terrorism which took place in the city of Mumbai, India, which has led to the loss of many lives. We wish to convey our solidarity and condolences to the families of the victims.

I would like to refer to three aspects of Monterrey Consensus. The first is official development assistance (ODA). In Monterrey, it was great that developed countries would devote 0.7 per cent of their gross national income to ODA for developing countries. Only some countries have fulfilled this commitment and, on average, ODA has not gone beyond 0.3 per cent at the present time. And, now, the bankers who provoked the current financial crisis have done much better than developing countries and the Monterrey Consensus. In simply a few months, the banks have received in the United States and Europe $4.1 trillion. That is 45 times more than the entire ODA granted by the United States and Europe, which amounts to $90 billion.

What does this show us? That development and poverty are 45 times less important than the Exchanges of all streets in the world. It also teaches us that there are enough public resources available when it is a matter of saving the banks that caused the crisis, but when it comes to providing funds for development all of a sudden these public funds shrink. We cannot continue with this double standard; thus, in order for this Conference to be

useful, we have to put an end to it. Development and the fight against poverty cannot continue to receive leftovers from the table.

The second aspect I would like to refer to is international trade. The paradigm of the Monterrey Consensus that free trade was going to bring development to our countries has not been fulfilled. On the contrary, through free trade treaties, developing countries are being pushed to open up our basic services to privatization, that we patent animal and plant life, that we liberalize our financial services and that we put an end to the few preferences that our national producers have when it comes to Government procurement. These free trade agreements have caused division and crises within the processes of regional integration that have taken decades to build for our peoples.

I would also like to condemn that fact that Governments, such as that of President Bush, use trade in tariff preferences as pressure mechanisms and as political vengeance against developing countries, such as Bolivia, to try to discipline us. Trade as a political pressure tool is something that is harmful and should be condemned by this Conference. At the level of the World Trade Organization (WTO), we cannot say that we simply conclude that the Doha Round of the WTO has forgotten development and has not taken into account the crises, the three crises that affect mankind today, that is to say, the food crisis, the financial crisis and the climate change crisis. The WTO must acknowledge its error of having promoted the liberalization of financial services and freeing countries from the commitment that they made.

The last aspect that I would like to refer to is the international financial system. Everyone agrees that we have to reform it. But who is going to reform the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund? Are the World Bank and the IMF going to reform themselves? Is the Group of Twenty (G20) going to reform them, or is it the 192 Member States of the United Nations who will have to do so in equal conditions? The other aspect relates to what type of reform is required, that is to say, a reform that continues on the path towards neoliberalism, or reform to put an end to this model, once and for all, which has brought us to this situation? Within this framework, it is important to make progress towards new supranatural organizations for financial regulation.

Brazil

Statement by
His Excellency
Mr. Celso Amorin
Foreign Minister of the Federative Republic of Brazil

30 November 2008

First of all, I want to express on my own behalf, and on behalf of the Brazilian Government, our deep condolences to the people and Government of India for the barbaric acts of terrorism that took place in Mumbai. I commend the Government of Qatar for hosting this important Conference. I also express my deep appreciation for the hospitality extended to me and to my delegation.

When the Group of Twenty (G20) leaders met in Washington, D.C., on 15 November 2008 on the financial crisis, they expressed their determination to enhance cooperation and to work together to restore global growth and to reform the world's financial system. They also had the impact of the crisis on developing countries very much in mind.

I would like to highlight four points: the increasing importance of official development assistance (ODA) in the present context; the urgent need to conclude the Doha Round; South-South cooperation and the role of the international community; and fourth, the reform of international institutions.

Since the crisis originated in the developed countries, the responsibility should be theirs to restore global economic growth and to mitigate its impact on developing nations. It is true, as many have said, that we are all in the same boat and the boat still risks sinking, but this time the hole appeared in the first class. Measures should be bold and urgent. The role of public investment is crucial. This logic of State-led economic recovery requires coordinated action on the international level. The

discussion on ODA should also be seen in this context, not only as a moral obligation but also as the right answer to keep the world economy afloat, not as generosity but as self-interest.

In the retreat organized by the Secretary-General and the Emir of Qatar, many countries, developed and developing alike, emphasized the need to conclude the World Trade Organization negotiations immediately. Some leaders of the least developed countries stressed that the gains accruing from the elimination of trade-distorting subsidies and other barriers would be far greater than those deriving from financial assistance. They will also gain from duty- and quota-free market access.

We came very close to concluding the negotiations in July. And everybody seems to agree with the concept of a safeguard available to developing countries that avoids import surges and, at the same time, does not affect normal trade in agricultural goods. It is a question of putting right numbers to this concept, yet, we were not able to overcome this hurdle then. Given the political will now, this task is well within our reach. At this stage, developing countries have already made all the concessions they could afford. This is not a time for excessive demands that would tip the balance against developing countries, unravelling the whole agreement. Of course, there are many things developing countries can do for themselves, in areas like South-South trade, cooperation and investment. In the case of Brazil, exports to developing countries, which increased from 42 per cent to more than 54 per cent in six years, helped mitigate the impact of the crisis. But the international community can also help. Trade financing is an area in which the impact of the crisis has been most severe for developing countries. The World Bank, for one, should create new facilities to provide financing for trade, thus easing the credit crunch.

Another way to assist South-South trade would be to develop new instruments that would facilitate the access of poorer countries to export credits from other developing countries. The global Action against Hunger and Poverty, launched in 2004 by President Lula and other leaders, called for the mobilization of additional resources to end hunger and achieve the Millennium Development Goals. Innovative financial mechanisms are now a positive reality and may contribute with important additional sources of financing. Of course, they should not be counted as part of ODA.

International institutions must be deeply reformed. This applies to the United Nations, especially to its Security Council, as well as to the Bretton Woods institutions. There is a growing consensus on the need for a new international financial architecture, one in which the participation of developing countries in the decision-making process reflects their increasing weight. The G20 Summit was a first positive step in this direction. However, it will not meet the expectations and interests of all. The United Nations can, and should, contribute to this debate. It remains the most democratic and representative forum, the only one that can add legitimacy to the reform process. With this in mind, President Lula proposed to convene a high-level meeting of the Economic and Social Council to discuss the crisis in all its aspects. I reiterate this proposal before this Conference.

Brunei Darussalam

Statement by
His Excellency
Mr. Pehin Dato Abd Rahman Ibrahim
Minister for Finance II of Brunei Darussalam

30 November 2008

Madam President, Excellencies and Distinguished Delegates, on behalf of the Government of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, allow me to express our heartiest appreciation to His Highness the Emir of Qatar Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani and also to the Government and People of Qatar for the warm hospitality that has been accorded to me and members of my Delegation as well as for the excellent arrangements of this very important Conference.

At the outset, I also wish to offer our condolences to the Government and People of India on the recent tragedy that had happened in Mumbai.

Madam President, I wish to join all distinguished speakers before me in endorsing the critical importance of this Conference. The reasons are three-fold.

Firstly, this conference allows us to take stock of our achievements thus far. It provides us with the opportunity to review our progress in realizing the goals and objectives of the Monterrey Consensus that we set out in 2002, particularly the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

Secondly, this Conference gives us the chance to assess and address the challenges and obstacles that confront us today. Until end of August this year, international communities were very preoccupied with intensified problems of very volatile commodity prices as well as climate change that had impacted on global food supplies, hence, prices that has raised serious concern on global food security.

Today Madam President, we are facing possibly the worst global economic slowdown since the Great Depression due to global financial crisis. The global economic activity is slowing quickly. The negative feedback loops between the financial sector and the real economy and the deleveraging process have continued to intensify. The economic outlook is exceptionally uncertain. Worldwide, producer and consumer confidence have fallen dramatically. More jobs losses are predicted, thus affecting daily life of many families. There is no doubt that these negative trends would threaten whatever gains that many countries have achieved on the macroeconomic front. It could easily jeopardize the long-term prospects for meaningful economic growth and development, particularly of developing countries as well as countries in transition.

Thirdly, this Conference provides us with the avenue to discuss and formulate new strategies and possibly a new plan of action, as a way forward, to achieve the goals and objectives of the Monterrey Consensus. It is an opportune time for us to identify more realistic and pragmatic approaches that can be implemented to accelerate progress of the Monterrey Consensus.

In this regard, we believe that we will benefit from focusing our efforts at addressing the various challenges that still hinder our progress particularly in the areas of trade, investment and reforms of the international financial and economic architecture. It is imperative that efforts are pursued towards creating an enabling environment that encourages closer cooperation in trade between developing and developed countries, as well as among developing countries.

We therefore share the view that the conclusion of the Doha Round would contribute to a more rapid expansion in global trade that would benefit all countries.

Moreover, we recognize the catalytic role of private capital flows, particularly, the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in stimulating growth and development in developing countries. FDI brings with it the transfer of technology, knowledge and expertise that is needed by developing countries. For the developing countries, besides the need to enhance their investment climate and legal framework to attract investments (foreign and domestic), it is also essential that human resource development, especially education, be given greater emphasis. We believe that education and human resource development will always be a vital element in our pursuit to achieve long-term sustainability and thus our effort in alleviating poverty. In Brunei Darussalam, Madam President, these elements have been placed high on our long-term national development agenda.

Madam President, it is also essential that participation of developing countries in multilateral forums be effectively enhanced. We note that some progress has been made in improving the governance structure of these international fora, including the IMF that would go a long way towards ensuring that international policies being initiated would also take into account the concerns of developing countries.

In conclusion, Brunei Darussalam remains supportive of various efforts undertaken at the regional and international levels to strengthen international partnership needed for realizing internationally agreed development goals including the Millennium Development Goals (MDGS).

Thank you Madam President.

Cameroon

Statement by
His Excellency
Mr. Henri Eyebe Ayissi
Minister of External Relations of the Republic of Cameroon

1 December 2008

On behalf of the President of the Republic of Cameroon, His Excellency Mr. Paul Biya, who is unable to be present himself at this important Conference in Doha, and whom it is my privilege to represent, I wish to commend the Government of Qatar and His Highness Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani, the Emir of Qatar, for the welcome bestowed on our delegation.

I would also like to commend Qatar for having prepared this Conference in such an excellent fashion. It is being held at a critical time for the entire world. I refer here to the recent financial crisis and its real and potential detrimental effects. It is likely to have drastic repercussions with regard to development efforts employed by our countries in recent years, as well as on the aid granted by the international community for our various development programmes and plans.

I wish to thank the United Nations for having taken the initiative to keep the focus of this important Conference on the values and current trends affecting the implementation of the 2002 Monterrey Consensus.

I should like to add my voice to that of the previous speakers in expressing to the Government and people of India our sincerest condolences for the terrorist acts which have severely struck their country. We, in Cameroon, resoundingly condemn them.

As we speak today, the international community is hit head on by a financial crisis which reminds us of that of the 1930s, such a sad memory, and this follows a world energy crisis, coupled with a food crisis. These are still facing us. So, this is the extremely worrying context for our Doha Conference, the main purpose of which is to follow-up the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus by the international community, looking at global partnership in order to assess the agreements and commitments entered into with regard to international financing. The follow-up, then, to the Monterrey Consensus and the implementation thereof requires a thorough examination of the realization of the commitments of 2002; however, these have to be boosted in order to make up for lost time, and we must identify, and react once more, to the challenges which we face.

Cameroon welcomes what has been done by various Governments and donors with regard to official development assistance (ODA), and also debt alleviation of the poorest, most highly indebted countries. These are praiseworthy efforts, albeit inadequate ones. Other speakers have provided statistics to show that there has been a clear drop in the reference percentages established for this aid.

We believe that it is only fair to acknowledge clearly—and welcome—the considerable progress that has been achieved with regard to the level of commitments expected from developing countries to carry out the necessary reforms in their economies and Governments. These countries have indeed introduced such reforms in their macroeconomic policies, while endeavouring to set up a framework to support investment despite doing so in an unfavourable international environment.

From 2002 to 2008, and before the recent negative impact of the international financial crisis, the positive results and encouraging performance of the world economy made it possible for there to be legitimate expectations of developing countries regarding developed countries. However, today, we have to note that there is still a gap—a considerable gap—between the commitments made and what has actually been done when we look essentially at the promises made by developed countries to devote 0.7 per cent of their gross national income (GNI) to ODA.

At the same time, developing countries, my country Cameroon amongst them, are facing many problems which curb their development momentum: problems of indebtment, inadequate financial flows and the stalemate on trade negotiations. Coupled with this, we have the food and energy crises and the financial crisis. All of these are constraints on our endeavours.

Given a satisfactory economic recovery, with the aid of the Bretton Woods institutions, my country, Cameroon, is resolutely committed to economic and institutional reforms in conjunction with the Monterrey aims. Here, I refer to the ongoing review of the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper of 2002, the aim of which is to place more emphasis on production to achieve viable growth, and without which it is impossible to imagine the sustainable development of our country; also our long-term aims for 2030-2035; and our sectoral strategies regarding economic and social development in our country.

I would also indicate the implementation of a National Governance Programme for the period 2006-2011. This is intended to ensure that State action will become more efficient and will make the management of public resources more transparent as we combat corruption with the greater participation of people in governance. Thanks to decentralization, a new State financial system has been established to make it possible to better manage public resources.

In addition, tax incentives have been passed to improve the business climate, hoping as well to achieve greater mobilization of domestic savings and to attract direct private foreign investment to a greater degree.

In 2007 November, a partnership agreement with the European Union was signed, marking Cameroon's commitment to continue to play by the rules of the World Trade Organization with regard to the internal and external State debt, in accordance with the mechanisms agreed upon for debt alleviation, at the initiative of bilateral and multilateral donors.

Despite all the endeavours of Cameroon to reduce poverty and to boost economic growth, there is still much to be done and many questions to be resolved. There are challenges where increased development funding is one of the main national concerns. The cost of implementing our development strategies demands high financial resources, which are well beyond our domestic ability to provide.

The sensitivity of our national economy to the world economic climate does not make it easy to deal with the loss of earnings from customs due to the opening up of markets. Furthermore, the post-war situation of some of our neighbouring countries in Central Africa means that important resources are absorbed to deal with the subsequent migratory flows.

With regard to Cameroon's position on the Bakassi Peninsula, I now wish to welcome the action of the international community in helping Cameroon and Nigeria. Withdrawal here has led to irredentism, which, unfortunately, has led in turn to terrorism and piracy on the part of armed groups. Energetic action is therefore required in order to ensure security in the Gulf of Guinea.

Moreover, with regard to Central Africa and regionalization, this is an important axis for our development. We are playing a leading role by implementing transport, communications and energy infrastructure. In this regard, the support of the international community is essential. The same applies to combating climate change. Cameroon is naturally involved because of its geographical situation on the forest plateau of Central Africa, the second ecological lung of the planet. It is obviously the observatory of climate change, and our head of State, His Excellency Mr. Biya, has committed himself to this. This requires the aid of our development partners.

Last, but not least, as well as international aid of a traditional order, we would like to say that we wish this could be more predictable and better coordinated and harmonized. There is a need for direct investment and aid for trade. This seems to us to be extremely important. It should be promoted, in that it can flank our endeavours to achieve development in an effective manner.

The current financial crisis is casting long and gloomy shadows. This means that all of us have to examine our consciences and ensure that, more than ever, international solidarity will prevail in this world facing urgent humanitarian challenges. There has to be continued promotion of action for development.

As in the majority of African countries, Cameroon is moving towards the development goals of 2015. This is looming near. The picture is patchy. We

have undertaken measures to enhance democracy and the rule of law for the liberalization of our economy and the establishment of good governance. The results which have been achieved mean that development is still limited, notwithstanding both the actions that we have taken and international actions. Some of the actions agreed upon to benefit Cameroon and Monterrey still have to be implemented.

Given the uncertainty with regard to the effective implementation of many of these commitments, the current financial crisis means that there is still greater uncertainty over the future, at a time when we need to redouble and speed up our efforts.

Cameroon agrees with many of the speakers here in Doha, to the effect that reinforcing the Monterrey process is the only real way forward, the only option. There is no alternative when it comes to achieving development, which involves all countries in the world. Thus, let us all commit to continuing to develop and to ensure substantial growth in ODA to reach the target of 0.7 per cent of GNI, agreed upon by developed countries, so that they can lend their support to innovative sources of funding for development and the diversification of such sources. Tied aid for development could then be done away with and the Doha cycle could be resumed and completed. There will also be a greater degree of aid efficiency, in accordance with the Paris Declaration and the Accra Agenda for Action.

We want to see Africa's voice become stronger and to be heard to a greater degree when international decisions are taken, starting with the reform of the United Nations. We also want to move towards the reform of the world economic system inherited from Bretton Woods, taking into account the opinions and concerns of emerging and developing countries, whose future is at stake.

Cameroon welcomes and appreciates, then, the announcements that have been made and the commitments that have been renewed here, in Doha, to ensure that the Millennium Development Goals in developing countries do not become the hapless victims of the international financial crisis.

Let us ensure that the Monterrey Consensus of 2002 still points the way forward and that we follow it. We need political resolve and lucidity when action is taken by the Governments of the richest countries in the world.

We also believe that there are issues of solidarity and collective responsibility falling on the international community in its entirety in the interest of all countries. Cameroon is certainly committed to bearing its responsibility with regard to the outcome of this Doha Conference. We shall ensure that it has the place it deserves when it comes to implementing partnerships of an international order and also in our national development strategies, so that there can be a real improvement in the living conditions of our peoples.

The recent United Nations High-level meeting on Africa's development needs, held in New York in September 2008, has meant that we need to act and to take decisions, not just make promises, which too often come to nothing. For our own credibility as the international community, we have to be aware of the judgement of history. We have to be aware of the legacy we are giving to future generations. We need to bestow upon them a renewed and viable international system that is attuned to the new challenges and also to the needs of tomorrow's world, which is built from today.

Canada

Statement by
Her Excellency
Ms. Beverley J. G. Oda
Minister for International Cooperation of Canada
(on behalf of Canada, Australia and New Zealand)

30 November 2008

It is a privilege for me to address you today on behalf of the Governments of Canada, Australia and New Zealand. I would like to congratulate and thank the Government of Qatar for hosting this Conference.

I wish to express our deepest sympathies and condolences to the people of India, those injured in

the attacks in Mumbai and the families of the victims. We condemn these cowardly acts of terrorism.

To begin my presentation, let me say that Canada, Australia and New Zealand support the principles outlined in the Monterrey Consensus. Today, we gather together during some of the greatest challenges ever faced by the international community. These challenges include the food crisis, energy price volatility and the global financial crisis. At this Conference, we have an excellent opportunity to discuss the relationships between these crises and financing for development.

The turmoil from the financial crisis that began last year has intensified and spread. Now, virtually no country is immune—whether developed or developing. We know that it is the world's most vulnerable communities, including small-island developing States, that experience shocks to the international system most severely.

Now, more than ever, urgent, coordinated and decisive action is required to harness all available global resources to finance long-term, sustainable development. To this end, let me highlight five key areas: the Group of Twenty (G20) action plan; honouring our aid commitments; doing more on trade; moving forward on debt relief; and making our aid more effective.

First, our Governments support the G20 action plan, which includes reforming international financial institutions to make them more globally representative and responsive. In addressing the financial crisis, the respective roles of international organizations must be recognized and each should focus on their comparative advantage. We must avoid redundant and unhelpful duplication. We call on other countries to join us in supporting the G20 action plan.

Secondly, we are honouring our past commitments on aid, including the significant steps that Canada, Australia and New Zealand have taken to increase the volume of our aid. This fiscal year, Canada will live up to its commitment to double our aid to Africa. And each of our countries remains committed to our respective targets to grow our international assistance. Moreover, we will pay what we have pledged. Together, we call on others to reaffirm and, more importantly, to realize their existing commitments.

Our third key area is trade. Trade is an important tool in generating economic activity, building healthy economies and helping to reduce poverty. We remain strongly committed to the World Trade Organization (WTO) and to the multilateral trading system. We call on all WTO members to help us achieve an ambitious outcome to the Doha Round. In support of the Doha Development Agenda, we have devoted significant resources to trade-related technical assistance and capacity building. We also remain committed to advancing the Aid for Trade agenda, in line with the development needs expressed by our partners.

Next, we know that debt relief is vital to financing for development. We have a strong record in support of debt relief. Our Governments have gone beyond the obligations for bilateral creditors within the framework of the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Initiative. Through the Canadian Debt Relief Initiative, we have provided substantial resources to the Highly Indebted Poor Countries Trust Fund that is managed by the World Bank. Our countries are also meeting all of our obligations to the Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative. Like some of our European colleagues, we recognize that debt relief is not enough and so we call on all partners to work with us to build capacity in heavily-indebted poor countries to better manage their debts.

Fifth and finally, we have made and will continue to make our international assistance more effective; this means more focused, efficient and accountable. Early this year, Canada opened 100 per cent of our food aid to international procurement, in part to stem the impacts of the global food crisis, but mostly because it is good development policy. Canada, Australia and New Zealand are committed to untying aid, in line with the policies of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, the Paris Declaration and the Accra Agenda for Action. Australia and New Zealand have both untied their aid and Canada will untie all of its aid, its official development assistance, by

2012-2013. We believe that untying is one of the best ways to make aid more effective and to ensure responsiveness to the needs of developing countries. By pursuing these five areas, we will better harness our resources to achieve sustainable development. But we must always work to continue to strengthen our overall efforts.

Let me share with you some lessons learned, including those drawn directly from our countries' experiences in fragile States, including Haiti and Afghanistan, Timor Leste and the Solomon Islands.

First, security, governance and development are interdependent in such environments. Good governance and the rule of law provide the only sound basis for achieving tangible development results. We also know that equality between women and men is essential to the sustainability of results.

Another lesson learned is that coordination and partnership amongst all actors—development, security and political—is essential to any long-term, sustainable response, and ownership by local government and people is more effective. Increased effectiveness means we need to be prepared to continually seek new approaches. Operating in challenging environments means looking beyond aid to tools like micro-credit for women, debt relief and support for the foundations of freedom, democracy, human rights and the rule of law.

Finally, I would like to note that we also support the innovative policy_developments that have transpired since Monterrey. For example, Canada is one of the key supporters of the Advanced Market Commitment initiative. Innovative financing mechanisms, particularly those that harness private sector resources, have a key role to play in development.

In conclusion, given the magnitude of the challenges we face, it is critical that we take urgent, coordinative and decisive action. Canada, Australia and New Zealand are committed to working with all partners—government, private sector and civil society. We call on others to do the same.

Chile

Statement by
Her Excellency
Ms. Paula Quintana Meléndez
Minister for National Planning of the Republic of Chile

1 December 2008

First and foremost, I would like to express the solidarity of the people of Chile with the people of India for the tragic effects of the terrorist attacks, which have moved the world. In particular, we would like to convey our feelings and sympathy to the families of the victims.

I would like to start my statement by recognizing the kind hospitality and authority of the people of Qatar, and commend them for the excellent arrangements made for this Conference. It is an honour for Chile to be able to address the plenary on this occasion. Six years have passed since we convened in Monterrey, where we took the opportunity to attain significant achievements, namely, by reaching consensus on how to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. Once again, we have convened in order to take stock of the achievements made, and to reaffirm our commitment to ensure that through international cooperation dialogue we will be able to overcome poverty and improve the living conditions of millions of human beings.

Chile participated in the Initiative Against Hunger and Poverty, which comprises Algeria, Brazil, France, Germany, South Africa and Spain—countries which have identified new innovative sources of financing in order to create additional and complementary flows of financing to supplement official development assistance (ODA). As we all know full well, these mechanisms do not seek to create new institutions. Rather they serve to strengthen and enhance the full array of instruments already available to the United Nations system. Chile is proud to state that we have already implemented innovative mechanisms through a solidarity levy on international airline passengers in the service of the fight against HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis.

In this context, on 24 September 2008, at the General Assembly of the United Nations, Her Excellency President Michelle Bachele, along with the presidents of Brazil and Spain, and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of France, subscribed to a declaration which seeks to issue an invitation for the identification of new innovative sources of financing in the context of the follow-up to the Monterrey Consensus and the International Conference on Financing for Development, for which we are currently convened.

While it may sound repetitive to reaffirm, we must indeed acknowledge, once again, that these are difficult times for the global economy. The crisis has already had an impact on both developing and less developed countries, affecting those segments that are most vulnerable to the impact of the crisis on the global economy—the poorest of all. We must see this as a challenge and not as a pretext. This crisis is no excuse to postpone in any way initiatives to combat poverty, combat hunger and reduce inequalities—quite the contrary. Now, more than ever before, we need to rise to the challenge and find a new formula to enter into commitments and adopt compromises that will allow us to meet the Millennium Development Goals.

We now face the challenge of ensuring that the impact of the crisis is mitigated and kept to a minimum and, at the same time, maintain the programmes and policies that serve to eradicate poverty and hunger.

For these reasons, we would like to suggest the following initiatives. First of all, the legitimate aim of reactivating economies and restoring confidence in the financial systems in developed countries should not lead in any way to a reduction in the levels of ODA. The increase in internal public expenditure in developed countries should not be on the backs of the developing countries. That would run contrary to the spirit of the commitments made in Monterrey to increase international technical and financial assistance for development.

Secondly, we must launch new efforts to reach agreements in the multilateral trade round negotiations, the Doha Round. This is in keeping with the Monterrey Consensus, where it was agreed that international trade should be one of the engines for development. To enable this, we call upon all countries, all the members of the World Trade Organization, to redouble their efforts in order to reach trade liberalization agreements, thereby facilitating access to their markets of both agricultural and non-agricultural products.

To that end, there is a need for a renewed spirit of cooperation and a resolve to arrive at a consensus. We may not meet all the objectives that we have set ourselves at the outset of the Round and, individually, each and every country may not reach its negotiating objectives. However, we are under an obligation to send a signal that we remain committed to progressive trade liberalization, particularly at a time when, more than ever before, international trade can help to reduce the effects of the contraction of the global economy. In the same vein, we must recall that an increased level of protectionism would further weaken the global economy, and would result in greater difficulties for the poorest nations and the most vulnerable citizens of our planet.

Thirdly, we must ensure that the multilateral and regional development banks have adequate resources to increase their support for social protection programmes, poverty reduction programmes, employment fostering, the improvement of education, health programmes, dealing with environmental problems and financing of investment. All of these are basic elements needed to minimize the negative impact of the current economic turbulences caused by the developed countries.

In turn, we reaffirm our support for the proposal that institutions, such as the International Monetary Fund, review their compensatory financing so as to ensure that countries will be able to make use of their productive capacity to the maximum when dealing with situations of adverse shocks. We recognize that other than the objectives reached in Monterrey, this is a time for coherence and consistency within the international financial and monetary systems in the service of development.

Without a doubt, the financial crisis has made the need for new formulae clearer than ever before in order to attain these ends. Unbridled

deregulation of capital markets is also a central component that we must address. Given the capacity for employment generation in this sector, Her Excellency President Michelle Bachelet has stated repeatedly in significant international fora that good governance has a role to play in the multilateral financial system. Countries that were minor players sixty years ago now have become protagonists and, accordingly, they must be given greater decision power in these organizations. They can contribute to global well-being if they are given their share of responsibility.

President Bachelet has also reaffirmed that we need to reform global financial regulation in order to prevent recurrences of the turbulent events that we have witnessed over the past year and a half. It is also important to ensure that these reforms are not the brainchild of exclusive fora, being the case to date.

Attaining consensus in these two spheres of action will be difficult and time-consuming. The economic crisis, as we know, has affected the poorest of all and we are more distant than ever from the Millennium Development Goals. Let us not waste the opportunity of this Conference to find proposals to improve the international financial system, that is to say, to attain an agreement now which will enshrine our commitments to protect the poorest and the most vulnerable in this time of the worst economic global crisis that we have witnessed for many generations.

Cuba

Statement by
Her Excellency
Ms. Georgina Barreiro Fajardo
Minister of Finance and Prices of the Republic of Cuba

30 November 2008

Before beginning my statement, allow me to echo those delegations who conveyed their deepest condolences to the people and government of India for the terrible act which led to the deaths of more than a hundred individuals. My delegation is grateful for the efforts of Qatar in organizing this conference and for the hospitality we have received.

Mr. President, Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, the major industrialized economies are plunged into a deep and complex economic crisis with global repercussions of untold consequences.

We are living in a crucial moment in history. The free market model has not worked. Thus, the neoliberal myth about the kindness of market deregulation and alleged soundness and reliability of the current financial institutions are denied. The current crisis has led the bitterest detractors of state intervention to cry out for and finally adopt multi-million dollar bailouts out of their financial systems, through ambitious measures of public intervention. The speech on the out-and-out liberalization and the weakening of the role of the State in society is unsustainable today. It is confirmed that the very essence of the capitalist system is the pursuit of profit. It is a selfish system, which promotes unrestrained consumerism disregarding peoples' real needs. It is a system that destroys the environment and denies equal and just development, and even more regrettable, this system is unable to ensure the survival of human species.

For the South nations, today it is clearer than ever before that this model is not the path to development. Neoliberal globalization has continued to widen the gap between the rich and the poor in the world. The food crisis we face today, the basis for which are the injustices and inequalities of the current international economic order, has plunged another 75 million people into hunger.

Developing countries are the ones carrying the financial burden on their shoulders. Should the current trend continue, the Millennium Development Goals will not be fulfilled.

We set ourselves the task of halving by 2015, the 1276 million of human beings leaving in extreme poverty in 1990. However, there are still two thousand 600 million people, the 40% of the world population, leaving with less than two dollars a day.

We agreed to halve by 2015, the 842 million of hungry people leaving in the world in 2000. However, the figure of undernourished people in the

world has increased to 900 million, out of which 96% come our countries.

We proclaim the aspiration to achieve the universal elementary education by 2015. This noble and vital goal will not be fulfilled either. In 2015, there will be still 47 million children without going to elementary schools, while only one in every 5 children in secondary school age will be enrolled.

We set ourselves the task of reducing by two thirds the mortality rate in childres less than five years of age by 2015. However, according to the current tendencies, this goal will only be achieved after 2045.

Realistic and sustainable solutions for the issues discussed in the Monterrey Consensus keep being postponed. Financing for development continues to be an illusion. After almost seven years, the main reason why rather than moving forward, there is a backward movement is that developed countries have no political will to honor their commitments and contribute new financial and unconditioned resources to implement the programs that would allow for the fulfillment of the above-mentioned commitments.

This is an ever increasing inhumane world which has promoted the so-called Washington Consensus, imposed by the United States of America in complicity with a few industrialized powers and so carefully applied by the Bretton Woods Institutions, which have acted as real agents for the interest of the great capital.

Your Excellencies, it is imperative to establish a new democratic, just, equitable, sustainable and friendly world economic order. The international community has the responsibility and the historical opportunity now to refund the international financial system on a really democratic basis, thus ensuring transparency in its working methods as well as the just, universal and equitable participation of all the United Nations Member States in its decision-making system. That reform should not and cannot be carried out by a selective club of rich countries in a restrictive and exclusive format.

It is imperative that the United Nations take a leadership role in the negotiations on the new international, financial architecture. Cuba supports the holding of a Summit in the framework of this Organization where all voices are present and equally heard.

In today's world, the UN should become the main champion and promoter of the realization of peoples' right to development, and of the struggle against inequality and disproportionate squandering promoted and practiced by a few countries, in contempt for and in detriment to the welfare of the vast majority of the world population.

In the middle of this global chaos, and despite the huge limitations imposed on our country by the unjust and criminal, economic, commercial and financial blockade of the US government, in force for almost half a century now, Cuba continues to offer the world a viable development alternative, based on the experience of the exercise of our full sovereignty and on the legitimate participation of the people in the decision-making and on the enjoyment of the wealth produced.

Our country, which is presently recovering from the lashing of three devastating hurricanes in a less than three month period, continues to offer its modest and selfless cooperation in various areas to tens of peoples of the Third World.

Your Excellencies, Distinguished Representatives, the future of humanity demands our most resolute determination. Silence and inaction will make us accomplices to a fatal outcome, which could put human existence in jeopardy resulting in all of us losing.

Nothing will be given to us for free. We will have what will be able to conquer together. Almost 30 years ago, the leader of the Cuban Revolution, Comrade Fidel Castro made some remarks at the opening ceremony of the VI Summit of the Non-Aligned Movement held in the Cuban capital city and such remarks are still valid today. He said, "Let us unite to demand our right to development, our right to life, our right to the future! Let there cease the building of a world economy based on the opulence of those who exploited and impoverished us yesterday· and continue to exploit and impoverish us today, and one based on the misery

and economic and social underdevelopment of the vast majority of humankind!"

It is time to demand justice and to put an end to hypocrisy and selfishness. The South peoples demand the response required by their needs and by the challenges imposed on them. We are worthy of this right and we shall fight until we achieve it.

Thank you very much.

Czech Republic

Statement by
His Excellency
Mr. Jan Kohout
Deputy-Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic

1 December 2008

Mr. Chairman, let me first of all warmly thank His Royal Highness Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani, the Emir of the State of Qatar, the people and the Government of the State of Qatar for organizing this very important conference.

I would also like to extend my condolences to all those families who lost their loved ones in the recent terrorist attacks on Mumbai. As we all see, extremism and terrorism represent the most dangerous enemies of development and impact most heavily those in need. The fight against terrorism remains an important part of our development effort.

Mr. Chairman, the development agenda has undergone many important changes since the Conference on Financing for Development in Monterrey in 2002. In shorthand these changes could be expressed as "from aid to assistance, from assistance to partnership". It has been a long and complicated way from Monterrey, through New York, Paris and Accra, to Doha, which should become the milestone to reach the development goals.

The Czech Republic aligns itself with the statement of France on behalf of the European Union. I would like to add several points from our national perspective.

The meetings in New York, in September this year, dedicated to Africa's Development Needs and to the Millennium Development Goals showed very clearly that a lot has been achieved and even more needs to be done in the remaining seven years in order to achieve MDGs, (the respected symbol of development). Our meeting in Doha takes place in a difficult time.

The global crises and challenges have already influenced in varying extent the basic needs, such as food and energy, and they are going to worsen the effects of already challenging phenomenon, the climate change. To tackle all these global problems it is necessary to approach them in a multilateral way. At the same time we need to be sure that development remains one of our top priorities on the international agenda and that the most vulnerable are not forgotten. We must not fail in this crucial endeavor.

Mr. Chairman, all of us expect states-participants of this conference as well as various international institutions to act in a coordinated manner in order to achieve the synergies in the common effort to give a helping hand to those who are affected the most. We believe that it is indeed a necessary precondition to involve in the discussion of all stakeholders, all different views and angles, in order to achieve progress in development. Mobilization of domestic resources, international trade, foreign investment and other financial instrument should ensure sustainability in continuing effort to strengthen the global partnership for development.

Mr. Chairman, the Czech Republic is a medium-sized European country and a relatively new player in the international development arena. Nevertheless, we are deeply convinced that we have a lot to offer, especially our transformation experience that we share with several countries of our region. We are aware of the importance of good governance and democratic institutions, and we also strongly support one of the basic concepts of the Monterrey Consensus, namely that each country has the primary responsibility for its development. Our historical experience suggests that sound policies, effective institutions, entrepreneurship and openness to trade have the same

importance and value as the external assistance. It should be used as an incentive for domestic reform in partner countries.

Mr. Chairman, since the Monterrey Conference, development cooperation has become one of the key priorities of the foreign policy of the Czech Republic. We are aware of the vital importance of development for a number of countries and we are determined to steadily increase our development assistance. In this respect, I would like to point out that the ODA of the Czech Republic has grown substantially within the last six years.

Mr. Chairman, I have mentioned many new challenges we are facing today. They do have one common feature. All of them require mobilization of considerable amount of financial and other resources. We believe it is therefore necessary to search for new ways of financing for development. We believe it might be helpful to discuss creative approach to remittances, broader involvement of private sector, philanthropy or general public.

Mr. Chairman, I have outlined just a few points of the complex agenda of financing for development. It requires our common effort, a thorough discussion and a necessary action as time is running out. The Czech Republic is committed to do its part, also as the next Presidency of the European Union.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Denmark

Statement by
Her Excellency
Ms. Ulla Tørnæs
Minister for Development Cooperation of the Kingdom of Denmark

30 November 2008

We meet here in Doha to discuss financing for development against the backdrop of a financial crisis and a looming global economic recession. This comes at a time when the world, and particularly the developing countries, was already struggling to deal with sharp fluctuations in energy and food prices and at a time when it is getting ready to address global warming.

Denmark thinks that there are three important messages which should come out from this Conference. Firstly, the world needs global solutions based on global solidarity. The crises which we face today, whether it be the financial crisis, the economic recession or global warming, can only be addressed through concerted actions, taking into account each country's capacity to contribute. Secondly, the developed countries should stand by their commitments to deliver 0.7 per cent of gross national income to developing countries. The actual financial crisis, or an economic recession, should not be an excuse for not fulfilling the promises already given on official development assistance (ODA). ODA can be an important part of the solution to the current crisis by helping to maintain growth in poor countries. We cannot afford to throw away the important gains the world has seen in recent years in areas such as health and education. We must ensure that the Millennium Development Goals are fulfilled by 2015. It will clearly take an extra effort to ensure the necessary progress, especially in Africa. We have to stand by our common responsibility. Thirdly, trade is an important engine for growth and development. The economic crisis calls for the urgent completion of the World Trade Organization Doha Development Round, with a strong focus on integrating the poor countries into the globalized trading system.

The Danish Government has launched a MDG3 Global Call to Action to generate stronger political and financial support for the third Millennium Development Goal, on gender equality and empowerment of women. Empowering women is a key driving force behind economic growth and combating poverty and, by this, reaching the Millennium Development Goals as such. One hundred MDG3 torches have been handed over to representatives of Governments, international organizations, the private sector and civil society. I am very pleased that the United Nations Secretary-General has accepted torch number 100. All torchbearers have committed to do something extra, to walk an extra mile so to say, for gender equality and

women's empowerment around the world. Together, all the torchbearers form a global MDG3 coalition in the run-up to the High-level Meeting in 2015. I sincerely hope that the coalition will ensure much needed political priority and political leadership, as well as increased resources for women's empowerment. For its part, Denmark has decided to double the resources to MDG3 activities. It is very important that the declaration coming out of this Conference recognizes the potential of women, but it is even more important that the recommendations in the declaration on empowerment of women are acted upon urgently.

We know what to do, then let us do it. We cannot and will not eradicate poverty if half of the population around the world is deprived of equal opportunities and access to resources.

Five years after the landmark agreement in Monterrey, we are facing significant challenges that affect our common efforts to further development in the poorest countries. One crucial challenge is climate change, which is a development challenge. All countries will be affected by climate change, but in some of the poorest and most vulnerable countries it will be a matter of survival. Available estimates state that the need for financing for climate adaptation will be massive in the future. It will require large amounts of additional resources, especially for the least developed countries. Official development assistance, even if we all live up to the old 0.7 per cent target, will not be enough to cover all the needs. We must engage the private sector and look for new innovative ways of financing. We must also explore further how ODA can liberate more funds, and how they can be delivered in the most effective way to ensure results on the ground.

Denmark looks forward to hosting the fifteenth United Nations Climate Conference in Copenhagen in December next year and we are determined to work for an ambitious, new international climate agreement. Commitments must be made on the basis of common but differentiated responsibilities. I encourage all countries to actively engage in the negotiations in order to get a climate- and development-friendly agreement in Copenhagen, one that takes into account the concerns of those most vulnerable to the effects of climate change, the poorest developing countries. It is important that this Financing Conference sends a positive signal to the climate negotiations and points to the future in a constructive manner—that the international development community will augment its share of responsibility in a new global climate partnership with donors, developing countries and the private sector.

Dominican Republic

Statement by
His Excellency
Mr. Juan Temístocles Montás
Minister for Economy, Planning and Development of the Dominican Republic

30 November 2008

First and foremost, I would like to convey the acknowledgment and gratitude of the Government of the Dominican Republic to the United Nations Organization and to the State of Qatar for hosting this Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus. Our particular acknowledgment is to His Highness Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani, the Emir of the State of Qatar, for his kind hospitality and his desire to consolidate international efforts to promote development at the global level.

The Dominican Republic would also like to condemn the terrorist attacks which were perpetrated on 26 and 27 November in Mumbai, India, which have left more than one hundred dead and injured. The Government of the Dominican Republic rejects terrorism and all its manifestations, and expresses its solidarity and conveys its condolences to the people and Government of India.

The Consensus reached in Monterrey in 2002 established a timely framework, the aim of which was to resolve the obstacles that hinder the flows of financing for development. Since the agreement of the Monterrey Conference, the world has witnessed an increase in the flow of private capital to emerging economies, an increase in international trade and

an increased pace of growth of the global economy, as well as an increase in debt relief for low-income countries. However, the recent events affecting international capital markets force a reconsideration of this framework, and the urgent need to design a new financial plan which will ensure economic development for developing countries and reduce the vulnerability of the international financial system through more effective regulation.

The mobilization of financial resources for development, both internal and external, is best facilitated when certain internal conditions are present in countries, such as macroeconomic stability, the rule of law, a high level of institutionalization of public management, liberty and the commitment to forge just, equitable and democratic societies. Efforts to attain these conditions must be sustained and enhanced in the new financing strategy for development. We should note that promoting these conditions does not downplay the functions of the State. Rather, the aim is to promote efficient public organs that practice an agenda of good governance.

The current crisis poses a major challenge for the financing of productive investment as it restricts external financing and makes it more expensive, thus limiting investment in the flows of domestic savings in our countries. Moreover, the process of financial reform imposed on developing countries, in order to have access to markets and to meet the internal conditions I mentioned before, reduces the financing options for projects that are aimed at increasing their national output as they require more flexible terms than are provided by commercial loans and a broader time schedule in order to yield profit.

These are obstacles that must be overcome to facilitate economic development. This will require an appraisal of countries' current financial and monetary structures in order to ensure that a degree of flexibility is introduced to allow for the establishment of loans and credits and to broaden the range of financing options for long-term productive activities.

The role of international financial institutions is crucial at this time. Countercyclical financing from multilateral organs is also important to mitigate the effect of adverse shocks in the short term and to ensure the macroeconomic stability of our countries.

The growth of the global economy and rising commodity prices, in turn, contribute to the expansion of exports, above all from emerging economies with a competitive production structure and with a wealth of basic commodities. This has led to an accumulation of reserves and has turned these nations into net capital exporters, thus reversing the capital flow towards developed countries. This scenario stands in clear contrast to the situation of those economies in the least developed countries which do not have basic goods or commodities to export, lack competitive production structures and, moreover, are affected by the deterioration of the terms of trade exchanged caused by the increase in food prices and in raw materials.

This latter point severely threatens the development of these nations and also the promotion of equality, the reduction of global poverty and, finally, stands in the way of the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals. The current economic crisis has led to a reduction in income from exports and remittances, which, along with the reduction of credit and costly credit terms, will irrevocably lead to a fall in economic growth rates and a deterioration of the external and physical balance. In this regard, we are of the view that special lines of liquidity must be made available by the multilateral organizations in order to address the situation.

The appeal to developed countries to allocate 0.7 per cent of their gross national income (GNI) to official development assistance (ODA) to less developed countries, and between 0.15 and 0.20 per cent of their GNI to the least developed countries, is an essential element in order to mobilize financing flows towards those countries which have limited access to private financial resources.

By financing programmes that foster education, health and the development of critical infrastructure, ODA can help contribute to the improvement and enhancement of indispensable elements for economic development, such as increasing the marginal productivity of the labour force and

capital. Because of this, ODA represents a key factor in creating favourable conditions to ensure that resources from private investment flow to developing countries.

While ODA levels have risen considerably, the largest share of this increase corresponds to the debt relief granted to the least developed countries, thereby reducing the proportion that was devoted to improving economic infrastructure in general among these countries. If the production structure of developing countries does not expand and strengthen, then their capacity to increase their income and create wealth through economic growth will be undermined. This is a setback in the ongoing struggle to reduce poverty Therefore, ODA must continue to increase in the form of additional liquid resources.

Now, more than ever before, in view of the current global financial crisis, we need the unconditional support of ODA. Many of the developing countries already face serious problems in seeking to finance their budget programmes because of the impossibility of restructuring and refinancing their debts in capital markets and the difficulties they face in raising taxes during a time of economic recession. This has been caused by a problem which has nothing to do with the less economically developed countries but it is a problem, nevertheless, which is affecting them greatly.

The current crisis creates serious hindrances for the less developed countries, in particular for those which have based their development plans on sources of financing from the international capital markets, as the access of their economies to these markets has been greatly reduced and now only represents a very small fraction of what it was before the crisis. The exaggerated risk aversion which is flooding today's financial markets also poses a serious threat to debt sustainability and debt refinancing.

The inability of emerging economies to reschedule their debts before debt maturities, and at a reasonable price, places a heavy burden on the public finances of these nations, resulting in a setback which undermines the achievements made to date in reducing poverty in the past decade. Because of this, we are of the view that multilateral organisms must introduce a degree of flexibility in their conditions for financing as a palliative measure and should establish a one-stop shop of loan facilities to provide budgetary support.

Recent developments in capital markets imply the need for more effective international financial regulations, with norms and standards that will address the risks posed by new and creative international financing instruments. There should be more efficient financial institutions which will monitor the implementation of these regulations. Emerging economies are far more vulnerable than developed economies to the elements of international financial instability and the risk of contagion and, therefore, we believe that a new international financial architecture must seek to minimize the occurrence of such events.

The approach of international financial organizations, as well as the approach of the credit rating agencies, is chiefly based on their demand for economic reforms which turn developing countries into loan recipients. However, when it comes to the creditors, they have failed to oversee the financial markets or to promote transparency in them which, in turn, has resulted in the current global crisis.

In the Dominican Republic, we are of the view that in order to meet our aims of reducing poverty and of creating a more inclusive world and, as well, to prevent the current crisis from worsening, the new international financial order must introduce a degree of flexibility in the conditions for mobilizing financial resources for development for less developed countries and developing countries. Efforts must be made to strengthen regulation and oversight of capital markets so as to ensure their stability and continuity. There is also a need for concerted actions by the international financial community.

Ecuador

Statement by
His Excellency
Mr. Fander Falconi
Minister for National Planning and Development of the Republic of Ecuador

30 November 2008

We, too, should like to express our solidarity with the Government and people of India. Nothing justifies such an act of aggression.

Following the adoption of the Monterrey Consensus in Mexico, one question arises: what has been the level of complaints among the countries of the South and the countries of the North with regard to the joint commitments made in the field of cooperation and financing for development? To answer this question, we must take stock of both the efforts made in the South, in terms of implementing public policies that are beneficial for their peoples, as well as the steps taken in the North to improve access to markets in the North, to provide external debt relief, to increase technology transfer and to attain the level of 0.7 per cent of gross national income (GNI) as official development assistance (ODA), a target to be met by 2015.

Since 2000 at least, issues such as security to fight against terrorism, drug trafficking and illegal immigration have been the dominant topics on the agenda of the principal donors. Of course, these problems must be part of the agenda for cooperation, but cooperation for development in connection with fighting poverty and inequality, as well as addressing climate change, receives hardly a fraction of what is allocated to security.

Cooperation for development is currently facing a major dilemma when it comes to Ecuador. Between 2000 and 2005, non-reimbursable cooperation for development constituted $1.1 million. During the same period, according to figures of the Andean Community of Nations, Ecuadorian immigrants sent home more than $10 billion in remittances. This means that for every dollar for non-reimbursable cooperation sent to Ecuador, immigrants sent home the equivalent of $8.60.

Cooperation for non-reimbursable development fell from 1.4 per cent of gross national product (GNP) in 2000 and 2.05 per cent of GNP by 2005. During the same period, remittances in contrast increased from 8.4-11.8 per cent of GNP. For Ecuador, as for other countries of Latin America, remittances should not be considered as a form of ODA. They have had a significant macroeconomic impact and have generated significant economic regional and micro-regional dynamics. Moreover, since the last decade of the past century, we have witnessed a replacement of non-reimbursable cooperation by debt with multilateral banks. This is tantamount to placing a mortgage upon the social development of multilateral entities which, to date, have proven their inability to address the real difficulties of societies in the South.

These facts lead to several conclusions. Firstly, the integration of the labour force of countries of the South and the labour markets of countries of the North is the leading source of currency. They should not be considered as a form of ODA.

Secondly, available studies prove that Latin American immigrants who are working in sectors of the labour market do not have an impact on the employment of either European or North American workers but, rather, contribute to revitalizing social security systems and addressing problems of demographic ageing.

Thirdly, we must urgently review the budgetary restrictions that caused the external debt-servicing measures placed on human development. We must write off the notion of debt conditionalities. We must redefine the concept of sustainability and we must ensure that the current food and climate crises are financed through such measures.

We must establish a platform to combat illegal and illegitimate debt and we must promote debt audits, such as those that were carried out in Ecuador, the results of which were published last week.

We subscribe to the international appeal for greater transparency in order to examine the form and types of contract that lead to indebtedness which, in many cases, have not been used to promote national human development strategies.

The Government of Ecuador is of the view that North-South cooperation must be reconsidered from scratch if it is to become a true tool to improve the living conditions of broad swathes of humanity on this planet, currently threatened by hunger and malnutrition because of a model of development that is unsustainable as a result of its environmental effects.

To start off with, the cooperating countries in the North must meet the commitment of allocating 0.7 per cent of their GNI by 2015 for development assistance. The current crisis of capitalism is also the final crisis of the dominant development model of the last three decades. Resolving this crisis will require renewed international cooperation under more specific terms, rather than just average income in defining a new international financial and monetary order. Various Heads of State and Government have expressed their interest in renewing the international financial system, given that the entities which formed this system have not contributed to resolving the main problems of the countries of the South. Quite the contrary, they have exacerbated these problems, without mitigating or reducing the severe asymmetries and prevailing inequities.

The Government of Ecuador has established a National Development Plan, with development objectives and human development goals, placing clear emphasis on achieving equality, social inclusion, productivity and the collective well-being.

At the Iberoamerican Summit held in San Salvador in October this year, the President of Ecuador, Dr. Rafael Correa, presented a proposal for a new financial architecture, with three basic pillars. First of all, the establishment of a development bank for the South; secondly, the establishment of a fund of common reserves at the Latin American level; and, thirdly, adopting a regional monetary system which, during a first phase, would operate using an electronic currency for a system of financial compensation between countries of the region. It is high time that Latin America and the rest of the developing world closes ranks and responds to the vagaries and impositions imposed by the North in the trading sphere, in order to ensure that these activities are undertaken in more just conditions and to put an end to the distortion caused by agricultural subsidies. An entirely new strategy of South-South cooperation is taking shape. We are of the view that cooperation for development can be re-thought, as can the relationships between the North and the South in this regard.

Egypt

Statement by
His Excellency
Mr. Mohamed Hosni Mubarak
President of the Arab Republic of Egypt

Delivered by
His Excellency
Dr. Osman Mohamed Osman
Minister of State for Economic Development

30 November 2008

In the name of God the merciful the compassionate, Madam Chairperson, Ladies and Gentlemen, allow me at the outset to convey our condolences to the victims of the terrorist attack in Mumbai. I would like to express our support to the people and government of India in their efforts to eradicate and combat terrorism in all its manifestations.

Ladies and Gentlemen, allow me at the outset to convey to your Excellencies the greetings of President Mohamed Hosny Mubarak, who was unable to attend our important conference today due to pre-scheduled engagements.

It is now my honor to relay to your Excellencies President Mubarak's statement to the Conference, which is as follows. Your Highness, Prince Hamad Bin Khalifa Al-Thani, Prince of the sisterly State of Qatar, your Highnesses, Kings and esteemed Heads of State and Prime Ministers, His Excellency the President of the General Assembly, His Excellency the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Excellencies Ministers and Head of Delegations, Ladies and Gentlemen, I wish at the outset express my appreciation to my brother His Highness the Prince of the State of Qatar for his initiative to

host this important international conference, and my hope it reaches useful and constructive results to support the efforts of developing countries to achieve development and growth, and in confronting the challenges and difficulties they face.

Ladies and Gentlemen, our meeting in Monterrey six years ago was a milestone in dealing internationally with the major issues and challenges facing our modern world today. By all standards, the "Monterrey Consensus" emerged as a historic document, reflecting the strong determination of world leaders to confront the crisis prevailing then, with an acute sense of responsibility.

Our meeting today convenes amid highly complicated international circumstances and a grave financial and economic global crisis that threatens the foundations of the international financial system, and drives the global economy into a period of recession. Such trends present great multifaceted challenges to the ongoing efforts to achieve sustainable development.

This debilitating crisis portends difficult times ahead, and insurmountable challenges for the developing World.. This is a crisis that necessitates immediate and serious international action to confront its repercussions, and to assist developing countries in containing its negative ramifications that impede the achievement of the internationally agreed UN Millennium Goals that were adopted eight years ago.

We convene this conference to affirm our commitment to the Monterrey Consensus and to review the progress of implementing its stipulations, including the successes achieved and the failures incurred. This revision should be coupled with a sincere effort to agree on an international integrated approach to confront the current crisis and the new challenges it poses to us.. Here, I affirm that this crisis should not be a pretext to reduce official development assistance (ODA) to developing countries, or to weaken our commitment to the Monterrey Consensus. On the contrary, this crisis presents a new international reality and a greater incentive to reinforce this consensus and to implement its commitments.

We are today in need more than any time before to agree on a timeframe for our development partners to fulfill their commitments towards developing countries. In this regard, we must admit that any honest and objective assessment will prove that many of these commitments remain unfulfilled promises, and unmet obligations. The development aspirations of developing countries cannot afford delay particularly that the current global crisis necessitates invigorating international cooperation to assist developing countries in the foreseeable future, for we all are facing this crisis together, albeit with varying degrees.

Egypt calls for the reform of the current economic and trade system and its financial institution in a manner that upholds the interests and addresses the concerns of developing countries, and to improve the terms of international trade in favor of developing countries and ensuring market access to the markets of the developed world. Developing countries seek not aid but more trade, and even more foreign direct investment flows.

Nonetheless, official development assistance continues to constitute a basic requirement for many developing countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America.. I hereby commend those countries that implemented their commitments agreed upon in the '70s and reaffirmed in Monterrey to allocate 0.7% of their GNP as official development assistance to developing countries. I also express our appreciation to those countries which have exceeded that level of assistance to developing countries.

At the same time, we invite our development partners to demonstrate at this conference the same level of responsibility to implement these commitments as soon as possible, as well as the strict observance of the "Paris Declaration" and the "Accra Agenda of Action" aiming at increasing the effectiveness of development assistance and coordination among the donors, including the establishment of an international nechanism to monitor the implementation of international commitments, implementing the provision of financing for the United Nations' developmental activities, and promoting international reliance on innovative resources to finance development.

Ladies and Gentlemen, developing countries have taken long strides towards fulfilling their pledges in accordance with the "Monterrey Consensus" in the fields of management, governance, and the application of sound economic and fiscal policies and the mobilization of the domestic financial resources for development.

In spite of these efforts, developing countries are still looking forward to a greater political will on the part of the developed countries to create an international atmosphere that supports the efforts of developing countries, fosters North-South cooperation, reinforces their capabilities, and guarantees greater investment flows, the transfer of technology, and opens more markets for their exports.

On its part, Egypt has achieved notable results through a series of political, economic and social reforms...reforms which emanate from a uniquely national perspective…and a belief that a conducive international environment would support national efforts within the framework of a new, vital and necessary partnership.

This genuine partnership must be predicated on the unity of vision and the balance of interests… a serious partnership…that addresses the interests of all parties not some at the expense of others… a necessary partnership that institutes a new world order according to a comprehensive vision of cooperation and interdependence, a partnership that creates a framework for the developed and developing worlds to countenance the challenges of our world…a framework based on more justice and greater inclusiveness.

The implementation of what the "Monterrey Consensus" included with regard to the structure of the international monetary, financial and trading system should be at the top or our priorities in the coming period. This is because the financial and economic crises we are facing confirm the need to reform those institutions to cope with the nature of this era and challenges. Concomitantly, the calls for greater democracy within countries should be paralleled with similar calls for democratization of relations between states and within international organizations.

The developing countries have the irrevocable right to be fairly and widely represented in the ongoing debate on restructuring the international financial and economic system. Furthermore, Egypt and the developing countries have the irrevocable right to present their views on the causes of the current crisis, and the means to contain its adverse effects, and to avert similar crises in the future. Therefore, justice requires that we contribute to informing the current global system since we are sharing the burden of its causes, and deregulation.

Egypt calls for a high-level extensive and inclusive dialogue within the United Nations on the current crisis and the reform of the existing international economic system and financial institutions, with the participation of all developed and developing countries, the Bretton Woods Institutions, the WTO, UNCTAD and regional organizations and other stakeholders. A comprehensive high-level dialogue that enables all parties to examine this crisis from within the United Nations and allows developing countries to express and articulate their view in a manner that reflects the majority that they represent and at the same time recognizes the greater share of the repercussions of this crisis that they have shouldered.

The food and energy crisis with all its inflation and suffering did not signal the end, and even the current financial crisis with its graver danger for the international economy, financial markets, and the credit institutions shall not be the last challenges or crises especially in a world that no longer recognizes barriers or borders, and in an era marked by globalization.

Egypt and the developing countries have called in various UN and non-UN forum, for a more humane globalization, in order for all members of the international community to benefit from its advantages and opportunities, and to avert its crises and instabilities. The current crisis proves that we are still far from attaining this objective. It reflects that there is a dire need for a system that is more equitable for developing countries. There is a strong need for a new vision that ensures collective security for all nations and achieves a human security for all mankind. A vision that's fairly and

apolitically confronts existing conflicts and challenges, combats terrorism as a global phenomenon which requires global action, not unilateral intervention, a vision that confronts the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction without double standards. A new vision that encompasses the social dimensions of globalization, addresses its negative impacts on the poor and the marginalized, and supports the efforts exerted by developing countries to protect their nations against its repercussions, and to harness its advantages and achievements. A new vision that addresses the environmental dimensions of the development process, confronts the challenges of climate change, the daunting problems of drought, desertification and famine.

Indeed, there is a dire need to integrate those social, environmental and security dimensions as vital components of globalization, with its concepts, mechanisms and practises.

I am presenting this vision and request to this important conference. We are strongly convinced that all of our nations, developed and developing, rich and poor, are partners in this endeavor, in which developing countries have a voice and and opinion. Egypt will convey this message to other for a within the UN and beyond.

Ladies and Gentlemen, in confronting the current crisis, developing countries are finding themselves at the crossroads between new challenges and the existing ones, including external debt burdens, declining commodity prices, increasing trade barriers, cutbacks in official development assistance, food and energy security challenges, and impediments related to infrastructure development and the delivery of essential services such as health and education.

Therefore, I call on this conference to seriously address these challenges, and to confront the external debt problems facing many countries in Africa and the developing world.

I also invite all stakeholders to reach a global consensus that ensures a successful result for the multilateral trade negotiations. Such a consensus, which is essential and long awaited, should fully address the desired developmental objectives of the current Doha Round, and support the efforts of developing countries to integrate in the international trading system. This objective has been a main ingredient of the "Monterrey Consensus".

Finally, I wish this Conference all success and I look forward to fostering through our collective endeavors a new momentum that would engender a more solid global partnership and a better world.

Thank you.

Estonia

Statement by
His Excellency
Mr. Urmas Paet
Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Estonia

30 November 2008

Most parts of the world, including my own country, have experienced strong economic growth since Monterrey, and this has helped millions of people in the world out of poverty. However, the current global financial crisis, which affects developing as well as developed countries, has made our joint goal to reduce poverty in the world even more challenging.

By reaffirming the Monterrey Consensus today, we continue to keep our global partnership also during these difficult times.

Estonia has relatively recent experience with overcoming development challenges. Our experience has shown that the primary way to achieve development is to generate sustainable economic growth. We do speak out of recent transition experience: free market principles, open trade competition, an inclusive business sector and effectively regulated financial markets are basic requirements for the reduction of poverty and economic development.

The key work in mobilizing domestic resources as well as in attracting foreign investments is good governance. States develop only if their people have the space to develop. When there is peace and security, individual freedoms and human rights are respected, and access to education and healthcare

is provided. I am pleased to see that more and more attention is paid in the international agenda to fostering sound tax policies and fighting corruption. Neither developing countries nor aid donors should tolerate tax evasion, capital flight and public or private sector corruption. All resources illegally spent take a step back in our common aim to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. In order to secure long-term development, the administrative infrastructure and capacity should be strengthened, the fight against corruption fostered and the economic environment enhanced. Domestic reforms and stable political, as well as macroeconomic, conditions are equally important for a country to attract foreign direct investments, which are essential for growth and often have an irreplaceable role in funding investments in a country's services and infrastructure. The foreign direct investments could also be beneficial for development by promoting the transfer of knowledge and technology, increasing competition and creating employment opportunities.

We acknowledge the important complementary role official development assistance flows can play in the development efforts of many developing countries, especially in the least developed countries and countries emerging from conflict. Since 1998, the development cooperation sector has been an increasingly important foreign policy instrument for Estonia, and we have steadily increased our share among other international donors. Estonia's development rate has grown therefore since 2004. The European Union, of which Estonia is a member, is as a whole on track towards increasing its development aid to 0.7 per cent of its gross national income. However, as stated in the Monterrey Consensus, the quality of aid matters as much as the quantity. The Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness has proven to be an important framework for achieving higher standards on aid effectiveness. It is a pleasure for me to announce that Estonia has just recently joined the signatories of the Paris Declaration. At a time of increased complexity in the global aid architecture due to the significant rise in the number of donors and other actors in development cooperation since Monterrey, we should all, including all emerging donors, make efforts to ensure coherence in our aid activities as well as in relation to other policies.

As proven in countless development efforts all over the world, sustainable development in any society or country can only be achieved if women share the same rights and are given the same opportunities as men. Empowering women, providing education for girls and making reproductive health services available to women, can also make an irreplaceable contribution to long-term economic growth, in addition to making a difference in the lives of these girls and women. Gender equality should be the guiding principle of any development effort, domestic or international.

Several new challenges have occurred since Monterrey, among others, the need to find resources, how to tackle climate change or how to improve the international system to avoid the future global financial, food or energy crisis. These challenges are truly global and need the attention of, as well as resources from, all our countries. We should reinvigorate the global partnership for development to effectively address these challenges. We must all mobilize our resources for global development, donors and aid recipients alike. In the face of the current global financial crisis, we should be very clear that poverty reduction remains our priority.

Finland

Statement by
His Excellency
Mr. Paavo Väyrynen
Minister for Foreign Trade and Development of the Republic of Finland

30 November 2008

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen, let me first of all thank the government of Qatar for arranging this follow-up conference on the Monterrey Consensus on Financing for Development. Your hospitality has been outstanding and the organization excellent.

My delegation fully aligns itself with the statement made by France on behalf of the European Union. Let me just make a few additional remarks

on the important topic that is on our agenda. In this time of deep financial and economic uncertainty it is of particular importance to continue the holistic dialogue on financing for development that we started in Monterrey. Let me first of all emphasize that the priority should be to safeguard the commitments of the Monterrey Consensus which should not be re-opened.

The EU for its part has an ambitious agenda on development aid with an EU-wide ODA target of 0.56% of the GNI by 2010 and 0.7% by 2015. Finland is committed to this agenda and our national share of reaching 0.51 in 2010 and 0.7 in 2015. The quantity of assistance is important but we have to underline the quality as well. Quality is crucial for the effectiveness of poverty reduction. In Accra, we discussed and made decisions on aid effectiveness. We reached a consensus, but in my opinion, our approach was too narrow. We did not pay enough attention to the principles of sustainable development and the role of the private sector in poverty reduction. Still, experience shows that poverty reduction has been most effective in countries which have had strong and sustainable growth in their private sector and which have had effective national programmes for poverty reduction.

Growth has lifted people out of poverty and it has given the government resources for financing poverty reduction programmes. In most cases, the growth has been created by opening up the borders and by integrating to the world economy. In my opinion, we need convergence in our development policies in order to make them more effective. We, the European Union and the other northern donors, are channeling most of our funding through the public sector to direct poverty reduction. We have, to some extent, neglected infrastructure and productive private sectors including agriculture, although we have excellent experience, results and resources for supporting their development. The emerging southern countries concentrate in their development cooperation on infrastructure and productive sectors especially on the utilization of natural resources. They have been less active on education, health and social sectors even if they have invaluable experience in creating social development in their own country, in the conditions of a developing country.

The northern donors should use more resources for infrastructure and development of the productive sectors. In the South-South cooperation, more attention should be paid to social development. Triangular cooperation is important in promoting aid effectiveness. All cooperation should be based on the commonly agreed principles of sustainable development. Ecological and economic sustainability are widely understood, but still very often neglected. Social sustainability is often misunderstood as if it would include only the development of the social sectors such as basic education and health care. Still, it includes also and above all the foundation of social sustainability, rule of law, good governance, democracy, and basic human rights. This foundation is crucial for the well-being of people, but it is necessary also for both the immediate alleviation of poverty and for the effective indirect reduction of poverty through sustainable economic growth. Here I have to ask, if some of the Southern donors have been shortsighted when emphasizing that they do not interfere in the internal affairs of the partner countries. Social sustainability is necessary condition for all development. If that is neglected, we are going to risk losing the investments made in development and ultimately we can even risk the security and lives of the people we send to the partner countries as experts and workers.

Development cooperation is negotiated and agreed on between partners. Social sustainability is not an issue to be negotiated since all countries, developed and developing, have committed themselves to the principles of sustainability in all of its trade dimensions.

Mr. Chairman, poverty reduction can be effective. It can bring first and lasting results only if our policies are sustainable ecologically, economically and social. If any of these pillars of sustainability is missing, we will pay and that we cannot afford.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Germany

Statement by
Her Excellency
Ms. Heidemarie Wieczorek-Zeul
Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development of the Federal Republic of Germany
Speaking as the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus

29 November 2008

As the United Nations Secretary-General's Special Adviser, I would like to thank His Royal Highness, the Emir of Qatar, for the hospitality that he and his staff have shown in supporting this Conference so well. In Doha, we are taking on difficult work in difficult times. I have now been the development minister for 10 years, and I participated in the Monterrey Conference. That is why I attach such importance to the fact that this Conference will make the decisions that we all need. The Monterrey Conference was one of the most important conferences since the Millennium Development Declaration; this Conference must be another step.

It is good that this Conference is taking place now. As President Sarkozy outlined this morning, the more than 170 countries that were not represented at the Group of Twenty (G20) Summit in Washington, D.C., must also be heard. We have been travelling this path for eight years now. Monterrey became a financing for development milestone for us. Yet, we know that our progress so far has not been fast enough. Radical market ideologies have driven the world economy to the verge of ruin and seriously harmed the people in developing countries. Everyone is now confessing that markets without regulation are a fatal aberration.

Now is the time to call for a global New Deal for this twenty-first century. We must see the crisis as an opportunity and seize it to fight the economic crisis—which is engulfing all the other crises—and prevent it from becoming a humanitarian one in the developing countries. We cannot carry on as we have been doing, and I appeal to you: every three seconds a child dies, and every minute a woman dies as a result of complications during pregnancy. The financial crisis has pushed an additional 40 million people into poverty. Year after year, an unbelievable 18 million people die because they are poor, 18 million unique human beings! While these 18 million people are dying, more than $1.3 trillion is spent on armaments. I would also add that if billions of dollars could be mobilized to save the banking sector, then the international community surely should be able to mobilize the billions needed to save the world from hunger, poverty and climate change. Moreover, the least developed oil-importing countries had to finance an additional $50 billion in 2008 to pay their oil bill. That is more than they get from official development assistance (ODA). This is an example of how oil-importing countries are specifically hit. There is no better reason for spending money. We now have to "walk the talk".

I should like to describe six elements of a global New Deal, as I envisage it.

1. We need strong, reliable international governance structures. Developing countries must have a real voice. Africa has to participate in every meeting and be a member of the G20 and other groupings; as I said yesterday, the African Union must be represented at these meetings.

I recall that the Monterrey Conference had before it a background report of a panel appointed by the Secretary-General, headed by Mr. Ernest Zedillo, in which the establishment of a so-called global council was proposed, and I quote, "Because I still think it is relevant and we have to work for it." The proposed council would be more broadly based than the Group of Seven (G7) and the Bretton Woods institutions. It would not have legal binding authority, but through its political leadership would provide a long-term strategic policy framework to secure consistency in the policy goals of the major international organizations and to promote consensus building among Governments on possible solutions regarding issues of global economic and social governance. In my opinion, this is an aim we should try to reach because incoherence is unacceptable.

2. Civil society must be involved in shaping the global New Deal. I salute their presence here, taking part in this initiative. Only with their participation could the global New Deal become a pact that people could actually support and subscribe to.

3. With a specific emphasis, we need to empower women. This would have a major impact on fulfilling the Millennium Development Goals. The fact that women and men can enjoy equal rights and inclusion in political and economic decisions is a question of human rights, but it is also in the interest of the countries themselves, and I say that with quite some emphasis.

I would also to like make an appeal that we all ensure that women and girls will not suffer in this financial crisis. This concern was just expressed in one of the meetings here on women's rights. We heard from the United Nations Children's Fund that in the last crisis it was specifically girls and women that were hit additionally by cuts in the basic social services, hence my plea to all of you that this will not happen again.

4. The combined crises of the new century are not just turning into global financial crises. A serious humanitarian crisis may also be looming for developing countries. It is crucial and necessary that massive investments are made in agriculture, climate protection, adaptation to climate change, renewable energies and infrastructure.

5. We must no longer tolerate casino capitalism. We have to establish reliable rules for global financial markets.

6. We must also explore new avenues in order to finance these huge investments. Financing for development is more important than ever before.

I would like to inform you, not only as the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on this Conference but also as the German Development Minister, that we stand by our commitments to increase ODA; we are convincing people of the necessity to work together and to go ahead together. We have made commitments to achieve the Millennium Development Goals and we stand by them. We have also developed innovative financing proposals, as described by Mr. Douste-Blazy, the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Innovative Financing for Development, who has spoken before me.

It should also not be forgotten that each year developing and industrialized countries miss out some $500 billion in lost tax revenues because of tax fraud. An International Tax Compact should allow us to establish fair and effective tax systems and to take action against tax flight; this is finance that could be used for health, education and fighting HIV-AIDS and other illnesses and diseases.

Lastly, emissions trading is a reliable instrument. I can inform you that from our use of emissions trading in Germany we expect to deliver revenues in the budget of 2009 of more than €225 million for development policy, and that increasing amounts will come in future years.

In our discussions, it has been acknowledged that climate change requires major investment. Let us jointly stand up for a new and ambitious climate regime. Together, let us achieve the two degrees goal and make adaptation to climate change possible in vulnerable countries.

I conclude by quoting Albert Einstein, who once said, "The word progress will have no meaning as long as there is one single unhappy child". We know that there are millions of unhappy children. We know that there are millions of children who are hungry and are starving. The Millennium Development Goals tell us what concrete actions we have to take in order to truly reach progress—in this sense, human progress—and also to assume global responsibility, eradicate poverty and thus foster peace.

It depends on all of you, on all of us, that this will be the message from the Doha Conference: let us go forward to peace; let us go forward with respect for the individual, for each human being, be it man or woman; let us go forward with respect for religions; with respect for the different decisions that people make; and with respect for every country.

Thank you very much for your attention, and let us go forward. We will have success.

Guatemala

Statement by
His Excellency
Mr. Juan Alberto Fuentes
Minister for Finance of the Republic of Guatemala

30 November 2008

Madam President, first and foremost, Guatemala wishes to add its voice to the delegations that have intervened before us to thank you and through you, your Government, for the excellent organization of this conference and for the many courtesies extended to us since our arrival in Qatar.

Secondly, we would like to pay tribute to the process that begun six years ago in the framework of the Monterrey Consensus, as one of the most successful conferences organized by the United Nations in the economic and social spheres.

In Monterrey, we garnered various achievements. We placed financing for development on humanity's priority agenda. We arrived at some sort of compact between developing and developed countries on how, with each one fulfilling its own obligations, we could generate an environment of cooperation to promote development. We identified the most relevant topics in the matter in a holistic and integrated approach, reflected in the different chapters that make up the Monterrey Consensus, chapters that once again organized the document that we trust will emerge from this conference.

We built bridges between the different international actors involved in financing for development including the Ministers of the Economic area, Central Banks, Ministers of Cooperation, Ministries of Foreign Affairs. We were also able to build bridges between the United Nations and the multilateral financial institutions, and between the latter and regional institutions that in one way or another deal with financing. We brought civil society in the business sector into our activities. It was logical therefore, that we should comply with Paragraph 73 of the Monterrey Consensus to undertake an assessment of the achievements and setbacks produced during the past six years.

Third, we cannot loose from sight how much the international panorama has changed since we decided to convene this conference in December 2007. It began with a food and energy crisis followed by a financial crisis, a crisis, and now is extending to other sectors. It is comforting to note the rapidity with which the main economies of the world have reacted in a more or less coordinated manner to this new panorama financial crisis and contraction of economic activity all of which decidedly alters the content and scope of the financing for development agenda. Having said the above, the process that we initiated in Monterrey in 2002, attuned and adjusted with what we agree to in this conference, will surely point in the direction of addressing the short-term emergency without sacrificing the medium and long-term objectives which will allow us to resume our path towards meeting the Millennium Development Goals.

Fourth, from the vantage point of our delegation which represents a small economy that was not present in the G20 meeting held in Washington, the Monterrey process offers us the possibility to converge in concerted reactions on the part of the international community to problems that affect all of us. In that convergence, the United Nations has much to offer. On the one hand it contributes the legitimacy born out of its universal membership. On the other hand, it contributes through its capacity to introduce coherence between the different agenda items on humanity which encompass financial, economic, social, environmental and political matters. This is another way of saying that given the magnitude of the problems we face, all of us should close ranks to address them in a coherent and integrated manner.

Fifth, in the realm of my personal field of action, fiscal policy plays an especially relevant role, be it as a source of internal resource mobilization to finance investment as part of a development strategy, or as one of the few effective countercyclical policy instruments at our disposal in times of global economic recession.

Having said the above, small economies like mine very limited in their ability to act in this manner because the decreases in fiscal receipts that

tend to accompany recessive periods reduce their capacity. That is an additional reason to maintain and even increase the levels of international cooperation during recessive periods. In this way, they mitigate the effects of an economic contraction in two ways, by contributing to combat the ongoing global deflation as a result of the international financial crisis and by allowing small developing economies to apply counter-cyclical policies.

Coordinating these policies, learning from best practices and fiscal matters, and expanding cooperation to other areas of fiscal policy such as double taxation, justify strengthening cooperation in these matters. It is for this reason that we enthusiastic about the idea of strengthening the role of the United Nations Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters.

Finally, I would like to vindicate the need to promote a more participatory development, bringing civil society and the business sector into our work. For the latter, it is appropriate to invoke not only its social and environmental responsibility, but also its responsibility as a taxpayer. And at the same time both civil society and the business sector have the right to hold the state fully accountable and to insist on total transparency in its endeavors.

Mr. President, I end hoping that with this gathering and in spite of the agonizing financial difficulties that the world faces in the short run, we will be able to maintain and even enhance the spirit and the commitments spawned in Monterrey, and that we will respond to the new challenges through a strengthened multilateralism.

Thank you.

Hungary

Statement by
His Excellency
Mr. László Várkonyi
State Secretary, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Hungary

1 December 2008

Allow me, first of all, to warmly congratulate the host of this prestigious event.

I should also like to thank the organizers for the initiatives and all the efforts to make this Conference a cornerstone of our development cooperation. In fulfilling the challenging tasks of the Conference, I assure all participants of the support and cooperation of the Hungarian delegation.

Let me also make a brief reference to the horrible terrorist act that Mumbai had to suffer, and express my deep condolences to the Government and the people of India.

Hungary welcomes the Doha Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development as an opportunity to debate and reinforce the Monterrey Consensus, while addressing new and emerging challenges. The timing of the Conference is of crucial importance. We cannot but remind ourselves of the current financial and economic crisis, which is likely to have a serious impact on both donor and partner countries, though in a different way and strength. The need for solidarity is increasing, such as the responsibility of developed countries for enhancing development cooperation. Developing countries, especially the least developed and most vulnerable ones, cannot be the major victims of the current crisis. We have to place special emphasis on the enhancement of the situation of women and children. But our partner countries' responsibility to avoid or to minimize negative impacts can also not be neglected.

Hungary is firmly committed to support the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. Without questioning the importance of respecting our commitments, we stress the necessity of increasing the effectiveness of financing

activities, as well as of involving new resources for development cooperation, partly by introducing new forms of innovative financing or facilitating higher foreign direct investment flows.

For the economies of the least developed and most vulnerable countries, the role of trade is the prerequisite for their sustainable growth, and it is the gateway to their global economic integration. Market access in itself is not sufficient in this case; we need to support the increase of their production capacities and trade infrastructure. We should actively support the Aid for Trade Initiative.

Effectiveness demands reliability and coherence. We consider it as one of our main future tasks and challenges to establish and improve the business-enabling environment and solid legal background in developing countries. The developed countries should provide the necessary technical assistance.

Sustainable economic growth and social development can be the result of only long-term cooperation and real partnership. We put special emphasis on education and training as main priorities in our development policy.

A solid business environment also requires good governance. Hungary offers its experience and knowledge to build up and improve these capacities. Last year, we doubled the amount of our assistance provided for these purposes and we are determined to continue our work in the future.

Donor and partner countries' capacities and possibilities are different. This calls for a better division of labour in order to use capacities and knowledge in the most effective way. We encourage complementary solutions. Hungary is ready to share its experience gained in Afghanistan and to transmit the know-how in other countries as well. We express our firm belief that effective development cooperation is based on balanced dialogue and mutual responsibility between donors and partner countries, respecting and understanding each other's views and approaches. Hungary welcomes the large number of stakeholders from developing countries. Our contribution to the United Nations Trust Fund for the Follow-up to the International Conference on Financing for Development was aimed at facilitating their participation here in Doha.

On behalf of Hungary, I would like to reiterate our commitment to be an active partner in facing the core challenges and objectives of financing for development: to fight poverty and achieve the Millennium Development Goals, foster economic growth and promote sustainable development.

In conclusion, Mr. President, I would like to assure you that Hungary is strongly committed to work with you on a positive outcome of this Conference.

India

Statement by
His Excellency
Mr. Shri E. Ahamed
Minister of State for Extenal Affairs of the Republic of India

30 November 2008

Madam President, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, at the outset, I would like to thank His Highness the Emir of Qatar and the Government of Qatar for the warm hospitality extended to us and for the excellent arrangements made in hosting this very important Conference.

I would also like to express my appreciation for the UN Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and their teams.

Madam President, we are grateful for the words of sympathy and solidarity that many of you have expressed for my country in the wake of the dastardly terrorist attack on Mumbai. These attacks were well-orchestrated and well-planned. This is not possible without a strong institutional and financial support from outside. I hope that this conference will send out a strong message that not only the perpetrators but also the organizers, financiers and supporters of terrorism will be brought to justice urgently.

We would also urge an urgent adoption of the Comprehensive Convention on International

Terrorism that has been pending for long at the United Nations. Stamping out terrorism is also essential for social cohesion and safety and security in all our societies. These are, in fact, essential preconditions for development.

Madam President, in 2002 at Monterrey, we made a renewed commitment of ensuring predictable and additional financing to developing countries for their development efforts. Today at the half-way mark to our target date of 2015, it is clear that many developing countries, and the world as a whole, will not be able to achieve the Millennium Development and other Internationally Agreed Goals.

The main reason is the lack of delivery on the global partnership. There has been a drop from 0.31% of gross national income in 2006 to 0.28% in 2007, far less than the commitment of 0.7% of GNI made over 30 years ago.

OECD figures also show a disappointing drop in total development assistance by 8.4% in real terms in 2007, on top of a 5.1% drop in 2006. It is high time that we stop making commitments after commitments and instead deliver on commitments.

Madam President, our Conference is extremely timely given the magnitude of the financial and economic crisis that we are facing today. Developing countries were not the cause of the financial crisis, but may become its worst victims.

The choking of normal credit will lead to lower capital flows and foreign direct investment to developing countries. Their export abilities will also be hit. Much of the world's growth in the past several years has been due to growth in developing countries and any slowdown of this growth would have serious consequences for the world economy.

If we are to prevent a slide back and ensure that Millennium Development Goals are achieved, developed countries will have to see that FDI, trade and infrastructure development in developing countries is not slowed down.

Madam President, international private capital flows to developing countries have increased since Monterrey though we should remember that there continues to be a net outflow of resources from developing to developed countries with the figure having reached almost $800 billion in 2007.

Given today's financial turmoil, more intensive efforts have to be made to ensure that capital flows to developing countries, including private flows, do not shrink. In these circumstances, ODA would have a more important role in development financing and there is an urgent need to scale up ODA.

There is also an imperative to put in place counter-cyclical policies by promoting infrastructure investment and investing in green and clean technologies. "Investment in infrastructure is today perhaps the best signal for reviving private investment, including FDI, tomorrow", is what our Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, recently noted.

The World Bank, International Finance Corporation and regional development banks have a special role in this. Our focus must also be on ensuring that developing countries enjoy the proper economic and policy space to allow them to grow rapidly, unfettered by conditionalities. We must guard against protectionist tendencies and erection of trade and economic barriers. The global partnerships should assist in capacity and institution building as well as transfer of technology.

Madam President, our efforts to use trade as a catalyst for promoting development must yield results that ensure that development is at the heart of the outcome. For India, the livelihood interest of millions of our vulnerable subsistence farmers is of critical importance.

Madam President, as we meet here the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change is convening in Poznan. It is important that the negotiations under the UNFCCC respect the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities in letter and spirit and move towards an ambitious and equitable outcome.

The outcome should recognize an equal right for all to the global resource of the atmosphere. Developing countries must be able to give their people a better life and cope with their huge adaptation needs. The developed countries must deliver on their green-house gases reduction commitments. They must also commit support for developing

countries with capacity building, technology and new and additional finance for addressing climate changes without detracting from development finance commitments.

Madam President, the current economic crisis has brought about a clear recognition of the mismatch between the realities of today and the existing global architecture of international governance. The institutions created at Bretton Woods must have a greater voice, role and effective participation also of the developing countries reflecting current realities. We welcome the moves initiated in this direction. And, at the United Nations, too, the democracy deficit is no longer sustainable.

This requires genuine reform of the Security Council, which must encompass expansion in both permanent and non-permanent categories of membership reflecting contemporary realities.

Madam President, at this half-way stage to the target date for the Millennium Development Goals, we must ensure their attainment across the globe. The response to the current economic and financial crisis, which threatens to roll-back some of the hard-won development gains in developing countries, has shown that with the requisite political will, the world has tremendous capacity to mobilize large resources at short notice.

We hope that at this Conference we will witness the same zeal of galvanized action for the good of all humankind.

Thank you.

Indonesia

Statement by
His Excellency
Mr. Paskah Suzetta
Minister for National Development Planning and Chairman of National Development Planning Agency of the Republic of Indonesia

30 November 2008

Mr. President, Colleague, Delegation and Distinguished Guests [foreign language], good afternoon. Mr. President, it is a pleasure for me to be here and first of all, I should like to express Indonesia's appreciation to the Government and People of Qatar for the warm hospitality and the excellent arrangements that has been made for this important conference.

On this occasion, I would like to express our deep sympathy and condolence to the Government and especially people of India for the tragedy that happened in Mumbai.

This conference is taking place at a time of crises which have created several challenges for development financing. Over the next few days, we must resolve to chart a path to overcome these challenges. This will ensure the wheel of development continues to rotate and support efforts to meet our international development goals, securing a better future for the people we serve.

Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen, the world has changed considerably since the Monterrey Consensus. We are increasingly being shown that globalization does not only facilitate growth and development but it has also increased financial and economic instability tremendously at all levels.

This instability has manifested itself in the various crises we have gone through recently. From the recent energy and food crises, to the financial crisis we are in today. Underlying all of these is the real and imminent threat of climate change.

Mr. President, facing increasing global instability, the review of the Monterrey Consensus on financing for development must contribute to

strengthening our financial and economic system at the global and national levels. This will provide a sound and strong foundation for us to mobilize resources to finance development.

Indonesia's view is that achieving a sound and strong global financial and economic system in conducive to financing for development. We believe this requires a three- pronged approach. First, we need to expedite reform of the global financial and economic architecture.

What the global financial crisis has done is to expose the shortcomings of the current international financial architecture. The need for greater stability and equity of the global financial and economic system has been made emphatically clear. The key to the reform, in our view, is the enhancement of global surveillance capacities, as recommended by the Monterrey Consensus. We must make the global financial and economic system able to meet new challenges and demands. Our conviction is that a well-supervised system controlled by better regulations will prevent large-scale instability in the future.

But in carrying out the necessary comprehensive reform, which must include the Bretton Woods system, due emphasis should be given to development as our common platform. In this context, we welcome the effort of the G20 to initiate the reform process, however, we wish to stress the need for the United Nations with its universal membership to take a leadership role.

Second, we need to strengthen global partnership on financing for development. In time of crisis, we should not distract our focus from development issues such as poverty, energy and food security, as well as climate change. It is important that we reinvigorate global partnership for development as well as creating conducive international environment.

Many developing countries have undergone the necessary domestic reforms, often internationally prescribed, to enhance the mobilization of resources for development. However, despire their efforts, developing countries have continued to suffed from development funding insufficiencies.

Against this background there must be a renewed global partnership to create an enabling international environment that can facilitate continued mobilization of domestic and international resources, enhance international financial and technical cooperation, as well as address external debt and known systemic difficulties. Without these arrangements, the international environment will not yield development resources.

Another integral part of an enabling international environment is trade. Indonesia is encouraged to see that international trade, particularly among developing countries, has expanded considerably. But the possibility of a global recession, resulting from the current crisis, threatens to put a brake on these developments. At this point, the only conceivable antidote for this is the realization of a genuine Doha Development Round. The responsibility for delivering such an outcome rests with all Members, primarily the major economic players.

Thirdly, national level actions remain the corner stone to successfully mobilizing resources for development. It is important for each country to continue to implement the necessary macroeconomic, fiscal, and development policies that will inspire the confidence of the business sector and engender support for the continued growth of the real economy.

Because of the current global financial climate, many may be tempted to resort to protectionist policies. But it is important that we refrain from such an approach or from turning inwards during these times of financial uncertainty, even though independent policy space for developing countries remains an important necessity. Such space is important because developing countries must address the particular circumstances affecting the needs of their poor.

The notion of developing countries going it alone can be discounted based on the serious financial constraints that affect their development processes. Even with domestic mobilization of resources, many developing countries particularly LDCs have continued to suffer from insufficient resources for development. To this end, ODA and

FDI must be treated as indispensable for economic growth in developing countries.

In this vein, we are encouraged to see there has been, in real terms, an overall increase in ODA since the Monterrey Consensus. The current crisis must not be allowed to hinder this steady flow. Donor countries must keep their existing commitment to ensure that the crisis will not jeopardize the development achievement of developing countries.

In this context, we strongly endorse the establishment of timetables by donor countries to fulfill their commitment of 0.7% of their GNP as official development assistance. To achieve the effectiveness of aid in support of development, we strongly endorse the implementation of the Paris Declaration Agenda on Aid Effectiveness as well as the Accra Agenda for Actions.

In addition, we draw attention to the threat posed by climate change, its likely effects on global development and the need for developing countries to finance measures to counteract those effects. In keeping with the principle of global partnership, additional external financial resources and technological support must be provided to developing countries to overcome climate-related development challenges. This has to become an unwritten aspect of the Monterrey Consensus.

Finally, let me state that Indonesia is fully committed to ensuring the successful implementation of the Monterrey Consensus. We firmly believe that the Monterrey Consensus remains a great vision for economic and financial cooperation. It is just as relevant today as it was six years ago. Its full and effective implementation is therefore imperative as we strive to achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

Thank you

Ireland

Statement by
His Excellency
Mr. Peter Power T.D.
Minister for National Development Planning of Ireland

30 November 2008

Mr. President, Heads of State, Excellencies, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen, it is an honour to be in Doha. May I extend our sincere thanks to His Highness the Emir and the Government of Qatar for the warmth of their welcome..

We meet at a time of global economic crisis to review the implementation of the consensus forged at Monterrey six years ago. As representatives of developed and developing countries we must all demonstrate clearly over the coming days that the partnership for development to which we have committed ourselves will not be undermined by our response to the economic crisis. Put simply, the poorest people on the planet, the almost one billion who do not have enough food to eat, cannot be the chief victims of a financial crisis which owes much to the greed of the already rich.

We are now more than half way towards the target date of 2015 for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. If we are to halve world hunger and poverty levels by that date, we need to be act more effectively and with a greater sense of determination, from now.

In 2002, the Monterrey Consensus was a vital step in defining the need for global solidarity and genuine partnership between nations. It articulated the reality that each State bears responsibility for its national development. That aid is not simply a matter of funding and spending. And that acts of commitment, reform and solidarity are demanded of all partners in development.

All our Governments have made a series of pledges and commitments in the context of a series of international conferences on development. Between us, in Doha, we must now underscore the credibility of those pledges, and agree to act on

them. The solidarity we worked to build in a growing global economy is being seriously tested by the global crisis we face today. It is now that the principles behind Monterrey Consensus demonstrate their real value.

Against this difficult background, we must not lose sight of the progress which has been made. We must safeguard it. Growth rates in developing countries have reached historically high levels, supported by improvements in governance and the development of trade and investment. Aid volumes have substantially increased, and in implementing the Paris Declaration and agreeing to the Accra Agenda for Action, we are increasingly focusing on the effectiveness of aid.

Ireland is working hard to fulfill its part of the bargain. Despite serious economic difficulties at home, we remain on course to achieve the target of 0.7% of GNP on Overseas Development Assistance. The European Union will achieve the target by 2015. We in Ireland intend to achieve it by 2012.

We expect that this year, Ireland's Overseas Development Assistance will represent 0.56% of GNP, the highest ever. By design, our development assistance is 100% untied and overwhelmingly directed towards the poorest of the poor, the Least Developed Countries. Our absolute priority is the fight against global poverty and hunger. Our ambition for Doha is that, despite our clear differences of emphasis. we reach agreement as an international community to prioritize the weakest and the most vulnerable, working in partnership with the Least Developed Countries.

It is our firm conviction in Ireland that, as we reaffirm our commitment to the Millennium Development Goals we must devote greater effort and resources to fighting food insecurity in the developing world. How can we not prioritize the need for a sustainable food supply? The other Millennium Development Goals will be rendered academic if this, the most basic condition of human existence, is not met.

The Government of Ireland last year established a task force of national and international experts to make recommendations on ending the hunger crisis through concerted international action. Its report has been received, and it is blunt in its recommendations. It argues that many States have not lived up to their obligations, or to their promises and commitments in relation to hunger. It calls for a renewed focus on agricultural productivity in Africa, and especially on women who are primarily responsible for food production in the developing world. It calls for the targeting of maternal and infant under nutrition and it sets out the need for changes in governance and leadership priorities to build a real global political commitment on hunger.

I am determined that the long term hunger crisis and not just the emergency response to the rise in food prices must be at the centre of our development policy. We must respond effectively, together.

Mr. President, the commitments made at Monterrey on the development of sound macroeconomic policies, on good governance and the elimination of corruption are as important as the commitments on ODA flows. Overseas Development Assistance will not be effective until it assists our partners in their own development programs.

If ODA is to be effective, if poverty eradication and sustainable development are to be achieved, the necessary conditions must be created at national level to ensure economic stability. The global economic downturn requires a global response. But at national level, it remains essential to encourage the development of the private sector and to create conditions conducive to investment and wealth creation.

The Monterrey Consensus contains a clear commitment to reform the International Financial Institutions. Action can no longer be avoided. As the G20 have recognized, this global reform is now an urgent priority. Ireland strongly believes that the governance of the Bretton Woods Institutions must reflect the changing economic weights in the world economy in order to increase their legitimacy and effectiveness. In particular the Institutions must be more representative of emerging market economies.

Equally, despite the international efforts to which we have contributed strongly, we believe

that further work needs to be done on relieving the debt burden on developing countries. We must ensure that the successes of recent years in freeing up resources for the alleviation of poverty are not undermined by irresponsible lending or borrowing in the future. The pernicious debt trap for the developing world must be conclusively eradicated for future generations.

Mr. President, over the coming days we will review in detail the full range of commitments entered into in Monterrey. There will be points of difference and of disagreement between us. But we, as Government Representatives, have to recognize the urgency of the moment. Our Conference must not become a divisive drafting session. We have an historic opportunity to recommit ourselves to working in partnership to eradicate world poverty. We must recommit ourselves with credibility to implementing the Millennium Development Goals. Unless we succeed in maintaining our focus on this dimension of the series of interlocking global crises we now face, we will not find sustainable solutions to any of them.

Thank you.

Italy

Statement by
His Excellency
Mr. Vincenzo Scotti
Secretary of State, Ministry for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Italy

1 December 2008

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen, allow me to express our feelings of deepest sorrow for the tragic terrorist attacks against India. In this moment, the Italian government is particularly close to the government of India and to the families of the victims. Terrorism remains one of the biggest threats to the world. We must continue to fight it with all the necessary determination. Italy will continue to contribute to building a more peaceful and secure world, also within the framework of its incoming G8 Presidency.

Mr. Chairman, this Conference takes place at a time of crisis. It is our duty to rise to the challenge and show the leadership needed to ensure that the poorest and most vulnerable people will not be the main victims of the crisis.

We must not allow that all the progress in development, made since Monterrey, is now lost. Italy gets ready to take up the responsibility of the G8 Presidency, at a time of great uncertainty.

We face serious challenges. We must need to build new and sound foundations for the global economy. We need to turn this crisis into an opportunity to launch a new pact for growth and sustainable development.

As founding father of the European Union, we know how joint efforts can succeed in changing the course of events. Inclusiveness is part of our culture. Italy has always been a strong supporter of a Europe that was able, from its origins, to conduct a dialogue with all its partners and especially with Africa. We have constantly promoted a wide-ranging partnership for development, where development assistance, trade and investment are mutually reinforcing each other.

This approach will be the cornerstone of the G8 Presidency. Africa, the Millennium Development Goals and the fight against poverty will remain at the top of our priorities in the Italian G8 Summit.

We cannot accept that in the 21st Century people still lack access to food, water and health. We are working to form a Global Partnership to promote food security and to strengthen the capacity of the UN agencies to act swiftly and effectively. We will work in partnership with the African Union to implement a renewed strategy for water.

The G8 was also instrumental in launching the Global Fund and the other innovative initiatives for global health. We will stay committed in all these areas, which are crucial for the well-being of present and future African generations.

We must ensure that all financial resources and actors including civil society and the private sector contribute to promote growth and the Millennium Development Goals. Improved governance,

trade, investment flows, debt relief and innovative financing, as well as ODA, play a crucial role in development. A more effective ODA, along the principles of Accra, can become a catalyst for leveraging private resources in a spirit of public and private partnership.

We need to keep track on the real impact on development of both the quantity and quality of aid. We must work together to strengthen financial markets and local capacity for domestic resource mobilization and step up efforts to discourage capital flights and the tax evasion. Migrants' remittances can be a powerful development tool for developing countries.

We must ensure adequate access to credit for developing countries. At the same time, debt sustainability principles should be adhered to in all new lending.

Mr. Chairman, while we work together to design a new international financial architecture to prevent future crises, the G8 will provide political impulse and responsible leadership to find solutions to the main global challenges and be the driving force for advancing the global agenda in other fora. Climate change, energy, international development, food security, peace and stability all require commitment and vision. But we cannot do it alone. We must be inclusive: everyone must play its part.

All global challenges require a global response. Take climate change. We cannot reverse present trends without a joint effort end shared responsibilities.

In the same spirit, Italy with the "Uniting for Consensus" has been promoting d reform of the UN Security Council based on consensus and their representativeness. These should be the guiding principles. Appropriate formulas and the solution will follow.

The Monterrey Consensus based on a comprehensive approach to development and mutual accountability is today more relevant than ever. In 2002 the mood was different. We were then in a phase of global economic expansion. But those principles and commitments are still valid today, as we face a crisis. We must provide a sense of direction and work together, in a constructive manner. We are ready to take up the challenges and lead the way in building bridges between developed and developing countries.

Allow me to conclude, Mr. Chairman, by expressing my sincere hope that this Conference will bring us closer together, as it happened at the Accra Forum last September, in a renewed and inclusive effort for development.

Thank you.

Japan

Statement by
His Excellency
Mr. Nobuhide Minorikawa
Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan

30 November 2008

Madam President, Distinguished Delegates, I am honored to speak on behalf of the Government of Japan, as we gather here to review the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus on financing for development at this critical juncture. Before I begin, let me join others in expressing profound gratitude to the Government and the people of Qatar for their gracious hospitality. I also congratulate the facilitators, which are the delegations of Egypt and Norway, for their tireless efforts in pushing forward the negotiations to draft an outcome document, and the UN Secretariat for their support to the Member States.

What has changed since the year 2002, when the world agreed on the Monterrey Consensus? The recent financial crisis has become a focus of attention for everyone involved in financing for development, and with good reason. There are widespread concerns that the impacts of financial turmoil and the plummeting stock market worldwide are seeping through into our real economy. In all likelihood our common efforts to achieve development are going to face even harsher realities because of the current financial crunch. At the same time, issues like climate change and increases in food

and energy prices have become serious concerns in the international community today. These issues are not necessarily new in themselves, but there is a much greater sense of urgency today about the need to address them timely and more effectively. We now face a growing and diversifying demand for financing sustainable development, with an ever growing number of factors that can jeopardize our efforts for ensuring human security and attaining the Millennium Development Goals.

Having said that, I must emphasize that these recent developments have not fundamentally altered the significance of the principles agreed on 2002. The Monterrey Consensus remains the cornerstone of our overall efforts to secure financing for development. We need to build on this and ensure that the efforts of both industrialized and developing countries to achieve MDGs will not falter, even in the midst of the recent financial setback.

Earlier this year, through the process of the 4th Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD IV) and the G8 Hokkaido Toyako Summit, Japan has led international efforts to lay out strategies for development, and announced its development-related commitments such as doubling its ODA and private investment for Africa by year 2012. Just two weeks ago, the G20 leaders gathered in Washington DC and agreed to work together to restore global growth and achieve needed reforms in the world's financial systems.

To help emerging and developing economies gain access to finance, we all agreed on the need to ensure sufficient resources for the IMF and other international financial institutions, and in this context, Japan expressed its readiness to finance up to US$100 billion to the IMF, as an interim measure before a capital increase in the IMF takes place, so that the IMF can extend the necessary assistance to those in need.

I assure you, Japan for one will not reverse its course on the promises it has made through these meetings. In delivering on our commitments, we believe in doing so steadfastly and promptly, rather than making extravagant new gestures without any credible follow-up. And we call on other donor countries to carry out their existing commitments as well. At the same time, in an imperfect world where financial resources for development are not unlimited, donor countries should strive for getting the maximum result out of the same limited amount of input, by coordinating with each other to utilize resources in an even more effective and efficient manner.

In many ways, the development agenda adopted in Monterrey in 2002 is just as, or even more, relevant today. The Monterrey Consensus rightly shed light on a wide range of possible financing measures for development, devoting separate chapters for domestic resources, ODA, external debt, international trade, and foreign direct investment and other private flows. Even then, it was evident that the increasing development needs of the world required much more than just ODA and traditional donors.

Today, the need to mobilize a wide variety of resources is taken more seriously than ever, with a diverse set of players asserting themselves as a major stakeholders in development, from governments of developing countries and emerging economies to international organizations, private foundations, corporations, and academia. It is therefore, necessary to adopt a participatory approach in reviewing and following up the Monterrey Consensus, so that we can draw strength from all these players.

Another point that was stressed in Monterrey, and still holds true today, is the importance of national policies and development strategies. It really goes without saying that each country should take on the primary responsibility for its own development with a strong sense of ownership. Good governance, sound macroeconomic policies, solid democratic institutions, anti-corruption measures, an enabling environment for capacity building and investment, are essential ingredients for a government to ensure human security for its citizens and attain sustainable growth. These elements should be fully acknowledged in the outcome of this review conference, and should be pursued vigorously in our shared endeavor to achieve development.

Madam President, this review conference is being held in challenging times indeed, but challenges can also be opportunities in disguise. It is

my sincere hope that this conference, building on the original consensus in Monterrey, will give renewed impetus to, and provide a reference point for, further global efforts on financing for development in the years ahead.

Thank you.

Kazakhstan

Statement by
His Excellency
Mr. Nurlan Zh. Danenov
Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan

1 December 2008

Mr. President, Distinguished Participants of the Conference, first of all, I would like to express gratitude on behalf of the Kazakhstan delegation to the leadership of Qatar for the warm welcome and the highest level of preparations for this conference. This Follow-Up Conference gives us an opportunity in the concerted manner to review the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus, share lessons learnt in the field of financing for development and elaborate timely measures to deal with the challenges.

Since the consensus was reached in Monterrey Consensus, Kazakhstan, along with other countries, has achieved considerable progress in resolving problems of social-economic development of the country and promotion of its sustainable development.

During the last eight years economic growth has been maintained at steady 9-10%. By 2004, Kazakhstan has fulfilled one of the primary tasks of the Millennium Development Goals, by halving a number of people with income below the subsistence level. Kazakshtan has entered a group of middle-income countries and the top 20 list of countries attractive for investors. All these changes have become possible due to measures undertaken by the Government of Kazakhstan, in the context of realization of the national development goals and recommendations of the Monterrey Consensus, as well as the goal-oriented efforts for implementation of the Long-Term Development Strategy Kazakhstan 2030 adopted in 1997. In accordance thereto and considering the Millennium Development Goals, a whole range of state development programs was elaborated.

First of all, it was the Strategy of Industrial-Innovation Development of the country, which launched the establisment of a number of the national development institutions, the Development Bank, Innovation and Investment Funds, the Fund for Entrepreneurship Development, and many more. Infrastructure projects are implemented within the Strategy of the State Industry Development. Particular mention deserves development programmes in healthcare and education fields.

Mr. President, this conference is being held during the times of unprecedented financial economic crisis which has threatened realization of development goals in many states. Kazakhstan's economy is also influenced by this crisis, which nevertheless demonstrates the dynamic growth rate of 4%. The timely measures of our government have allowed reducing the negative influence of the external trends.

So, in order to ensure the sustainability of the financial sector, stabilize the real estate market, support the agrarian sector and implement innovation-infrastructure projects, US$10 billion were allocated from the National Fund of the country, which amount to 10% of the GDP.

In the next year for the first time ever we will be implementing the three-year state budget. The next Tax Code will come into force that considerably decreasing a burden on the non-raw sector, and the corporate tax will decrease from 30% to 15% while the vat rate will decrease to 12%. Based on the goals of the Monterrey Consensus, we have adopted the National Plan of Actions to Fight Corruption.

However, efforts at national level could more successful if the urgent measures on economy improvement on a global scale be taken. Sustainable development is impossible when there is a credibility crisis for the world financial system. Developing countries' efforts to create sound

national financial economic systems could be undermined by inadequate assessment of corporate and sovereign risks from the credit rating agencies. Therefore, we support strong supervision oveir their activity and additional actions to strengthen financial market transparency.

Dear Conference Participants,

For Kazakhstan as a participant of the negotiations process for entering the WTO clauses establishing support and maintenance of the "open, equitable, rule-based, predictable and non-discriminatory multilateral trading system". A quality breakthrough is required in the Doha Round of Negotiations, in resolution of the issue of access produce, including agricultural, from the least developed and the developing countries. From this stand Kazakhstan would like to once again draw attention to the necessity of achieving progress in realization of the special need of the land-locked countries. We call for all interested parties to firmly follow the recommendations of the Almaty Programme of Action and commence implementing the measures adopted upon the Midterm Review, results of which were approved by the UN General Assembly this October.

To maximize the development impact of the foreign direct investment, it is very important to achieve the realization of the Monterrey Consensus provisions regarding technology transfer and investments in non-raw sector of the economy. Kazakhstan attracted more then $70 billion of foreign direct investments. An impressive figure but also absolute majority of this amount concentrated within the extracting sector of economy. We call for measures to be taken in order to strengthen linkages between domestic production activities, enhancing the transfer of technology and creating training opportunities for the local labourr force.

Mr. President, in the current conditions of the world financial-economic crisis, the crucial role of the conclusions, assessments and recommendations incorporated in the Outcome document of this Conference cannot be overstated.

To ensure further realization of the long-term commitments under the Monterrey Consensus, it is also important to make every effort to achieve real global partnership, improve cooperation between the governments, international organizations, private sector and the NGOs. The UN system, and in particular the Economic and Social Council may play an important role not only in monitoring, but also in coordinating the implementation process.

Kazakhstan is ready to cooperate with all parties to the Monterrey Consensus. Only by duly expressing the political will and responsible attitude to the undertaken commitments, andthrough with active joint efforts we can create conditions for sustainable long-term financing for development that will benefit the entire world.

I thank you for your attention

Liechtenstein

Statement by
Her Excellency
Ms. Rita Kieber-Beck
Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Principality of Liechtenstein

30 November 2008

Let me first express the deep sympathy of the Government of the Principality of Liechtenstein to all those who are victims of the terrorist attacks in India.

Liechtenstein would like to thank the Government of the State of Qatar for its generous hospitality hosting this important Conference. This event gives us a chance to reaffirm our commitments and to take stock of progress achieved since we all adopted the Monterrey Consensus over six years ago. We very much hope and expect that this Conference will allow us to make further progress and to continue building consensus on financing for development for the future. The Millennium Development Goals are among the most ambitious and most important goals that the international community has ever set for itself. Transforming them from goals into achievements requires a massive collective effort of which our work on development financing is an indispensable part.

We are gathering at a particularly challenging moment. This is a time of great uncertainty. We have witnessed, over the past weeks and months in rapid succession the food, energy and financial crises. The international response is an indicator of how serious a situation we find ourselves in, but it is not quite clear yet how and when we will be able to overcome this crisis. We may well be in the midst of the greatest crisis of the era of globalization so far and we seem to have underestimated how interconnected our world has become in spite of all the rhetoric about globalization. There is, of course, the risk that those who are most vulnerable will pay a particularly high price in this situation. We must not allow this to happen. This is an extraordinary challenge to which this Conference will not bring the final solution. But our gathering is a unique opportunity for us to reaffirm that we stand by our commitments to finance development worldwide, even—and especially—in this time of crisis, for our common and shared benefits.

The Monterrey Consensus outlines the responsibility of both developing and developed countries with regard to the financing for development and makes it clear that the common goals can only be met through a common effort. Liechtenstein attaches great importance to the targets set with regard to official development assistance (ODA). After Monterrey, we have continuously scaled up our contributions to ODA and we will reach approximately the level of 0.6 per cent in 2008. Both the Government and Parliament are committed to reaching the 0.7 per cent target as soon as possible. I wish to emphasize in this regard that this figure does not entail any debt cancellation, export promotion measures or loans. Liechtenstein's ODA consists, to a large extent, of support to small-scale projects carried out by non-governmental organizations and local communities. Since Liechtenstein is a country with a rural character, the focus is placed on the promotion of rural development, an issue that has gained international attention in the context of the world food crisis.

Microfinance has been recognized in Monterrey, as well as in the preparations for Doha, as an important tool for overcoming poverty by promoting the availability of domestic financial resources in an inclusive manner. The Microcredit Summit Campaign reported a few months ago an overall number of 64 million borrowers in 2006, up from just 9 million in 2000, with women often being the primary recipients. This tool has led, among other things, to a growing participation in the domestic economic process and has fostered the economic empowerment of women, in particular. In this context, let me emphasize the importance that we attach to the inclusion of a strong gender perspective in the Doha outcome document. Microfinance deserves a particular place in the multitude of development activities. Liechtenstein has become very active in this field and has set up the public-private partnership Microfinance Initiative Liechtenstein in 2005. The partnership is supported by the Government, while the private sector is the main driving force. It promotes microfinance in a wide variety of ways and makes an effective and entrepreneurial contribution to fighting poverty in developing countries.

We support comprehensive measures to address the problem of illicit financial flows and related criminal activities and have taken effective preventive measures at the national level to protect our financial centre from such activities.

At the international level, we have ratified the relevant international conventions in this respect, with the sole exception of the Convention against Corruption, that we expect to ratify very soon. Liechtenstein has already been continuously working on the proper implementation of the Convention through a comprehensive set of measures and has reached a high degree of compliance with its provisions. We are actively engaged in efforts to secure the recovery and return of stolen assets, in particular through our support of the International Centre for Asset Recovery (ICAR) and the StAR Initiative of the World Bank. These efforts complement our financial and expert support to the Global Programme against Money Laundering and our longstanding commitment in the area of combating the financing of terrorism. We are open to any constructive discussions that are carried out with full respect for the principles of a universal level playing field and the sovereign equality of Member States.

Luxembourg

Statement by
His Excellency
Mr. Jean-Louis Schiltz
Minister for Cooperation and Humanitarian Action of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg

1 December 2008

It will be no surprise when I say that the world is not going very well. We are now confronted by the real risk of deconstruction of international solidarity, a risk of calling into question the very basis of the mechanisms of this international solidarity. In this world that is rather sick, that has caught a cold, let us say we need to rethink the relations between the North and the South if we want to be sure that this cold that we have all caught does not become a real flu, or even pneumonia. I could give you statistics. Between 2006 and 2007, things have really got much worse. The poverty threshold has increased by 100 million.

The important thing is not to forget that behind each number there is a human being, and behind each human being there is a destiny. It is this destiny that we need to advance when we are talking about poverty eradication. We can no longer, today, merely take note of things. We cannot say that it is enough to improve the effectiveness of what we are doing. We can no longer say, today, that it is enough to improve the parameters of governance. We cannot just say, today, that we need to reorganize the architecture and the rules of international trade. Of course, we have to improve the effectiveness of what we are doing—of course. Yes, there is progress to be made in terms of governance; of course, progress needs to be made in the area of international trade. But all of this cannot be an excuse not to redouble our efforts in terms of official aid. This cannot be an excuse not to collectively increase our efforts in the area of development.

In this context, it is the North that has to shoulder its responsibilities. I would like to make it very clear that the South also has possibilities and they have responsibilities to shoulder too—the people of the South. The economic crisis has repercussions throughout the world and we are all feeling the effects of it, but the developing countries might suffer much more than others in a disproportionate manner. Right now, the transfers of migrants are going down; foreign investments are stagnant; and prospects for exports are very bad. There are many in the South who fear that the levels of official development assistance (ODA) will drop significantly following this crisis.

To all of those who have this idea of wanting to reduce their ODA levels, I want to tell them the following. Forget those who have been sick for so long and you have not even been sick for a little time? It is quite the contrary when we are dealing with international solidarity, and that is why I want to warn you, very clearly, about the price that will need to be paid if you are going to abandon the children of today: the price of abandonment is going to be very high. My conviction is that if you have this very bad idea of reducing budgets for development, then we are going to be facing a very grim future. What we do not do today will have to be done, but to the power of ten, in the future because if we have this bad idea to reduce development budgets now, then there will be increased lack of prospects, the risk of new conflicts, huge migrations and other problems too. It is not up to the South to face this alone; it is not up to the North to face this alone. It is both sides that have to work together. We need to have massive investments in development in the coming years.

Luxembourg for several years now has spent much more than 0.7 per cent on ODA. We are, and will remain, ready in the future to do more than our share. For 2008, it is going to be 0.8 per cent, and this number will not drop. For several years, Luxembourg, and I say this quite modestly, has been one of those that continue to play a role in defining the standards of the quality and quantity of aid.

In March 2005, I negotiated the Declaration on the Effectiveness of Aid, and we—together—in the European Union (EU) worked out the new EU commitments for ODA for 2015, at 0.7 per cent. I was very happy to hear President Sarkozy, on the part of the EU, reaffirm his commitments and,

of course, I associate myself with his statement. I assure you that we will spare no effort in coming years to see to it that those commitments, which are more than mere promises, are really held as we approach 2010, but particularly as we approach 2015. As was agreed in Monterrey, ODA alone will not be the solution, but we need to mobilize national resources, there has to be more foreign direct investment, the specific involvement of the southern economies in international aid, as well as an increase in ODA which is predictable and reliable for the long term. Of course, we have to show some imagination here to come up with alternative sources, additional sources, of financing.

Allow me to stress, as an example, the enormous potential of microfinance, as well as the inclusive finance sectors. We can adapt this aid to various needs so that we can effectively help to reduce poverty by opening access to financial services to all those who, so far, have been excluded from this developing, practicing philosophy in the southern countries. Microfinance is applicable to all sectors in the North and the South and we have private investment funds in Luxembourg that are used. Several billion euros are used in microfinancing sectors to provide investments of this type to supplement the efforts made by Governments.

So, there is the food crisis, of course, there is the climate crisis and the commodities crisis; and there are other conflicts I could mention. I will not repeat, however, points that have been made from this rostrum. We must not depart from international solidarity. We need to continue to deal with these obstacles, and overcome obstacles that face us on this path. International solidarity should not become just a mere expression. It has to be strengthened; its basis has to be expanded. We need to experience this on a daily basis. "What you give to other people, you give to yourself." That is an African proverb, which we should implement.

I would like to join with you all to make sure that in the coming years we deal with this major challenge on the basis of a really well-designed partnership. I am sure that if we do that we can attain our goals.

Madagascar

Statement by
His Excellency
Mr. Haja Nirina Razafinjatovo
Minister for Finance and Budget of the Republic of Madagascar
(on behalf of His Excellency Marc Ravalomanana, President of Madagascar)

30 November 2008

It is an honour for me to read to you the message that His Excellency Marc Ravalomanana, President of the Republic of Madagascar, wanted to address to you. Madagascar joins with the entire international community in extending its condolences to the Indian people, who have been hit very hard by recent events.

The Monterrey Consensus of March 2002 sought "To mobilize and use financial resources more efficiently, to eliminate poverty, improve the social situation and raise living conditions and protect the environment". Since then, high-level conferences and meetings have been held, all of them full of promise. We are meeting here in Doha not only to take stock of implementation of these promises but, above all, to consider how to manage the future.

Today, we are all facing a situation that is unprecedented. In this context of global crises, we must be active and not passive. Developed countries and developing countries must form a common front to tackle these challenges together. We must shoulder our responsibilities with courage and determination because the future stability and the prosperity of the world depend on this.

I can assure you that Madagascar, like many countries in Africa, is stepping up its efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. In our Madagascar Action Plan, the MAP, which is our roadmap for five years, we have very ambitious goals because we want to keep the promises made to the people of Madagascar. Madagascar has resolutely committed to establishing democracy and strengthening good governance. The fight against corruption is now standard practice and financial

decentralization complements the new structures. With great efforts, we have reached economic growth at 6-7 per cent; inflation has decreased; and we have tightened tax rules. We are proud that we are recognized as being among the most effective countries. We are on the right track, and we are making progress, but we must build on our success because our economy is still fragile.

Like many African countries, Madagascar has for decades been facing a crisis which is clearly galvanizing everyone but which is still fraught with much uncertainty regarding the appropriate treatment and the timing. I am talking here about the crisis of poverty. This crisis has been compounded by the food, energy, climate and financial crises, which hinder our efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals because they constitute additional challenges. These additional challenges require additional resources. This is especially the case as developing countries might have to use part of the resources earmarked for development to deal with the global food crisis and, especially, to ease the plight of the most vulnerable groups.

Several years ago, we recognized the need for a green revolution, particularly for Africa. In Madagascar, we launched our vision, which is called "Madagascar naturellement", "Madagascar Naturally", in order to promote real development. The global food crisis requires concerted action to increase production. The security of land tenure, access to fertilizer, improved seeds, agricultural tools and European markets, all of these will ensure the success of this green revolution. However, these crises should not be excuses for not keeping the promises made.

In the case of Madagascar, the Government confirms its political will to keep its commitments to its population, in particular the goals of poverty reduction as part of the Millennium Development Goals. With respect to our partners, we have appealed to them to confirm their commitments and, in particular, to dedicate 0.7 per cent of their gross national income to official development aid and to double aid for Africa.

As some speakers mentioned during the first day of our meeting, to make this aid more effective, we are convinced that an in-depth review of the notion of conditionality is essential. The partnership should be more geared towards achieving results rather than sticking to preliminary judgements. In this respect, we repeat the question that many developing countries have asked, that is to say, does a country have to endure an armed conflict or major disaster in order to be able to benefit from large-scale and rapid aid?

I would like to reiterate the need for a new Marshall Plan for Africa, a programme that would double aid for Africa, with specific commitments to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. Immediate measures should be taken to launch a genuine large-scale green revolution in order to avoid another food crisis later; begin large-scale projects that take full advantage of renewable energy so as to make economies less dependent on oil; and, finally, launch large-scale reforestation projects to counter the effects of climate change.

I call on everyone here, in Doha, to demonstrate leadership, courage, creativity and solidarity. I ask you for the leadership and courage to take bold measures, which will revive the global economy and which involve developing countries, a colony to show creativity and solidarity, and to do your utmost to keep the promises of doubling aid for Africa.

The Fourth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD IV), which was held in Yokohama in May 2008, is an encouraging and promising example of the commitment by partners to support development of Africa in order to achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

I also encourage you to demonstrate solidarity and to give up trade policies that increase poverty, and to promote Aid for Trade. But goodwill and good intentions are not enough. We must act immediately, before it is too late. We need to act and we need tangible results.

I hope that this Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development will go down in history by providing tangible and balanced solutions. I hope that the message of Doha will be a message of hope—the hope that this

Conference will keep its promises to all, so that rich and poor countries can together build a world that is more just and more balanced, a world of shared responsibilities and opportunities, a world which is moving forward.

Maldives

Statement by
His Excellency
Mr. Ahmed Naseem
Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Maldives

1 December 2008

Mr. President, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen, let me begin by extending our sincere thanks and appreciation to His Highness Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani, the Emir of Qatar for the generous hospitality accorded to me and to my delegation. Let me also join the previous distinguished speakers in offering our sincere condolences to the victims of the cowardly act of terrorism on Mumbai, the financial capital of India. The government and the people of Maldives condemn in strongest terms such barbaric acts and assure of our solidarity with the people of India at this tragic moment.

Mr. President, today, I stand here as a representative of one of the newest democracies in the world. On the 28th of October this year, my fellow countrymen and women voted overwhelmingly for change in the country's first multi-party democratic elections. After three decades of absolute rule, the people of the Maldives are finally free. The struggle for this new-found freedom of democracy was not easy. This would not have been possible if not for the strong support of the international community. I take this opportunity to extend our heartfelt gratitude to all those countries that supported us to achieve democracy in the Maldives.

Mr. President, the Maldives is a country of 300,000 people. Like other small island developing nations of the world, my country is faced with several unique challenges that often go un-noticed on the radar of the world. Smallness is often associated with ease of delivering development, by those who view it from outside. Small island countries are mostly viewed as exotic destinations for holiday-makers from the rich countries.

However, a closer scrutiny will reveal that smallness, indeed, poses several developmental challenges. The cost of delivering goods and services on an equitable manner to its people is the biggest challenge. Unlike countries where roads connect people living on remote settlements, in small island countries like Maldives, sea transport is the only viable option. Cost of transportation absorbs a huge component of not only the national income but also of the incomes of people living in island countries. It adds disproportionately to the cost of goods, services and basic infrastructure. All these add up to one word—Vulnerability.

Mr. President, thanks to the assistance of our development partners, Maldives is set to graduate from the list of Least Developing Countries by 2011. This was a three-year delayed date set after the Asian tsunami of 2004 that devastated the Maldives and washed away 60 percent of its GDP in a matter of seconds. The tsunami of 2004 underscored the fragility and vulnerability of small island countries such as the Maldives, a factor which we vigorously tried, in vain, to get included in the calculation of the index which determines a country's threshold to graduate from LDC status.

Once again, as the world economic crisis threatens to engulf all nations of the world, small island nations stand extremely vulnerable and helpless. Our helplessness is further aggravated by the negative effects of the rapidly changing climatic conditions, global warming, sea level rise, particularly on low-lying nations such as the Maldives.

Mr. President, the devastation of the tsunami has cost us dearly. While the Maldives is thankful to the international community for the assistance provided in the aftermath of the tsunami disaster, the lack of appreciation of the specific problems and conditions of the small island nature of the Maldives by the international community was evident in the mismatch between the kinds and levels of assistance we needed and that we received.

To give one specific example, an island access harbor which is, in a small island context, an essential infrastructure for gaining access to livelihoods and day to day survival by the island fisher folk, was seen as a commercial infrastructure by most donors and were reluctant to assist in the rehabilitation of such infrastructure. Such an island harbour is indeed, the small island equivalent of a village access road in a landmass country. Due to such misconceptions and lack of appreciation of local conditions by the international donor community, the government was obligated to borrow from the international lenders for the rehabilitation of such infrastructure. Such borrowings have contributed to the burgeoning foreign debt of the country, for the first time in its history. Today, the new government is faced with the daunting task of having to deal with huge fiscal and budgetary challenges, while additional borrowing has to be constrained.

Mr. President, as a country that is graduating from LDC status, the Maldives is already feeling neglected by the international donor community. Some of the traditional development partners are already indicating that grant assistance, technical assistance and concessional credit would be suspended. Despite this, the newly elected democratic government is faced with huge challenges in the provision of sustainable and equitable development for its population scattered across 200 inhabited islands along its entire length of 800 kilometers.

In order to keep up to its obligations to the people the government is aspiring to mobilize Foreign Direct Investment to engage in the development of critical infrastructure and services, such as transportation, education, health, and commercial infrastructure in the country. The government firmly believes that exploring alternative sources of development financing, in partnership with the international community, is key to achieving sustainable development. We are keen to work with investors in developing innovative approaches to Foreign Direct Investment projects in the Maldives.

Mr. President, following the ratification of the new Constitution in August this year, a number of institutions previously under the Executive branch of the government have been reconstituted as independent bodies under specific laws. Also, under the new administration a number of proposals are being considered to increase tax revenue compared to other sources of revenue.

A Business Profits Tax bill has been drafted, and is included in the budget proposed to Parliament for 2009. This would lead to a broadening of the tax base, rationalized tax structure for the country. Currently, there is a large reliance on import duties and non-tax sources of income. This is a critical step taken by the Maldives in moving towards increasing the revenue capability of the public sector and diversification of the tax base for mobilizing resources for development and meeting internationally agreed development goals.

The government has been working with international assistance in the creation of trade policy coordinating structures within the country. As such, a complete diagnosis of the country's trade needs has been conducted and a comprehensive draft trade policy framework is being considered by the National Trade Policy Coordinating Committee. In addition, pledges under Aid for Trade is being worked out with donors.

Mr. President, today, in terms of per capita GDP, Maldives is one of the richest countries in the region of South Asia. However, huge and growing disparities remain between the urban and the rural populations and also between sections of the urban population. As we emerge from three decades of gross mismanagement of our limited financial resources under a heavily repressive regime, the newly-elected government is faced with the daunting task of establishing the institutions of democracy on a hugely deficit budget. While the government is doing everything possible to limit its spending, the various cost-cutting measures that has to be introduced are likely to threaten the stability of the new political environment and with it the budding democracy.

While we continue to thank those in the international community who have, patiently and reassuringly walked with us on the long and often bumpy road to democracy, we plead them to keep supporting us in our work to ensure that democracy firmly takes root in our country. Failure to do

so at this critical juncture could undo all the hard work of thousands of Maldivian individuals who have made huge sacrifices to bring democracy to the Maldives. This should not be an option.

Mr. President, I thank you for your patience.

Mali

Statement by
His Excellency
Mr. Moctar Ouane
Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Republic of Mali

30 November 2008

Let me first of all extend the regrets of the President of the Republic of Mali, His Excellency Mr. Toumani Touré, for not having been able to take part in this important Conference. He has given me the responsibility of extending his warmest greetings to His Highness, the Emir of Qatar, the Government and people of Qatar, and his wishes for every success for this Conference.

The choice of Qatar as the host country for this Follow-up Conference is definitely a gesture of gratitude for the ever-increasing role Qatar plays on the international stage.

Our Conference is being held today after the tragic events in India and, in these painful circumstances, on behalf of the Government of Mali, I would like to present our most sincere condolences to the Government and people of India and to the families of the victims that fell to these acts of terrorism, which we all resolutely condemn.

Years have elapsed since the adoption of the Monterrey Consensus and the International Conference on Financing for Development. Through this important framework of cooperation, the international community has worked to eliminate poverty and to achieve sustainable economic growth and sustainable development through establishing new partnerships between developed countries and countries in the process of development.

If we look back at the road travelled, we have to state that the upshot is mixed indeed. While considerable progress has been made in certain areas of human development, the situation in most developing countries, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa, remains very alarming.

Indeed, in spite of the considerable efforts deployed by the Governments of developing countries, including African countries, to provide sustainable development for their nations, hundreds of millions of people still live in extreme poverty. There is no need to go through the list here of the profound causes of that situation as we are all aware of them.

The delegation of Mali has mounted a vigorous response to the challenges through establishing partnerships. If we failed to create such partnerships, the combined crises in the financial and monetary spheres and the food crisis would seriously undermine our work to implement the Millennium Development Goals by 2015. Likewise, significant growth in official development assistance, to reach 0.7 per cent of gross national income, is something that needs to be supported and expanded. Furthermore, the commitments of countries to reach this figure of 0.7 per cent in providing assistance to the neediest countries of the world must be honoured. These countries continue carrying the enormous burden of foreign debt, which undermines their development. Debt relief is, therefore, something that needs to become reality.

Urgent solutions are needed to reform the international financial system, the trade system in the area of raw materials and the policy of subsidies provided by developed countries, to help the economies of countries like ours. The subsidies of developed countries to their own farmers undermine our economies and the production of our agriculture, accentuating poverty and further removing the prospect of achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

The adoption of the Millennium Declaration and the Monterrey Consensus instils hope in the hearts of people everywhere. But if the international community does not give the necessary attention to the matter of development as well, it will remain just that—a Declaration. Conditions need to be

created to provide guarantees for equitable participation worldwide. Twelve per cent of the overall products of the world benefit only a small portion of the world's population. Things must change, with the focus on the imperatives of development. We need to develop a new attitude, new initiatives and apply more imagination, more creativity.

Faced with this situation, the Governments of developing countries are redoubling their efforts to ensure the economic and social development and the growth and prosperity of their countries. For these countries, such as Mali, this is not a question of just assuming responsibility for their own development but also of building their capacities, promoting the principles of good governance and establishing a relationship of trust and confidence in their partners in development.

In Mali, we have developed a project of socio-economic development, expressing our country's strong will to continue fighting poverty, something we have been doing over the years. This project creates a strategic framework for economic growth and reducing poverty and it is based, among other things, on the mobilization of national financial resources and the promotion of private and national initiative partnerships within the private and public sectors.

There are a number of priorities on the domestic and international levels included in this programme. They have to do with stepping up agricultural production, infrastructure, basic social services, education, health and potable water. Obviously, these plans will depend for their implementation on a more equitable distribution of resources and the possibility of investing in good governance and growth for the future.

The Monterrey Consensus remains a frame of reference for our States in the struggle to ensure sustainable growth and development, to move toward a more equitable, more just international economic system. Mali will spare no effort in providing its own modest contribution to creating a world based on solidarity and prosperity. I hope that this Conference in Doha meets with every success in implementing the Monterrey Consensus for the happiness and prosperity of the peoples of the world.

Mexico

Statement by
Her Excellency
Ms. Patricia Espinosa Cantellano
Minister for Foreign Affairs of the United Mexican States
(on behalf of the Rio Group)

30 November 2008

The members of the Rio Group would like to condemn the terrorist acts that were perpetrated recently in Mumbai, India, leading to the loss of scores of lives and causing so many injuries. The Rio Group repeats most energetically its rejection of terrorism and all its forms and manifestations as it is criminal and unjustifiable. We express our solidarity with the people and Government of India and also express our sincerest condolences to the family members of the victims of these acts.

On behalf of the countries making up the Rio Group, I would like to begin by congratulating the Government of the State of Qatar for the excellent organization of this Follow-up International Conference Financing for Development, which is responsible for examining the application of the Monterrey Consensus adopted in Mexico in 2002. The members of the Group continue in a committed manner to implement the principles agreed upon at that time. We see that tremendous efforts have been made, both by the United Nations system and by a large number of actors, including international entities and organized society, to come together in Doha and consider the progress that has been made in this process. We would also like to express our support and fullest recognition of the work of the General Assembly of the United Nations in the context of economic and social development, whereby considerable achievements have allowed Member States to deal with the various challenges of the twenty-first century, particularly in combating poverty.

This Conference, that brings us together, is being held at a particularly critical time in terms of the development of the international community.

After a long period of economic expansion throughout the world, we are now experiencing a period of great crisis and uncertainty in the world economy that is having different effects on developing countries, including in the Latin American and Caribbean region. The members of the Group consider that any solution to the crisis calls for a concerted global response with the universal, democratic and equitable participation of all members of the international community, including the developing countries. In this context, it is important to draw attention to the fact that it is essential that there is equality in the international debate in seeking structural solutions to the financial crisis. We also draw attention to the importance of dealing with the matter in an appropriate manner, that is to say, within the context of the United Nations system. Likewise, we would like to repeat our commitment to efficient multilateralism and our support for the United Nations as the legitimate forum par excellence for promoting international cooperation for development and fine-tuning a global and just system.

We also express our determination to participate and actively contribute to the design of a new international financial architecture which, with greater transparency and regulatory control of administration, would establish appropriate instruments for the prevention of, and solution to, future crises, that would generate confidence and certainty and fully support the priorities of sustainable human development at the global level. In this context, we draw attention to the importance of pooling efforts and integrally tackling the national, international and systemic aspects of financing for development as proposed in the Monterrey Consensus.

Specifically, we draw attention to the importance of urgently implementing the agreements and commitments contained in the Monterrey Consensus and dealing in an integral manner with the challenges relating to the food and energy crises, climate change and global financial matters; remedying the regulatory gap in the system of international financial flows; assuring a satisfactory and equitable conclusion to the multilateral, commercial and trade negotiations in the Doha Round; and also empowering regional development agreements and banks to strengthen regional economies in the face of the crisis and promote funding for development. As well, the crisis relating to the extreme volatility of prices of food and energy has not disappeared and this jeopardizes the ability of States to meet the needs of their populations and challenges them in consolidating advances in terms of development, in combating poverty and in undermining their ability to plan their budgets.

Nonetheless, not all is dull and gloom. The countries in Latin America and the Caribbean are better prepared today than we were in the past to deal with a frankly alarming world context, through disciplined and responsible handling of our respective national economic policies. The immediate impact has been mustered but we cannot, and should not, underestimate the ensuing effects. The countries of the Group acknowledge that some progress has been made since 2002, both in terms of combating poverty and in other significant indicators, including a reduction in infant mortality, and we believe that, with appropriate action, it is still possible to achieve the minimum goals contained in the Millennium Development Goals for 2015. Simultaneously, we acknowledge that the results achieved during recent years have not been homogeneous throughout all regions and countries of the world. Many countries are outside the trend of achieving the Millennium Development Goals, particularly many African countries, the least developed countries and also some middle-income countries in Latin America.

In terms of mobilizing international resources for development, we are concerned that official development assistance (ODA) has been, or might be, affected by the scant resources in the developed countries resulting from the need to bail out their national financial systems and of the fiscal incentive policies that some have already introduced to avoid further recession. Thus, we urge the traditional donors, most of whom are members of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, to meet their commitment to increase, or at least maintain, the level of ODA and not further reduce it as a result of the financial crisis. In an extremely complex international context, additional efforts should be made in these

countries to meet ODA and the Millennium Development Goals. Also, we consider it important to ensure that beneficiary countries will be free to define their own national priorities for development; therefore, external cooperation should support these sovereign decisions without any considerations coming into play other than the central objectives of those policies.

With regard to trade and development, the temptation of protectionism should be avoided as this would compound an already serious situation. Under current circumstances, it is important to successfully conclude the Doha Round in the context of a severe international recession in a manner that takes into account the symmetries that exist between regions and countries. Moreover, we cannot further postpone increased participation by the developing countries in the decision-making process at a global level. Likewise, to give effect to the commitment whereby we can ensure early detection of difficulties, an overhaul of the international financial architecture must incorporate an early warning system. It is also essential that financial markets and institutions and the rating agencies be regulated in an efficient manner by States and the principal international financial entities in order to ensure that their actions are responsible and do not lead to instability. Moreover, the members of the Group come together to support recent efforts to emphasize the challenges that are being faced by the middle-income countries in terms of achieving development and eradicating poverty and inequality. Furthermore, we consider it important to acknowledge the need for the international community, including the United Nations system, to decisively support the efforts being made by such countries through international cooperation for development. To that end, the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean have actively participated in the conferences of Madrid, El Salvador and Windhoek.

May I remind listeners that the countries belonging to the Group participated in a coordinated and decisive manner in the preparatory process of this Conference through the working group coordinated by Chile. We have prepared substantive contributions to each of the review sessions for the different chapters of the Monterrey Consensus that were carried out during the first quarter this year, and also held meetings and regional seminars on the subject. This exercise has enabled us to identify areas of common interest which we laid before members. Among the elements we identified are the importance of reviewing procedures for following up implementation of the Consensus, and we guarantee to continue our commitment and participation by all relevant actors. We are ready to continue to discuss such matters and we hope we can find a solution that achieves everybody's support. We are facing an international crisis of a systemic nature, of a scope and depth that we have not witnessed for several decades. At this time, we must act in a coordinated, decisive and realistic manner. It is not the time to observe. We must act.

The countries of the Group reiterate our commitment and urge all to meet the needs of the circumstances. We hope that this will be the message that emanates from this Conference to the entire world.

Myanmar

Statement by
His Excellency
Mr. Hla Tun
Minister for Finance and Revenue of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar

30 November 2008

It is a great pleasure and honour for me to be here today and to have the opportunity to address this auspicious Conference. I would first of all like to express our deep appreciation to His Highness, Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani, and the Government and people of Qatar, for the warm hospitality extended to us and for the excellent arrangements made for this big event. I would also like to thank the organizing committee for the efforts they have made for the success of this Conference.

We meet here at a time when the global economy is very bleak. Most advanced industrialized countries, and some emerging countries, are now

in recession, while other economies around the world are facing the prospects of a slowdown in growth due to the global credit crunch. In this context, it should be emphasized that global collaboration and cooperation are essential for the benefit of all countries.

At this juncture, I would like to inform the meeting that Myanmar implemented and formulated the second year of the fourth Short-Term Five-Year Plan in fiscal year 2007-2008, and I am glad to say that we have been able to achieve the target growth rate as a result of balanced growth in all sectors of the economy.

As this occasion is to review the progress on the economic Monterrey Consensus, I would now like to inform this gathering of the progress that Myanmar has made since its adoption. In order to finance the development of the country, we have made efforts to mobilize domestic savings. In recent years, there has been a noticeable increase in savings and investment, as the main objectives of the country are to reduce poverty and raise the living standards of the people.

Expenditures and investments in the social and health sectors are also increasing. The number of schools has, therefore, been increasing yearly. In the health sector, both malnutrition among children and mortality rates have declined. The poverty gap is also minimal.

Myanmar places great importance on the rules of foreign direct investment (FDI) for development. It has been able to attract significant FDI for the development of the country. However, due to the current global situation, we expect it to decline somewhat in the coming months. Myanmar has had a favourable trade situation for several years, which has contributed to our high level of growth in our gross domestic product. It is cooperating with its neighbouring and regional countries to promote and facilitate the smoother flow of trade. We intend to enhance Myanmar cooperation with other members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) in the future, in trade as well as in other areas, in order to successfully finance the development of our economies.

We know that we have seen a substantial increase in the level of official development assistance (ODA) to developing countries in recent years. As for Myanmar, we have not received ODA for nearly two decades. As ODA played an important role in the development efforts of our country, we look forward to its resumption from developed countries.

The international financial organizations are also making efforts to expand their sources of financing in order to mitigate the damaging efforts of any global turmoil on the economies of developing countries. Therefore, we welcome the call of the Group of Twenty (G20) for a more active role for those international bodies. We also welcome the Group's decision to have increased advice from, and the participation of, developing countries in those institutions.

We would like to call on the international community to resume their relationship and assistance to Myanmar. If Myanmar's efforts were implemented together with international assistance, it would help to maintain momentum in our growth. We are making an effort not only to develop and modernize our nation, but also to ensure that the basic needs of the people are met, at the same time eradicating poverty, so that future generations will enjoy the benefit of our efforts.

I would like to once again thank His Highness Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani, and the people of this famous and well-known city of Doha, for hosting and making all the necessary arrangements for the success of this Conference.

Namibia

Statement by
Her Excellency
Ms. Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila
Minister for Finance of the Republic of Namibia

30 November 2008

Madam President, your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, Namibia regards the Monterrey Consensus as an important milestone in the establishment of a new partnership between developing

and developed nations. It is for that reason that His Excellency, Hifikepunye Pohamba, President of Namibia, had hoped to address this Conference personally. He has, however, asked me to express his regrets as other pressing commitments prevented him from being here today. Allow me further to extend my sincere gratitude to the Government of Qatar for the warm hospitality extended to the Namibian delegation since our arrival in this beautiful and historic city of Doha.

Further, we join the previous speakers in expressing our sincere condolences to the good people of India on the loss of lives as a result of the tragic incidences in Mumbai in the past few days.

Madam President, the Review we are undertaking is timely in the light of recent developments in the global financial markets. We need to ensure that the Monterrey Consensus remains relevant to the economic circumstances in which we find ourselves. And to ensure that the partnership it espouses evolves as relationships between developed and developing countries move forward.

The Consensus calls for action by all parties. Let me reflect briefly on how Namibia is meeting its commitments. Our public sector interventions are focused on our priorities of economic growth and the alleviation of poverty, reduction of inequalities and employment creation. That focus is maintained through a budget process that focuses on the measurement of outcome and performance.

But, public sector investment alone will not enable us to reach our development goals. Private sector investment is also needed. Namibia has made progress to mobilize domestic savings through the establishment of capital markets, but they are also faced with high capital outflows. Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) is thus required to fill the gap created by the failure of local financial institutions to invest in the country.

Overseas Development Assistance (ODA) is critical to complement other sources of finance to assist developing countries realize the internationally agreed development goals. That point was underscored in the Monterrey Consensus.

Madam President, we understand that many Developed countries have to find resources to address the downturn in their economies as a result of the financial crisis. But this should not result in the further erosion or stagnation of ODA. We need to weather this storm together and we expect, therefore, a greater commitment to development assistance from our development partners.

For that aid to be effective, our relationships with Development Partners must also change. Too many of our development partners (particularly multi-lateral organizations) still fund low priority projects. And, too many still seek to impose unnecessary conditionalities.

I am pleased to note that some development partners are now recognizing the importance of country ownership and leadership, and in line with the Paris Declaration, a number of them have agreed to use Governments' own financial and procurement systems through the provision of non-conditional budget support. This needs to be emulated by all development partners, including multilateral institutions.

Madam President, at Monterrey, we looked to the Bretton Woods Institutions to play a major role in the effective financing of development. It is clear now that major reforms are required. As small economies, our voice is insufficient to provide effective representation for Africa at these institutions. Moreover, 40% of the World's poor live in middle income countries, Despite that, Middle Income Countries, especially in Africa are constrained in the investments they can make by the rules of those institutions that do not allow Middle Income Countries to benefit from concessional loans.

However, unless we can reach the poor in these countries as well, our efforts to reduce global poverty are destined to fail. These issues need to be addressed urgently as part of the reforms of the Bretton Woods Institutions.

Madam President, Excellencies, the Monterrey Consensus recognized that international trade is the engine that would drive global economic development. However, the ongoing impasse in the trade negotiations has prevented international

trade to play its developmental role. Issues of interest to developing countries such as agriculture have become the main bone of contention in the negotiations. This has affected the ability of many developing countries to mobilize domestic resources for development despite the existence of sound macroeconomic policies and a conducive environment for investments that we have created at national level. The Aid for Trade initiative that was meant to support our capacity building efforts in trade related fields continues to suffer from under funding.

This Conference therefore needs to send a strong message that development and financing for development in particular can not be allowed to suffer as a result of the failure to reach agreement. All parties need to demonstrate flexibility in order to facilitate an agreement without further delay.

But as new trade relations between developing and developed countries emerge, that must not be at the cost of the future potential of developing countries to grow. Multilateral and bilateral trade agreements should be mutually beneficial and not be allowed to disadvantage developing countries. And, if there are to be asymmetries through subsidies or industry protection, those should clearly favor less advanced economies. Moreover, those trade agreements must not adversely affect our ability to promote south-south trade, such as through greater regional and sub-regional trade integration. Indeed, we expect those trade agreements to foster those arrangements

Madam President, Excellencies, in the years since Monterrey, we have demonstrated our ability to develop based on greater investment and improved trade regimes. To move further forward, Africa must receive a greater share of the world's investment capital. In part, that will be achieved by better financial markets that will raise Foreign Direct Investment and reduce capital outflows. We also need to increase Africa's proportion of world trade through the removal of distorting and unfair trading practices. Only if those things happen, we will be well on the way to achieving our international development goals, including those in the Millennium Declaration.

I Thank You.

Nepal

Statement by
His Excellency
Dr. Baburam Bhattarai
Minister for Finance of the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal

30 November 2008

Mr. President, Heads of State and Government, Fellow Ministers, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, First of all, I would like to express sincere gratitude to His Highness Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al-Thani, the Emir of the State of Qatar for gracing, chairing and addressing inaugural session and for insightful remarks on the current issues of global financial crisis and its implications on the developing countries.

On behalf of my delegation, and on my own, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the people and the Government of the State of Qatar for the warm hospitality extended to us during our stay here.

We join other fellow delegates in expressing our sympathy and condolences to the people and the Government of India for losses of human lives and property in Mumbai, India due to acts of terror.

I am of the view that such international Conferences provide unique opportunity to review the progress of past commitments, share experiences and set the resolutions for the future. We the underdeveloped countries highly appreciate Monterrey Consensus of 2002 which set the goals of poverty eradication, achievement of sustained economic growth and promotion of sustainable development and make the global economic system fully inclusive and equitable.

However, we feel highly disappointed to see such commitments not being fully translated into reality by the developed countries. For decades now, year in and year out the same commitments and consensuses are repeated and catchy development phrases and slogans are coined just to be confined only in papers and documents. I hope the delegates of all underdeveloped countries attending

this conference will agree with what I have said. An evidence of this is the expenditure of billions of dollars on wars by the powerful countries causing unprecedented devastation of mankind and physical infrastructure, while millions of people die of hunger, malnutrition and natural disasters in different parts of Africa and Asia. This is very sad.

Similarly, the desire of underdeveloped countries for a self-reliant and self-sustaining development through the use of foreign aid has remained a far cry even after several decades of such aid. When I say self-reliant development, I do not mean a position whereby we can stand alone without any economic interactions with others or without any aid. What I mean is a situation where aid promotes production, income and employment eventually requiring less and less aid. But the experience shows that aid has reinforced the historically structured dominance-dependence between the so-called developed countries and the underdeveloped countries.

Prolonged continuation of such situation will certainly not be conducive towards fostering a harmonious relation between the developed and the underdeveloped countries. Therefore, I urge the developed countries to make soul-searching and restructure the flow of aid into an equal and interdependent relationship. In this context, I would also like to urge the donor community to immediately resolve the issues that were identified as impeding effective and fruitful utilization of aid in the 3rd High Level Forum held in Accra, Ghana last September.

Madam President, I have the same feelings like some of the fellow delegates that there would be a disaster, if the US and Europe do not undertake effective measures to insulate the underdeveloped countries from the financial crisis that originated from within the monopolistic and profit seeking financial system created by them. The current financial crisis also raises a big question mark on the effectiveness of the regulatory and surveillance mechanism of the IMF and on its very structure which places emerging economies at a very low profile in decision making.

Having said this, let me allow to briefly appraise the distinguished delegates about the recent political and economic developments in Nepal. Nepal has been very recently declared as Republic of Nepal by abolishing the feudal monarchical system that had kept the country into a vicious circle of underdevelopment and poverty for two and a half century. This historic change was made possible by the People's War, you can say, revolution led by the Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist) for 10 years and the sacrifices of more than ten thousands youths. Nepal's peace process has been rather unique in the world and is being taken as a miracle by the developed and the underdeveloped countries. The Maoist Party is now heading the coalition government of Nepal after emerging as the largest party in the Constituent Assembly elections held last April. I am representing the government in this conference in the capacity of Finance Minister from the Party heading the government.

The Government's immediate task is to make smooth transition of the country into a stable political system and faster economic development. For this, we have stressed on the accomplishment of following main tasks within the next two years. First, writing a new constitution of the country and lead the peace process to a logical conclusion. This also involves restructuring of the state. This is the political agenda and secondly, achieving higher economic growth rate with social justice. This is the economic agenda. Second, achieving higher economic growth rate with social justice. This is the economic agenda.

In consonance with these two important tasks, the government has set the following strategic and broader orientation spanning over the short to long terms in this year's budget, consolidating peace process, relief, rehabilitation, reconstruction and reintegration, broad-based economic growth, social transformation, investing in infrastructure, restructuring the state, and public-private partnership in mega projects. For this we have advanced the slogan of "Peace for development and development for peace."

Nepal is financially a poor country, but it is very rich in terms of human and natural resources,

particularly in hydro-power, precious herbs and other forest-based products, flora and fauna and magnificent landscape. We are also in between the two large and fast growing economies, China and India. All these provide immense opportunities for foreign investment in hydropower projects, tourism, infrastructure and agro-forestry based industries for the mutual benefit of both the foreign investors and the Nepalese people. For this purpose, we have recently set up a high powered Investment Board under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister in order to quickly decide on the large investment projects and provide the facilities from one spot.

In the end, I expect that this International Conference will come out with objective solutions and bold decisions to restructure the historically built-up dominance dependence relationship between the few rich and many poor countries of the world so that we can have both peace and prosperity for the entire mankind. Let us turn the current global financial crisis into an opportunity for restructuring a new world economic order based on equality and justice.

With this, Madam President, I thank you, and thank you all.

Netherlands

Statement by
His Excellency
Mr. Bert Koenders
Minister for Development Cooperation of the Kingdom of the Netherlands

30 November 2008

I would like to express my thanks to His Highness, the Emir of Qatar, for his hospitality and for hosting this important Conference so superbly. And I thank the Secretary-General of the United Nations for his initiative in organizing this Follow-up to the Monterrey Conference.

The Netherlands fully supports the common position of the European Union, as expressed in this forum by the French presidency. This Financing for Development Conference is taking place at a crucial time, in the process of reform of the international financial system. This debate affects us all and must not remain limited to a select group of countries. It is good that a worldwide Organization like the United Nations is playing an active role in this discussion. We welcome the constructive outcomes of the meeting chaired by the Secretary-General on 28 November as a crucial bridge-building exercise, and the meeting of the Group of Twenty (G20) countries, in which we participated in Washington, D.C., before that, on 15 November.

Whatever it may cost, an inward-looking response to the crisis should be averted, and can be averted. Development should be at the heart of the international response. This crisis did not start in the developing world, but it can certainly be part of the solution—it should be part of the solution. Using development financing as leverage for maintaining growth in the world economy is essential.

When we met in Monterrey in 2002, we agreed that it was time for a new approach to development financing to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. We were aware that this was our common concern. The Monterrey Consensus was a breakthrough in international cooperation as to the promises of the Millennium Development Goals and the international security situation after 9/11. That was the impulse for Monterrey, and for Doha, and it is vital to confirm those commitments today, to improve on them and to monitor their implementation, and to make new agreements in response to new challenges because, if we look at the depths of the international economic crisis, the situation now is equally as severe.

In recent years, much has been achieved in developing countries, but the recent succession of crises is threatening to destroy all the progress that has been made as a result of good policies and good development cooperation. It is now a risk that the countries that are growing, and those that have been torn out of poverty, are going to revert to their deep poverty situation.

Developing countries are vulnerable to the impacts of the food crisis, the energy crisis, the climate crisis and now the credit crisis too. That

is particularly true of the least developed countries, as they see limits to their foreign lending, to investment, to remittances and many other aspects. And, of course, there are the fragile States that are affected by war.

It works out in different ways for different groups of countries, but reaching the Millennium Development Goals is a greater challenge than ever before. It is precisely in these circumstances that increased, and more effective, aid could play a decisive role. So, it is crucial that we reaffirm commitments to step up aid and meet the international targets of 0.7 per cent of gross national income (GNI). Failing to do so would undermine confidence in international agreements on the subject and would be disgraceful. The world's weakest nations should not be the victims of the problems we are facing in our financial system. Countries that still have not met the 0.7 per cent GNI target would generate extra confidence if by 2010, at the very latest, they were to set definite time frames for meeting that commitment. I also think that emerging donors could do much more to assist in the international adjustment process to the present financial crisis. As it has for many years, my country, the Netherlands, stands ready to spend 0.8 per cent of GNI on official development assistance.

Yet, we will achieve a lot more if we also make our aid more effective and coherent. Earlier this year, we reached agreement in Accra on concrete steps to improve the quality of aid. It is time for an ambitious implementation of this difficult agenda. The Netherlands greatly appreciates the fact that this Conference is calling on all nations to build on the positive outcomes of the Accra High-Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness. It now requires effective cooperation and also, sometimes, the giving up of our national sovereignty. More, and better, aid is desperately needed if we are to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. But, at the same time, we all know that there are a lot of new challenges, which also require public-private partnerships and an increased role for the private sector.

But there are other challenges that require additional public and private funding. For instance, additional funding will be needed for international climate policy and, particularly, support for adaptation to climate change in the low-income countries. At this Conference, we should agree that international climate policy should not be funded from resources that have already been pledged for the Millennium Development Goals. Here, I could quote the Mayor of Dar es Salaam, with whom I spoke the other day, and he said, "What can I do? Should I invest in the health of my citizens in my town or in building new roads, or do I need the money for additional dikes to adjust to the rising levels of water?" These dilemmas require additional resources.

The Monterrey agenda is, fortunately, about much more then aid alone. With this Follow-up Conference we should give international cooperation a new boost on a wide range of fronts. I am talking particularly about a speedy conclusion to the Doha Round trade talks, stepping up international debt policy, the focus on the role of women in the economic and financial sectors of developing countries, promoting private flows of capitals through the public-private partnerships I mentioned, and combating illegal financial flows and tax evasion.

In the present circumstances, preserving the dynamism of global trade is an essential element in the strategy of mitigating the effects of the economic crisis. All countries should show the vision to set aside short-term interests and cooperate to open international markets in a sensible manner. In particular, opening agricultural markets could contribute to stimulating agriculture production in developing countries in reaction to the food crisis.

The present crises have led to a re-thinking of the international economic architecture. The rapid response of the G20 to the financial crisis has highlighted the new agenda for Bretton Woods institutions. These new ideas should now be linked to the broader agenda of sustainable growth and climate investments. The participation of developing countries in this reform process is essential. Effectiveness and legitimacy will have to go together. My own country also stands ready to continue to participate in these institutions and in the G20 exercise.

The Monterrey agenda is all about partnership with mutual responsibilities. Collaboration within the field of development finance cannot be seen as separate from efforts to promote good governance, democracy, combating corruption, fair taxation, a favourable investment climate and an equitable distribution of wealth, and strengthening the position of women.

For us, the main focus must be on the input and ownership of developing countries themselves. International agreements can help, and should help, to implement tailor-made development and growth strategies. But individual countries must be allowed to use the policy space to make them work.

Countries, to a large extent, will have to choose their own funding and ensure their own food security, and they must be given the time to identify their own competitive advantages. That is, and should be, possible with full respect for international rules and regulations.

More than a billion people are still excluded from the benefits of globalization. They are more vulnerable than anyone else to the crisis in the world economy. May this Conference in Doha show that the multilateral system has an answer; maybe has the answer. May this Conference convey the message that the international community remains committed to development financing and that it is prepared to give development pride of place in the reform of the international economic and financial system.

Nicaragua

Statement by
His Excellency
Mr. Samuel Santos López
Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Nicaragua

30 November 2008

I would like to begin by expressing our deepest gratitude to His Highness Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani, the Emir of the State of Qatar, for his leadership and for his hospitality, opening up this beautiful country for the benefit of the world and making available this lovely city. Through his numerous gestures of kindness and affection he has ensured that this Conference is a welcome success.

In turn, we would like to express our deepest solidarity with the noble people and brother Government of India, in view of the heinous attacks perpetrated in Mumbai in recent days. It is acts such as these that further strengthen our resolve on the path towards peace and tolerance.

In this time of follow-up to the agreements reached in Monterrey, it is increasingly clear that globalization without global institutions which are able to match the changes that have been wrought worldwide in the economic, political and social spheres is plunging the world into chaos. Unbridled and unregulated greed have reached their logical and self-destructive culmination, placing all nations and all peoples in circumstances even more critical than they were before, particularly in those developing countries where hunger, lack of sanitation, ignorance and severe environmental degradation dominate the planet.

The conditions are, therefore, in place for deep-rooted structural change. However, what are needed are a concerted vision and joint, coordinated and, above all, resolved, bold and responsible actions. Nevertheless, we must acknowledge that on this important occasion we have not been joined by some of those actors who might have contributed more—those actors who, during centuries of unjust exchange, have been able to hoard the necessary wealth in order to be able to bring about the necessary changes.

We confirm that the neo-liberal capitalist system is devoted to the gain of profit, which has led to the contamination and destruction of the environment and of natural resources, global warming, energy price speculation and the exorbitant profits that have been made, a concentration of wealth, as well as the continuation and perpetuation of poverty, along with its hideous consequences.

We acknowledge that valuable time has been wasted in developing alternative sources of energy. We cannot continue to invest in alternative energies

only when oil prices are high and then decide to no longer invest in them when prices fall as they are no longer considered profitable. This would mean that it is profitability and not mankind's urgent needs that drive our energy policies. We found the need of financial regulation during the 1997-1999 financial crisis. We learned the lesson regarding the need for the regulation of international financial transactions in order to reduce the risk of the recurrence and international contagion. However, nothing was done in this regard and here we are, today, just as we were then. Having established these well-known facts, it is imperative—indeed urgent—that we struggle now for the establishment of a new economy.

First, and foremost, a new economy which is ethical and moral based, that is to say, based on the prevailing needs of humankind in order to close the widening gaps between the rich, the ever wealthier, and the poor, the increasingly poor.

Secondly, a new economy which is socially and environmentally sustainable, a new economy which is geared towards resolving the serious environmental problems, access to water, food security, creation of alternative energy sources, nutrition and eradication of poverty.

Thirdly, a new economy which is compatible with global governability, a new economy which is in keeping with the new global circumstances and one which is based on our shared responsibility for our shared future.

Fourthly, a new economy which is democratic, one which, once and for all, sets aside the concentration of the decision-taking procedure, decisions which affect millions of individuals, decisions which are taken in only a handful of nations, and to ensure that these decisions will be the product of the broadest possible international agreement in the future.

As democratic global development is our principal aspiration, the current target level for official development assistance (ODA) must be raised, in particular in bilateral terms, taking into account as a comparator the amount that these very same countries use in expenditure on their futile wars. However, we must also ensure that ODA is effective. It must, therefore, be depoliticized and predictable.

We cannot plan and lead development in our countries if it is capable of being reduced, or withdrawn, on the basis of political perceptions from the North. It would seem that political perception has become the main indicator of ODA, beyond the effective fight against poverty or the improvement of the economic conditions of the poor, in particular poor women; the inclusion of historically marginalized sectors of public activity; the increase of access to education and health, the reduction of maternal deaths or greater access to water and food. It does not seem to be important that our Government, which is led by Commander Daniel Ortega Saavedra, with a deep vocation towards the poor and unquestionable public transparency, has reached the significant targets and indicators in the elimination of poverty in only twenty-two months of government, improving—drastically improving—our possibilities of reaching the Millennium Development Goals.

I wonder, is it a fight against poverty or a political alignment that we are trying to do with these resources? Is it financial cooperation to suppress the independent voices and ideas of the poorest countries of our world? From here, at the highest altar of the multilateral system, I wonder if this financial cooperation is for economic development and the well-being of our peoples or is it to continue recreating unsustainable neo-liberal paradigms. For example, it is morally unacceptable that $3 trillion—$3 trillion!—are dedicated to security networks for the richest banks of the world, those same banks where State subsidies from the North are arriving, while the poor people of the world pay the price of the crisis of hunger with even more hunger, disease and death.

Being able to take advantage of the transformative potential of the current global crisis depends on three major challenges:

The first is related to radically expanding financing for development in the transitional period between the crisis and stable solutions.

The second is ensuring that the United States and Europe accept the fact that the period of absolute hegemony has been overtaken by global events, and that there is a need for new, and more democratic, international institutions within the framework of the United Nations—I repeat within the framework of the United Nations—and which includes the restructuring of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.

Thirdly, to ensure that the United States, as fundamental player in the global crisis, acknowledges that it is not above international law and global regulation for the benefit of the global public good. It would have been extremely positive if their highest representation were here today, working alongside the rest of us to develop and commit to solutions that we propose. We are forced to build international peace, including its financial system, without resorting to war, whatever its nature. Overcoming the tragic experiences of the past, when we criminally used this resolution of the crisis, this invented crisis, Nicaragua reiterates the undeniable need to establish a new model for a global economy, something that we have been building originally through the Bolivarian Alternative for the Americas (ALBA), the alba of our peoples, alongside other regional projects which emerge as a need consistent with a new political economic and social global model.

To conclude, we would like to express our hope in the possibility of a better world, which is more just and equitable, where development achieved by humankind throughout the centuries can begin to become everyone's heritage. A new era is possible, and we are called upon to contribute to its achievement for the well-being of human beings and the future of upcoming generations.

Nigeria

Statement by
His Excellency
Mr. Elder Godsday Orubebe
Minister of Special Duties, and National Planning Commission of the Federal Republic of Nigeria

30 November 2008

Madam President, Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, Madam President, on behalf of the Government and People of Nigeria, we convey our condolences to the Government and People of India on a tragedy of this magnitude.

Madam President, I am pleased to address the Follow-Up International Conference on Financing for Development on behalf of the Government of Nigeria. This Review Conference takes place at a time of an ominous global economic and financial crisis and therefore, demands an immediate practical action from all of us. Indeed, this conference which seems to overwhelm even the richest, developed nations is like a doomsday scenario to most developing countries, especially those in Africa.

It is against this background that my delegation would like to commend His Royal Highness the Emir of Qatar, Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani for the timely hosting of this Conference, as well as the President of the General Assembly, Father Miguel Brockmann, and Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon for facilitating it.

Madam President, the Monterrey Consensus was the first quadripartite conference for tackling the perennial issues of resource gap in financing development in which, representatives of government, the private sector, civil society, and financial/ development institutions participated. The intention was quite noble, but the six years following Monterrey can at best be described as modest. Indeed, they are disappointing in several areas. This underscores the need for this Conference to produce an outcome document that we shall all be faithfully committed to, and collectively resolved to implement.

The two most important thematic components of Monterrey mobilizing domestic and external resources challenged our will to strategically reform the economic, financial and political base of our development. While Africa has had to work harder to increase the volume of the domestic resources that it can mobilize internally, in spite of the harsh economic environment compounded by external factors, our development partners have failed to honor their repeated promises and commitments.

Nothing demonstrates this sincerity gap more than the pledge to give 0.07% of GNI as an aid to developing countries, which was made more than 30 years ago, but to-date only five countries have honored it. Perhaps, only the most irreversible optimist among us can now continue to have faith in the realization of this pledge, making the hope of ODA as one of the means of alleviating the financing difficulties of the developing countries almost an illusion.

Madam President, two years after Monterrey, Nigeria started its economic reforms with emphasis on consolidating its banking sector and strengthening the capital market, in order to generate optimal resources required to meet the country's challenges for the rapid growth and development. We are happy to state that our success in this undertaking is so phenomenal that the capital base and lending capacity of our banks have increased beyond our expectations, and our capital market has been adjudged not only among the most robust in the world, but also the least affected by the current global financial crisis.

This radical improvement in our financial and banking sector has increased our confidence that the domestic financial sector can play a leading role in the implementation of our President's 7-Point Agenda for the further transformation of our economy. As recognition of this achievement, the Governor of our Central Bank, Professor Chukwuma Soludo has been nominated by the President of the General Assembly of the United Nations as one of the members of the International Task Force on Reforming the Global Financial Architecture.

Madam President, Nigeria continues to face the challenge of mobilizing the necessary resources to meet the MDG targets and to implement several development projects, especially in the provision of modern infrastructure. We are, therefore, extending all the necessary incentives for public-private partnership in many vital areas of our national economy, while we continue with our efforts to meet these challenges through good governance and strategize macroeconomic policies.

Only four days ago, our President Umaru Yar'Adua inaugurated the board of the Infrastructure Concession Regulatory Commission (ICRC), making it clear that Nigeria needs to make massive investments beyond the means available to government in order to close the wide infrastructural gap, and private sector capital, therefore, is the effective recourse for government.

In conclusion Madam President, my delegation would like to join other African delegations that have spoken before me, in emphasizing that this Conference should find the means of tackling the emerging issues since Monterrey. These include the negative impact of climate change, food crisis, and the global financial crisis. With regard to climate change, Africa needs assistance to implement both the mitigation and adaptation strategies to combat the negative effects of this impending catastrophe.

We urge the international community to resume the Doha Development Round negotiations and to ensure that the Aid-for-Trade initiative of the World Trade Organization (WTO) is operational as soon as possible.

Madam President, I thank you.

Norway

Statement by
His Excellency
Mr Erik Solheim
Minister for the Environment and International Development of the Kingdom of Norway

30 November 2008

Madam President, Friends, I would like to express my deepest condolences to the Indian people in the aftermath of Thursday's horrific terrorist

attack. Today, we are all Indians these days and we stand strengthened and more united than ever in our fight against global terrorism.

From this conference, there is basically only one important message that needs to be conveyed. The message is that there is no way, there is no way we will accept the international financial crisis being used as an excuse for reducing our ambitions when it comes to fighting world poverty and global climate change. To the contrary, the financial crisis should be another argument for strengthening our dedication and commitment with respect to two issues.

To ensure that Norway puts its money where its mouth is, we have decided to increase our official development aid to 1% of GNI, starting from next year. We represented this budget to the Norwegian Parliament in the midst of the financial crisis. It is important that we maintain our ambitious targets for ODA.

However, other capital flows are still more important to development. Foreign direct investment is more important. Trade and export earnings are more important. So are remittances. I will, however, use this opportunity to draw your attention to the most harmsul capital flow in the world. I would urge you all to join forces to combat it and to put it at the very top of the development agenda. I am talking about illicit capital flows from poor countries.

Estimates indicate that the amount of money transferred illegally out of the poorest countries is ten times higher than total global ODA. This is completely unacceptable and must be stopped.

We know the most effective remedy against illegal capital flows: it is transparency. As long as we accept that huge part of our global economic system is operating in the shadows, outside state control, this evil will continue.

Corruption, tax evasion, drug money, financing of terrorism and financing of civil wars, it all comes together in illegal capital flows. And tax havens are at the core of the problem. This issue must be resolved if we want the world to move forward.

Transparency is the answer. And we should be very explicit about the need for tax haves to respect the principles of transparency.

A short while after the end of this conference, another conference will open in Poznan, Poland—the conference on climate change. I believe it is paramount that we bring these two process together. Development and adaptation to climate change are in reality the same issue. Climate adaptation is development, development is climate adaptation.

Preparing for hurricanes in the Caribbean or in Madagascar, controlling the great rivers coming down from the Himalayas, fighting drought in Mali—whatever the climate issue, it is also a development challenge.

In order to succeed, we need big money. I believe the only way we can raise the amounts needed is through carbon market. Therefore, Norway has proposed—in the climate negotiations—that 2% of the allowances traded on the global carbon market should be auctioned and the money used for climate adaptation. This proposal alone would generate revenues in the range of US$20 billion.

Many other issues also deserve our attention. One is gender. We should make equal rights for men and women the basis for everything we do. Empowerment of women is extremely important for economic growth. Another issue is debt relief and illegitimate debt. We should continue the progress that has been made on debt over the last few years in the UN and the Bretton Woods Institutions. Again, we must not accept the financial crisis as an excuse flor losing momentum on these important issues.

Let me conclude by saying that the financial crisis, as challenging as it may be, also represents an opportunity. It is an opportunity that the world cannot afford to miss. It is an opportunity to restructure the global system, to restructure the global institutions. It's an opportunity to green the world economy, and it is an opportunity to look into how we fight poverty.

We should be aware that we, our generation of politicians, are now facing the greatest uncertainty since the 1930s. We should take as the role models

the heroes of the great depression. People like J.M. Keynes or Franklin D. Roosevelt. They did not restore the global economy as it had been before the crisis. The crisis of the 1930s gave rise to pension schemes in many countries, welfare states in other countries, and state intervention in the economy in most countries. It was a completely transformed type of capitalism that came out the crisis.

This is where we should look for inspiration these days. We need to restructure the global economic system. And we need more attention on poverty. Above all, we need to transform our economies into low-carbon green economies. The financial crisis is an opportunity to achieve all of these.

Thank you Madam President.

Paraguay

Statement by
His Excellency
Mr. Alejandro Hamed Franco
Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Paraguay

30 November 2008

Allow me, first of all, on behalf of the delegation of Paraguay, to convey to His Highness Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani, the Emir, our particular gratitude for the cordial hospitality that has been extended by the people and Government of the State of Qatar since our arrival in this lovely city of Doha, and for the excellent progress made at this Conference for the review of the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus. In turn, on behalf of the Government of Paraguay, we express our empathy and solidarity with the people and Government of India for the recent terrorist attacks, which once again have taken innocent lives; we ratify our most absolute condemnation of every terrorist act, which cravenly uses violence in order to attain its objectives.

For Paraguay, this Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus is crucial, recalling the objectives that we set ourselves in Monterrey, more than seven years ago already, in order to promote economic and sustainable growth in keeping with the Millennium Development Goals that were established in 2000, which, among other things, were aimed at the eradication of poverty.

However, these goals grow more and more distant every day. In terms of the aims that we set ourselves in Monterrey for official development assistance (ODA), we lag far behind, while acknowledging the levels that a number of developed countries have attained in meeting their commitments. Nevertheless, these are more geared towards debt relief, rather than towards new assistance disbursements.

At this Conference, we must reaffirm the commitment made in Monterrey, and must also reaffirm the need for its timely implementation,2 without losing sight of the close relationship with the global agenda to achieve the Millennium Goals by 2015. In turn, we appeal to international and regional financing entities for a timely and coordinated response in providing the complementary financial resources that our countries need in order to finance projects which, even if they do not generate direct financial profitability, represent a significant component of social benefit.

Following the adoption of the Monterrey Consensus in 2002, the international economic context has contributed to the growth of the economies of many developing countries. We are deeply alarmed, however, by the impact of the current deep and globalized financial crisis that has taken shape over the last number of months, the full scope of which we have still not seized. Without a doubt, the most vulnerable countries will be those countries that are most directly affected as a result of their dependence on sources of external financing as well as on their terms of international trade exchange.

We are aware that the effects of the current global financial crisis, along with the impact of the rise in food prices, the fall in international commodity prices and the loss of liquidity on international markets, among other things, will create greater difficulties for developing countries due to the resulting rise in inflation, slowing growth, the risks of protectionism, and other exacerbating

factors, such as the likely contraction of South-South cooperation and the reductions in ODA and other necessary financial elements for financing for development.

Paraguay acknowledges that the effects of this crisis are multifaceted in nature and, therefore, the resolution of this crisis must be addressed at a multilateral forum. Furthermore, we are of the view that the ongoing reform process of the existing international financial structure should be based in the United Nations, with the presence of the 192 Member States, thus underscoring the need for this process to be inclusive, transparent and participatory, and one which would not focus exclusively on technical structures, but rather would be a process which, first and foremost, was imbued with a humanistic concept.

Following the election of the democratic Government on 15 August, Paraguay has been working towards improving the mobilization of its internal resources to support development by addressing, in particular, fundamental aspects in our fight against poverty, such as the basic social needs of the most vulnerable groups, improving the educational system, health and aspects of sanitation, as well as by establishing a framework and conducive conditions for the appropriate development of production and the market placement of agri-husbandry sector products, which underpin our national economy.

The new Government has also made the fight against corruption a priority across the board, as it is a harmful practice which undermines the correct usage of resources that should be used to satisfy the basic needs of the social groups that are in greatest need in my country.

In terms of mobilizing internal resources, one might single out a number of elements which form my country's financial stability, such as the balancing of our fiscal accounts, improving the level of international reserves, the control and measured nature of our external indebtedness, the balancing of our national payments, significant improvements made in reducing our external trade deficit and other elements. All of this against the backdrop of factors which have not been helpful, such as the aforementioned international financial crisis, the reduction of foreign direct investment, capital volatility, the lack of stability of exchange rates and the international prices of commodities and other elements of external effect.

This fiscal discipline has allowed us to enhance our payment ability and our capacity to deal with indebtedness and is the reason why we are now in a better position to pull our weight in the public projects which require external financing. This is particularly so when it comes to roadworks, productive and communications works of infrastructure, as well as public investment and basic social services, including care services for vulnerable groups in our country.

Paraguay, as a landlocked developing country, must make greater efforts than others to be able to compete on the international market because of the high costs that we bear in placing our commodities at export maritime ports and given our distance from trading centres. Therefore, we urge this Conference in its final declaration to recognize the need to lend support to landlocked developing countries, given their well-known specific requirements, in particular through the establishment of efficient transit transport systems.

Landlocked developing countries, which, for the most part, represent small, vulnerable economies, need international trade to truly serve as an engine for our development. We are already in a disadvantaged situation and, therefore, warrant special and differentiated treatment to be able to compete on an equal footing with other developing countries. Moreover, we are of the view that the progress made in the negotiations at the Doha Development Round, particularly when it comes to trade facilitation, are crucial for our group and will contribute to our better inclusion in international trade.

Therefore, for these reasons, external resources are vital for consolidating the process of sustainable development within our countries and we call for the design of adequate and appropriate mechanisms so as to better channel the resources from international development financing organizations in more conducive conditions.

To conclude, in view of this current crisis, we also believe that equal attention must be paid to support from our development partners in promoting and facilitating foreign direct investment, which is an essential complement to our national efforts to enhance our sustainable development. In turn, this will facilitate our great leap forward towards a more just and equitable society.

Philippines

Statement by
His Excellency
Mr. Ralph Recto
Secretary of Economic Planning of the Republic of the Philippines

30 November 2008

On behalf of the Philippines Government, I am honoured to participate in this important Review Conference on the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus. At the outset, I should like to express my delegation's gratitude for the hospitality of the Government and people of Qatar. The Philippines aligns itself with the Group of 77 and China. In response to the Secretary-General's extensive report on the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus, the Philippines is confident that its commitment to attain the internationally agreed development goals by 2015 will be achieved.

Midway to the target of 2015 for the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals, the Philippines has shown its capacity to be a responsible development partner. It undertook painful revenue-enhancing measures that provided additional domestic resources and invested them in infrastructure and basic social services. The Philippines also harnessed the remittances from its overseas workers, thereby increasing domestic resources needed for its own development. It must be emphasized that private flows must not replace official development assistance (ODA).

Before the financial crisis erupted, the Philippines placed its economic house in order. It improved its macroeconomic fundamentals and benefited from years of sustained economic growth. To minimize the effects of the financial crisis, the Philippines has prepared a contingency plan that provides assistance to its vulnerable sectors, particularly overseas Filipino workers, workers in export-oriented enterprises, women, children, senior citizens and the differently-abled sectors. Today, the Philippines is in a better position to cope with the global financial crisis that has spared no one. Amidst the backdrop of the global challenges of the food, fuel and financial crises, as well as climate change, we urge the international community to uphold the principles of the Paris Declaration that would untie aid, review the concept of debt sustainability, support South-South cooperation in partnership with emerging economies and developed countries, and increase ODA commitment to developing countries, particularly the parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption.

Today, we have fallen short of the goals of Monterrey. In the area of ODA, the overall amount from member countries of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development has diminished and the nominal increase represents resources targeted at debt relief. It is worth noting that, today, the ODA flows total, more or less, $100 billion while rescue packages in highly developed economies now total more than $5 trillion. What is more disturbing, especially in the context of the food crisis, is that ODA in agriculture declined from 18 per cent in 1979 to 3.4 per cent in 2006. Thus, the hunger count today is at 850 million people.

Sooner rather than later, an additional 100 million people will join the ranks of the poor. The long-term prospects for alleviating hunger and poverty are daunting as investments of some $15 billion to $20 billion a year will be needed to ensure the appropriate global food supply by the year 2030. It must be noted that in the area of external debt, a major concern lies in debt sustainability, especially when we take into account the relationship between existing debt sustainability criteria and financing the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals. It is, therefore, important to ensure that debt alleviation benefits all developing countries in need, and that debt sustainability criteria take into account the implementation of the

Goals. Thus, the Philippines continues to advocate for a debt-to-Goals swap arrangement. In the area of investment, progress is attributed mainly to the remarkable increase in South-South investments, which increased from $2 billion in 1985 to $60 billion in 2004, contributing 25 per cent of all foreign direct investment to many least developed countries. On trade, we are at an important crossroad. The Doha Round remains to be concluded and it is essential that its outcome should address the Round's development promises. We remain committed to an open, rules-based multilateral trading system. For the Round to succeed, it must truly be a development round which not only opens up markets of interest to developed countries but also permits a level playing field for developing economies. In addition, the other relevant elements of the trade equation need to be addressed. Delivering on the international commitments on technology transfer is essential. Furthermore, it is equally imperative to provide an enabling environment that would attract private investments in infrastructure and human resource development and collectively strengthen social safety nets for vulnerable sectors. This high-level meeting here in Doha affords us the opportunity to complete the work begun at Monterrey, to mark the beginning of a truly global and inclusive process to address the challenges we face in financing development.

Our biggest disappointment lies not in the lack of progress in the Doha Round, but in the lack of progress in implementing Monterrey's vision of an international economic architecture that is fair to all. Reforms of the international financial institutions moved disturbingly slowly after Monterrey. Calls to address systemic problems were unaddressed.

In conclusion, allow me to share some thoughts on the work which lies ahead. First, we must work together to strengthen the credibility of the multilateral economic institutions and restore confidence in the global economy. This can only be accomplished through a process of constructive and inclusive engagement. This is the time for prudence and steady hands, and we must ensure that we work together to ensure that the collective interest will prevail. Second, there is a need for fundamental reforms of the global economic system. Third, we must preserve and strengthen the spirit of Monterrey by taking a holistic approach to development by engaging all stakeholders. And fourth, the substance of Monterrey must be reinvigorated and its follow-up enhanced.

Portugal

Statement by
His Excellency
Mr. João Gomes Cravinho
Secretary of State of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of the Portuguese Republic

1 December 2008

Mr. President, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, first of all, allow me to begin by extending Portugal's gratitude to our host, the Government of Qatar, and to the people of Doha for their kindness and warm hospitality. I would also like to join others in congratulating all those that have contributed with their hard work in order to make this Conference possible. On a somber note, I also wish to extend our condolences to the Government and people of India for the terrorist attacks in Mumbai. The attack on Mumbai is an attack against civilization everywhere in the world.

It is a great honor for me to address this Assembly in a moment of special relevance to all of us. We are all aware that we are experiencing one of the most important processes of change of our lifetimes. This rapid and profound change brings with it threats to world stability and new challenges for each of our countries. No region or country is immune in these demanding times.

At the outset, Portugal aligns itself with the statement made yesterday by the French Presidency of the European UnionThe international context in which we adopted the Monterrey Consensus does not exist any more. This year has witnessed very grave crises with respect to high energy prices, spiraling food prices, and grave financial instability. The coexistence of these crises, against the backdrop of climate change and shifting patterns of global power distribution, underlines how important

it is to be capable of responding appropriately and collectively. There is very little that we can know about the challenges facing our societies in 20 years time, but one point that we can be confident of is that what we decide today, and in various other multilateral contexts, will have a major impact upon the lives of millions of people, particularly the most vulnerable populations. We must have the political lucidity to direct change, to undertake reform, and to live up to our responsibilities. This is the right moment for us to rise to the challenges ahead of us. Our efforts here in Doha will be critical for building global confidence and trust, helping pave the way of the future.

The emergence of new donors, and in particular the recent relevance of emerging countries, as well as the proliferation of programmes and vertical funds in the field of development cooperation, have definitely contributed to a new and more complex international aid architecture. We welcome new donors, who bring with them new resources, but also innovative ideas and approaches. At the same time, we cannot lose sight of the need to ensure aid effectiveness and coherence, if our contributions are to make a difference.

In this regard, I am pleased to say that Portugal has already adopted a number of instruments and mechanisms to promote coherence, coordination and complementarity in order to deliver more and better aid, in line with the aid effectiveness agenda. Multilaterally we have also made some progress, as we can see through the adoption in the European Union of a Code of Conduct on complementarity and division of labor between donors. This provides us with an essential tool for our aid effectiveness goals, and if effectively applied, it will combat inequalities between the so-called "orphans" and "darlings" of the donor community, and reduce duplications and overlapping activities.

Moreover, it is also very important to proceed with efforts in terms of increasing coherence within the United Nations development system, as well as greater complementarity between UN organizations which have different mandates. The "One UN exercise" should be further developed, through a persistent, pragmatic but gradual process, in order to avoid discrepancies in the system. Development effectiveness requires tailored-made responses according to different contexts and challenges, and the UN system is in a privileged position in this regard.

Mr. President, this Conference here in Doha constitutes an opportunity for the international community to renew its commitments towards the goals of Monterrey, as well as to reflect upon the changes that have taken place and the adaptations that are required in order to update our strategies for achieving these goals. Portugal wishes to formally reiterate its support to the Monterrey objectives, and its commitment to an effective multilateral system, which is essential to achieving them.

We believe that we face today a new level of urgency, as the current crisis risks undermining the important gains that have been achieved in reducing poverty. This is why our first concern goes to the least developed countries, where the scourge of poverty is most dramatically felt and where the cost of crises can really be life long. In this regard, I would like to recall our commitment within the European Union to allocate no less than 50% of our ODA /GNI increase to African countries.

Mr. President, regarding the Doha Outcome Document that we wish to adopt during this Conference, I would like to underline various of the most important principles for the financing of development. Firstly, we continue to reiterate that the mobilization of domestic resources is a key component of our global partnership on financing for development, reinforcing the principle of ownership and reaffirming that each country is primarily responsible for its own economic and social development.

Secondly, we believe that sustainable and socially responsible Foreign Direct Investment is a very important instrument to promote economic growth and social development. In this regard, we believe that investment in infrastructure is very important to help partner countries' sustained economic growth and development, in particularly investments in social sectors.

Moreover, Portugal considers that international trade is a very strong engine for development, for economic growth and for poverty reduction. This is why we attribute the greatest importance to reaching a successful conclusion of the WTO "Doha Development Agenda" (DDA) negotiations. This will be essential both to the global economy, and to the achievement of the Millennium Developmental Goals. An ambitious and balanced result, within and across all the main elements of the Doha Development Agenda, will help developing countries better integrate into the global economy and fight poverty.

We acknowledge climate change, and the impact that it has upon our lives and those of future generations. This is a major challenge for developed and developing countries alike. A common effort is therefore needed by the international community in order to cope with it in an effective and efficient manner, and it is vital that we all agree on a detailed contribution for a new global framework by the end of 2008, contributing to a global agreement under the UNFCCC by 2009.

The most affected countries are the poorest ones of the world, those that have less means to cope with this global phenomenon, even though they are the ones that contribute the least to it. For them, the best way to adapt is to develop in a sustainable manner.

Lastly but not least, let me assure you that Portugal associates itself with the European Union's commitment to work in close collaboration with all partners to contribute to a comprehensive and genuine reform of the global financial system, based on the principles of transparency, banking stability, integrity and improved economic governance. This must be done in a spirit of frank cooperation and openness.

Ladies and Gentlemen, let me conclude by expressing my country's full support to this process.

Thank you.

Qatar

Statement by
His Excellency
Mr. Ahmad bin Abdullah Al-Mahmoud
Minister of State for Foreign Affairs and Member of the Council of Ministers of the State of Qatar

1 December 2008

Allow me, at the outset, to welcome you to Doha. There is no doubt that the challenges that we face are far bigger than any of us could have imagined when the Monterrey Conference concluded its work, for we see daily new challenges that we did not expect, challenges that erode the financial peace and stability of the citizens of the world. The financial crisis and the speed with which it has had a devastating impact has puzzled even those most experienced in this field. The effects of what was considered to be a controllable financial problem in the largest economy of the world have spread speedily into an international financial crisis.

The convening of this Conference comes at an appropriate time as the current issues of the day are the same problems as those before us, with which we are now dealing. We have an opportunity to take the measures capable of protecting the weak and vulnerable, those who cannot afford the cost of adaptation to these new developments. We are required to recognize the linkages between financing development and support of trade. We have to resist the temptation of defending our local economies by resorting to trade protectionism.

Thus, this Conference must lead to a renewed commitment to realize the development dimension of the Doha Round. In addition to this, it must secure reinforcement of the international partnership for development. That partnership, which was established at the Monterrey Conference, should be reinforced through our

commitment, in Doha, to maintain the necessary financial flows in order to save the least developed countries from the difficulties and hazards of shouldering the largest burden of the crisis, as any world economic recession could lead to a great increase in the percentage of poor people in the world, thereby increasing their suffering. We have to commit ourselves to increasing official development assistance and to fulfill the commitments that were made. In addition, there should be increased financial support so that the financial crisis that we face will not erode the progress or the realization of the Millennium Development Goals in the time frame that was set.

There is an historical opportunity before us—an opportunity that allows us to chart a new course for a new international trade and financial system. Our objectives must not be restricted to stressing the lessons that we learned from the crisis and seeking not to repeat them, but rather must reflect the new changes in the economic geography of the world that has transpired since the Bretton Woods Conference. We have to build a new international order that is just and equitable so as to support the efforts of the developing nations and establish a system that gives them commensurate representation. The system that was established under Bretton Woods has not been able to adapt itself to the new economic and political changes of the last decades. As the United Nations was the correct forum to build the current financial structures, the reform of this system must, of course, now take place through and under its aegis. Hence, this Conference could be the appropriate forum from which the process of reform of the economic governance of the world that was proposed recently by the President of the General Assembly could be realized.

Allow me to refer to the fact that the State of Qatar has fulfilled its commitments to provide development assistance of 0.7 per cent of its gross national income. On the initiative of His Highness Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani, the Emir of the State of Qatar, we have established the South Fund for Development, with a donation of $20 million from His Highness. The State of Qatar has also established the Qatari Fund for Development.

In the name of the Government of Qatar, I would like to emphasize, and reiterate, the necessity of establishing new creative systems to provide financial liquidity to implement major development projects through partnership between more than one country and with financial and humanitarian institutions, under the supervision of an international institution that would be part of the United Nations, or with other regional development organizations. Furthermore, there is the need to establish mechanisms to guarantee the flow of liquidity from profitable projects so that the proceeds could finance other projects.

In addition to implementation through international partnership equities for development projects financed by grants from countries and financial institutions that are multilateral—in consonance with the experiences of successful international donors and financiers, and in order to benefit from the positive aspects of globalization to enhance major development projects—the State of Qatar is willing and now ready to participate in such projects, based on its experience in establishing State and other projects in this field.

Successful development depends directly on the increase in the level of cooperation with our partners in trade and finance; hence, we have to increase our mutual support. We cannot—and no country alone can—write the story of its success without guaranteeing the success of others. Our peace, our economic peace and security, depend on the success of multilateral negotiations and on submitting proposals, submitting solutions that will be beneficial to one and all.

Thus, I would I like to urge you, distinguished brothers and sisters, to look at our proposal. Wishing you a happy stay and a successful Conference in our capital, Doha, and may God's blessings and peace be with you all.

Romania

Statement by
His Excellency
Mr. Anton Niculescu
State Secretary, Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Romania

1 December 2008

I would like, first of all, to thank the Government of Qatar for hosting this very, very important event. Secondly, I would like to take this opportunity to convey Romania's condolences to the people of India.

Allow me to begin by associating myself with the inspiring statement delivered by the French President, on behalf of the European Union (EU), during the first day of this Conference. I would also like to associate myself with those who have commended the co-facilitators, Ambassadors Maged Abdelaziz of Egypt and Johan Løvald of Norway, for the constructive manner in which they have led the informal consultations on the Review of the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus, particularly during the drafting sessions on the Doha Outcome Document that took place in New York.

I am particularly touched by the coincidence that allows me to speak before this distinguished audience at a time when my country is celebrating its national day. Romania has come a long way since its great union ninety years ago. It is now a new member of the European Union and a donor of development assistance. Moreover, this event, at Doha, is taking place at a moment of crucial importance for the future financing for development. We find those efforts already halfway down the road towards the 2015 target date for achieving the Millennium Development Goals, and we strongly believe that this objective can be reached if all efforts are concerted at the international level. We trust that this opinion is shared by many of you, and that the related discussions at various important events, such as the Third High-level Forum on Aid Effectiveness and the United Nations High-level Event on the Millennium Development Goals, as well as those here, in Doha, over the last three days, are proving the importance given by the international community to reach these objectives.

The draft outcome document reflects the complexity and broad scope of this Conference. It is true that important progress in many countries and regions of the world has been made. However, the situation in sub-Saharan Africa, for instance, remains difficult. Facing a period of economic slowdown in many parts of the world, encountering multiple crises with a strong international impact, the Doha Conference brings us together in order to give a new impetus to the Monterrey Consensus in its entirety.

The Monterrey Consensus serves as a comprehensive and balanced framework that builds on the shared and differentiated responsibilities of all actors, while the Paris Declaration and the Accra Agenda for Action should catalyze further progress on aid effectiveness. As has been underlined on several occasions already, this Conference is taking place in a different context than the one held in Monterrey in 2002. Romania has seen the review process as an opportunity for the international community to reflect on, and discuss, both the progress achieved as well as the new challenges that have emerged.

Internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, could not be achieved by the target of date 2015 without the support of all the development financial flows that require the solidarity of the international community. The European Union has further demonstrated its commitment to support their achievement through the EU Agenda for Action on the Millennium Development Goals.

Romania supports the European Union official development assistance (ODA) commitments to achieve the collective ODA target of 0.56 per cent of gross national income (GNI) by 2010 and 0.7 per

cent by 2015, and to channel at least 50 per cent of collective aid increases to Africa. In 2007, Romania became a donor of ODA. This new status provided the opportunity to define the national development policy and identify the priority regions and countries where Romania could transfer the know-how and the experience gained both from the transition period and the EU accession process we went through recently.

In line with our national strategy for international cooperation for development, which was adopted in 2006, our geographic priorities are the countries from Western Balkans, Eastern Europe and South Caucasus. We would also support projects in Afghanistan and Iraq. When increasing the national capacity in the field of the development assistance, we shall be able to channel more development funds to the countries of Central Asia and Africa; and we would be interested in also cooperating with Latin American countries.

We identified several areas of expertise in which Romania can make a valuable contribution to the development of partner countries, for example, in areas such as economic development, enhancing democracy and the rule of law, good governance, education, health, infrastructure and the environment. We consider that achieving gender equality is an important contribution to development and a continuing process at the global level and, therefore, we contribute to projects in this area in our partner countries through our ODA. We also contribute to the international initiatives and funds that are providing support to developing countries to combat pandemics, such as the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.

In 2007, Romania reported a total national ODA contribution of €18 million, representing 0.07 of our GNI, including our contribution to the EU budget for cooperation for development and for humanitarian aid.

As we declared in various fora, and recently in Accra, we are determined to comply with our international and European commitments in order to reach the ODA targets set up for the new EU member States. In line with the European Consensus for Development of December 2005, and the conclusions of May 2008, Romania will make every effort to reach the ODA targets of 0.17 per cent of GNI by 2010 and 0.33 per cent by 2015. We consider that the poorest countries, and countries in fragile situations, should not be victims of the current financial crisis. We would also like to recall that many of the middle-income countries are still facing significant challenges, and that their efforts to address them should be supported by the international community. Those countries need our solidarity and support for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

In 2008, we answered the appeal of the World Health Organization regarding the humanitarian crisis in Burma due to the Nargis Cyclone, for which we allotted €100,000. A further €200,000 was allotted following the earthquake in China, in addition to sending humanitarian aid to the Sichuan region. In the context of the crisis situation in Georgia, we sent humanitarian aid with a total value of €1.3 million and we allotted €100,000 through the World Food Programme and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees; more funds will be channelled to the reconstruction process in Georgia next year. In response to the food crisis, we also contributed €100,000 to the World Food Programme, and €150,000 for development projects in Afghanistan.

A successful outcome of the Doha Conference, that duly takes into account the current global challenges in a positive and ambitious manner, is essential for the development needs of all, and it is our responsibility to ensure that no effort is spared to implement it.

Rwanda

Statement by
Her Excellency
Ms. Rosemary Museminali
Minister for Foreign Affairs and Regional Cooperation of the Republic of Rwanda

30 November 2008

Madam Chairperson, Your Majesties, Your Highnesses, Excellencies, Heads of State and Government, Heads of Delegations, Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, allow me on behalf of my president His Excellency Paul Kagame and on behalf of the people of the Republic of Rwanda to express our sincere appreciation to the government and people of Qatar in particular, to His Highness Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani, Emir of Qatar, for the warm welcome and hospitality extended to us since our arrival in this beautiful and vibrant City of Doha.

We also thank the President of the UN General Assembly and the UN Secretary-General for this and previous similar initiatives. I wish to express our deepest sympathies to the Government and the People of India for the terrorist attacks in Mumbai. As a country that has experienced terror and continues to be threatened by it, we feel for you and your people.

Madam President, I want to echo many speakers before me in asserting that, the development partnership launched in Monterrey in 2002 marked a historic step in the global efforts to fight poverty. I also wish to acknowledge that we meet at a time of global challenges including a staggering global financial crisis that is adding to the current food and energy difficulties.

A combination of these challenges, threatens the Monterrey process as well as the ability of many in the developing world to remain on track to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. The international community recognized that mobilizing financial resources for development, the effective and efficient use of those resources are a key prerequisite to the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals. This was re-emphasized by the Paris Declaration in 2005 and more recently the Accra action agenda. In other words, we have a strong framework for acting decisively and achieving our noble goals.

We are happy to note that since the 2002 Monterrey conference a lot has been done; significant debt relief has been delivered. 34 of the 41 eligible countries have already received debt relief to the tune of US$57.5 billion through the HIPC and Multilateral Debt Relief initiatives. Rwanda is one of the beneficiaries with her debt reduced by about 80%. Official development assistance has also fairly but not sufficiently increased.

Significant achievements have also been recorded in many of the developing countries including many in Africa. Several countries through several reforms and fiscal discipline have ensured that Macroeconomic stability is maintained, strong and sound medium term development and poverty reduction strategies have been drawn and are being implemented, good governance practices including sound public Finance management systems have been strengthened in many countries including my own.

Madam Chairperson, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, despite these achievements, a lot still needs to be done as it is now clear that most African countries will not achieve all the MDG targets unless drastic measures to address current funding bottlenecks are taken.

The most significant target of halving poverty remains most likely to be missed by the majority of the poor countries. Funding and investments must target the key and usually significant projects that will trigger growth such as infrastructure, energy and ICT. Agricultural funding must be significant enough to tackle projects like irrigation, food processing and conservation if they are to impact on the economic growth of the majority of poor people that depend on Agriculture.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, as we all know economic growth in low-income countries has been relatively robust, averaging 7% in the last five years, still this falls well below the levels needed

to make the necessary leaps needed to address the major obstacles threatening the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. For the developing world, new challenges like the climatic change, the food and oil crisis of 2008 together with the recent financial crisis do not have sufficient frameworks or even technical or financial means to mitigate them. These new developments pose additional significant challenges that require more efforts, creativity and sensitivity if we are to achieve our development agenda.

More focused and innovative financing mechanisms need to be developed to avail the much needed resources to be invested in those strategic areas like infrastructure including health infrastructure and agriculture.

Madam Chairperson, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, we acknowledge that the private sector must play a key role in the efforts to mobilize financial resources for development. However, this requires structural reforms to increase competitiveness and productive investment.

To achieve equitable development and a vibrant private sector in Africa, it is necessary to have a financial sector that enables access to financial products especially to the most vulnerable people in rural areas.

To attract the much needed foreign direct investment and boost domestic investment, the Government of Rwanda has embarked on reforms in the legal and regulatory framework aimed at creating an enabling business environment.

However, FDI flows to Africa in general and to Rwanda in particular, though on the increase in recent years, are still too limited in geographical coverage and remain largely focused on extractive industries and cannot have a significant effect on employment creation and poverty reduction.

Madam Chair, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, we should also recognize that a universal rules-based, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system as well as meaningful trade liberalization can substantially stimulate development worldwide.

It is time for the international community therefore, to take appropriate actions and put in place mechanisms that will increase market access for African products, eliminate trade-distorting subsidies in developed countries, facilitate transfer of technology transfer, open up their service market.

To support LDCs efforts to take advantage of the multilateral trading system, Aid-for-Trade should be a crucial component of this financing for development conference.

We urge the international community to engage in new dynamics and commitments to harmonize ODA and adapt it better to the recipient countries' development strategies. This will reduce transaction costs and bureaucratic procedures as well as address the issues of capacity building and sustainability.

It is such a partnership that will make this conference and those before it worth the time and resources that we have all committed. We have what it takes to achieve Millennium Development Goals if we are committed to this partnership.

Madam Chairperson, I thank you for your attention.

Senegal

Statement by
His Excellency
Mr. Serigne Diop
Senior Minister to the President of the Republic of Senegal

30 November 2008

At the outset, I would like to express to His Highness Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani, the Emir of Qatar, the warm and brotherly greetings of his brother, His Excellency Mr. Abdoulaye Wade, President of Senegal. Because of serious problems with timing, he was not able to be present at this important meeting, which is taking place at a crucial moment that the world is experiencing.

I would also like to express here the deep gratitude of the delegation of Senegal to the authorities of the State of Qatar who have hosted this Conference, showing the particular interest that this great

country has in cooperation and solidarity among the peoples of the world. My delegation also thanks very warmly the people and Government of Qatar for their warm greetings and the attention that has been given to us since we arrived in this beautiful city of Doha.

I would also like to salute the Secretary-General and the President of the General Assembly of the United Nations, and pay tribute to them for the efforts they have made to ensure the success of this Conference.

Finally, Senegal expresses its deep sympathy to the Government and people of India for the terrorist attacks in Mumbai, and to other countries whose citizens were also victims. My country firmly denounces these acts.

We are meeting here again, six years after the Monterrey Conference, to evaluate the state of implementation of the commitments that were made by the international community to fight against poverty in an effective and decisive way, and to ease the daily suffering of some of the world's population. This meeting should allow us to gain a full understanding of the many obstacles that we continue to face and to redirect our future actions in an appropriate manner.

This has been made necessary because of the mixed results that we have seen up to this point, as is confirmed by the report of the Secretary-General on recent events in Financing for Development and the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus, which highlights the important progress that remains to be made in relevant areas. The Monterrey Consensus, and we reaffirm our full commitment to it, was reached in a context similar to what we are seeing here today. In Monterrey, the disastrous situation that much of humanity was facing had led leaders of the developed countries to decide to substantially increase official development aid (ODA).

To date, the volume of ODA in the budgets of developed countries has fallen, in spite of the overall social context that is increasingly fragile. This fall in financial flows derives less from scarcity of resources than from the lack of will that we are seeing today and because of the financing given by rich countries to support their own banking and financial institutions, while millions of people fall victim to various types of deprivation every day.

In addition, there is the increasingly drastic factor of reduction in aid which is posed by this current financial crisis because, as we see it, the countries which drive the economy of the world are the most affected. All of this shows that the difficult conditions that the world is experiencing as a result of the financial crisis should not, in any case, be a pretext for us to be distracted from the goals we set previously as, in several respects, they are the only guarantees for social and financial stability in the world.

On the contrary, these circumstances should encourage us to show a new determination to face the challenges of stable growth by more appropriate ways and means, without overlooking any possible alternative ways of acting, including innovative sources of financing, particularly with respect to increasing aid effectiveness. This innovative financing—and here I would cite, among other things, the Digital Solidarity Fund, the air ticket solidarity levy and the international drug purchase facility (UNITAID)—is essential today as a complement to aid and should serve as a source for sectors which are crucial to development.

As has been emphasized by the Head of State of Senegal, His Excellency Mr. Abdoulaye Wade, during the global meeting of experts on accelerating the payments of aid and aid effectiveness at a meeting which was held in Dakar on 29 October, "The international community must recognize and support the development efforts made by our countries and place confidence in our Governments to keep their commitments by providing additional resources with minimum conditionality, in a timely manner, and invested in the socioeconomic infrastructure that is necessary to achieve the Millennium Development Goals."

The food and energy crises which we have seen in recent months, which have affected all countries of the world, rich and poor, show to what extent the fate of humanity is interdependent. The better world that we hope for, therefore, means that we

must demonstrate more perseverance to attain our goals by showing greater generosity and solidarity and being more imaginative in our actions. It is along these lines that Senegal made the commitment to act over the last six years, and to transform into concrete action the goals and objectives of the Monterrey Consensus.

The economic reforms launched by the Government of Senegal have allowed us to reach an annual economic growth rate, on average, of 5 per cent between 2002 and 2007. In spite of an unfavourable economic context in the world, which was marked by inflationary pressures, this performance was part of our efforts to fight against poverty by implementing the Poverty Reduction Strategy, and was also in the context of my country's eligibility for the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Initiative. We should also emphasize that the debt relief Senegal has received as part of this Initiative has allowed us to significantly increase the resources we spend on education and health, sectors on which my country spends 50 per cent of its budget, placing us in a good position with respect to achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

Along with these efforts, Senegal has resolutely committed to promote a national private sector by carrying out rigorous reforms in the business area. Accelerating these actions means that we have been named one of the main reforming countries in Africa by the Doing Business Report of the World Bank. Establishing a climate to promote investment by creating structures such as agents for promoting investment in major works, the Presidential Council on Investment, the agency for development, and the Senegalese agency for promoting exports, shows the determination of my country and its leader to focus its action on accelerated growth for the period 2006-2015, with the goal of an economic growth rate of at least 7 per cent.

My country's commitment to promote conditions to re-launch economic growth was accompanied by a vast agricultural reform project, the goal of which was to achieve food self-sufficiency and to significantly reduce our spending on the imports of food. Here, the results achieved in carrying out this project, the Grand Agricultural Offensive for Food and Abundance, which was launched by the Head of State, His Excellency Mr. Abdoulaye Wade, show us that Senegal is on the right path.

His important efforts would have led to stronger results if the international commitments had been met. This shows that in spite of the scale of the challenges for development, particularly in Africa, they can still be overcome with real political will that is sustained at the international level by concrete measures which aim to re-establish a balance in trade, regulations dealing with the debt crisis, increasing ODA and even more importantly by massive inflows of foreign direct investment and capital.

Therefore, by offering developing countries real prospects to join in the networks of success and prosperity in the developed world, it will be possible for our planet to hope for a more hopeful future, where international cooperation will be seen as a synonym for peace and development to benefit humanity as a whole. But to achieve this, it is important now to strive to genuinely restructure global governance in the international financial architecture, because the present architecture was inherited from the Bretton Woods era and is no longer in line with the realities of the world today.

Slovakia

Statement by
Her Excellency
Ms. Olga Algayerova
State Secretary, Ministry for Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic

1 December 2008

Mr. President, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen, I wish to congratulate His Highness the Emir of the State of Qatar for hosting this important event and express our gratitude for the warm reception, welcome and hospitality. I should like to convey my Government's condolences to the families of the victims of the Mumbai attack and to the people and Government of India.

Mr. President, I would like to reaffirm my government's support to the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus and our commitment to strengthening the international partnership for development. Progresses made on commitments established at 2002 UN International Conference on Financing for Development held in Monterrey, Mexico, is quite positive, but still many countries, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa and Least-Developed Countries, are off-track in terms of meeting the Millennium Development Goals. Moving forward, in implementing the Monterrey Consensus will require more intensity on national, regional and international level to achieve improvements in growth and poverty reduction based on a framework of mutual accountability between developed and developing countries. The financing for development process has to be also adapted to the changes that the world economy had undergone since 2002.

Mr. President, the Monterrey Consensus emphasized country ownership and responsibility for its own development. It strengthened the agreement on the policies required within the developing countries to mobilize domestic resources, attract foreign direct investment and utilize aid effectively. Countries should remain committed to progress on policy reforms and good governance issues. In particular tax collection should be made more effective and transparent. My country is open to share its own experiences from its successful transition process.

The Monterrey Consensus recognized the need for substantial increases in ODA to help developing countries meet their development goals. Internationally agreed development goals require the mobilization of steady and predictable flow of financial resources. Key issues on aid include improving both the quantity and the quality of aid to developing countries in line with the Paris Declaration and the conclusions from this year's High-Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness in Accra.

Development aid is among the priorities of Slovakia external relationships. Slovakia, as a new donor country, is gradually and steadily improving its system of aid delivery and increasing resources allocated for its ODA, in line with its obligation as an EU member state.

Mr. President, trade is a key tool to achieving sustainable development. Much remains to be done, not only to conclude the Doha round of international trade negotiations, but also to ensure a better functioning of the multi-lateral trading system. Slovakia supports the Aid for Trade initiative to help developing countries build export capacity and corresponding infrastructure to be able to use trade more effectively and in a sustainable way in the eradication of poverty. I would also like to emphasize the importance of the South-South trade cooperation and the regional trade agreements in strengthening the role of the trade as an engine for development in developing countries.

Mr. President, there were many calls to reform the Global Economic Governance throughout this conference. Indeed the present financial crisis exposed many faults in current system. Slovakia supports the need to improve the coherence and consistency of the international monetary and financial system. There is a strong desire to increase the voice and participation of developing countries in international financial organizations ensuring that their perspective is taken into account in the decision-making process. My country, too, believes that this will be essential to the continued effectiveness, legitimacy and credibility of the global financial system in a world of growing economic interdependence.

New challenges have arisen in recent years, most notably the energy and food crises and climate change, which must be addressed decisively. United Nations, in collaboration with all governments and stakeholders, must take immediate and concrete actions to confront the complex new threats to world economy and environment. At the same time we must ensure that MDG agenda and the drive to increase assistance in key development sectors are not compromised by these challenges.

Mr. President, Slovakia has been largely shielded from a direct impact of the global financial turmoil. This has been in part due to government steps to sustain macroeconomic stability and to achieve a balanced budget. The impeding

euro zone accession on January 1, 2009 has also contributed to the relative stability of our national currency and economy. However, being a small, open, export-oriented economy the slowdown of the world economy will naturally be reflected in our country. Our economic growth forecast was recently revised down to 4.9 percent in 2009 from an earlier 8.5 percent, but still remains one of the highest in the region.

Mr. President, in conclusion, I wish to reiterate our strong commitment to global partnership to finance development and our resolve to work towards an ambitious and action-oriented outcome of this important review conference.

Thank you for your attention.

South Africa

Statement by
His Excellency
Mr. Trevor Manuel
Minister of Finance of the Republic of South Africa and Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus

29 November 2008

Allow me, first, to thank the Secretary General for allowing me to serve as his Special Envoy for this Conference. Six and a half years ago, I had the privilege of working with Michel Camdessus in a similar role with respect to the Monterrey Conference. It has been a great honour to again advance the Consensus on Financing for Development, this time together with Frau Heidemarie Wieczorek-Zeul, who has just addressed you.

When we prepared for the Monterrey Conference, we did so under the shadow of 11 September 2001. As the dust settled, world leaders were driven forward. We were determined that a new global partnership must be forged. We had seen that systemic poverty is the ultimate systemic risk; that continuous war could only be averted through development.

The visionary commitments we made at Monterrey continued to resonate because they depended on a new spirit of cooperation. Each of us needed to take action, not because the other side demanded it of us, not because noncompliance would result in sanction or reprimand. We took action because we knew that adherence to our agreements and implementation of these actions was in our own very best interest.

Today, we meet again under a dark cloud of senseless violence. This time, the demon of terror has struck at the commercial capital of a developing country, an act of senseless violence in one of the world's largest and fastest growing emerging economies.

At the same time, the commitments we made at Monterrey are being tested. The global engine that has driven our growth and development is broken. This time, a financial crisis has surfaced at the heart of the industrialized world, but it threatens to defeat our common purpose and push back the advances we have all made since the turn of the century. We need to pause and understand the nature of this crisis. The financial crisis is spilling over into the real economy at an unprecedented speed. Productive sectors without working capital and long-term finance are closing their doors on many millions living in the real world. The reality of global recession calls for decisive and collective action to prevent another Great Depression. We know that the headlines will draw our focus towards erratic movements of stock price indices. But we must keep our focus on the steady clamour that is rising outside the factory gates and the silent reality of growing poverty.

As is the case for many low-income countries, the crisis constitutes a major setback at a time when African economies were making significant progress. This comes on top of the food and fuel price shocks, which pushed back the Millennium Development Goals by seven years and sent more than 100 million African people back into poverty.

Many of the countries on our continent have built a solid platform of macroeconomic stability. But we have not yet completed the micro-economic reform, human development and infrastructure expansion that is vital to self-sustaining and broad-

based growth of our continent. And now, we face this profound setback, not of our own making.

We must all together sit up, take note and dispense with the luxury of procrastination. The negotiations on the outcome document have been terribly slow. There is a lack of urgency that does not speak to the reality of what is happening in the world. Future generations will judge us harshly if they find that, at the very moment that history required us to join hands in global solidarity, we were unable to rise above the petty animosities that cause us to look inward and fester.

Yesterday, the Secretary-General convened a number of leaders to a retreat. All of us agreed that the issues that divide the negotiations are small and inconsequential compared to the challenges that the world now faces. Our task is to lead the world through the change that is clearly required. We need a text that speaks unequivocally to the changes we need. But, as at Monterrey, it must bring us together and not drive us further apart. What is required is a spirit of compromise and a real commitment to this task.

I wish to join my friend and co-conspirator, fellow Envoy Heidemarie Wieczorek-Zeul, in calling on all of you to assist in finding a workable solution which is able to resonate far beyond the confines of this conference room and have meaning to millions of people all over the world well into the future. This is what we achieved at Monterrey. We dare not fail in Doha.

South Africa is privileged to sit in many different forums. We are Africans and realize that our own development is inextricably bound to that of our continent. Like our African brothers and sisters, we joined the developing world in the G77. South Africa's participation in the Group of Twenty (G20) can, in no measure, substitute for proper representation for our continent. Nevertheless, even as we militate for enhanced African representation, we will continue to engage with the G20 as an important forum through which to forge the necessary compromises and mobilize the resources that we require to build a new economic multilateralism.

Above all, we must work through all the institutions at our disposal, to devise an urgent and collective response to the global realities. If we do not unite in action to this crisis, we will be selling the world's poor short. One critical response must be to make a bold and unambiguous commitment to maintain global solidarity. In this context, we should welcome the many admirable pronouncements that have already been made at this podium. We must again congratulate the actions of the five developed countries who have already attained the goal of 0.7 per cent of gross national income. Let us remember that adherence to such commitments is in our own very best interest.

Despite their weakened state, financial markets continue to impose a cast iron discipline on errant sovereigns who fail to keep their bond or deviate from the course of sustainable macroeconomic policy. But there is no equivalent mechanism that can force the obedience of those who fail to keep their word in respect of global solidarity. The only tools we have are in the multilateral system. But if multilateral institutions are to work effectively, we must all yield up a measure of our individual sovereignty.

At a global level, there are many different institutions, each with its own capacities, strengths and weaknesses. Realizing change will require all of them to act in concert. When it comes to public governance, especially at a global level, there is nothing to be gained from competition between the United Nations, the Bretton Woods institutions, the World Trade Organization, and the many other initiatives that exist to solve problems and bring us together on matters of policy. What is obviously required is greater collaboration. Can we not find a middle ground even between Washington, D.C., and New York?

Monterrey was an historic moment, made possible because the old zero-sum politics of the Cold War blocs had collapsed. The deadweight of groupthink, which had held back consensus for more than a generation, finally lifted. In its place, we were able to build a new partnership based on solidarity, mutual respect and collective action.

President Sarkozy reminded us again when he addressed us this morning that we cannot build the

world of the twenty-first century with the institutions of the twentieth century. Clearly, the Group of Seven (G7) is one of those institutions that we must leave where it truly belongs, in the history books that describe the twentieth century. But we must ask if it is only this anachronism that holds us back. Perhaps, with the demise of the G7, it is time that we reconsidered the G77 as well.

We cannot allow this Conference to end in failure. We must sustain and build on the Consensus we reached in Monterrey. It is more important than any of the small differences that divide us today.

Spain

Statement by
His Excellency
Mr. Miguel Ángel Moratinos
Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of the Kingdom of Spain

30 November 2008

In proclaiming the Millennium objectives, the United Nations Summit of 2000 solemnly stated that the existence of hunger, poverty, epidemics, lack of water and illiteracy are first and foremost the result of a lack of political will, a collective failure of the twentieth century. Mankind is not condemned to suffer passively. The most important commitment of our generation, of Governments, of civil society, of the twenty-first century, is to eradicate extreme poverty, which is the principal cause of instability and violence in our world. This commitment underpins the need to comply with the Millennium Development Goals by 2015.

We are meeting today in Doha, brought together by the United Nations, because we find ourselves in an emergency situation as the international financial and economic crisis is threatening to place this commitment to end extreme poverty and to create conditions for a dignified human life for all inhabitants of our planet very much at a secondary level of importance. This is not acceptable. We cannot accept that the prime victims of the financial and economic crisis should be the poorest. They have least responsibility for it. We cannot stand meekly by and see how the necessary funds that had been earmarked to combat poverty are now being rechannelled towards those who are least affected. We cannot accept that the financial crisis be placed on an equal footing with the crisis of poverty and hunger that has existed for so long.

This is not acceptable. We have been warned.

The meeting held in Accra in September on the quality of official development assistance (ODA) and the recent meeting to review the Millennium Development Goals during the New York General Assembly, have drawn attention to the reduction since 2006 of ODA. The increasing prices of food threaten to throw 100 million more people into a situation of poverty. Placing the international economic system on a new footing requires us, first and foremost, to renew our commitment to the Millennium Development Goals and to the Monterrey Consensus so that combating extreme poverty becomes one of the essential conditions in overcoming the international financial and economic crisis. Reforming the system and the international financial institutions is pressing, but financial stability of developing countries should also be part and parcel of these objectives, beginning with an incitation to introduce fiscal reform in combating tax invasion, thus making it possible to generate further resources to combat poverty. The conclusions of this Conference in this connection should be part of the debates by the Group of Twenty (G20).

We propose that we conclude an international covenant within the framework of the United Nations to combat tax havens and, through mutual commitment, we will then be able to combine this with the adoption of development policies by recipient countries. We propose that the forum for cooperation for development, the Economic and Social Council, be strengthened as a multilateral space for assessing and reporting on the Millennium Development Goals and for drafting a pattern for such assessment. We propose also a code of good practice for ODA in the context of the United Nations. In connection with this assessment framework in the public sector, we support the Swiss initiative to

include corporate Swiss responsibility on the agenda of the G20 programme of work so that we can lay the basis for a new form of generating productive investment in developing countries, thereby guaranteeing and giving effect to the labour rights defended by the International Labor Organization and, also, transparency in investment flows through the initiative for extractive industry and the initiative for transparency in international aid.

The volume of ODA is important because it should be increased not reduced. The European Union is the prime donor today, contributing 60 per cent of the total. We share the commitment stated by the President of the European Commission, Mr. Jose Manuel Barroso, to reach the level of 0.56 per cent by 2010 and 0.7 per cent of gross national income (GNI) by 2015. The Spanish Government, for its part, has committed to achieving a level of 0.7 per cent of GNI for ODA by 2012.

In 1969, the former Canadian Prime Minister, Mr. Lester B. Pearson, proposed the level of 0.7 per cent of GNI to be devoted to ODA, on a voluntary basis. Today, here in Doha 40 years after Pearson's proposal, we should make this 0.7 per cent obligatory. This should be the Doha commitment. Now, how can we achieve this? Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter provides for mechanisms to protect peace and security at the international levels but, today, the threat to international stability is hunger and poverty and, thus, we need a new interpretation of chapter VII to open the way to combat hunger and poverty, in the context of the United Nations, as a task shared by the entire international community. Frequently, we talk about humanitarian interference, but we should rather be talking about interference in combating hunger and poverty.

We now find we have an expectation of a deficit for combating poverty that some sources have estimated at some $210,000 million. We must, therefore, note that it is not just a lack of resources but a lack of political will to allocate funds to combat poverty. Consequently, we need new funds for financing, greater flexibility, a new impetus to the negotiations and partnering of debt, and we must make this sustainable for the developing countries, particularly for the least developed countries. Combating hunger is the first of the Millennium Development Goals. With the support of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, we have convened a high-level meeting on food security to lay down a road map to achieve the objectives established in Rome. This meeting will be held in Spain on 26 and 27 January 2009. Our proposal is based on the need to give a new political impetus to our commitment. Therefore, we believe it is necessary that the Secretary-General appoint a high-level representative, assisted by a group of friends of the Millennium Development Goals, as happened with Jeffrey Sachs in preparing the Millennium Summit. This will allow us to assess where we stand and to propose concrete measures for the special session of 2010, announced by the Secretary-General. Spain undertakes to shoulder the expenses of such an event, in the context of the Spanish Presidency of the European Union, and to make the preparatory arrangements for it.

The agenda we face is highly complex. This includes concluding the Doha Round successfully, which will allow an increase in trade at the international level and also make it possible to combat climate change and to achieve gender equality, so that women can make their essential contribution to achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

There are some who, in the face of the international financial and economic crisis, wish to make us believe that we must overcome this crisis first and then we can return to dealing with the problems of combating poverty—that the needs of those living in extreme poverty are less important than bank balances. The Government of Spain, headed by President Zapatero, firmly believes that it will only be possible to achieve a new phase of international financial and economic stability if we place the need to combat poverty and hunger to the forefront of our endeavours. Today, we must again say "Yes. Yes, it is possible by 2015" to give effect to the Millennium Development Goals, and we must make a political commitment that, together, we can eradicate hunger and poverty in the next decades of this century. This is our commitment on the part of the Government of Spain.

Sri Lanka

Statement by
His Excellency
Mr. Sarta Amunugama
Minister for Enterprise Development and Investment Promotions of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka

30 November 2008

Sri Lanka congratulates the President of this Conference on his election. I take this opportunity to express our full confidence in his able stewardship in guiding our collective deliberations here in this beautiful city of Doha.

May I, at the outset, convey to India our profound sympathies on the recent tragedy in Mumbai. India is our closest neighbour and friend. We too have long experience of the war on terror, and our hearts go out to those victims of indiscriminate violence.

Much has happened over the past six years since Monterrey. The road to Doha has been mapped by multiple crises, ranging from food security to energy, and from climate change to the ongoing financial crisis. Many analyses and high-level debates have provided different insights into the root causes of, and possible solutions to, these critical issues.

In all these different perceptions, we seem to agree on one thing, namely, that these ongoing crises should not be allowed to evolve into tomorrow's crises for humanity. We need to change our attitudes and approaches to face the challenges of the twenty-first century. We cannot find them in the instruments of the twentieth century. The theme of our discussions here, in Doha, is all about that. The best guarantee of averting a larger global crisis, therefore, is ensuring a political will and steadfast commitment to development and providing the resources for it.

We need to be mindful, then, in our decisions here. They will have an impact on many millions of humankind, who yearn for peace, development and the right to a decent life—free from fear, hunger and poverty. We have passed the midway point since we adopted the Millennium Development Goals. My country, Sri Lanka, has made rapid strides in achieving these Goals. But the developing world needs more help. About one quarter of the children living in developing countries are still at risk of malnutrition; about 2.5 billion people in the world live without proper sanitation; and more than 500,000 mothers die every year in childbirth, or due to complications associated with pregnancy.

We need to renew our faith and deliver on our commitments made in Monterrey. We cannot resign from our collective responsibility towards the world's woes and, moreover, our moral obligation towards the next generation. We have to bequeath to them a better tomorrow.

Against many odds, limited progress in certain areas has been made in developing countries. We should not let this hard-achieved progress be reversed by the numerous challenges that confront us today. We, therefore, endorse the call for an urgent and concerted global response to help maintain the positive developments gained by developing countries and to advance along the growth paths that we jointly agreed upon in Monterrey.

However, without enabling local and international environments that help mobilize domestic, public and private savings, and efficient, coherent and consistent macroeconomic policies that are conducive to productive investment, it will be an arduous task to maintain sound economic growth and sustainable development. In this regard, we recognize the importance of good governance, human resource development and appropriate policy reforms to harness the benefits of globalization and to minimize its negative impact.

We reckon that ensuring economic development and the well-being of all people lies with each and every country. Yet, most developing countries are often at a disadvantage in a heavily competitive and interdependent global economy. Vulnerabilities arising out of frequent natural catastrophes, deficiencies in socioeconomic infrastructure and institutional capacities have exacerbated the challenges faced by us.

To face these formidable challenges, the Government of Sri Lanka, under the leadership of President Mahinda Rajapaksa, has integrated the

Millennium Development Goals into a national development strategy, called Vision for Sri Lanka. The investments made on human resource development and public welfare projects have enabled us to meet several key Millennium Development Goals relating to education and health, well before the set deadline of 2015.

These achievements are despite setbacks, such as the 2004 tsunami that devastated most parts of the coastline of the country, and amidst over twenty-five years of the scourge of terrorism. Yet, more needs to be done in eradicating poverty, by addressing malnutrition, spurring economic growth and promoting environmentally sustainable development.

In this era of a globalized world, national efforts to promote sustainable economic growth no doubt require international assistance. However, each country should have the right to decide their development priorities and the level of government regulation in managing the national economy. Unless official development assistance (ODA) is properly aligned with the national development priorities and strategies, the effectiveness of aid will become meaningless.

In order to create tangible and sustainable progress in developing countries, not only the quantity of aid but also the quality of ODA remains highly important. ODA remains a stepping stone in stimulating national growth. Nevertheless, what most of the low- and middle-income countries, like my own country, Sri Lanka, may require is global partnership in promoting fair trade that is universal, transparent, open, rules-based and non-discriminatory.

However, since the impasse in the Doha World Trade Organization (WTO) negotiations, we have been experiencing the biggest implementation gap in the area of international trade. It is ironical that at the time when international trade should rightfully be playing its role as a catalyst to enhance economic growth and promote productive employment for all, there exist many market distortions—more restrictions than concessions. It is, therefore, our hope that this Conference will be able to send a strong message to the WTO to maintain a development focus in its work and programme.

When we talk about barriers to international trade, there is no gainsaying that non-trade related barriers have increasingly been used against developing countries. Most disturbing is selectivity in the human rights approach, using the promotion of civil and political rights in a manner that subverts local economic and cultural rights. This will not help bring a realization of peace and development, nor will it ensure aid effectiveness.

Moreover, transparency, democracy and good governance, the virtues of the modern civilized world, should apply to all. For the international financial and monetary systems that the world sees, this has enduring relevance, and failing to abide by these universal norms and values puts at risk the credibility and effectiveness of the actions prescribed by many such institutions.

The present collapse in the financial markets, that may possibly lead to a worldwide economic downturn, exposes the shortfalls in the existing mechanisms to oversee the world economies, as well as the inability to provide sufficient early warnings on emerging crisis situations. This leads us to contemplate the necessity of enhancing coherence and consistency in the global monetary and financial architecture sooner rather than later.

Facing all these challenges successfully will require vision, courage, wisdom and, above all, cooperation. It is at times like this that we should not lose hope. Together we can prevail.

Lastly, allow me to express the deep appreciation of my Government to the Government of Qatar for the excellent arrangements made for this Conference and for the gracious hospitality extended to us all.

Sweden

Statement by
His Excellency
Mr. Joakim Stymne
State Secretary for International Development Cooperation, Ministry for Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Sweden

1 December 2008

Your Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Sweden aligns itself with the statement made by France on behalf of the European Union.

The Millennium Development Goals are more relevant than ever. At this time of financial crisis, it is essential that we ensure that the poorest people are not the hardest hit. In our efforts to reach the MDGs it is important that we, here in Doha reaffirm the Monterrey Consensus as the foundation of the global partnership for development.

Shared responsibilities and the spirit of partnership are the essence of the Monterrey Consensus. Partner countries and donor countries alike need to deliver on their Monterrey commitments. This partnership is a prerequisite towards realizing the MDGs and achieving sustainable development.

For partner countries, a key measure is improved mobilization of domestic resources. This involves improvement of democratic governance, the rule of law, reduced corruption, business-friendly policies, a broadening of tax bases and efforts to make migrant remittances cheaper and safer.

For donor countries, it is essential to deliver on aid volume commitments. There must be a fair burden-sharing among donors. Donor countries need to provide credible timetables that demonstrate how each country intends to reach the agreed ODA targets. Such timetables should also show that the fall in ODA for 2006 and 2007 was only temporary. The EU aims to provide timetables before the end of 2010. The financial crisis must not be an excuse to fail in this area. On the contrary, at this time, our commitment to global development must be clearly spelled out clearly. And not to forget, increased aid volumes must be used in an efficient and effective manner. The Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness and the Accra Agenda for Action should urgently be implemented.

On the other hand, in light of the financial crises, partner countries as well need to undertake appropriate action to protect their own financial sectors and also undertake long-term reforms to attract capital, both domestic and international.

Climate change is an additional global challenge. Extraordinary resources are needed. As donors, we must act in a coordinated and harmonized way, and align our support with our partner countries' national priorities. The financial architecture dealing with climate change must be efficient, effective and equitable. This issue will require serious and innovative solutions within existing frameworks. The Commission on Climate Change and Development, initiated by the Swedish Government, focuses on the international architecture and financing of adaptation to climate change. Its final report in the spring of 2009 will center on how to integrate adaptation to climate change into development efforts and thereby improve global policy. We hope that this report will constitute a concrete and practical contribution towards identifying new solutions in this area.

Sweden welcomes the reforms underway in the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. They are legitimate and tangible outcomes from the Monterrey Consensus. For the credibility of the World Bank as an institution, and our commitments of the Monterrey Consensus, rapid implementation of the agreed first part of the voice reform in the Bank is critical.

The reforms that have been decided upon thus far are, however, only a first step in the right direction. A lot remains to be done, and I cannot stress enough that the processes for how these reforms are constructed matter. It is vital that they are legitimate, inclusive and transparent.

Finally, it is of utmost importance that we reach a swift and ambitious conclusion of the Doha Round of trade negotiations. This is particularly important to developing countries. Especially today, when we find ourselves in a situation with

substantial turbulence in global financial markets and recession in many parts of the world, an agreement would be a much welcome boost to the world economy.

To conclude, a great deal has been achieved since Monterrey. At the same time, much remains to be done. The partnership spirit from Monterrey should guide us in our further efforts. We must all pull our weight to attain the goals that we have all agreed upon.

Thank you.

Switzerland

Statement by
Her Excellency
Ms. Micheline Calmy-Rey
Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Swiss Confederation

30 November 2008

We are experiencing a financial crisis with grave consequences. Many countries, including Switzerland, have taken unprecedented actions to mitigate the effects of it on the real economy. However the fear remains that all our countries will be affected, including the poorest countries that are the ones that are insufficiently integrated into the global economy. In this difficult context, I would like to draw your attention to four important development questions. I will start with the role and the responsibilities of the private sector, which we believe is one of the pillars of the Monterrey Consensus.

The current crisis, and in particular the need to build or to rebuild confidence in the private sector, shows how important it is that the corporate commercial strategies respect ethical, environmental and social values. Integrating into commercial strategies the principles of corporate responsibility goes hand in hand with the application of stricter standards for good governance and transparency. In the longer term, respect for them will ensure not only sustained commercial development but also a more positive contribution by private enterprise to sustainable development in the broad meaning of that word.

I now come to the second question, that I cherish, namely, the quality of our development cooperation. The Monterrey Consensus clarifies the global partnership that is necessary to finance development and the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals. We have recognized that the capacity to develop does not just depend on the volume of the funds mobilized but also on how these funds are committed and on the policies that are applied. The questions of aid efficiency and of their evaluation are being given greater attention by donors and by recipient countries. However, to my mind the implementation of the principles of the Accra Agenda for Action will bear fruit only if populations are fully involved in defining what needs to be done and the policies to be implemented. In other words, it is a question of guaranteeing that governance in partner countries is democratic, participative and respectful of basic rights. Transparent, predictable governance, demonstrating constant concern to meet the needs and aspirations of the people, facilitates the rational use of the means available and increases the impact in a very significant manner.

I come to the third point of my statement, and would like to say that Switzerland fully shares the concerns about the negative impact on development of illegal financial flows. Switzerland is cooperating closely with the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development and has adopted most of its recommendations, such as the guidelines on the transfer pricing for multinational companies and the taxation department rules or the multitaxation conventions. As of 2004, Switzerland has been levying taxes for other countries by withholding taxes on interest payable to taxpayers residing in the European Union and has transferred 75 per cent to the countries concerned. Switzerland could work together with other States to introduce on a large scale, and to the benefit of the tax authorities of these States, a system of taxing at source interest on capital deposited in Switzerland. Switzerland is fully committed to combating the illegal transfer of funds, and the return to their legal owners of assets that have been stolen or fraudulently acquired, as a

priority of the foreign policy of my country in the financial area. Over the last twenty years, Switzerland has returned almost $1.8 billion to countries of origin. No other Government comes close to this amount in terms of returning funds.

Finally, a fourth comment: we are all facing global challenges, one of the most urgent of which is climate change. In August 2008, Switzerland submitted to the secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change a proposal for a global CO^2 tax, and this proposal is now on the negotiating table.

We must explain to our citizens why development aid is necessary. Solidarity is certainly a key factor, but we must also recognize that many risks and challenges require a global kind of response. We must, therefore, raise the awareness of people about the notion of global public goods and defend a broader interpretation of official development assistance (ODA), emphasizing that current problems require the mobilization of additional funds. Finally, to ensure the predictability of aid, we must show that the funds attributed to it through multilateral and bilateral channels do promote development and have a real impact.

The current crisis seriously jeopardizes the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals and, indeed, threatens some of the successes we have seen today. The ODA budgets are under strong pressure. It is, therefore, important that we, the donor countries, remain reliable partners, respectful of our commitments. Switzerland reaffirms its commitment to the Monterrey Consensus.

Switzerland agrees that there is a need to provide more effective follow-up to the outcome of our collective efforts, as they will be defined tomorrow in the final outcome d`ocument of Doha.

Trinidad and Tobago

Statement by
His Excellency
Mr. Mariano Browne
Minister of State, Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

1 December 2008

Mr. President, Heads of State, Ministers, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, I have the honor to address this gathering of Member States on behalf of the Government and people of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago and to align ourselves with the statement made by the distinguished Chair of the Group of 77 and China.

My delegation sincerely thanks our host, the Emir of the State of Qatar, His Highness Sheikh Hamad Bin Kalifa Al Thani, and his people for their courteous and warm expressions of friendship during our stay in this magnificent city of Doha. We also express our appreciation to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, and the President of the General Assembly for their role in advancing the financing for development agenda.

My delegation also wishes to express our grief and deepest condolences to the people and Government India, and also to the families of the victims for the senseless and tragic loss of lives that resulted from the terrorist attacks in Mumbai.

At this critical juncture, the world economy faces very serious difficulties. The current financial crisis which had its epicentre in the developed countries has already shaken the international financial system to its very foundations. Therefore, the Government of Trinidad and Tobago is concerned that several global economic challenges may arise as a result.

It is apparent that many industrialized countries face the prospect of an economic recession. Indeed, many indices signal a global economic slump which, in the view of experts, could be deep and prolonged. In an interdependent world, no country would be in a position to escape the effects of a global recession. All countries must

take appropriate action. The successful outcome of this Conference will be a step in that direction.

Remedial action should incorporate, amongst other measures, greater transparency and effectiveness in the regulatory framework for international financial institutions; revival and completion of the suspended multilateral trade negotiations; and a new global financial architecture to replace Bretton Woods.

In response to this crisis, several countries have also emphasized the need for restructuring the International Financial Institutions (IFIs). This issue has engaged the attention of Heads of State of the Commonwealth. In addition, the Group of 20 Summit Declaration in Washington, which was held earlier this month (November 2008), also identified the need for advancing reform of the International Financial Institutions (IFIs). Accordingly, if` this situation is properly managed, a new world order may well emerge, characterized by the principles of sovereignty, equity, sensitivity, cooperation and sustainability.

Mr. President, the overarching goal of the Monterrey Consensus since 2002 is to address the challenges of "financing for development" around the world, particularly in developing countries. Participating countries have also resolved to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGS) and the Internationally Agreed Development Goals. The Monterrey Consensus acknowledged that this approach necessitated the forging of new partnerships between developed and developing countries and the commitment, inter alia, to increasing international financial and technical cooperation for development.

Accordingly, developed countries should demonstrate greater resolve in honoring their commitment to provide 0.7 % of GNP as Official Development Assistance (ODA) to developing countries. The provision of such Official Development Assistance will undoubtedly enhance the ability of developing countries to achieve international competitiveness and sustainable growth and development.

Mr. President, against the background of a global crisis in the food, energy, and financial sectors, it is imperative to devise an appropriate plan of action for attaining the six pillars of the Monterrey Consensus. One of the potential engines for pulling the global economy out of the current crisis is trade. In this regard, the successful conclusion of the Doha Round of Negotiations is crucial. However, it will be necessary to focus on developmental issues, and to place greater emphasis on the removal of non-tariff barriers which tend to restrict the exports of developing countries. Moreover, there is need to facilitate greater participation by developing countries in the decision-making processes of the multilateral trading and financial systems.

Mr. President, Trinidad and Tobago has been actively participating in the Doha Round of Trade Negotiations. We have implemented a mix of macro-economic policies including reform of the financial and investment legislation to create a favorable climate for attaining and attracting investment and facilitating the growth of the private sector. It is the existence of this liberalized framework that has facilitated foreign investment flows which, together with gross domestic investments has facilitated the robust growth of the Trinidad and Tobago economy.

As a result of these policies, the economy has averaged 8.7% growth since 2002, unemployment averaged 5.54% in 2007 falling to 4.5% in 2008, while gross domestic product has trebled between 2002 and 2008. The stability of the domestic economy and the strength of the macroeconomic fundamentals were recently endorsed by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in the Article IV consultations which were completed in November 2008. Therefore, Trinidad and Tobago is already implementing many of the principles outlined in the Monterrey Consensus.

Mr. President, Trinidad and Tobago will be hosting two major international conferences in 2009. These are the Fifth Summit of the Americas and the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting. Both conferences have a developmental focus, with particular emphasis on trade and development, the reduction of poverty, democracy and democratic processes, and good governance. In addition, the issue of the reform of the Bretton Woods institutions is expected to be featured on the agenda.

Mr. President, in summary, all Member States should be committed as well as duty bound to follow-up and implement the recommendations emanating from this meeting that are geared to forge a consensual approach for maintaining the momentum of the global economy through innovative finance, trade and developmental mechanisms.

I thank you, Mr. President.

Tuvalu

Statement by
His Excellency
Mr. Lotéala Metia
Minister of Finance and Economic Development of Tuvalu

1 December 2008

Mr. President, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen, allow me first to join the previous speakers in expressing my sincere thanks to the government and people of Qatar for the warm hospitality my delegation and I received since our arrival in this beautiful country. I wish to also thank the Government of Qatar for its generous support for Tuvalu to participate at this very important meeting.

Second, let me express our heartfelt sympathies and condolences to the people of India and particularly those who were affected by the recent terrorist acts in Mumbai. Our thoughts and prayers are with you at these difficult times.

Mr. President, six years ago in Monterrey, Mexico, we forged a global partnership to address the challenges of financing development with the main aim of achieving internationally agreed goals, including the Millennium Development Goals (MDGS). We also agreed to take actions on six thematic areas namely, mobilizing domestic financial resources for development; mobilizing international resources for development; international trade as engine for development; increasing international financial and technical cooperation for development; external debt, and addressing systematic issues on enhancing the coherence and consistency of the international monetary, financial and trading systems in support of development.

Although there was progress made since Monterrey 2002, the pace is rather slow. In view of the 2015 target, I believe the reasons for such a slow pace are well understood by both development partners as well as recipients. Tuvalu therefore, welcomes the Accra Agenda for Action and continues its commitment to the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness, which is, but a signpost of how both the donors and recipients can effectively address the issue of aid delivery.

Mr. President, in this review meeting, we also face an acute global financial crisis. The speed at which this crisis has unfolded presents many multiple challenges for both the rich and poor countries. I join the call made by previous speakers that these global challenges require stronger global actions through partnership and solidarity.

To curtail ODA commitments at this time, will no doubt have consequences for the poorest countries which are already vulnerable and may further slow progress towards achieving the goals that we have set to achieve by 2015. I am glad that the European Union and some developed countries have reaffirmed their commitments in continuing to assist developing countries. I would urge that the other developed countries make similar commitments and continue to work towards the target of 0.7 percent of their Gross National Product (GNP) to developing countries and 0.15 to 0.20 percent of their Gross National Product to least developed countries (LDCs).

Tuvalu has made significant progress since Monterrey 2002. In 2005, we completed our National Strategy for Sustainable Development covering the period from 2005 to 2015 which also aims to fulfill our obligations in achieving the MDGs. However, to be able to realize the development aspirations articulated in this national development framework, we need the support of development partners. Tuvalu fully supports the concerns and proposals raised at this meeting by the Honorable Minister of Finance of Bangladesh on behalf of LDCs.

Through an innovative partnership with its traditional donors, Tuvalu was able to set up a Tuvalu Trust Fund. Revenue generated from this Fund has allowed Tuvalu to cover its budget deficits and gradually picking up the recurrent costs of basic infrastructure projects which are not normally paid for by donors. It is our hope that with adequate capital of the Fund and with prudent financial management, Tuvalu could gradually finance more of its development needs in the future.

Development in the context of low-lying countries like Tuvalu is meaningless unless climate change issues are addressed and integrated in all international development frameworks. Climate change is not only an imminent security problem for Tuvalu, but it is a global security problem. We cannot afford to continue in the kind of unsustainable development path we currently pursue where there is a lack of concern for our environment. We therefore, urge all members of the United Nations and particularly the main contributors of greenhouse gases to urgently work towards reversing the current trends in global warming.

Mr. President, the substantial contribution that the Republic of China on Taiwan has made to international development, in practically all regions of the world, should be recognized. The United Nations and its specialized agencies can no longer ignore the reality of the fact that the ROC has been and will continue to be a responsible player in international affairs. We strongly feel that proper representation of the ROC in these bodies is allowed to be considered seriously.

In conclusion Mr. President, we have done a lot of talk since Monterrey 2002. It is time to take action with full political commitment, periodic reviews and monitoring of the commitments of both Monterrey and Doha by all respective stakeholders.

I thank you Mr. President.

United Arab Emirates

Statement by
His Excellency
Mr. Sultan Bin Saeed Al-Mansouri
Minister of Economy of the United Arab Emirates

30 November 2008

Allow me, at the outset, to extend to His Excellency Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani, the Emir of the State of Qatar, our heartfelt thanks for his invitation to attend this Conference. We would also like to express our deep appreciation for his presidency of the meeting. It gives me great pleasure as well to thank the people and the Government of the sister state of Qatar for hosting this Conference and for their good hospitality and generosity. I should also like to thank the Secretary-General of the United Nations for his statement and his valuable reports on the topics that we are discussing in this meeting. I associate myself with those who have expressed their condolences to India for the terrorist acts, and we reiterate our condemnation of them.

This Conference is being convened at a time when there is an urgent need for us to work collectively at the highest level to reach effective and comprehensive solutions to deal with the current global financial crisis. Its serious repercussions have clearly started to have an impact on the economies of countries in general and especially on the progress of development in developing and poor countries, in particular. Unless we have the necessary political will and intensify our efforts to deal with this crisis and prevent it from turning into a global humanitarian one, it threatens to slow down the progress we have made in achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

While we welcome the outcomes of the Group of Twenty (G20) Summit convened in Washington, D.C., on 15 November 2008, and the agreements reached by the participants regarding setting the Monterrey funds in the international financial system and subjecting financial markets to the necessary regulations, we believe that each country should take some responsibility for dealing with

the repercussions of this crisis with measures that are appropriate to its internal conditions. We, in the United Arab Emirates, intend to work with the international community to deal with this crisis, while fulfilling our international commitments and implementing ongoing development plans, as well as our commitments to assist developing countries in achieving the internationally agreed development goals. In this context, we again underscore the importance of implementing the recommendations of the Monterrey Consensus, and reaffirm that it is necessary to continue collaboration between the developed and the developing countries in implementing all the commitments it called for. We should redouble our efforts, especially during these very difficult times, to overcome the political and financial obstacles that prevent the full implementation of these commitments.

Since its foundation, the United Arab Emirates has been following a foreign policy based on constructive international cooperation and effective contributions towards the achievement of development and stability in the world. Before the adoption of the Monterrey Consensus, the United Arab Emirates was one of the leading countries in providing development assistance to sisterly and friendly countries. My country contributes to the financing of development programmes in many developing countries through direct investments and direct development assistance. These are provided by national development funds and institutions as grants and easy-term loans and are estimated to exceed $70 billion, benefiting 95 developing States. In addition, we have financed a number of development programmes in those countries by setting up a trust fund with an endowment of $10 million within the Government for the advancement of education in the Middle East and in the Dubai Cares Initiative, to provide essential education for one million children in developing countries, especially in Africa and Asia. We have also made a contribution of $2 million to the Islamic Solidarity Fund. Furthermore, we are engaged with a number of developing countries in bilateral and multilateral cooperation agreements in the economic, social and industrial fields. At the rate it is going, the foreign development assistance of the United Arab Emirates will exceed 0.7 per cent of gross national income for official development assistance. In addition, the United Arab Emirates contributes to the United Nations regional agencies and other international organizations. We contribute directly, financially and in kind, to the reconstruction of many countries emerging from conflicts. All those who are still facing conflict, whether receiving international humanitarian assistance directly or through our membership in the Donors Support Group of the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, are convinced that it is necessary to take advantage of it. In one case we forgave a debt of $7 million. We have assisted Iraq in rebuilding its State and other institutions so it could regain its political and economic stability as soon as possible.

On the domestic level, the United Arab Emirates has mobilized and harnessed its natural resources in order to push development to the highest levels. Thus, we launched last year the Strategy of the United Arab Emirates Government, which forms the first binding plan of action for government-sector performance to fulfil balanced, sustainable development and ensure a high quality of life for the population. We are focused on developing human resources, strengthening the legal structure of the economic system, enhancing the national economy to levels of international competitive standards and local standards, and strengthening our partnership with the private sector, as well as establishing active international participation in the national economy. By adopting a market economy and allowing the private sector a major role in development, we will succeed in transforming our economy into an integrated one, supported by laws and regulations. The Government has also adopted policies to help raise the income of the population and secure stable and lasting sources of income for men.

We were keen to activate the economic diversity strategy, expanding the base of production, and harnessing various resources to establish the necessary infrastructure to advance development in other economic sectors. So far, the non-oil sectors contribute 64 per cent of the gross national income. The manifestations of development in the economy of the United Arab Emirates are explicit in a 7.8 per

cent increase in the number of people in the work market and in the legal sphere, and in the rise in the number of major companies and corporations investing abroad. The United Arab Emirates is in a leading position in the list of Arab countries and economic competitors and countries with the most economic freedom and is the most active in foreign direct investments. The measures taken by the Emirates to combat corruption, money smuggling and money laundering have gained the admiration of many countries. Along with our commitment to build a society with a diverse economy, we were keen on preserving the environment through highlighting mention of it in our national development plans and applying national strategies to mitigate the negative and adverse effects of climate change. The most prominent measure is the MASDAR Initiative for renewable and alternative energy, among others.

The United Arab Emirates will continue to cooperate with the international community to facilitate financing for development programmes in developing countries in accordance with the Millennium Development Goals, as well as fulfill its commitment to development programmes in our own country.

During this Conference, we hope to reach a clearer vision of how to implement the Monterrey recommendations in the shadow of the financial crisis facing the world today in a way that favours the aspirations of the international community to improve human conditions in all countries of the world, and in a manner that contributes fully to the main stakeholders so that they can implement the pledges they committed themselves to during the Conference.

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Statement by
His Excellency
Mr. Douglas Alexander
Minister of International Development of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

1 December 2008

The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland agrees with the statement made by President Sarkozy, on behalf of the European Union, earlier at this Conference. I would like to thank both the United Nations and His Highness, the Emir, Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani for hosting this important and timely summit. I also want to join others, as we have just heard, in expressing the United Kingdom's deep condolences for the shocking terrorist incidents in Mumbai.

This is a unique forum, bringing together the countries of the world to discuss financing for development. The United Nations is the world's voice. This Conference, which takes place at a time of global economic uncertainty and threats from the food and energy crises and climate change, provides therefore a valuable forum to discuss what must be done to support developing countries.

It was six years ago, when the world came together in Monterrey, that we reached a consensus to work together to finance the Millennium Development Goals and the internationally agreed development agenda. And this year, the Call to Action on the Millennium Development Goals, launched by the United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and my Prime Minister Gordon Brown, brought together an alliance of world leaders, non-governmental organizations, faith groups and the private sector. Those assembled in New York in September highlighted the need for urgent action to meet the Goals. As the British Prime Minister Gordon Brown said, we need the greatest endeavours in pursuit of the boldest and noblest of causes.

The recent crisis of the global financial system makes such endeavours ever more necessary. No country is unaffected, yet it is important to recognize that the poorest countries are often hit hardest by global shocks. To achieve future stability and prosperity for all, we cannot put development to one side. It is, therefore, more important and urgent than ever that the international community meets its commitments on official development assistance. The United Kingdom has doubled its aid to Africa and we have met the United Nations target to provide 0.15 per cent of gross national income (GNI) to the least developed countries. We will increase our ODA to 0.56 per cent of GNI by 2010, and we are on track to increase it to 0.7 per cent of GNI by 2013, two years ahead of the European Union target. We will also implement our commitments on aid effectiveness made at Paris and, just recently, at Accra.

But the Monterrey Consensus is not only about ODA. I would like to highlight some other key issues. The first is the leadership of developing countries. We pay tribute to what many of our partner countries have achieved since Monterrey, providing the basis for accelerated growth and improving health and education outcomes. Continuing these commitments is critical to further success.

The second issue is the importance of achieving an outcome on the global trade round which genuinely benefits the world's poorest countries. At the Group of Twenty (G20) Summit held in Washington, D.C., on 15 November, leaders instructed trade ministers to agree by the end of the year on the parameters needed for a successful conclusion to the trade round started here in Doha back in 2001. It must be accompanied by the agreed $4 billion Aid for Trade Programme to invest in the infrastructure of developing countries.

The third issue is reform of our international financial institutions. Last month, the G20 commissioned work on the most urgent areas, such as finance regulation, but we also need to address longer-term issues.

The fourth issue is climate change. We know that ODA will not be able to deliver all the additional finance required to tackle climate change effectively. Such finance will have to come from a variety of sources: public, private, national and international.

Fifthly, we must explore innovative financing mechanisms to bring in new resources and new ways of working. In September, together with the President of the World Bank, our Prime Minister launched the High-Level Taskforce on Innovative International Financing for Health, and I was delighted to chair its inaugural meeting earlier today. The Taskforce aims to mobilize innovative financing to help towards funding over a million health workers, thus saving ten million lives by 2015.

The message we send from this Conference this weekend should be one of global partnership and solidarity. We must restate the importance of development assistance, giving greater voice to developing countries, and enrich the consultation around the processes next year. We are here because we believe in the Monterrey Consensus. We should be open and direct in our conversations. There will be areas where our views differ, but we must also maintain our commitment to common values and to a common cause, fighting poverty and meeting the Millennium Development Goals. I am grateful, therefore, for the opportunity to participate in this Conference and to hear the important statements made by others here in Doha.

Venezuela

Statement by
His Excellency
Ambassador Jorge Hidalgo Valero Briceño
Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs for North America and Multilateral Issues and Permanent Representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela

1 December 2008

Mr. President, Your Excellencies, we express our gratitude for the hospitality of our hosts, His Highness Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani, Emir of the State of Qatar and the Qatari people in this summit.

We express our solidarity with the government and the people of India regarding the appalling terrorist acts that have taken place.

We are in Doha to reaffirm international solidarity, to seek constructive ways of safeguarding Official Aid Assistance and of proposing transformations of the system for financing development.

Unyielding liberalization and deregulation, which have particularly worked in favor of large international financial corporations that some imperial spokepersons insist on maintaining, have caused an unprecedented crisis in the capitalist system, eroding equality and social justice, increasing the differences between developed and developing countries and reproducing the poverty that today affects millions of people in the world.

This Summit is a relevant space for governments of the Member States of the United Nations to reflect, in-depth, not only on financing development with regards to the Monterrey commitments, but also on the causes and consequences of the financial crisis and the reform of the world financial system.

We cannot waste this opportunity to set out the need to re-launch, upon new foundations, the international system for financing development, to which effect the international financial, economic and trade systems which have dominated the world since the end of the Second World War must be transformed structurally. The collapse of the financial institutions founded in 1944 which reflect the political and economic moment that came at the end of the Second World War has become apparent.

Today, however, the people of the world cry out for the creation of new international financial institutions which allow for equality, inclusion, solidarity and a vision geared towards development which reflects the interests of all States.

We are faced with an unprecedented financial and economic crisis. A decrease in world economic growth, particularly in developing countries has been forcasted.

The financial crisis is causing unwanted consequences, among which are unemployment, capital flight and an increase in the costs of financing for developing countries. And all of this throws millions of people into poverty and misery. Obtaining the Millennium Development Goals and the well-being of the poorest and most vulnerable people in the world will be compromised, even though it was forcasted that even before this financial crisis many developing countries would not reach these goals.

Up until now, the measures taken that were supposedly to alleviate the effects of the financial crisis have concerned central banks of the principal developed countries providing liquidity to bail out large corporations and bankrupt financial groups, but there have been no actions stipulated to attend to the deficiencies of the millions of people suffering under the miseries of capitalism. The current crisis reveals that the Bretton Woods institutions have expired. They reveal the capitalist system's structural contradictions and provide new and irrefutable arguments that favour the construction of a new institutionality which expresses the new reality of the world, geared towards multilateralism based on the principles of social justice, solidarity and equality among all people.

Mr. President, unilateralism and unipolarity are in decline. This is demonstrated by the military adventure in Iraq and its rejection across the world, along with, among other factors, the International Monetary Fund's loss of legitimary. There is an attempt to hide what cannot be hidden, the failure of a savage globalization at the service of large foreign capital and voracious multinationals.

Joseph Stiglitz, the Nobel Prize for Economics, has pointed out that "..the old Bretton Woods institutions were dominated by a group of economic doctrines that have already been proven to have failed not only in developing countries but also at the heart of capitalism." (Project Syndicate, November 2008).

Neoliberalism has caused and accentuated the profound social inequalities in developing countries and has denied people human rights, privileging the few and excluding the great majority from the benefits of development.

The recent global financial crisis casts the shadow of doubt on the supposed benefits of globalization. In this sense, we emphasize its worrying impact on culture, on the decolonization of economies and the loss of peoples' identity.

A globalization of solidarity is the only viable option in a world characterized by selfishness, individualism, and contempt for the humanist values of equality and social justice.

The financial crisis that originated in the United States and the changes that are taking place in the international context open a way for the creation of a new global political agenda with new elements that would produce profound political, economic and social transformations that would contribute to a redistribution of income, a reduction of poverty and to the realization of humanist societies.

Faced with the downturn in imperial politics, a new international and regional institutionality must emerge that contributes to counteracting the impacts of the financial instability. But even more important is that it furthers developing countries' attainment of increased political independence and negotiating capabilities in the international spectrum.

Mr. President, Venezuela promotes the financial initiatives of South-South Cooperation, which respond to the will of sovereign governments who promote alliances based on the criteria of cooperation, solidarity and complementarity.

Mobilizing international resources for development calls for the participation of new institutions that allow for developing countries to be attended to more quickly. A great initiative is already a reality, the Bolivarian Alternative for Latin America ALBA (ALBA) which is made up of Venezuela, Bolivia, Cuba, Dominica, Nicaragua and Honduras.

In the Union of South American Nations (UNASUR), the creation of regional financial institutions, like the Bank of the South (Banco del Sur), which will effectively respond to the sovereign social and economic development goals of those r countries, is being explored.

The southern countries' international reservesnourish the predatory and inhuman multilateral banks that keep those countries in situations of underdevelopment. External debt, which some term eternal debt, is one of its main consequences. It is a matter of building alternative, regional financial architecture to achieve a true social and economic development, through productive investments that have a social impact and contribute to an equal redistribution of income and the eradication of poverty.

In summary, it is a matter of meeting the expectations of long-awaited social justice for our peoples who are frutstrated by a predatory and savage capitalist model. Within this new regional architecture, there are spaces for multiple initiatives such as regional financial and monetary cooperation and integration, the use of local currencies in trade exchanges between countries in the region, the creation of stabilization funds for the balance of payments, the creation of regional mechanisms for granting small and medium-sized enterprises, guarantees and endorsements, the creation of one or various regional credit rating agencies, the instrumentation of joint emissions of public bonds, the creation of central Banks and a single regional currency. These are the ideas currently under discussion and promotion in the Union of South American Nations.

Mr. President, Your Excellencies, we find ourselves at the prelude to a new international financial order. The peoples of the world call for change. The time has come to break with the hegemonic ties of capitalism and neoliberalism.

We decree the failure of the unjust international economic and financial system based on the predominance of the Bretton Woods institutions. We declare the incompetence of the Bretton Woods institutions multilateral financial institutions so as to create a fair and equal global financial system. We highlight the devastating the financial crisis and its negative impact on developing countries. We support South-South cooperation as a practice based on solidarity which fosters and increases aid to developing countries.

The time has come to recover the State's role as the main guarantor of a fair and equitable distribution of wealth, based on its ownership, use,

sovereign disposition and administration of its wealth and natural resources. It is necessary to strengthen the role of the State as the sovereign governing entity of public policies that allow it to face the crisis and the risks caused by globalization.

The current financial crisis must not be regarded as an opportunity for speculators to increase their fortunes nor to shift the costs onto developing countries, but as a chance to take actions and concrete measures geared toward founding a New International Financial System.

Mr. President, the President of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Hugo Chávez Frías, proposed that a United Nations Summit be convened to examine the financial crisis and its consequences. The Venezuelan Mission before the United Nations created a resolution project which was initially co-sponsored by 31 countries and subsequently accepted by the G77 and China. We hope that this initiative, which benefits from the support of more than 130 countries is accepted by all the States which make up this multilateral forum.

Mr. President, Your Excellencies, it is in the hands of the Member States of the United Nations. Thank you very much.

Viet Nam

Statement by
His Excellency
Mr. Nguyen Chi Dung
Deputy Minister of Planning of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam

1 December 2008

Excellency, Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen, at the outset, on behalf of the Vietnamese Delegation, I would like to express my sincere thanks and deep gratitude to the State of Qatar for their excellent arrangement in the beautiful city of Doha for the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development. It is my great honour to attend this important Conference to share with you opinions and ways to address individually and collectively challenges facing the world development.

Mr. Chairman, Viet Nam has been continuing to make MDGs more adaptable to its current state, integrate MDGs with national objectives, yearly and five-year Program of the Socio-economic Development. Despite of various difficulties such as global economic turndown, natural disasters, floods, epidemics etc., thank to our efforts, Viet Nam's economic growth rate still sustained averagely of 7.8% per year and the number of poverty households decreased a half compared with the year 2004. Due to a more open investment climate, the total investment of the society achieved up to over 40% GDP. More ODA and FDI have been mobilized to finance the national development programs.

In the year 2007, Viet Nam became the full member of WTO and average import-export turnover was 28%. The relationship between Viet Nam and Donors Community has been strengthened on the basis of mutual respects and benefits. Viet Nam has continued to give high priority to development programs and make every effort to facilitate financing for development. Viet Nam's foreign debts remained within safety level.

Mr. Chairman, on this occasion, Viet Nam would like to reaffirm to its determinations to implement the National Strategy to achieve international development goals, including MDGs. In this regard, I would like to urge developed countries to realize their commitments to assist developing countries. In this context, it is necessary to enhance the central role of` UN in finding solutions to restructure the international finance systems in order to mobilize efforts of the international community prevents the reoccurrence of the financial crisis.

It is necessary to create a universal ruled-based, open, non-discriminatory, equitable multilateral trading system in order to promote the role of trade as an engine for development. Developed industrial countries should open their market by lowdown their technical and trade barriers in order to import agricultural foods and other consumption products from least developing and developing countries. International finance institutions, donors, developed industrial countries and the United Nations itself should increase funding and

technological assistance for least developed and developing countries to improve socio-economic situation, especially investment assistance, debt burdens, trade development, international labour cooperation.

It is our sincere hope that, this Conference will achieve a higher-level of financing for development.

Thank you.

Zambia

Statement by
His Excellency
Mr. Caleb M. Fundanga
Governor of the Central Bank of the Republic of the Republic of Zambia

1 December 2008

Your Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, I would like to begin by expressing my delegation's appreciation to His Highness Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al-Thani, the Emir of the State of Qatar, for the hospitality rendered to us and for hosting this important Conference. Special thanks also go to the United Nations Secretary-General for the good leadership role he continues to provide in these trying times. The Republican President, H.E. Rupiah Banda, would have been happy to personally attend this Conference. However, circumstances would not allow and hence, I am here to represent him.

I also wish to align ourselves with the statements delivered by Antigua and Barbuda, and Bangladesh on behalf of G77 and the Least Developed Countries, respectively.

Mr. President, allow me from the outset to extend on behalf of the Zambian people, our sincere condolences to the Government of India and the families of the victims of the Mumbai terrorist attacks. Indeed, these heinous acts like the September 11, 2001 attacks seem to coincide with the important gatherings such as this Conference. We condemn such acts in the strongest possible terms and stress that terrorist activities will never solve the problems that we face, but only contribute to reversing the development that has been achieved over the years. It is only through information sharing and problem solving fora like this Doha Conference that we can gather hope and solutions for the future of our globe.

Distinguished Delegates, Zambia like many other developing countries recorded unprecedented levels of economic growth in the past seven years. This consistent high economic growth was underpinned by deliberate initiatives and programmes in all sectors of the economy, as the Government adopted policy and structural reforms that strengthened the diversification process.

However, the current global financial crisis poses a threat of reversal, to the hard work of the past seven years. Indeed, the challenges emanating from this crisis have significant effects on small, open and landlocked economies such as Zambia.

In this time of crisis, we continue to observe developed countries adopting policies that at one time were said to hinder growth in developing countries. I, however, urge developing countries to continue implementing reform programmes that saw our economies attain high economic growth and reduced levels of poverty.

Mr. President, Zambia would have been on course to achieve most of the Millennium Development Goals by the target of 2015 had it not been for these unforeseen circumstances.

Therefore, Zambia places a lot of importance to this review conference on the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus as it takes place at a time of global economic uncertainty. This has made us realize that globalization facilitates growth and development, as well as increased financial and economic instability. What is needed now is an urgent global response where all the countries, developed and developing, participate in finding lasting solutions.

The United Nations has to play its rightful role in multilateralism and there is need for a new financial architecture that is transparent and all inclusive. Donor Countries should honour the

commitments that they have made with regard to the Official Development Assistance and other internationally agreed development goals including the MDGs.

The Monterrey Consensus no doubt established the foundation for sustained aid and foreign direct investment flows to Least Developed Countries and emphasized the crucial role that ODA plays in economic development. However, as demonstrated by the development path of Korea, mobilizing domestic resources for investments is key to sustained economic growth.

We therefore, need to turn our attention to increased levels of taxes from the abundant natural resources as well as mobilization of domestic savings. Much more focus must be placed on enhancing and broadening domestic revenues using efficient but equitable collection of taxes and where we use donor resources, utilization must be very efficient. Furthermore, we need to strategically harness resources from large local institutional investors like pension funds and insurance companies and put them to better use.

The need to increase financial literacy and encourage savings amongst our people cannot be over-emphasized. This will obviously call for the formation of workable strategies to increase inclusiveness in our financial systems.

Mr. President, some of the challenges we are facing today can easily be turned into opportunities by most African countries. Today poverty levels deepen due to the unprecedented high food prices. However, the vast untapped arable lands and rich water resources available in most parts of our continent coupled with good climatic conditions provide a window of opportunity for development not only for Africa but for the whole world. Although, infrastructure development remains an impediment, sustainable partnerships with other emerging countries who now incur losses as a result of investing in developed countries, could provide the required investment resources.

I, therefore call on emerging economies including those in the Middle East to consider partnering with African countries with potential to produce the world's food needs. I also call for developed countries to increase technical support to the agriculture sectors of African countries in order to build capacity in food production. Providing assistance to support development of human resources in Africa would also entail improving the comparative advantage of the continent and thus increasing competitive advantage of exports.

In conclusion, Mr. President, let me state that the need for a successful conclusion of the Doha Development Trade Round is very important. This Conference on Financing for Development with all the Heads of States present could call for the early conclusion of the discussions once and for all. It is sad that the Heads of States of developed countries and emerging countries in the G20 chose not to attend an important conference such as this one. However, we remain hopeful that the resolutions that will come out of this Conference will receive serious considerations from developed countries.

I thank you for your attention.

Chapter 5

Statements by Major Stakeholders

United Nations Economic and Social Council

Statement by
His Excellency
Mr. Léo Mérorès
President of the Economic and Social Council

29 November 2008

On behalf of the Economic and Social Council and its bureau, I would like to offer my sympathies to the people and Government of India for the terrible attack they have just suffered.

It is a great honour for me to speak to this Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development, which is to examine the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus. I would like to express my deep appreciation to the Government and people of Qatar for their hospitality and warm welcome, and for the opportunity they have given to me to address this distinguished group.

In this difficult time, our will to ensure prosperity for all and to create an environment conducive nationally and internationally is running up against important significant challenges. The current crisis, once again, tells us to what extent our countries are interdependent and our destinies interlinked. It reminds us that collective action is not a choice; it is an imperative. The 1997 crisis also produced the Monterrey Conference. In 2002, the Heads of State and Government met in Monterrey to reaffirm their will to take up the challenge of financing for development throughout the world and, in particular, in developing countries.

Your presence here today shows your determination to eliminate poverty, to achieve viable economic growth and to promote sustainable development by establishing a global economic system that is fair, where everyone will have their place. The Economic and Social Council is at the heart of the efforts being made to achieve these objectives. It would like to emphasize the importance of this Follow-up Conference. Under our mandates, in the spring, we held a special high-level meeting with the Bretton Woods institutions, the World Trade Organization and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, in order to harmonize priorities and initiatives and to ensure that the activities of all would be mutually reinforcing. In this difficult time, it is more important then ever to work together to achieve our common objective.

In the United Nations system, the Council plays a leadership role in this effort of cooperation and harmonization and has taken on the supervision of implementing the United Nations development programmes. It is now playing a catalyst role in promoting coherence and coordination within the United Nations system. The diversity of voices that are heard is one of the advantages of the Council. Developing countries, in fact, have the possibility to speak like other stakeholders. Thousands of non-governmental organizations accredited by the

Council enrich this debate. It also strengthens its ties with the private sector, and so the annual session provides the stakeholders with an opportunity to meet and to agree on what measures need to be taken to meet the internationally established Millennium Development Goals.

Grateful for the role played by the Economic and Social Council in social and economic areas, the participants in the 2005 World Summit once again gave us some new functions. Efforts to strengthen this United Nations body are now bearing fruit. The Council is discharging its mandates much more effectively and has now become more rapid and relevant. Ministers and heads of delegation participating in the 2008 high-level meeting, adopted a ministerial statement in which they recognized that the international community had many problems in trying to implement the Millennium Development Goals that had been agreed internationally, including specific goals. They also recognized that global financial instability, price hikes for food, commodities and fuel, as well as the effects of environmental degradation and climate change, called for concerted and rapid action. In this context, they were concerned with the possible damages from these risks and attempts to achieve sustainable development in developing countries. Ministers also expressed their concern over the global food crisis, and emphasized that that would seriously complicate the fight to combat poverty and malnutrition and the efforts in developing countries seeking to ensure food security. They called on all donors in the United Nations system to increase their developmental assistance to developing countries, which they said they would do, particularly to medium-income countries and to those who have especially suffered from hikes in agricultural prices. They welcomed the fact that the Secretary-General has established the High-Level Task Force on the Global Food Security Crisis.

With respect to international cooperation for development, ministers recognized the efforts of developed countries to increase developmental resources and the commitments that they made in this regard, as well as the recent decline in official development assistance (ODA). They welcomed recent efforts and initiatives to increase ODA and the quality of assistance, and to find a sustainable solution to the problem of developing countries debt.

The new duties of the Council, that is to say, an annual ministerial review and the Development Cooperation Forum, are new ways to contribute to the financing for development process and to follow up on implementation of United Nations development programmes by adopting an integrated and coordinated approach. First of all, the ministerial review was a mechanism to promote empowerment in terms of developmental commitments made during a number of meetings that were held in the 1990s, to follow up on those, and to provide us with an opportunity to take a look at the efforts made to implement the Millennium Development Goals by continuing to encourage the ongoing progress, focusing on the most serious gaps and how to overcome those insufficiencies. The review also brings to light major questions regarding development, such as sustainable development in 2008 and public health in 2009. It also focuses the Council's attention on national policies through optional national statements, strengthening the ties with actions conducted at the national level.

Secondly, the Development Cooperation Forum, which was held for the first time this year in New York, helps restore high-level political dialogue on development. The establishment of the Forum came at a time when the face of international development cooperation was changing radically. The structure of assistance and of development is becoming more complex, with the appearance of new stakeholders, funds and approaches. So there are new challenges: how to reform the structure of assistance, for example. We need to ensure that globalization must not bring about a financial shock against the poor, which would have a negative effect on certain economies.

In July, countries were brought together, both developed and developing, as well as all the stakeholders of development cooperation. The exchanges that were begun, and which will continue, will inspire the debate and activities as a follow-up to the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness and the Accra Agenda for Action programme, and

will help follow up on and improve the effectiveness of assistance. The Forum offers an important potential for this.

Finally, in the outcome document, the 2005 World Summit specifically asked the Council to intervene in emergency situations, an action that would give it more flexibility than it had and was necessary for it to take up new economic and social challenges as well as assist in humanitarian disasters. The Council is now no longer an impotent observer during international crises.

The financial crisis is an emergency situation around the world which can reverse years of growth, increase poverty and impede implementation of the Millennium Development Goals. The international system is therefore being sorely tested in its attempt to promote prosperity, which could be compromised. We have an exceptional opportunity now to adopt corrective measures, which would allow us to improve the way we act and how we communicate and look for global solutions. The Council can make a contribution to this and will do its utmost to do so actively.

The new functions of the Council offer a real possibility of ensuring that specific commitments are being implemented for development. We need, therefore, to be creative, and to do everything we can to accelerate our work on the high-level meeting in the spring. Looking for new innovative modalities on holding the spring meeting and more interaction with institutional stakeholders will therefore allow us to get down to more effective preparation and follow-up on the deliberations. I firmly believe that implementing agreements from Monterrey in 2002 would do much to help the action being taken for development for all.

The financial crisis and the current economic recession have highlighted the need for a more coherent system. This is particularly true with respect to structures and global financial institutions. While welcoming the initiatives that have already been taken, I believe that the Council will need to play its just role in this area.

In conclusion, I would say that the Secretary-General declared last July that assistance still has too many conditionalities which undermine national authority and do very little to improve economic performance. Conditionalities attached to mechanisms for accounting and spending make assistance less predictable and can bring about considerable delays in cashing money. In these times of economic and financial crises where markets are melting and credit markets are frozen, we must redouble our efforts to maintain our progress, bearing in mind that investing in development is investing in the future, a future for which we are all collectively responsible.

African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States

Statement by
Mr. Fred Fono
Deputy Prime Minister of the Solomon Islands and on behalf of the ACP Group

1 December 2008

Mr. President, Excellencies, Colleagues, Participants, it is a pleasant duty which has been conferred on me to speak on behalf of the 79 African, Caribbean, and Pacific Group of States that constitute the ACP Group, and on behalf of whom I would first like to express my sincere gratitude to the host country for the means mobilized to facilitate our work. Our appreciation goes also to all those who were involved in the organization of this Conference.

ACP States are also members of various other groupings which have already expressed themselves here or which are still due to do so, but the unique entity they constitute is based on certain specificities known by all of you, which makes it necessary for us to address this assembly as a group.

Mr. President, allow me first to convey to you our regret that the draft outcome document of this meeting, as it is now, as also underlined by the Group of 77, does not make clear the implementation deficit of the commitments made in Monterrey in order to be in a position to call on the whole community to improve the manner in which they have acted so far.

Our countries cannot ignore this lack of clear reporting from all the actors, on the results achieved since Monterrey both in terms of the amount and the quality of the aid delivered.

We would like to insist on the fact that we should leave Doha with the necessary tools for a methodical monitoring of the actions undertaken as part of our mutual commitments, both by aid providers and beneficiaries.

Regarding our commitments, we insist that the outcome text from our discussions here cannot be limited to vague promises by the donors while imposing on developing countries' commitments for concrete actions, like fiscal reforms, which, by the way, they are already really undertaking.

The occasion offered to us here does not allow us to go into the details of each of the thematic chapters considered by the meeting, but we would like to highlight some elements which, from the assessment of a diversified and formalized group such as ours, are critical if we want our commitments to be seriously taken.

Mr. President, regarding the mobilization of domestic financial resources, we accept the request made of us to reform our economies in order to render them more enabling in the generation of resources for financing of development, which we actually are already implementing, specifically in the tax policy areas. It is evident that to encourage and support that effort, donors have to announce their clear intention, precise amounts, and the delivery time frame, which we expect will be as short as possible, to finance for example equipment and modernization of customs and tax services.

Mr. President, as far as the mobilization of international financial resources is concerned, the introduction of innovative funding mechanism should not replace commitments already given which are still to be honored. The ACP Group is particularly pleased to note the recognition by all actors of the fundamental role played by migrant workers' remittances to their home country, and takes it as evident that such recognition can only lead to the alignment of immigration policies to development objectives.

Mr. President, the ACP Group shares the view that international trade can be a strong engine for development, but affirms that it should only be guided by transparent rules agreed on by all. In this area, the ACP Group must underline the necessity of having coherence between trade policies and development goals and invite members to avoid taking any market access measure which goes beyond the level requested for consumer protection and which is not supported by scientific evidence. Such measures, as the proposed regulations on novel foods, deprive the most vulnerable developing countries from trade diversification and development opportunities which are the only justification of their participation in international trade talks.

The ACP Group supports the call for a successful conclusion of the negotiations of the Doha Development Agenda, and calls for the specific interests of its members to be taken into account.

The Group also requests that significant support be immediately identified, with simplified access modalities, in order to guarantee developing countries the necessary means to implement the trade agreements they are negotiating, both within the multilateral framework and in the context of free trade arrangements, such as the Economic Partnership Agreement.

Mr. President, we remain seriously concerned by the decrease in the ODA in the recent years which constitute a clear threat to the achievement of the 0.7% of Gross National Income targets.

Referring to the specificities of the ACP Group, one of them is the unique relationship developed since 1975 with the European Communities, the first Official Development Aid provider. This privileged position allows us to be in a position to comment, criticize, encourage, and make recommendations. It is therefore important to note in the area of international financial and technical cooperation for development EU's commitment to a timeline leading to the achievement of the ODA target of 0.7% of the Gross National Income by 2015. We

call on our partners to honor their commitment and to accelerate the pace of delivery if possible, and we invite other donors to give equally precise commitments.

The Group underlines the support received from the European Commission on developing countries' demand to rethink the entire architecture of aid, which has become impenetrable, and echoing the Accra Action plan, demands that all conditionality be removed from aid delivery.

Finally, on this subject, the ACP Group stresses the importance of managing for results in aid administration, and expresses disappointment with the fact that development partners still find difficulty in using national financial management and procurement systems.

Mr. President, I now come to debt management which we want to be more effective, and we note with regret that debt service is still too high in many developing countries. The Group welcomes the EU's proposal for setting up an improved dialogue between lenders and borrowers in order to design an enhanced debt restructuring mechanism. The Group strongly insists on the need for a differentiated approach for debt management, and the generalization of adapted measures to accompany countries on the basis of their development level and the step reached in debt alleviation in order to consolidate the results specifically achieved by middle-income economies which still remain very vulnerable to the various shocks.

Mr. President, Excellencies, let us now talk about the reinforcement and adjustment of the monetary, financial, and international trade systems. We call on the whole community of states to ensure coordination with efforts which are being made by the specialized institutions of the United Nations.

We want policy coherence in all areas in order to avoid nullifying the gains from the implementation of development policies.

Regarding the reform of the Bretton Woods Institutions, the ACP Group would like it to go beyond the redefinition of the number of seats or the alignment of member's quota with their relative position in the world economy, and to introduce a decision making mechanism which takes into account the beneficiaries' needs. The ACP Group notes with satisfaction that the African Ministers of Finance and Planning and the Governors of the Central Banks mandated a committee to make proposals in that field.

Mr. President, I would like to end my statement by tackling the numerous new challenges which have appeared and which will require actions from developing countries and also require increased resources that only our development partners can help us to secure.

On the financial crisis, the ACP Group reiterates that the poorest countries and the countries in situation of fragility should not be victims, and this crisis should not undermine the implementation of commitments in favor of financing for development.

Regarding climate change, the ACP countries will have difficulty facing the potentially devastating costs of measures of adapting to the results of climate change. In this regard, the Kyoto Convention and the subsequent process should recognize the fairness issue and provide for a part of these costs to be financed by countries responsible for most carbon dioxide emissions.

Mr. President, the ACP Group insists on the maintenance of a coherent approach to enable the development of a sustainable biofuels policy which takes into account food security concerns and avoids questioning, on the basis of subjective judgment, the considerable investments already made by some countries.

With regards to the food price crisis, one should recall, as did the ACP and the EU parliamentarians recently, that developing countries, many of them net food importers, are the biggest victims of volatile food prices and that there is need to push the issue of food production back up the international agenda.

Apart from the urgent action needed, we call for long-term commitments and we underscore the need for joint action to ensure that sufficient aid and public spending are channeled towards achieving food security, as stated in the Maputo

Declaration by the African Union Heads of State and Government in June 2004, and to increase investment in agriculture to achieve 2% growth per year in agriculture, rebuild staple food stocks, which are at all-time low, and strengthen global monitoring and information systems.

Mr. President, Excellencies, and Colleague Participants, we are clearly in an emergency situation and we cannot postpone the urgent and significant actions needed to address it. We then end as we started by calling for a harmonious, expeditious, and comprehensive response, with clear, detailed, and balanced commitments supported by an inclusive monitoring mechanism aimed at addressing these problems. I thank you, Mr. President.

United Nations

Statement by
His Excellency
Mr. Philippe Douste-Blazy
Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Innovative Financing for Development

29 November 2008

Yesterday, the financial crisis; today, the economic crisis; tomorrow, the jobs crisis: it is imperative not just to find the means of ensuring development but lasting and perennial means. For several months, we have seen many gestures of national solidarity, but what about international solidarity? I will not hide from you that the recent Group of Twenty (G20) communiqué from Washington, D.C., is far from President Wilson's statements in 1918, or Morgan Truman's 1944 Bretton Woods speech. It is like a door opening that closes instantly. In 1919, the United States Congress rejected the Charter of the League of Nations. In 1948, the Congress also rejected the Havana Charter. The third pillar of Bretton Woods—the World Trade Organization—only came into existence half a century later. It is urgent to act. It is urgent to act because the poorest countries are those that are most vulnerable in the face of a crisis. It is urgent to act because the crisis is spreading, affecting new countries. It started in the North and it is spreading to the South. It becomes a common burden. The resources of the poorest countries are affected as trade flows, investments and remittances from the diasporas drop. At the same time, these countries are likely to be threatened by budgetary reallocations and cuts in donor countries' budgets.

We cannot be protectionist but have to support the financial flows for development, so there is just one question: how can we make certain of finding the necessary resources to display international solidarity when budgets must deal with national solidarity and are cut because of a crisis? This, then, is what is required: innovative financing. We need to rethink the aid system which was inherited from a time when welfare was virtually the monopoly of States. However, in a period of crisis and uncertainty, temptations are strong to lean on what is familiar and what is known, but there is a risk of making the same mistakes again.

So let us here, in Doha, be brave. Let us be innovative. Let us turn no longer to States thinking that they alone can solve these problems. Let us no longer think that markets alone can solve all problems. The economy is a chain of solidarity and if we are to be innovative we have to rebuild it. We have to ensure that individually and collectively we pull together in global solidarity. I call on Heads of State and Government. I call on the representatives of international institutions and aid agencies, on civil society, multinationals and citizens: together, let us seek solutions to the problems of financing for development, which can ensure the success of a new economic world order that can display greater solidarity.

Innovative financing for development must be the spearhead of this solidarity. This is already the case. We have the international tax on airline tickets, which finances the international purchases of medicines to reduce prices and improve accessibility to medicines for AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria in the poorest countries. There is also the International Finance Facility for Immunisation, which, over the next few years, should see $4 billion raised on financial markets in order to plan vaccinations for every child in the world. States participating in the initiative will reimburse the money over 20 years.

We have to write the page of history, but it is not a blank page. Imagination means finding stable innovative forms of financing based on the economies of the richest countries so that there can be redistribution of the fruits of globalization. It is not the North versus the South, the rich versus the poor. Let me give you an example, one which works and is particularly dear to me. During the sixty-third session of the General Assembly of the United Nations last September, President Lula of Brazil, referred to UNITAID, the first laboratory for innovative financing in the world. This came about through the joint will of Northern and Southern Hemisphere countries, with more than $500 million dollars committed, with a tax of just €1 per airline ticket, with the support of Brazil and President Chirac of France. The Presidents of Chile and Norway and other countries joined in and $500 million were swiftly found from 80 countries. With the involvement of partnerships, such as the Clinton Foundation, this resulted in a cut of 50 per cent in the cost of medicines, helping to combat AIDS. Today, three out of four children in the world are being treated for AIDS because of this innovative UNITAID financing.

Other ways forward have yet to begin. Soon, we shall be launching a contribution for solidarity, which will be voluntary, involving citizens from the whole world. Projects are being started to deal with the vast remittances sent by migrants to their countries of origin and—may I say this quite frankly—in rich societies alone at prohibitive rates. Combating climate change can also free up resources to help the poorest countries which, so unjustly, are the most vulnerable when it comes to climate change. I welcome the fact that the Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development in Germany said recently that she would allocate some of the monies from carbon auctions to development. That was a first and historic act, I think.

There are many other projects proposed by the pilot group of 55 countries asking for contributions, programmes guaranteeing the future purchase of vaccinations, digital solidarity and combating tax fraud—dear to our Norwegian friends, where tax on financial transactions is one of the projects, which I am sure could be accepted when the G20 meets in the future.

I will conclude by saying that the greatest displays of solidarity are always engendered by the greatest crises affecting mankind. We are at a turning point in this crisis. The nations gathered here today could choose together to allow the inequalities between the rich and the poor to increase—they could make that choice—or they could decide to reduce them. They could go for a replay of the major depression of the 1920s, or for the choice of being either nationalistic or of pulling together in a spirit of solidarity.

I make my choice, as do you.

The World Bank

Statement by
Mr. Justin Yifu Lin
Chief Economist and Senior Vice-President of the World Bank

30 November 2008

Mr. Chairman, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen, it gives me great pleasure to have the opportunity to speak at this important meeting. President Zoellick regrets that he could not be present here in person. He has asked me to convey his greetings to you and his best wishes for a successful outcome from these discussions. President Zoellick attaches great importance to listening to developing country voices and learning from developing country experiences. The world is in the midst of a historic economic crisis whereby, in the next year, developing countries could account for all of GDP growth worldwide. Therefore, having stronger voice and representation from developing countries is increasingly important. It is also significant that I am representing the World Bank. Six months ago President Zoellick tapped me to be the World Bank's Chief Economist, making me the first person from a developing country to hold this post. Now in asking me to lead the Bank delegation to this key meeting, he wanted to have

someone from the developing world represent the institution. This is more than symbolic.

Mr. Chairman, we have distributed a fuller written statement on behalf of the World Bank Group. In my remarks here, I will focus on a few key messages.

It is almost seven years since the international community met in Monterrey, Mexico, and agreed on a mutual accountability framework for development cooperation, whereby developing and developed countries resolved to work together to promote economic growth and foster the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). At international meetings earlier this year, which marks the halfway point to the 2015 target year for the achievement of the MDGs, we noted the substantial progress that has been made under this framework of cooperation as well as the need to intensify our efforts to address the tough challenges that remain. Today, as the world economy is buffeted by

the worst financial crisis seen in decades, a crisis that entails grave implications for developing countries and threatens to undo the hard-won gains in growth and development of the past years, the world needs international economic cooperation even more. Our meeting in Doha provides a timely opportunity to reaffirm and strengthen our commitment to the framework for cooperation and mutual accountability agreed in Monterrey.

Over the past year, developing countries have faced the triple jeopardy of food, fuel, and financial crises. As a result, many developing countries today are entering a danger zone. Growth in developing countries that averaged 7.8 percent in 2006-07 is now projected to slow to 4.5 percent in 2009. The economies of high-income countries, many of which have already entered into a recession, are now expected to contract by 0.1 percent in 2009, with global growth down to 1 percent. There is much uncertainty and even these scenarios could be optimistic. Some developing countries will be hit much harder than the average, experiencing growth that is negative in per capita or even absolute terms. While the channels of transmission may differ, virtually no developing country, be it an emerging market country or a poor country in Africa, has escaped the impact of the widening crisis.

Coming on the heels of the food and fuel price shocks, the global financial crisis could significantly set back the fight against poverty and progress toward the MDGs. Sharply tighter credit conditions and weaker growth are likely to cut into financing available to invest in infrastructure and meet education, health, and gender goals. The poor will be hit hardest. Current estimates suggest that a one percentage point decline in developing country growth rates pushes an additional 20 million people into poverty. Already, more than 100 million people have been driven into poverty as a result of the rise in food and fuel prices.

In an increasingly globalized world, where crises can spread quickly across the globe, the response must be global, coordinated, and fast. Policy challenges need to be addressed at the country level, but it is more critical than ever that the international community acts in a coordinated and supportive way to make each country's task easier.

Lessons from earlier crises point to the importance of safeguarding investment in longterm growth and development. As developing country budgets adjust to a new fiscal reality, careful management of resources will be necessary to safeguard investment in infrastructure and human development, while ensuring that the poor and vulnerable are protected through well-designed social safety nets. Developing countries must also take steps, appropriate to their circumstances, to strengthen their financial systems, to place them on a sounder footing and avoid disruption in access to credit, especially to small and medium enterprises that are crucial to job creation.

It is critical that aid flows to developing countries be maintained, and past commitments honored and supplemented. At some $100 billion per annum, official development assistance volumes are modest in comparison to the sums spent on addressing the financial crisis in developed countries. We must also press ahead to implement the Accra Agenda for Action to improve aid effectiveness.

In the face of a prospective decline in private capital flows to developing countries in the aftermath of the financial crisis, we must intensify our efforts to catalyze and leverage private capital in support of development, including through innovative public-private partnerships. On current projections, net private capital flows to developing countries could drop from about $1 trillion in 2007 to roughly half that level in 2009.

It is also imperative to resist protectionism and avoid turning inward in times of financial uncertainty. We welcome the commitment expressed by G-20 leaders at their November 15 summit to strive to reach agreement this year on modalities that lead to a successful conclusion to the WTO' s Doha Development Agenda with an ambitious and balanced outcome. Progress on that front would provide a much-needed boost to confidence in the current difficult environment. It will support the recovery of global trade, which on current projections could fall in 2009 for the first time since 1982, and the reinvigoration of economic growth. Coordinated action is also needed to maintain the flow of trade fmancing.

The current global financial crisis poses major challenges, but it also creates opportunities. A vigorous response to the crisis can set the stage for a new

multilateralism that supports sustainable and inclusive globalization. There is a mismatch between 20th century global institutions and 21st century global challenges. The G7 framework is no longer sufficient. The new approach should not be a fixed or unitary system, but a flexible and inclusive network that includes the rising economic powers such as the BRICs but also representatives of the poorer countries, links up various international institutions (IMF, FSF, WBG, WTO, UN), and works on issues beyond trade and finance to include development, climate change, and fragile states. The old North-South paradigm no longer fits today's world, and must give way to a broader framework for cooperation and learning, including South-South and South-North.

The World Bank Group stands ready to play its part. Working with partners, the Bank can help in what must be a multi-faceted response to the current crisis, drawing on its full range of financial, analytical, advisory, and coordinating resources—to protect the poor and vulnerable from immediate and long-term harm, assist the financial and private sectors in responding to the crisis, support countries in managing the fiscal challenges, and avoid cuts and delays in investments upon which economic recovery and long-term development will depend.

The World Bank has moved quickly to help countries deal with the food and fuel price shocks, through a $1.2 billion Global Food Crisis Response Program that in under accelerated implementation and an Energy for the Poor initiative that is at an advanced stage of preparation.

The World Bank Group will substantially increase its financial support to developing countries in response to the financial crisis and underpin that with stepped-up technical and advisory services. The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) could make new commitments of up to $100 billion over the next three years. This year, IBRD lending could almost triple to more than $35 billion compared to $13.5 billion last year. The International Development Association (IDA) donors have committed $42 billion for the next 3 years, which can be frontloaded to meet the needs of low-income countries, including many in Africa. The International Finance Corporation (IFC) is launching four new facilities for bank recapitalization, infrastructure financing,

trade facilitation, and refocused advisory services. Combined with financing mobilized from others, these new facilities could provide more than $30 billion over the next three years. The Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA) can also provide much needed risk mitigation for flows of private finance to developing countries.

The reform of the Bretton Woods Institutions constitutes part of the agenda for a new multilateralism. A modernized World Bank Group must represent the international economic realities of the 21St century and recognize the role and responsibility of growing stakeholders. Voice and Participation is an issue for resolution by World Bank shareholders. Last month, shareholders endorsed an

initial package of reforms. As a second step, shareholders agreed that the Bank should undertake a comprehensive work program to realign shareholding. The Zedillo Commission, created by President Zoellick to look at World Bank Group governance more broadly, will report back next year. The Bank is also taking steps to strengthen South-South and South-North cooperation, including establishing a new South-South Experience Exchange Facility.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, our meeting comes at a critical time. The international community must work together to overcome the financial crisis and prevent it from triggering a development and human crisis. It also must seize the opportunity to lay the foundation for a new economic multilateralism that is responsive to today's realities and challenges. The World Bank Group is fully committed to work with partners in this effort.

International Monetary Fund

Statement by
Mr. Murilo Portugal
Deputy Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund

1 December 2008

I would like to thank the Government and people of Qatar for their warm hospitality and for the excellent organization of these meetings, in which the International Monetary Fund (IMF) is very happy to participate and to contribute to.

We are meeting at a time of enormous stress and great uncertainty in the world economy. The most serious financial crisis in generations has led most advanced countries into recession; and as the credit squeeze spreads and trade flows slow, developing countries are facing serious setbacks through no fault of their own. For low-income countries, in particular, recent gains in poverty reduction and improvement in living standards are now in jeopardy. Their economies, already weakened by the cumulative effect of the food and fuel price surges, are now facing a second blow from the global recession. While the recent declines in food and fuel prices will mitigate the pressures for some countries, it will create new problems for others, especially oil and methyl net exporters.

This financial crisis originated in advanced countries and the responsibility for addressing it rests mainly with them. But all countries, rich and poor alike, share a common interest in seeing a prompt return to global stability and global growth. This will require policy responses on four broad fronts.

The first and most important immediate task is to stabilize financial markets. After an uncertain and uncoordinated start, strong actions are now on the way on this front and some positive signs are emerging in advanced countries' financial markets. The credit squeeze and the freeze have begun to ease and there is increasing confidence that the authorities in major financial centres will take whatever steps are necessary to prevent a systemic collapse. But substantial risks remain, and continued efforts will be needed to rebuild capital and to restore liquidity in the financial system. At the same time, some emerging market countries are in need of financial assistance to manage contagion. The IMF is providing substantial support rapidly, with very tightly focused conditionality, and we stand ready to continue to provide liquidity, including through the newly-created Short-Term Liquidity Facility.

The second pressing challenge is to counteract the downward spiral in global demand. This will require a concerted fiscal stimulus and further monetary easing in some countries. Not all countries have the need for, or are in a position to provide, such stimulus, but for those that need it, and who are in a position to do so, prompt action is required within the bounds that will allow fiscal sustainability to be maintained over the medium term. Protectionist pressures should be strenuously resisted, as protectionism would seriously harm our prospects for global growth.

The third imperative is to launch reform of the international financial system and to address the weaknesses exposed by the current crisis. This will also be an important factor in restoring confidence in the global financial markets. The elements of a consensus on a strengthened system have begun to

emerge from discussions in recent weeks, including at the Group of Twenty (G20) Summit held in Washington, D.C., on 15 November. The key components of such a reform will likely include a strengthening of transparency, accountability and risk management in the financial system, a broadening of the scope of financial regulation, reinforcing international cooperation among national and regional regulators and supervisors, and reforming the Bretton Woods institutions so that they can more adequately reflect the changing relative economic weights in the global economy. The Fund will play a standard role in this reformed international architecture, exercising its surveillance mandate over the global financial system.

The onset of the global recession has made the need to follow-up on aid commitments to developing countries even more important and more urgent than when we met in Accra less than three months ago. Low-income countries face the prospects of declining private capital flows and shrinking export markets. They are also the most exposed to volatile commodity prices and deteriorating terms of trade. For the majority of them, whose finances have been weakened by the high cost of food and fuel imports over the past two years, there is almost no margin for fiscal maneuver to address the impending downturn without additional donor support.

And above of all, of course, we need to see accelerated progress in reducing poverty and improving the living standards of millions of people. There is no realistic prospect of faster poverty reduction so long as the delivery of aid continues to fall short of commitments that have been made by the donor community. For their part, low-income countries have a responsibility to continue improving the policies to lift people out of poverty, including making the management of aid and other budgetary resources more effective and more transparent.

The Fund has increased its support for 15 low-income countries this year alone. We have also reformed our exogenous stock facility to make it quicker and easier for these countries to use it. However, only the donor community can provide resources on the scale of the highly concessional terms that low-income countries need.

International coordination is now more important than ever. We must commit ourselves here to reinforce effective multilateralism. We must reaffirm the commitments made at Monterrey, to increase the volume of official development assistance, to make aid more predictable and transparent and to provide it in ways that support national goals and national institutions. We also need systemic reforms based on more participatory and inclusive processes, reflective of the evolving global realities. The Quota and Voice Reforms of the IMF will increase the voice of dynamic emerging markets and, hence, the participation of low-income members, as well as create a commitment for further quota reviews.

Let me close with a special reference to Africa, which is the home of many of the most vulnerable economies in the world, but which has also made very significant progress in recent years. It is essential that we help Africa to cope with the financial crisis and the global economic slowdown, and assist it to benefit more from the integration into the global economy.

To this end, the IMF and the Government of Tanzania will co-host a major conference in Dar es Salaam next March on this topic, bringing together policymakers from Africa, the private sector, civil society and private foundations. And we very much look forward to the active participation of many of you here today.

United Nations Development Programme

Statement by
Mr. Kemal Dervis
Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme and Chairman of the United Nations Development Group (on behalf of UNDG)

29 November 2008

I will address you on behalf of my colleagues from the United Nations Development Group. Six years ago at Monterrey, the United Nations convened a historic gathering not only of Governments but also of civil society, the business community and multilateral organizations, all committed to addressing the many obstacles that hinder progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals. That Conference agreed on the Monterrey Consensus, the first universal framework designed to address the key challenges to inclusive growth and sustainable development. It was a very good achievement.

We come together again here in Doha to share lessons learned, consider emerging issues and hopefully agree on a way forward. It is a pleasure and honour for me to follow the two special envoys, Minister Heidemarie Wieczorek-Zeul and Mr. Trevor Manuel, who have worked hard with many others to make this Conference a success. The meeting today comes at a very difficult time for the world economy. Unfortunately, we now face an unavoidable immediate global downturn. The next six months are going to be very difficult and we are no longer in the position to avoid that. But we are in the position to try to make that downturn short and to engineer the coming out of the crisis in a forceful way. It is the decisions we make as policymakers at national and international levels that will determine how deep and how long the present recession will be.

Part of the response involves aggressive monetary easing to make lending more affordable and to spur consumption and investment. This has already started around the world with central banks cutting interest rates substantially. But in today's circumstances, monetary policy has a limited impact. The situation calls for fiscal stimulus and policies which have to be based largely, in today's circumstances, on increased public spending.

While room for maneuver varies across countries, this strategy will involve significant global fiscal expansions to boost effective demand and employment as broadly and as rapidly as possible. The Group of Twenty (G20) Leaders Summit of 15 November hopefully was a start for that, but it has to be completed with all countries in the world cooperating and particularly focusing on the harmonization and the international coordination of that effort.

As others have underlined, and the Secretary-General said very forcefully, these difficult economic times are, however, also times of opportunity. The array of interconnected challenges we face provides a chance to renew the global partnership for development that underlies the Monterrey Consensus. I think what is particularly important to stress is that the short-term pressures that face us must not make us forget the long-term development challenges; the kinds of measures we take—their quality, their focus—have to keep in mind these long-term challenges.

I hope that the discussions we will have in the coming days will help ensure that the vision of the Monterrey Consensus is implemented despite the crisis we face. What does this mean in practice? First, we need to deliver on our outstanding commitments. It would be really tragic and a huge mistake for the world economy if these commitments were not met.

Eight years after the world agreed on the Millennium Development Goals, hard-won gains could be reversed by the present crisis. We cannot allow this to happen. The crisis presents us with a terrible, difficult time and we really have to come together and avoid what many have already said would be a terrible human crisis. It particularly presents a huge challenge for the decent work agenda and, here, I would like to stress how much we have worked with the International Labor Organization on the fact that poverty reduction and employment creation is one and the same thing. We cannot reduce

poverty in a sustainable way without focusing on employment. And of course, the goals of health and education must not be endangered.

The economic crisis has created pressure on all forms of development finance. Even though this Conference comes at a difficult time for the global economy, funding for development is above all, however, a matter of political will. President Oscar Arias reminded us this morning, forcefully, that the world spends almost $1.3 trillion a year on armaments. Many trillions are being mobilized for the financial crisis. So the world actually can afford the $140 billion already pledged for official development assistance by 2010.

Second, in keeping with the 2005 Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness and the 2008 Accra Agenda for Action, aid volume should be matched with improvements in aid effectiveness. Most notably, we must pursue increased predictability and transparency, streamlined conditionality and more strategic use of aid to complement growing new sources of development finance. At the same time, increased investments in national implementation and procurement systems need to be matched with stronger efforts to mitigate wasteful practices. The bargain that was struck on aid at Monterrey in Paris and in Accra is one where aid donors would streamline their methods and procedures, and aid recipients would do their best to be effective in using it.

Third, it is clear that this crisis provides a unique opportunity to stimulate an environmentally sustainable global economic recovery. We have this need for increased public expenditures, for increased public investment. We can create a win-win situation if a good part of that public investment is actually focused on the green economy and on the transition to low-carbon energy; that is to say, access for all to energy but in a low-carbon form. This is a priority, and I think that if we put it into the fiscal stimulus packages around the world it can lead us not only to a quicker recovery but at the same time to a green recovery. I am extremely pleased to read and to learn that the newly elected administration in the United States has made this one of their top priorities. Done right, a counter-cyclical response to the current downturn could help all of us address the most daunting and complex of all the challenges in front of us, namely climate change.

But all of this can only happen if we come together here at Doha and at other venues, at the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Poznan next month and at other meetings, to begin crafting the essential elements of not just a New Deal but what I would call a Green Deal for development and for recovery. The recent coordinated action to address financial market instability has shown that quick and decisive policies are required and possible when we confront global crises. Poverty reduction and climate change require the same pragmatic and cooperative approach. Disjointed actions and ad hoc solutions will not be successful.

For all of this, a new multilateralism is required, one that recognizes the interconnected nature of the crisis we face: financial instability, climate change, extremely unequal income distribution, volatile prices for food and energy, and unacceptable levels of hunger, poverty and inequality. These are the big challenges we face and I think we have learned from so many aspects of the last decade's history that working together is the only way to overcome them. A reformed, stronger and more inclusive multilateralism is our only option if we are to find workable and fair solutions. I think this Conference in Doha has to show the commitment to this new multilateralism.

The United Nations has a key role to play in this new approach that meets the needs of the twenty-first century. With its inclusive membership, intergovernmental processes, leadership in peacekeeping, rapid engagement in post-conflict countries, and its ability to learn from the experience of the more than 160 countries where the United Nations has a presence on the ground, the United Nations can play a critical role in transforming development finance into development results.

In bringing together the various agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations development system, the United Nations Development Group, is trying to be a reliable partner with a unique depth and capacity and breadth of voice, and a partner, of

course, to national governments. It stands ready to strengthen its efforts to assist countries in responding to the current global crisis with sustainable solutions, not just short-term approaches.

Indeed, the United Nations Development Group has helped to transform the policy landscape since the Monterrey Consensus was agreed in 2002. We now have a comprehensive set of agreed development goals and instruments. We do have detailed costings of these goals. We have, in partnership with Governments, costed the Millennium Development Goals, and we have well-thought-out national development strategies. We also have time-bound commitments on financing, accompanied by new funding windows and extended debt relief. More recently, we have worked with the World Bank to develop concerted support for conflict and post-conflict countries. We are rapidly scaling up capacity development services to help all countries respond to climate change and access the carbon market and emerging special financing options.

I think we have the beginnings at least of the infrastructure in place to deliver on the Monterrey Consensus. But this will only happen if all stakeholders choose to act, and act in coordination. I will repeat again what many have already said, that change is certain but progress is not. The need to mobilize financing to reduce poverty provides us with a great opportunity to build a new multilateralism that is more effective, more inclusive and more responsive to the emerging challenges we all face. I really do hope that Doha 2008 will be the beginning of us all seizing this opportunity.

Organization for Economic, Cooperation and Development

Statement by
Mr. Ángel Gurría
Secretary-General of the Organization for Economic, Cooperation and Development

29 November 2008

Our thoughts and our prayers go to the Government and people of India and to the victims of terrorism and their families.

Today, in Doha, we all have a sense of a turning point. This Conference is much more than a review of Monterrey. It is an emergency meeting on how to promote, preserve and protect the vital resources identified in Monterrey so that the current economic and financial crisis does not turn into a development catastrophe with consequences lasting for decades, long after it is over.

The dramatic failure of the regulatory, supervisory, corporate governance and risk management frameworks of the financial markets is now impacting the real economy. Countries and families around the world are already feeling the pain. Many developing countries will become even more vulnerable. They will experience lower growth, volatile exchange rates and stock markets, higher unemployment and poverty levels, more fragility, weaker health systems and even more difficulties in meeting the Millennium Development Goals. At the same time, let me quote a delegate from the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) who said recently that "A crisis is a terrible thing to waste". Indeed, the collective response to the crisis and the emergence of the "L20", meaning the Group of Twenty (G20) (which we founded many years ago but which is now at the leaders level) reflect the acknowledgement of a new reality of power-sharing and responsibilities in the global economic governance of the twenty-first century.

We at OECD are developing a strategic response to the crisis with two main strands. First, we are focusing on a set of policies, rules and incentives for designing a robust, reliable and flexible financial system. The second focus is on restoring growth, along a low-carbon path, while protecting the most vulnerable among the population.

The crisis has generated major public interventions in financial markets and maybe beyond them. At OECD, we are also beginning to look at an exit strategy for the unwinding of such interventions when conditions allow.

Why focus on OECD economies when we are in Doha talking about financing for development? Simply because the crisis started in developed countries and the best contribution they can make to developing and emerging economies is to overcome the recession and get on a path of vigorous growth as soon as possible.

Now, in terms of the immediate situation, OECD members and some non-members have agreed on three important actions. First, the aid pledge. The members of the Development Assistance Committee of OECD have reaffirmed their aid commitments and agreed to maintain aid flows at levels consistent with these commitments. This aid pledge should avoid the situation that we had in the 1990s, when aid budgets were slashed in the wake of a recession like the one we have today. We should avoid that at all costs.

Second, OECD members have issued a trade pledge, where countries agreed to conclude the Doha Development Round with an ambitious and balanced outcome and to refrain from policies inconsistent with such an endeavour, building on the G20 and Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation commitments.

Third, a pledge to maintain official support for trade credits, which have been freezing up at an alarming rate and threatening to shut down normal trade flows.

The Monterrey Consensus must remain a beacon even at this time of repair and reconstruction of the global economic and financial system. And as developing countries become increasingly vulnerable to the crisis, we need to push for sufficient, predictable and effective flows of aid through the implementation of the Paris Declaration and the Accra Agenda for Action. Together, they constitute a formidable aid reform agenda which needs your strong political support.

The regional multilateral development banks, the Inter-American Development Bank, the African Development Bank and the Asian Development Bank, must be provided by their shareholders with either more capital, more liquidity or greater flexibility on their gearing ratios so that they can face the increasing demands for credit from emerging and developing economies, given the reluctance of financial markets to extend loans to them. Many of the countries that had access to the market today no longer do so and these institutions are precisely for that, to cover those gaps while the problem subsides.

In another dimension, the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the World Trade Organization, the International Labour Organization, the United Nations Development Programme, OECD and the European Commission, are all dealing with different aspects of the global economic agenda. Thus, the capacity to cooperate and speak with one voice about some, at least some, of these issues can be a great contribution to addressing them effectively. We will be working towards that end and towards greater coherence in the coordination of these institutions that have to do with the economic agenda of the world.

We also need to assure that the crisis does not distract us from focusing on issues such as the food crisis or climate change. Climate change is the most important long-term challenge for mankind. After all, the duration of the recession will be counted in months, while our climate change policy decisions of today will define the shape of the world for decades to come.

We, at OECD, are working so that Monterrey, Accra, Washington, D.C., Doha, Poznan, London, La Madalena and Copenhagen become an articulated, coherent, mutually reinforcing chain of events and decisions leading to a single, simple and clear objective: making the world a better place to live.

Commonwealth Secretariat

Statement by
Mr. Kamalesh Sharma
Secretary-General of the Commonwealth Secretariat

30 November 2008

Mr. Chairman, Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen. It was my honor to be present at the creation, as the Chair of the UN-wide Working Group which produced the Monterrey Consensus. I have since observed closely the progress made in the last six years—some laudable and some not so.

I speak today on behalf of the commonwealth-an association of 53 member states committed to consensus, to the fundamental right to development, and to democracy.

We meet today at a time of profound change and uncertainly in the global economy. This, coupled with the unevenness of progress made to date, means that delivering on our Monterrey commitments is now more, not less, important.

Let me make four observations:

First, the current financial crisis must not divert us from addressing the continuing development crisis. Nor can this be a matter of 'either/or': the world must mobile the resources to meet both.

It is an inescapable fact that the financial crisis will put pressure on all sources of financing for development. Developing countries will find capital markets harder to access. The value of their commodity exports will fall. They will find that private sector investment is harder to attract. Income from remittances will fall, and aid budgets—already inadequate—will come under greater pressure.

But with an exceptional effort to meet commitments made and generate the resources, the Millennium Development Goals can be met. Failure to meet the MDGs would represent a terrible waste of human potential—'financing for development' is a means to an end: we are all agreed on the 'end'; and the primary purpose, which is human development and human dignity for all.

The message from this meeting should be that we will deliver on the promises made, not move away from them.

Second, trade can generate the most durable 'financing for development'. It is therefore a sure way to development. Enabling producers in poor countries to sell their production can lead to enduring prosperity.

The message from this Doha meeting of November 2008 must be that the high hopes of that other Doha process—the trade negotiations which began in this city in November 2001—must come to fruition. And let us not forget that those other negotiations were to achieve what was called the Doha Development Agenda. The current WTO Round will not be complete without the full development dividend.

The Commonwealth, from its richest to its poorest members, has long argued for multilateral, rule-based trading system under the auspices of the WTO. Our deeds have matched our words: helping small countries to negotiate in the WTO; and giving them practical assistance to complete in a more open global trading market.

This meeting, in being honest to itself, must pursue an end to the inconsistency between commitments made by the international community when it comes to development and the reality when it comes to trade.

Third, development must target two groups in particular: women and young people. Women, as the half of the population that bears considerable more than half of its problems—and as the strongest single litmus test for the health of any society. There remains a significant gender inequality in all areas, whether domestic or external. And young people, in that it is they who will inherit this century—not most of us here. And it on them that our hopes for the 21st Century are invested.

We have long championed both of these causes, with strategy, budgets and programmes to match. We also believe in a sustained and comprehensive plan for promoting youth and women entrepreneurship. At this point of the review, it is fair to conclude that an enormous challenge still lies

ahead—first in guaranteeing their rights and basic needs,, but also in unleashing all of their potential to benefit themselves and the societies of which they are a part.

Fourth, we have all started to see in recent weeks and months, what has been the *leitmotif* of the Modern Commonwealth in all of its 60 years. That is, that the challenges which the world presents us—financial, developmental or environmental—can only be fully met through international cooperation.

That is easier said than done, not least because it has become abundantly clear that the current system of international institutions of the 20th century is not well suited to supporting countries in our task in the 21st. This meeting should be an occasion when the international community commits to remedy this through a truly inclusive process.

It was in 2007 that Commonwealth leaders began to pursue this reform collectively and actively, setting out earlier this year their agreed principles for such reform: effectiveness, fair representation, responsiveness, transparency, and accountability. These are principles which seem to be widely acceptable and accepted: indeed they found a strong echo in the G20 statement issued in Washington a fortnight ago.

The key is that the process of reform must embrace all participants of the global community. Ways must be found by which the views and suggestions of all governments can be brought to the table for consideration. Global reform requires global engagement in which all voices are heard. From this, a new architecture of financial governance should emerge which enjoys the confidence of the world's citizens. If not, the reforms will not enjoy the legitimacy required to be sustainable.

Mr. Chairman, since we adopted the Monterrey Consensus, underdevelopment continues to remain the primary global emergency. In some respects, the emergency has become more acute, with the cumulative crises of environment, food security, energy and finance, as well as the intractable situation of some regions. In other respects, there is positive news, with large sections with large sections of the underdeveloped world having moved up, bringing hope to other regions. But the expansion of the global zone of prosperity has been uneven and the global community is challenged to concerted action to make poverty history not too far into the 21st, which century will be fateful in defining our human destiny. We must believe that we are capable of grasping that opportunity.

Coherence between the local, national, and global levels in the responsibility undertaken for the twin components of governance and resources—which is at the heart of the Monterrey Consensus—is pivotal for success.

Also pivotal is the understanding that the social and economic sectors are two sides of the same people-centered challenge. The Growth Commission recently established that the only common factor between all the dramatically successful developing countries of the last three decades was investment by each in health and education, not in any of economic policy.

We also believe that countries need to equip themselves with skills and a robust level of activity among small and medium enterprises; transparent and enlightened governance standards; and responsive institutions, to create the conditions for sustainable economic advancement.

Mr. Chairman, let me say in conclusion that the key to success in defining the Monterrey Consensus when we first forged it, and in renewing our commitment to it now, is *partnership*. Responsibility for implementation and contribution is shared. This spirit must endure. The Monterrey Consensus was a watershed compact where we undertook collective responsibility to secure our shared future; such a perspective—and this solidarity—must endure.

Thank you.

Iberoamerican Cooperation

Statement by
Mr. Miguel Hakim Simón
Secretary for Iberoamerican Cooperation, Iberoamerican Secretariat

1 December 2008

I would like to begin my statement by conveying to you the greetings of the Iberoamerican General Secretariat. The issues addressed on this occasion are of great relevance to our Secretariat, and I would like to start by thanking the Secretary-General of the United Nations for his leadership, and the Government of Qatar for its welcome and its contribution through the magnificent organization of this Conference.

The Declaration adopted at the eighteenth Iberoamerican Summit, held in El Salvador at the end of October, enshrined the need to achieve the Millennium Development Goals and, therefore, underscored the pressing need to make progress in financing them. Most of the countries that constitute the Iberoamerican Conference are included in the group of middle-income countries, even though there is a diversity of situations among this group with regard to the challenges that we face.

We believe that in order to make sustainable development possible, and to reach and go beyond the Millennium Development Goals, our countries require the following:

First of all, new flows of private investment geared towards productive sectors and employment-generating sectors;

Secondly, open international trade which is rules-based and also based on multilateral agreements. The prompt and appropriate conclusion of the Doha Round would be the best possible contribution to our countries' development;

Thirdly, we must mobilize a greater volume of domestic resources aimed at financing national development. To that end, we require sustainable and equitable growth, and a taxation scheme that will provide sufficient resources in order to finance robust public policies in key social and economic sectors.

In light of the aforementioned, I would like to recall that official development assistance (ODA) remains very significant for middle-income countries. We have noted with concern that while overall ODA has increased since Monterrey, the portion for Latin America has stalled at an average of $5 billion, falling from 10 per cent to 5 per cent of the total, and this is in spite of the fact that a number of donors, such as Spain, have doubled their net contribution. We hope that this global downward trend will be reversed. As was agreed at the conferences in San Salvador and Madrid on this particular issue, it is clear that cooperation with middle-income countries cannot match the cooperation extended to other countries. In these cases, ODA should aim at reducing inequality by promoting social cohesion, strengthening institutions and supporting those sectors that are most dynamic when it comes to contributing to economic development.

We must underscore that Governments have a greater capacity to draw up and manage programmes and public policies. It is important that we do not weaken this capacity through excessive dispersal in the channelling of assistance to one country. In cooperation with these countries, we can use traditional instruments as well as other more innovative ones. In this regard, I would like to single out debt swaps for development, such as those undertaken by Spain with other Iberoamerican countries.

Another form of cooperation that has still been underused by donors is triangular cooperation, whereby a traditional donor channels financial resources through a developing country, which in turn provides human and technical resources to a third country. The triangular schemes also support South-South cooperation, a modality which I would like to refer to in my conclusion, given its importance and relevance in Latin America and in other developing regions.

The twenty-three social, economic and cultural programmes that Governments are jointly undertaking within the context of the Iberoamerican Conference are a good example of this triangular cooperation and South-South cooperation, as

all the participating countries contribute towards their implementation through their experience and the provision of funds or other resources, thus enhancing the cross-cutting nature of their design and implementation.

The second report of the Iberoamerican General Secretariat on South-South cooperation in the region compiles up to 1,500 actions promoted by Latin American countries working with their neighbours. We should add to this number the actions undertaken with African countries or countries of other regions. Argentina, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Cuba and Mexico are the most active when it comes to South-South cooperation, although all Latin American countries have provided resources and sectors which have proven to be successful. Next year, in 2009, we shall address the quantification in monetary terms of this form of cooperation, which I am certain already exceeds the amount of ODA received by Latin America and the Caribbean.

The challenges are daunting, but we have the instruments and, we hope, the will to address them. If the launching of the Doha Round and the Monterrey Conference was the international response to the recession at the end of the past century and the attacks against the United States, we hope that this Conference and the future meetings of the Group of Twenty-Two (G22) will provide an appropriate response to the current crisis we face, as well as to violence, such as the violence that we have witnessed in the terrorist attacks in India. I would like to conclude by expressing the solidarity of the Iberoamerican General Secretariat with the people and Government of India.

Asian Development Bank

Statement by

Ms. Ursula Schaefer-Preuss
Vice-President for Knowledge Management and Sustainable Development at the Asian Development Bank

1 December 2008

Mr. President, Excellencies, Distinguished Participants, Ladies and Gentlemen, I am very pleased to join many development partners here in Doha and represent the Asian Development Bank (ADB) at this important international event. On behalf of ADB, I extend our gratitude to the conference organizers for their efforts.

At the outset, I would like to join other delegations in conveying our deep-felt condolences to the people and the Government of India on the tragic incidence in Mumbai last week.

Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen, the Financing for Development Agenda of the 2002 Monterrey Consensus was a milestone for galvanizing international action for scaling up and sustaining commitments for development financing. It has helped to facilitate measurable progress on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and supported broader socio-economic progress in many developing and emerging economies, including the Asia-Pacific region.

Despite the achievements, we also believe that further assessments on the progress, constraints, and opportunities of the Monterrey Consensus are needed. It is particularly important for our region—as we have recently faced the impacts of the financial crisis, food price crisis, and impacts of climate change. We believe that unless an appropriate set of actions are taken, the Asia-Pacific region can face a reversal of the recent socioeconomic gains for many of its poorest citizens.

As the fastest growing region in the world, Asia and the Pacific has made considerable progress towards meeting the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). During the last two decades, hundreds of millions of people have been lifted out of

extreme poverty. The level of child mortality has decreased, and access to primary education has increased—although significant gender inequality continues to exist.

Yet, with only seven years left before the MDG 2015 target date, significant challenges persist. These include disturbing levels of maternal mortality, low coverage of water and sanitation, the loss of forest cover, and the serious implications for climate change, and weaknesses in systems for social protection. Moreover, many women continue to face discrimination in their homes and communities and often suffer harsh working conditions.

The Asia-Pacific region is critical for the global achievements of the MDGs—it remains to be home to more of the world's poorest than any other region on earth, with many countries suffering the detrimental effects of persistent conflicts and major natural disasters.

Currently, the region's development challenges are compounded the recent financial crisis, commodity price crisis, as well as impacts of climate change. Although the effect of the current financial crisis is not yet fully known, we expect that it will have significant consequences to the poor people in the region. Its impact on the unemployment and the governments' expenditures on social programs is a cause for grave concerns.

A study of the relationship between growth and poverty by ADB, UNDP and UNESCAP estimates that for every 1 percent reduction in annual per capita income growth in the region, about 35 million people who would have been freed from poverty will remain mired in it. Our concern on the impact of the financial crisis is heightened by the fact it is quickly following the recent historical rise in food and fuel prices. At the same time, the impacts of the natural disasters and climate change, especially on people's health, place another significant burden on our development.

The above challenges are indeed daunting for the world and the Asia-Pacific region. That is why ADB's corporate vision under its new long-term strategy, *Strategy 2020*, will continue to be "An Asian and Pacific Region Free of Poverty". The three main, strategic agenda for *Strategy 2020* are: inclusive growth, environmentally sustainable growth, and regional integration. Based on *Strategy 2020*, we are taking the following actions on the challenges as discussed above:

First, to support the region through the financial crisis, ADB takes specific steps, including the continued support for financial intermediation and institutions. ADB has also proposed the creation of an Asian Financial Stability Dialogue to allow the governments to coordinate responses and develop early-warning and monitoring systems;

Second, to address the food price crisis, ADB is providing up to $500 million in immediate budgetary support to strengthen safety net programs through cash transfers, food-for-work, food stamps, and school feeding schemes. To address long-term structural factors, ADB's lending for agriculture and rural development will rise to more than US$2 billion in 2009;

Finally, to assist the region for a more sustainable development, ADB is supporting the region in both mitigation and adaptation, including enhancement of clean energy, energy efficiency, and reduction in greenhouse gas emissions. Various adaptation measures, including those related to health and natural disasters, will also be supported.

Although we are fully committed to undertake these actions, we also have to ensure that our activities will be based on enhanced partnerships and additional resources. On partnerships, we recognize that for Asia and the Pacific, the greatest amount of financing for economic growth and social development is sourced from within the region. Governments, private sector, and local civil society draw upon their own resources and invest actively in the future well-being of their region and citizens. ADB has imbedded this approach to mobilizing and allocating development finance in its own corporate strategy. Our efforts will also include private capital flow, and to facilitate this, the share of ADB's annual operations for private sector development will aim for a target of 50% by the year 2020.

For resource requirements, in May this year, we have completed the US$11.3 billion replenishment

of our Asian Development Fund (ADF), ADB's concessional leading window, to help ADB sustain its support to the poorest countries, in the form of both concessional loans and grants. In addition, we need to ensure that the many low and other middle-incomes countries in the region that do not borrow from ADF are also supported. We are now discussing a general capital increase (GCI) with our shareholders. A timely conclusion on the GCI will allow ADB to support accelerated investments in developing Asia's emerging economies to deal decisively with many of the investment-intensive challenges of the region.

Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen, the developing Asia-Pacific region is playing a larger role in the global economy and will continue to do so—provided that it continues to receive the support that has helped generate its past achievements. ADB remains confident that our development partners, through the GCI and other efforts, will continue to provide us with the resources to help make that success possible—both in the immediate future and for many years to come. Thank you very much and we look forward to the successful outcome of this Conference.

Gulf Cooperation Council

Statement by
His Excellency
Mr. Abdullah Salim Bin Hamad Al-Harthy
Permanent Observer to the United Nations of the Gulf Cooperation Council

1 December 2008

On behalf of His Excellency, Mr. Abdulrahman bin Hamad Al-Attiyah, the Secretary-General of the Gulf Cooperation Council, it is my honour to deliver this statement for the member States of the Gulf Cooperation Council to the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus.

Allow me to express my thanks to His Highness Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani, the Emir of the State of Qatar, President of the Conference, may God preserve him, and to the Government and dear people of Qatar, for their generous hosting of this important event. Qatar continues to sponsor and to host several initiatives relating to the most urgent international issues.

The statement of His Highness, the Emir, before this Conference has stressed the relationship between stability and security, on the one hand, and economic development, on the other, and has also emphasized the relationship between the current world financial crisis and the deficiencies and problems of development. But development, as His Highness has said, cannot be summarized by its financial dimensions alone. Financing is one incentive that motivates development but does not create it.

The convening of this Conference comes crucially at an appropriate historical juncture, following the international financial crisis which threatens the economy of most countries, rich and poor alike, and could be a setback to the Millennium Development Goals, making them more difficult to realize.

The reconsideration and review of the Monterrey Consensus during this Conference is an opportunity to avoid the dangers and repercussions of the current financial crisis and to save the time frame to implement the Millennium Development Goals, especially regarding the mobilization of the financial resources for development.

Several joint international efforts have been made to discuss the financial crisis and to seek to avert their repercussions and impact on developing nations. The last of these was the high-level meeting that was held at Doha on 28 November 2008, and was chaired by His Highness Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani, Emir of the State of Qatar, and the President of this Conference.

There appeared elements of an international consensus to limit the effects of this crisis on the ability of developing nations to realize the Millennium Development Goals, which can be summarized in the following points:

- The need to continue the implementation of the Monterrey commitments, despite the

international financial crisis by strengthening either the self-capabilities of developing nations or international cooperation in order to realize the Millennium Development Goals;

- To reform the international financial institutions, such as the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, and to give a bigger role to the developing countries and emerging economies in managing their money strength and their capabilities to realize transparency in financial transactions;
- To strengthen the monitoring of money markets, while preserving the flows of foreign direct investment to developing nations;
- To emphasize that free trade must remain free and to steer away from the politics of protectionism; to maintain the balance between the freedom of the market and private initiative; and to determine the role of the State in realizing the stability of markets.

It is now more urgent than at any other time to continue providing other development assistance to poor countries to enable them to realize the Millennium Development Goals. The member States of the Gulf Cooperation Council have fulfilled their commitments to the Monterrey Consensus as it provides more than 0.7 per cent of its gross national income in the form of development assistance, distributed to more than 100 developing countries. This assistance includes the development of infrastructure and human resources, and also helps recipient States to develop their industrial and agricultural sectors and to provide employment and a dignified living for their peoples.

In conclusion, allow me to state here, from this forum, that we reaffirm the position of the Gulf Cooperation Council, which is in consonance with the vision of His Highness Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani, Emir of the State of Qatar, President of this Conference, and the current Chairman of the Gulf Cooperation Council. His Highness said that development is an umbrella of peace that protects each and every one. He has called on the developed countries to translate their words into deeds, and to contribute the necessary assistance for development to the degree commensurate with their abilities. And it is our hope that those countries will act like the countries of the Gulf State Council and fulfil their commitments to the Monterrey Consensus.

I wish to thank you for your Follow-up. May peace and God's blessings be upon all of you.

International Development Law Organization

Statement by
Mr. William T. Loris
Director-General of the International Development Law Organization

1 December 2008

At the outset, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the Emir of Qatar, His Highness Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani, for hosting this important Conference and for the excellent arrangements that have been accorded to my delegation, and I must say to all of the other delegations here.

Mr. President, I rise in support of the compelling reaffirmation of the Monterrey Consensus here in Doha and to urge the international community to continue and enhance support of development initiatives focused on strengthening the rule of law. The International Development Law Organization's work and the efforts of other organizations engaged in rule of law and work must remain a priority.

The establishment and progressive development of the rule of law should be the center of our collective agenda. Strengthening the rules-based multilateral trading system, enhancing the domestic enabling environment for private sector investment, dealing with the scourge of corruption, working for the legal empowerment of the poor, and supporting reform and good governance in domestic institutions are key elements of this very complex agenda. They are formalized in the IDLO mission and are crucial to meeting the internationally-agreed development goals.

Building the rule of law is even more important as developing countries face the consequences of slower growth and increasing unemployment. In good times, the rule of law is an enabling force which creates the conditions for growth and social development. In hard times, it is a stabilizing force which creates conditions for fair allocation of scarce resources and just treatment of the disempowered.

Our experience in assisting developing countries achieve their development ambitions in the legal and judicial sector has convinced us that the Accra Agenda for Action, with its strong endorsement of nationally-owned development strategies, provides the right basis for effective development assistance in this sector. This is so on both on practical and normative grounds.

It is practically sound because legal reform will not happen without strong domestic ownership. The international community can catalyze domestic legal and governance reform but it cannot drive it.

National ownership is right on normative grounds because law and governance are constitutive elements of a polity. National constituencies must generate legal and governance reform. Anything less will be unsustainable and possibly counterproductive.

Our reflection on the dynamics and mechanisms that catalyze legal and institutional change has led IDLO to view its role as a multilateral institution as fundamentally enabling in nature. The four-year Strategic Plan approved by the IDLO member states assembly at our annual meeting in Rome last week gives practical meaning to this notion. We have come to see legal and institutional change as long term, iterative, and non-linear.

For the purposes of this forum, it is essential to recognize that investment in justice requires a long-term commitment.

We believe that multilateral institutions play a key role in providing technical expertise but at the same time believe that none of us can claim a monopoly on such expertise. One need only reflect on the substantial progress realized in many emerging economies today to realize that there are substantial development success stories that deserve further study. We also see the critical value that South-South forms of cooperation play in the development process.

International organizations offer a natural fora for convening diverse communities of practice on different legal and governance reform themes. Building on its 25 years of experience in working with lawyers, judges, regulators, and civil society in more than 175 countries, IDLO is now channeling its energies into strengthening and sustaining trans-national professional networks and communities of practice rooted in the global South.

In the same spirit, IDLO ensures that its work is guided by the specific development objectives of the countries which it seeks to serve. Middle-income countries need assistance designed to foster increasing levels of opportunity and they, in turn, can be an invaluable sources of advice for countries seeking to make the breakthroughs which will permit them to advance beyond current constraints. Experimenting with new forms of South-South cooperation is especially important in post-conflict settings where having role models for success can build political support and hope for change.

In seeking to achieve conditions for economic resilience in developing countries, there is an important lesson to be drawn from recent experience. Analysis of the causes of economic crisis of the advanced countries have faced in recent months has confirmed the centrality of the rule of law and good governance to economic stability. Failures in law and regulation lie at the heart of explanations of this current crisis.

IDLO believes that full implementation of the Monterrey Consensus and the guidelines for follow-up which are emerging at this Conference in Doha can create a durable and effective international partnership to fight poverty and advance development. But that partnership can only meet its full promise if we stay the long course required to build governing systems which guarantee, at a minimum, that each individual can live free of fear and in dignity under the rule of law. Thank you.

United Nations Commission for Social Development

Statement by
Ms. Sheikha Hissa Khalifa Al-Thani
Special Rapporteur on Disability of the Commission for Social Development

1 December 2008

In the Name of God the Merciful, the Compassionate, Mr. President, Distinguished Delegates, Distinguished Participants, I would like to thank you for allowing me to speak on behalf of more than 600 million persons with disabilities who still suffer from the worst form of discrimination and abject poverty.

The adoption by the United Nations of the World Programme for Action on Disability in 1982 represented a turning point in history in terms of the international concern for disability. Since that date, disability has become an issue of discussion for all societies.

This concern became even more pronounced as the the United Nations adopted the Standard Rules for the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities in unprecedented unanimity, as an expression of moral commitment on the part of all

nations to work towards improving the conditions and quality of life of persons with disabilities in terms of their standing, their role and societies' perception on them, their rights and their full participation; in addition to their medical care, rehabilitation, and assistive devices. It was also a commitment to their right to accessibility, education, employment, dignity and family life…etc. All of these commitments placed upon governments an obligation to implement measures and procedures to allow the full and equal participation as all members of society.

These commitments prompted most of world's regions to adopt Disability Decades in order to adopt, channel and implement policies towards meeting the needs and rights of persons with disabilities.

Fifteen years after the adoption of the Standard Rules and the success in adopting an International Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities at the end of 2006, we still see that persons with disabilities around the world are suffering from discrimination and marginalization.

Through my own work as Special Rapporteur to the United Nations on Disability during the past 6 years and which included a Global Survey on the measures taken by governments to ensure equalization of opportunities; and country visits to assess that implementation on the ground; as well as meetings with disability organizations in more than 30 countries, the one major obstacle been the lack of funding for the improvement of the situation of persons with disabilities—especially when it comes to basic rights such as medical care, education, employment and rehabilitation.

Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Participants, the most important measure that the world's civil and governmental organizations can take in moving towards the fulfillment of their commitment to the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities initiative on and to the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities is to activate the principle of international responsibility and to re-invigorate international cooperation.

This means channeling appropriate technical and financial support and resources to programs, projects, and activities aimed at the empowerment of persons with disabilities, to enable them to enjoy and exercise their rights to full participation, to support their independence and self-sufficiency, to build their capacities, to remove all obstacles and barriers that hinder their full participation.

In reviewing the commitments made by Governments since the Monterrey meeting in 2002 and the measures implemented in accordance with those commitments, steps need to be taken to include financing programs aimed at meeting the civil and developmental rights of persons with disabilities. Such measures would go a long way in reducing the suffering of 650 million persons with disabilities around the world and their families-that often bear the sole responsibility for their

care with little help from civil and governmental organizations whose purpose is to provide support, protection, and services.

I would like to remind the Governments gathered here today of the consensus they reached in their Monterrey gathering in 2002, which stated that the only way to move into the 21st century in a healthy way and to advance into the fully inclusive and equitable global system is through a commitment to eradicate poverty, achieve sustainable economic growth, and promote sustainable development.

Allow me to point out to this gathering here that comprehensive social justice and sustainable development cannot be achieved if we overlook a segment of the world population which represents the poorest of the poor; who are the least represented in the labor market; the most exploited; and who live in environments and under conditions that are the farthest possible from sustainability.

It is time to bridge the gap between what we say and what we do—between our rhetoric and our actions. It is time that we place our resources in the service of the goals that we have stated as our priorities.

It is not possible that we should draft, sign, ratify, and commit to agreements, treaties, and agreements; use their rhetoric in our political speeches and manifestos without matching those words to policies and programs; procedures and measures that need to be implemented on the ground.

I appeal to you today to incorporate the issues of sustainable development to a segment of the population that is considered the poorest of the poor in the world—including their families and communities. There is no way that we can speak about efficient financing for development while at the same time marginalizing more than 600 million people and depriving them from receiving much needed financial support. Thank you very much. May the Peace of God be upon you.

Civil Society Forum

Statement by
Ms. Gemma Adaba
Representative of the International Trade Union Confederation to the United Nations

29 November 2008

We, the members of the 250 civil society organizations and networks from around the world, have gathered here in Doha, Qatar, for a Civil Society Forum, which was held from 26 to 27 November, just before this Conference. The theme was "Investing in people-centered development". We reviewed the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus, discussed pressing new challenges and debated possibilities for innovative financing. We are grateful for this opportunity to present a brief summary of our deliberations to you today. A more detailed document, our Civil Society Declaration, has been made available to you. We urge you to listen and take full account of the voices and key recommendations of civil society in your discussions, conclusions and follow-up actions.

Today, the world is consumed by an urgent series of crises—energy, food, climate and finance—that not only threaten the realization of the Millennium Development Goals and the lives and livelihoods of hundreds of millions of people in the North and the South, but also the stability of the world's economies. The Northern Governments and financial system are responsible for the current crisis, but the costs and the impacts are paid for by the entire world and by the poorest countries, in particular.

In recent years, the world has witnessed a substantial and growing transfer of capital from the global South to the North through, among other things, tax evasion facilitated by tax havens, debt servicing and unfavourable terms of trade. Taking into account all financial sources, there is a net capital flow of hundreds of billions of dollars per year going from the South to the North. This is a scandalous reverse welfare in which the poorest countries are financing the richest. Trade negotiations have reached a stalemate. Most Northern countries are falling far short of meeting their

commitments. Persistent gender inequalities reflect, and are related to, all these structural imbalances in the global economy. Thus, it is urgent to include a gender perspective in all policies and at all levels, in all sectors.

Overcoming these crises requires decisive action and leadership from the global community. To date, however, such leadership has been sorely lacking. The swift and massive response of the Governments of the richest countries to bail out banks and private financial institutions with more than $3 trillion of public guarantees and funds stands in stark contrast to their failure to respond decisively to the unabated crisis of poverty and marginalization that has afflicted the majority of peoples of the world. So far, the international community has proven incapable of raising sums of money to tackle the human crisis, even though these are in the range of a few percentage points of the enormous capital dished out to save financial institutions.

In addition, 12 years of debt relief initiatives have generated only slightly more than $100 billion in debts cancelled. Working people, particularly women, are being forced to pay the bill for a system founded on the concentration of wealth and economic control in the hands of a few and the continuing and deepening impoverishment of the majority. The commitments made by the Group of Twenty (G20) Governments two weeks ago in Washington, D.C., to strengthen regulation and oversight will not be sufficient.

Moreover, we are deeply concerned to see the G20 process give a central role to failed global financial and trade and institutions, such as the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and the World Trade Organization. In the last 30 years, these institutions have pushed for increased capital flows and market liberalization. They are responsible for the current situation and they lack the legitimacy and the credibility to be part of the solution.

We observe that instead of engaging in a high-level comprehensive debate on financing for development at this United Nations Review Conference, most countries from the North have opted not to participate at the Head of State level, and the absence of the heads of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank reveals their disregard for an inclusive process that links the critical areas of development and finance.

We are convinced that the United Nations and the financing for development process are the key to reaching enduring solutions to the multiple human crises we have outlined. We call on Governments to agree to a strong financing for development follow-up process. This should provide for a new institutional mechanism within the legitimate framework of the United Nations, which ensures full respect for all aspects of the internationally agreed development goals and brings together all institutional stakeholders, not only the international financial institutions and the World Trade Organization, but also the World Health Organization and the United Nations and its specialized agencies, such as the International Labor Organization, the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Development Fund for Women, as well as civil society.

We reviewed all the chapters of the Monterrey Consensus and we make a number of key recommendations which we commend for the consideration of all delegates in your deliberations. In conclusion, we wish to say that in the face of the multiple crises, we urge Governments to take the side of women and men workers, farmers, youth and children to promote environmental sustainability by taking an alternative economic path.

We, 250 national and international civil society networks, representing millions of people from around the world, therefore call for change in Doha that puts effective development, poverty eradication, human rights, gender equality, decent work and environmental sustainability at the forefront of the discourse, the policies and the search for enduring solutions.

Business Sector Forum

Statement by
Ms. Louise Kantrow
Permanent Representative of the International Chamber of Commerce to the United Nations and Chairperson of the Business Sector Steering Committee

29 November 2008

We join others in conveying our sympathy and support to the people of India during this difficult period. On behalf of the Business Sector Steering Committee, it gives me great pleasure to address you this afternoon. Our Committee was set up by the Financing for Development Office of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs to coordinate and provide ongoing private sector inputs to the financing for development process. This has included participation at high-level events of the Economic and Social Council, business hearings and review sessions during the entire lead-up to this Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development.

It is clear that the Financing for Development Office has embraced a multi-stakeholder approach, and the private sector is a full partner. Our delegation to the Conference numbers over 200 and has representatives from every region of the world and from the full range of business sectors. The second International Business Forum on Financing for Development was held yesterday. Its theme was "The Impact of the Financial Crisis and Proposed Roadmaps: Mobilizing Private Sector Resources for Development". It was attended by more than 200 participants from the private sector, country delegations and international financial institutions.

The Forum set forth specific proposals and opened discussion on the current financial crisis, the ongoing challenges facing Governments of developing countries and private sector companies in accessing long-term affordable finance, and next steps for improving economic growth, job creation, environmental stewardship and poverty reduction. Four sessions on specific issues provided actionable proposals, followed by discussions on options to implement them and possible next steps, defining the financing for development road map that we must implement over the short and long term.

Particular attention was paid on how to enhance national cooperation among government, business sector and civil society organizations to address integrated solutions for the many challenges today which require urgent action. In addition, three tools for financing for development were launched for the use of Governments of developing countries and development agencies to increase their ability to collaborate effectively with the private sector. Entrepreneurship was recognized as the core driver for development, notably in the small- and medium-enterprise high finance sector and in the trade sector. Greening the economy is also offering new opportunities. In addition, the youth must become more involved as well.

Business is deeply committed to supporting the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus, given the critical importance of the breakthroughs achieved by the United Nations and its Member States. We believe that the Monterrey Consensus is an historic United Nations achievement of huge proportions, provided we can act together to realize its objectives and set into motion the agreed-upon action plans. As a result of Governments worldwide committing to specific actions, the United Nations and its Member States have brought the citizens of the world the promise of government commitment to specific actions for financing development, providing it with a concrete foundation for advancing our shared goals of global prosperity and peace.

However, the global financial crisis threatens the well-being of citizens worldwide. The collapse of credit markets since September presents a sudden and drastic change in the global economic outlook just since the last discussion of the Monterrey Consensus at meetings held by the Financing for Development Office in June in New York. There is a strong possibility of a decline in official development assistance and a predictable rise in protectionism, which impedes progress in increasing trade and investment. A prolonged worldwide recession will inflict grave damage on the economies of all developing countries, contribute towards the

escalation of serious poverty and seriously impede the achievement of the range of the development agendas set by the United Nations, especially the Millennium Development Goals.

Given the enormity of the financial crisis facing political and business leaders, a successful Doha outcome document is critical. We need to forge the political consensus and partnership to deal with the crisis and set the framework for long-term financing for development follow-up. As we face unchartered waters and adversity, we need to show the world and its citizens that its political leaders can work together in addressing the most challenging financial crisis of our time. We need the United Nations to be strong and effective, setting a framework with financing for development follow-up that can help us to turn our political commitments into concrete actions with effective development results across the full range of developing countries.

To deal effectively with the financial crisis, a systematic process needs to be established that enables immediate open exchange between public and private sector experts on how to ensure a stable global financial system. There needs to be a defined long-term financing for development follow-up process, with results-oriented, operational technical exchanges on a decentralized level, involving experts from the public and private sectors, aimed at developing road maps, tools and performance benchmarks.

The financing for development follow-up process needs to be in alignment with the Accra Agenda for Action on Aid Effectiveness by strengthening country ownership, building effective and inclusive partnerships and achieving development results. Global and regional financing for development meetings can be organized by the Financing for Development Office and other multi-stakeholders, including the private sectors. Pilot financing for development countries and regions could be designated. A key focus needs to be developing and scaling up effective mechanisms, programmes, policies and tools that leverage limited official resources, including those in development agencies, by harnessing resources from the private sector and foundations. The process would include identifying and sharing challenges and impediments, success stories and failures and possible solutions and tools for advancing aid effectiveness.

International cooperation on a global scale is essential to build a consensus on what needs to be done to reduce the potential depth and duration of a global slowdown and to ensure coherence among the national policy responses. A vital element in that consensus will be for countries to resist any temptation to isolate themselves from the global crisis through protectionist measures.

The Group of Twenty (G20) response to the drastic change in economic circumstances includes the priority to shore up the two most important pillars of financing for development: trade and investment. Trade, that is to say, export earnings, is by far the largest source of funding flowing to developing countries. Foreign direct investment is the second largest source. Both sources are significantly more important for development than official development assistance. We join others in strongly advocating an urgent return to the Doha Round of trade negotiations.

At Monterrey, commitments were made. Since 2002, it could be said that we have not done enough to reach its goals and imperatives. However, what we saw at yesterday's International Business Forum on Financing for Development was the outstanding potential of what we can achieve. Private sector representatives made a clear reaffirmation of staying engaged. As called for in the Monterrey Consensus, financing for development must deliver as one, and it is important to recognize the United Nations as the global venue to coordinate multistakeholders, the Bretton Woods institutions, the World Trade Organization and others, to ensure the consistency and coherence of the array of international agendas related to financing for development.

Even under this uncertain economic outlook, the business sector is committed to adhering to its core values, increasing investment, creating employment and expanding industries in developing countries. The business sector, we firmly believe, remains a critical partner to restore confidence in the world economy and promote the

rigorous implementation of the Monterrey Consensus, with concrete and practical instruments, ideas and resources. The Business Sector Steering Committee for the Financing for Development is offering its continued active participation in the follow-up of Doha.

Parliamentary Hearing

Statement by
Dr. Theo-Ben Gurirab
Speaker of the National Assembly of Namibia and President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union
on behalf of the IPU

29 November 2008

The Indian Government and people enjoin our sympathy and condolences. We condemn terrorism totally.

I am pleased to address the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development on behalf of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU). Ensuring that financing is available for development and, in particular, for the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals, to which I am so closely attached, requires a collective effort. Parliament must be a central part of that effort. It is representative of society in all its diversity. It is the natural and legitimate place where national consensus can be built around a country's development policies and social needs.

Many parliaments today offer useful platforms for public hearings and debates on national development policies that allow for input from civil society, local authorities, academia, opinion makers and the media in those initiatives. The result, when managed well, is a national development plan that is properly owned by the people. Democracy and government which is accountable are key for this to happen, thereby ensuring human security.

The power of the purse is vested in parliament. It is parliament that adopts the national budget. Parliaments increasingly scrutinize the use made by international development assistance and, of course, approve funding for official development assistance (ODA). The IPU is assisting a growing number of parliaments to do this more systematically and in greater depth. Parliament also scrutinizes implementation of the budget and, more generally, the functioning of public administration.

All of this is to say that parliaments must be part of your deliberations and finalization of the outcome document. Parliaments are essential for providing national ownership of development policies. They are equally indispensable in improving good governance. I hope that this dual responsibility of parliament will be acknowledged in the outcome document.

Yesterday, members of parliament met here in Doha to review preparations that you have made for this important Conference. You will appreciate that one of their major concerns was the impact that the current financial crisis may have on the outcome of this Conference and, more generally, on the global community's efforts to advance development.

The IPU shares these concerns. Last month, our members debated the financial crisis and asked parliaments everywhere to take urgent action to address the systemic issues underlying it and mitigate its effects. The IPU will convene a global parliamentary conference at the beginning of next year to look more deeply into this crisis and to make proposals to the international community for future action.

In this context, IPU supports a call by emerging markets and developing countries for a new Bretton Woods conference to establish a new and more globally just kind of international banking and financial system. I very much hope that your Conference will send a strong message for the need to forge a better balance between market forces and human security. We need to manage our economies more proactively with a much stronger focus on creating employment and gender balance. We must change our consumption and production patterns in ways that support the environment instead of destroying it. And we need to start formulating proposals for reforming the international financial institutions and making the multilateral framework more effective.

But most of all, this Conference will want to send a strong message from Doha that we will not allow this crisis to divert resources from the Millennium Development Goals and from the many other commitments that are part of the Monterrey Consensus.

The Inter-Parliamentary Union has been actively involved in the financing for development process from the very beginning, and we have worked to implement the Monterrey Consensus at various stages. The IPU has created a process to bring parliaments closer to the international trade negotiations and to build political support in parliaments for a trade agreement that is inclusive and supportive of sustainable social development. We have also promoted the alternative sources of financing for development and debt relief. Likewise, we campaign for greater ODA, as well as for joint venture partnerships that benefit all.

Democracy, transparent government and the rule of law are at the core of the Monterrey Consensus. It is all this that the IPU is pleading for. It works to assist many parliaments, particularly those in countries that are emerging from conflict, to build their capacity and human resources. We believe that this will, in turn, improve the quality of decision-making in all spheres of policy and, therefore, also development. Indeed, today's financial crisis could be tomorrow's human tragedy.

Functioning parliaments and informed decision-making require the participation of women in political power-sharing and mainstreaming of gender issues. We must also make greater and faster headway in adopting gender-sensitive budgets. The IPU is assisting national parliaments in examining budgets from a gender perspective and promoting ongoing consultations.

Some of these concerns and proposals are reflected in the Parliamentary Message which the IPU is addressing to this Conference, and I encourage you to be guided by its recommendations. The document has been circulated to the participants. In particular, I would like to draw your attention to the need to target the financial development agenda more explicitly to the people and their present and future needs.

We need to shift the agenda to address growing inequality and environmental sustainability. In our view, far too much attention has been given to supporting development in the aggregate, particularly by boosting economic growth, and too little to extending the benefits of development to the poor and the most vulnerable. In short, we place people at the centre of development.

In conclusion, democracy, peace, cooperation and development are our common commitments towards a better world of enlightened human values and mutual support. The Inter-Parliamentary Union and its constituent parliaments are indispensable partners in pursuit of that better world of justice and equality, a world of new multilateralism and prosperity for all. Yes, we are much stronger, as one of the presidents said this morning, acting together as partners. Often in the past, world crises like the current one provided new thinking and impetus for decisive action, which brought about a difference in human condition. Let us hope that will be the same here in Doha.

Chapter 6
Closing Summit Plenary Session

Qatar

Closing Statement by
His Excellency
Mr. Nassir Abdelaziz Al-Nasser
Permanent Representative of the State of Qatar to the United Nations

2 December 2008

Mr. Chairman, at the outset, I would like to thank you for this opportunity to present the Doha Statement on Financing Education in Conflict-Affected Areas, which reflects the high-level discussions held under the auspices of Her Highness Sheikha Mozah bint Nasser Al-Missned, the wife of our Emir, in cooperation with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, on the occasion of the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus.

On 30 November, this gathering started the above-mentioned discussions, in which the Secretary-General, Mr. Ban Ki-moon, and the President of the General Assembly, Mr. Miguel d'Escoto Brockmann, also participated, as well as high-level representatives from non-governmental organizations and from civil society. The Doha Statement on Financing Education also reflects the deliberations at the high-level discussions on financing for development.

At the World Education Forum held in Dakar, Senegal, in April 2000, over 160 Governments committed themselves to achieving six goals, and to significantly expand learning opportunities for children by 2015. At the United Nations High-level event on the Millennium Development Goals, held in New York in September this year, the international community reaffirmed its commitment to achieving the education and health Goals. However, the 2009 Education for All Global Monitoring Report sends a clear message that without decisive action being taken many countries will fall short of attaining these Goals. Given current trends, if urgent action is not taken, it is estimated that 20 million children will still be out of school in 2015.

Deeply entrenched inequalities are undermining progress in a large number of countries, particularly those in, or emerging from, conflict. Education is a fundamental human right and one of the most effective means for enabling people to escape poverty and build sustainable livelihoods. It carries high social returns, in particular, for girls and women. Education has a significant and enduring impact on social and economic development, and is a key instrument for eradicating poverty and achieving all the Millennium Development Goals. In the context of emerging global crises, it is a moral imperative that Governments and donors keep their promises in order to maintain the recent gains made in education and to achieve the Goals by 2015. Education is vital, and priority should be

given to providing and protecting it in conflict, post-conflict and transnational situations.

Contrary to humanitarian and international law, educational institutions, including their students and staff, are increasingly at risk of violent attack, despite their role as centres of protection and learning. The right to education must be respected by all parties in conflict. Without the stability that education provides, children can be left in immediate danger of exploitation or harm. They can become subject to abduction, sexual- and gender-based violence and recruitment as child soldiers. Moreover, disillusioned children can be attracted to radical groups or causes.

We recognize that in conflict-affected areas the humanitarian aid response should be adapted to the context of each specific situation. This involves using more flexible, rapid, timely and innovative response mechanisms. These should be used for both short- and long-term interventions, even if it involves a degree of risk taking. Not ensuring quality education for all will have serious implications for future generations. There is also a need for evidence-based research in this field to understand the human, social and economic risks of populations currently without quality education.

On behalf of the State of Qatar, and of all those who took part in the high-level discussions on financing for education in all areas affected by conflict, we call on the Secretary-General and the President of the General Assembly to circulate the Doha Statement as an official working document of the Doha Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus. As members of this meeting, we commit to positive action to urge donors and Governments from around the world to increase funding for, and effective implementation of, Education for All and Education in Conflict-Affected Areas. We recommend that this Statement be forwarded from Doha to the meeting of the High-level Group on Education for All, to be held in Oslo, Norway, from 16 to 18 December this year.

Mr. Chairman, the State of Qatar hopes that the Doha Statement on Financing Education in Conflict-Affected Areas will improve the outcome of the Review Conference of the Monterrey Consensus, and that it will contribute to the thematic debate on education in times of emergencies and crisis, which the President of the General Assembly decided to convene next year.

Russian Federation

Statement by

Representative of the Russian Federation

Right of reply*

2 December 2008

Our delegation was not planning to speak at today's plenary meeting, which is to adopt the outcome document of the Conference. However, having listened to the statement made by Mr. Saakashvili, and his unjustified statements about Russia, we were compelled to make this right of reply. We are perplexed that the rostrum of this global forum on such an important problem as financing for development—which has become particularly acute in this crisis—was used for these unseemly political insinuations. Moreover, the world community has no doubt that it was precisely Georgia that attacked Southern Ossetia in August of this year, which led to the destruction of many human lives and to a humanitarian catastrophe in Southern Ossetia. Our delegation thinks that it is unacceptable to use the rostrum of the Doha Conference on Financing for Development for political purposes and for the distortion of the real facts. Thank you, sir.

* Right of reply to the statement by Georgia, chapter 3, page 61.

Qatar

Closing Statement by
His Highness
Mr. Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani
Emir of the State of Qatar and President of the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus

2 December 2008

The State of Qatar and the President of the General Assembly of the United Nations have agreed to adopt a joint statement. In keeping with the consensus for partnership for the financing for development, the State of Qatar and the President of the General Assembly of the United Nations call upon Member States—having asked them to meet here in Doha to discuss financing for development—to continue the Monterrey Consensus work to overcome the international financial crisis.

International partnership is the pillar for financing for development and the real engine whereby the international development goals can be achieved, in keeping with the provisions of the outcome document of the 2005 World Summit. In a world that has witnessed accelerating technological advances, we have been unable to marshal them to provide for the simplest human needs of global food security. We have not been able to give safe air and water, sustainable sources of energy, or even a minimum of well-being, to half the world's population. However, poverty, hunger, easily preventable diseases and illnesses continue to threaten future generations by allowing some ten million of our children to die every year. We are far from our Millennium pledge to provide universal primary education for those who do survive. The most serious global financial crisis since the creation of the United Nations further threatens our ability to confront these issues and to provide the financing necessary to meet the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals.

While the crisis in the global financial system threatens both rich and poor, developed and developing countries alike, its greatest impact will be on those least able to bear it, namely, those who lead a precarious existence with little margin to meet the rapid rise in food and energy costs and who are the most dependent on official aid flows. Well, we must take steps to protect and improve the operation of the financial system. We must not forget that it is the poorest that deserve our first concern and protection against the impact of a crisis. In this regard, we reiterate our pledge in the Monterrey Consensus and the 2005 World Summit Outcome to maintain our commitment to official development assistance (ODA) and action to ensure that the least developed countries are not subject to unsustainable debt burdens, and recall the commitment of developed countries to dedicate 0.7 per cent of their gross national income to ODA.

We note that national financial institutions have thus far borne most of the burden of responding to the crisis, providing financial resources liquidity to the international financial system. We also note the difficulties that have arisen in providing a coordinated response across countries and institutions; in particular, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has played a modest role in providing emergency financial support. To support the stable development of both developed and developing countries, the IMF requires resources commensurate with the task of confronting international liquidity and solvency crises without imposing burdens and conditionalities on borrowers. We encourage the boards of governors of these institutions to expedite measures to that end.

We also believe that the current financial crisis makes it imperative to conduct a more fundamental review of the global institutions that govern international trade and finance. The global economy has seen major changes not yet reflected in our international governance arrangements. Measures taken to deal with the crisis should include major reforms that ensure a more equitable and stable global financial system, which will provide the basis for sustainable and equitable development for all countries.

We stress the importance of coordinated, coherent action in responding to the crisis as well

as in formulating national development strategies. We urge the General Assembly to continue its efforts to reinforce the role of the Economic and Social Council as the central monitoring agency to ensure coordination of economic and financial policy across the United Nations system, including the monitoring of the multinational financial institutions and bodies, their governance, their decisions and their consequences, and to assess the broader social and economic impact, including on growth, employment and poverty eradication. We recognize that these increased responsibilities will require reforms in the relationship between the United Nations General Assembly and the Bretton Woods institutions, as well as the regulatory institutions, to enhance the latest accountability to the international community.

The current crisis has not been limited to the financial aspects alone, but will also cause reductions in growth and employment. Measures to combat the effect of the crisis must include additional support for developing countries to ensure their participation in the international trading system, to provide for development and to serve as an engine of development. Recognizing that, in the past, countries have sought to protect their national well-being through restrictions on foreign producers and investors, we must now ensure cooperative solutions to the crisis and resist the temptation to respond to it with more protectionism and trade restrictions. We must. This makes the full recognition and incorporation of the development dimension of the Doha trade round even more important. We pledge to pursue completion of the Round as part of an integrated response to the current crisis.

We also note that it is important to keep our attention on other crises that we face, for example, in areas such as food security and climate change. In dealing with the current crisis, we must also resist simplistic short-term solutions that will not deal with its basic causes, as well as the belief that we need not act expeditiously. We must continue to monitor the situation and make more frequent periodic assessments of the measures to be taken and of their implementation. We reaffirm that it is in the common interest of both developed and developing counties that reform of the global financial system must adequately reflect the needs of developing countries. It must ensure sufficient and suitable financing for rapid and sustainable development in developing countries, including domestic financial systems to finance domestic investments for growth and employment creation.

It is important that any reform of international institutions with broad political legitimacy should provide for adequate representation of the developing and least developed countries and also emerging markets. Recalling that the United Nations sponsored the Monetary and Financial Conference that created the Bretton Woods institutions, it is appropriate that the outcome document of this Conference calls for the United Nations to hold a conference at the highest level on the world financial and economic crisis and its impact on development.

We look forward eagerly to the work of the Commission of Experts of the President of the United Nations General Assembly on Reforms of the International Monetary and Financial System. We call upon all States to join us in supporting the establishment of an international financial system that is just and fair, in order to support financing for development. This is the Doha Statement.

General Assembly of the United Nations

Closing Statement by

Mr. Miguel D'Escoto Brockmann
President of the General Assembly of the United Nations

Report of the Chairman of the Main Committee of the Follow-up Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus

2 December 2008

Your Highness, the Emir of Qatar, Honorable Heads of State and Government, Excellencies, Representatives of Civil Society, Dear Friends,

1. We have reached a successful conclusion to this Follow-up Conference on Financing for

Development to Review the Monterrey Consensus. I congratulate all the delegations from 160 United Nations Member States who have contributed to the drafting of the remarkable Doha Declaration on Financing for Development. I thank His Highness Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani, the Emir of Qatar, for hosting this historic gathering, enabling the United Nations to reaffirm the new partnership for development that was agreed upon in Monterrey six years ago.

2. In the midst of an ongoing financial crisis of far-reaching but yet unknown consequences, we have not only strengthened commitments to innovative cooperation for financing for development, we have taken the first steps to agree on major changes in our international financial governance. We agree that these changes must respond to the needs and concerns of all nations, rich and poor, North and South, and that the process of change will be inclusive and democratic. In short, our negotiations have highlighted a new sense of solidarity and good will among nations at a time when we can be tempted to withdraw into our narrowly defined self-interests.

3. In the face of a loss of confidence in our international financial institutions, the difficult process of rebuilding trust has begun. Very few of us believe that we can continue on the same path that 3 has brought us to this breakdown, a collapse that reflects not only the implosion of the so-called Washington Consensus, but the exhaustion of our fragile planet and the bankruptcy of the dominant culture of greed and dominance. We are replacing arrogance with humility, agreeing that all of us must take on responsibility for the development of our societies. We are putting aside hypocritical policies and insist that we all play by the agreed rules of the game.

4. The Emir put it very well when he said: "The developed countries have no right to direct others what to do, giving them advice and directives while exempting themselves from the due contributions to the issue of development that are proportionate to their capabilities."

5. As Chair of the Main Committee, I had the opportunity to meet with many of you during the long and sometimes heated negotiations. I am fully aware of the difficulties you had to overcome. I am pleased that we could reach detailed agreements, especially those relating to development cooperation, trade and climate change, among others. No one ever promised that our task of making this a better world would be easy, but, on the other hand, nothing can be more satisfying.

6. We have heard from representatives of 250 civil society networks who also came to Doha to speak on behalf of the millions of people around the world, particularly women, whose voices go unheard. We appreciate their emphasis on investing in people-centered development and their comprehensive and compelling proposals for changes that enhance action for effective development, poverty eradication, human rights, gender equality, decent work, and 4 environmental sustainability. I will forward the Declaration of the Civil Society Forum to all members of the General Assembly.

7. We are aware that the Monterrey meeting in 2002 was in part a response to the financial crisis that devastated economies in Asia and Latin America in the 1990s. At that time there were calls for reform of the faulty international financial architecture that makes all countries, rich and poor, vulnerable to misguided policies and lack of regulation. Another investment bubble was quickly inflated and the clamor for change was stifled. We certainly hope that the current crisis can be brought under control so that a devastating global depression can be avoided. But there can be no doubt that fundamental change is now imperative. Our declaration is clear that we must seize this opportunity to make our global financial system more equitable, sustainable and stable.

8. We agree that the United Nations is uniquely qualified as a forum for discussion of these changes. We stress the importance of coordinated, coherent action in responding to the crisis as well as in formulating national development strategies that adequately reflect the interests of developing countries. An essential part of a stable and equitable system will require the reform of all international economic institutions and standard setting bodies to ensure adequate representation of least developed countries.

9. The General Assembly must continue its efforts to reinforce the role of the Economic and Social Council as the central monitoring agency to ensure coordination of economic and financial policy across the United Nations system. This include the monitoring of the multilateral financial institutions and bodies, their governance, their decisions and the consequences of such decisions in order to 5 assess broader social and economic impacts on growth, employment and poverty reduction in particular. We recognize these increased responsibilities will require reforms in the relationship between the General Assembly and the Bretton Woods institutions as well as regulatory institutions, to enhance the latter's accountability to the international community.

10. We must continue to monitor the unfolding crisis and step up our search for viable responses to its underlying causes. Towards this end, we have authorized the General Assembly to hold a conference at the highest level on the world financial and economic crisis and its impact on development. As president of the General Assembly, I will make preparations for this conference a priority and help define its modalities by March 2009 at the latest, as requested. I look forward to working closely with the Secretariat, which provides, in addition to the capacity to organize what will be a intense conference process, a diverse and professional pool of experts on these complex issues.

11. In preparation for this conference, I have convened a Commission of Experts of the President of the General Assembly on the Reform of the Monetary and Financial System, drawing on preeminent experts from around the world.

12. On behalf of all of us, I wish to pay special tribute once again to the two very able facilitators who have guided the outcome document from the beginning, their Excellencies Ambassadors Johan Lovald of Norway and Maged Abdelaziz of Egypt. They have given generously of their time throughout the process and, more recently, together with the Chair, Paul Oquist, my senior advisor on financial and development cooperation, have ensured the 6 adoption of a consensus document that we can all be proud of. I am personally deeply grateful to them.

13. We all appreciate the professional work of the hundreds of United Nations staff who have ensured the seamless organization of this conference. Working together with the national team, these professionals have come from around the world to create a safe and well serviced environment within which our deliberations have taken place. We thank them all for their hard work.

14. And a final special thank you to His Highness Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani, the Emir of Qatar, for hosting this conference. I am confident that Qatar's commitment to this process will be sustained in the months ahead as we seek to follow-up on financing for development and the task of reforming our international financial architecture. His commitment and generosity are exemplary and I offer my heart-felt gratitude. Under his wise leadership, Qatar has become synonymous with the nonviolent struggle for justice and lasting peace in our world.

15. I would be remiss if I did not take this opportunity to also thank Her Highness Sheikha Mozad bint Nasser Al-Minad for her selfless commitment to the crucial issue of financing for education, especially for the most vulnerable populations living in situations of conflict and natural disasters. Together their example has greatly contributed to our feeling spiritually renewed as we leave beautiful Doha. May God shower his more abundant blessings upon them and all the people of friendly and hospitable Qatar.

Thank you all.

General Assembly of the United Nations

Closing Statement by
His Excellency
Mr. Miguel d'Escoto Brockmann
President of the General Assembly
Chairman of the Main Committee

2 December 2008

In my capacity as Chairman of the Main Committee, I was given responsibility for overseeing the drafting process for the outcome document of this Conference. I am pleased to present a draft document for consideration and adaptation by the plenary.

We have reached a successful conclusion to this Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus. I congratulate all the delegations from the 116 United Nations Member States who have contributed to the drafting of the remarkable Doha Declaration on Financing for Development. I thank His Highness Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani, the Emir of Qatar, for hosting this historic gathering, enabling the United Nations to reaffirm the new partnership for development that was agreed upon in Monterrey six years ago.

In the midst of an ongoing financial crisis of far-reaching, but yet unknown, consequences, we have not only strengthened commitments to innovative cooperation for financing for development; we have taken the first steps to agree on major changes in our international financial governance. We agree that these changes must respond to the needs and concerns of all nations, rich and poor, north and south, and that the process of change will be inclusive and democratic. In short, our negotiations have highlighted the new sense of solidarity and goodwill among nations at a time when we can be tempted to withdraw into our narrowly defined self-interests.

In the face of a loss of confidence in our international financial institutions, the difficult process of rebuilding trust has begun. Very few of us believe that we can continue on the same path that has brought us to this breakdown—a collapse that reflects not only the implosion of the so-called Washington Consensus, but the exhaustion of our fragile planet and the bankruptcy of the dominant culture of greed and dominance. We are replacing arrogance with humility, agreeing that all of us must take on the responsibility for the development of our societies. We are putting aside hypocritical policies that insist that we all play by the agreed rules of the game.

The Emir put it very well when he said, and I quote, "The developed countries have no right to direct others what to do, giving them advice and directives, while exempting themselves from the due contributions to the issue of development that are proportionate to their capabilities".

As Chair of the Main Committee, I had the opportunity to meet with many of you during the long, and sometimes heated, negotiations. I am fully aware of the difficulties you had to overcome. I am pleased that we could reach detailed agreements, especially those relating to development, cooperation, trade and climate change, among others. No one ever promised that our task of making this a better world would be easy but, on the other hand, nothing can be more satisfying.

We have heard from representatives of 250 civil society networks that also came to Doha to speak on behalf of the millions of people around the world, particularly women, whose voices go unheard. We appreciate their emphasis on investing in people-centred development, and their comprehensive and compelling proposals for changes that enhance action for effective development, poverty eradication, human rights, gender equality, decent work and environmental sustainability. I will forward the Declaration of the Global Forum of the Civil Society to all members of the General Assembly.

We are aware that the Monterrey meeting in 2002 was, in part, a response to the financial crisis that devastated economies in Asia and Latin America in the 1990s. At that time, there were calls for reform of the faulty international financial architecture that makes all countries, rich and poor, vulnerable to misguided policies and lack of

regulation. Another investment bubble was quickly inflated and the clamour for change was stifled. We certainly hope that the current crisis can be brought under control so that a devastating global depression can be avoided, but there can be no doubt that fundamental change is now imperative. Our Declaration is clear that we must seize this opportunity to make our global financial system more equitable, sustainable and stable.

We agree that the United Nations is uniquely qualified as a forum for discussion of these changes. We stress the importance of coordinated, coherent action in responding to the crisis as well as in formulating national development strategies that adequately reflect the interest of developing countries. An essential part of a stable and equitable system will require the reform of all international economic institutions and standard-setting bodies to ensure adequate representation of the least developed countries.

The General Assembly must continue its efforts to reinforce the role of the Economic and Social Council as the central monitoring agency to ensure coordination of economic and financial policy across the United Nations system. This includes the monitoring of the multilateral financial institutions and bodies, their governance, their decisions and the consequences of such decisions in order to assess the broader social and economic impacts on growth, employment and poverty reduction, in particular. We recognize that these increased responsibilities would require reform of the relationship between the General Assembly and the Bretton Woods institutions, as well as regulatory institutions to enhance the latter's accountability to the international community.

We must continue to monitor the unfolding crisis and step up our search for viable responses to its underlying causes. Towards that end, we have authorized the General Assembly to hold a conference at the highest level on the world financial and economic crisis and its impact on development. As President of the General Assembly, I will make preparations for that conference a priority and help to define its modalities by March 2009, at the latest, as requested. I look forward to working closely with the Secretariat, which provides, in addition to the capacity to organize what will be an intense conference process, a diverse and professional pool of experts on these complex issues.

In preparation for the conference, I have convened a Commission of Experts of the President of the General Assembly on Reforms of the International Monetary and Financial System, drawing on pre-eminent experts from around the world.

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We all appreciate the professional work of the hundreds of United Nations staff who have ensured the seamless organization of this Conference. Working together with the national team, these professionals have come from around the world to create a safe and well-serviced environment within which our deliberations have taken place. We thank them all for their hard work.

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I would be remiss if I did not take this opportunity to also thank Her Highness Sheikha Mozad bint Nasser Al-Minad for her selfless commitment to the crucial issue of financing for education,

especially for the most vulnerable populations, living in situations of conflict and natural disasters. Together, their example has greatly contributed to our feeling of spiritual renewal as we leave beautiful Doha. May God shower his more abundant blessings upon them and on all the people of friendly and hospitable Qatar.

Antigua and Barbuda

Closing Statement by
Mr. John W. Ashe
Ministerial Representative for Sustainable Development Matter,s Chairman of the delegation of Antigua and Barbuda (on behalf of the Group of 77 and China)

2 December 2008

It is a privilege to present a statement on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. We are particularly delighted that a consensus was reached on the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus. With this consensus, we have now taken major steps in addressing the systemic challenges we face as an international community. With this document we can now move ahead in the spirit of Monterrey to address all these challenges that we now face. The Group of 77 and China would particularly like to express its appreciation to our development partners who have answered the call to react in a decisive manner. The flexibility and cooperation by all allowed us to have a successful outcome to this summit and reinforces the fact that we are an international community.

We would like to propose to the Conference that the document reflecting our conclusions and undertakings be named the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development in honour of this city. This would require the following consequential changes to the proposed draft resolution contained in document L.1. The title of the draft resolution should read: "The Doha Declaration on Financing for Development Outcome Document: outcome document of the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus." Operative para. 1 of the draft should read: "Adopts the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development: outcome document of the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus, which is annexed to the present resolution". Operative para. 2 of the draft resolution should be amended to read: "Recommends to the General Assembly that it endorses, during the main part of its sixty-third session, the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development as adopted by the Conference". I thank you, Mr. President.

I am now taking the floor on behalf of the Group of 77 and China to present a draft resolution entitled "Expression of thanks to the people and Government of Qatar". The resolution reads as follows:

"Having met in Doha, Qatar, from 29 November to 2 December 2008, at the invitation of the Government of Qatar, 1. Expresses its deep appreciation to his Highness Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani, Emir of the State of Qatar, for his outstanding contribution, as President of the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus, to the successful outcome of the Conference; 2. Expresses its profound gratitude to the Government of Qatar for having made it possible for the Conference to be held in Qatar and for the excellent facilities, staff and services so graciously placed at its disposal; 3. Requests the Government of Qatar to convey to the city of Doha and to the people of Qatar the gratitude of the Conference for the hospitality and warm welcome extended to the participants".

I commend this proposed draft resolution to the Conference for its unanimous approval. Finally, in closing, Mr. President, I wish to recognize the contribution of the delegation of Qatar, beginning with its Mission and respondent Mission to the United Nations, and that of Ambassador Al Nasser for all the help he offered the group, as well as that of Vice-Minister Ramhi, here, in Qatar. I thank those two gentlemen for their outstanding contributions.

France

Closing Statement by
Representative of the French Republic (on behalf of the European Union)

2 December 2008

The European Union is obviously quite pleased with this consensus. It is a unanimous agreement, a dynamic consensus in Doha. We have made a commitment that we are going to do more, we are going to do better, in order to build a world that is more just, and to push back poverty. On behalf of the European Union, I would like to thank, in particular, the authorities of Qatar for the very warm welcome that has been extended to us. I would also like to thank the President, as well as the co-facilitators, the secretariat, all the delegations who have taken part in the Conference, civil society and, of course, all our experts and assistants who have worked relentlessly and with a great deal of passion so that we can come up with this very important text.

Doha was supposed to be a follow-up conference—notably, a follow-up conference—but, in fact, Doha has become a new beginning for development, and that is good because the situation is urgent. That is why the European Union wanted to be a positive player from the outset of this Conference. As the Acting President of the European Union, President Sarkozy, has said, development cannot be sacrificed at the altar of the economic crisis. Africa, mainly, but not only Africa—all the developing countries—must have their rightful place in international institutions and take part in decisions.

Europe will comply with the 0.7 per cent of 2015. It is a major choice. It is a founding choice. And dear colleagues, ladies and gentlemen, I now have the honour, on behalf of Europe, at a time when our work is concluding on this collective and major success, to say how pleased I am with all of you. Together, we have been responsible.

Yes, Doha is a new start. Perhaps historic conditions are coming together because of the crisis, perhaps in order to build this new world that we are calling for—a world with greater solidarity. Then let us all be the founders of this new world.

United Nations

Closing Statement by
Mr. Sha Zukang
Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs
(on behalf of the Secretary-General of the United Nations)

2 December 2008

The Secretary-General regrets very much not being able to be with us at the closing dinner and at the meeting today. I would, therefore, like to say just a few words on his behalf.

First, I wish to reiterate our deep gratitude to the Emir and to the Government and people of Qatar for their generous hospitality and for the excellent arrangements they made for holding this Conference. Our staff at the United Nations worked closely with the Qatari authorities for several months in order to make this happen, and we were consistently given extraordinary cooperation and shown a disposition to spare no effort to make the Conference a great success, and a great success it has been.

We can now safely say that the document that has just been adopted represents an important milestone in the struggle for development, and that it adds significant value to what we achieved in Monterrey almost seven years ago. On every aspect of the Financing for Development Agenda, we can identify areas in which there has been progress. Perhaps it has not been as much as we would have wanted, but that is precisely one of the reasons why we came to Doha, to reiterate our political commitment to this process and to show our determination to continue to carry it forward. We now have our marching orders and you can be sure that the Secretariat of the United Nations will fulfill its responsibilities with the utmost dedication.

The success, of course, belongs most of all to the Member States themselves. It is they who constructed it. It is they who worked laboriously to reach it. And without their political will, it could not have been achieved. We would like to recognize the key role played by others in this process.

I would just like to mention here the key role of the President of the General Assembly and his two facilitators, the two Special Envoys of the Secretary-General, and many officials of the United Nations system. We also cannot fail to recognize the crucial role played in this process by other stakeholders, including many intergovernmental and regional organizations, civil society organizations and the business community.

Once again, Mr. President, thank you very much, and let us celebrate today and get back to work tomorrow.

Qatar

Closing Statement by
Representative of His Highness Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani Emir of the State of Qatar and President of the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus

2 December 2008

I would like to thank the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs for his greetings and for addressing those nice words to the State of Qatar. I would now like to deliver the final statement of this Conference.

As we review our work of the past four days, as contained in our Doha outcome document, we should first ask ourselves if we have done everything that we could to meet the challenge of the current crisis that every speaker has acknowledged to be the most serious since the Great Depression of the 1930s. But that challenge was not so much to provide the negotiated solutions appropriate to solve our problems. Our biggest challenge was to put aside our individual concerns and interests and focus our attention on what could be done now to ease the burden of what is certain to be a sustained disruption of global trade and financial flows to the world's poor. The issue was related to what we could do under the international consensus and integration. Many speakers at the plenary sessions and in the interactive roundtables have noted the contradiction between the ability of many countries to instantly mobilize billions of dollars to support their failing financial institutions and their inability to find the conviction to fulfil their commitments to finance the efforts of developing countries to meet the Millennium Development Goals, to improve the conditions of the poorest people on the earth.

If we continue to think that we can protect ourselves and can provide solutions to the crisis through focusing on our individual interests only, we will fail to learn a lesson from the present crisis; we will also fail to meet the requirements of the concept of international partnership. We start from the principle that we should help others. This means that we can help ourselves as well. No one can work single-handedly, focusing on individual interest, because this global crisis requires global solutions and global alliances that are based on partnership and participation in shouldering responsibilities. Doha was a place to build the future. And some of the speakers noted the importance of involving the United Nations system fully, together with the Bretton Woods institutions, in responding to the call for global solutions to the global crisis. Global answers require the presence of all regions of the world, representing the voices of the rich, of the emerging economies and of the poorest people.

As mentioned by His Excellency, His Highness Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani, the Prince of Qatar, and I quote, "Many of us looked at development from one perspective, which is the financial perspective. However, we realize now, from the lessons of history and politics, as well as crisis, that development is one whole that cannot be fragmented. Development is the larger arena of a human being's progress and development; if we are here at this Conference working under the slogan of 'Financing for development', however, it should be clear, at the same time, that financing is just an incentive for everybody to have their rights". His Highness also said that "some of us should realize that development is an umbrella of peace that protects everybody, and that in many circumstances of human development it is more helpful in the preservation of peace than in the accumulation of weapons".

One of the clearest consequences of the financial crisis and the deficiency in liquidity would be deterioration in the flow of international investments and, as well, re-directing the budgets of developed countries to local needs rather than to aid and assistance. And, of course, this in turn would aggravate the task, which is already quite difficult, of providing the economic and social infrastructure needed if developing countries are to succeed in mobilizing their local resources to ensure an increase in the flow of official help and aid.

We should, therefore, really seek more creative sources of financing in order to decrease the impact of deteriorating and shrinking investments. Within that framework, my country, the State of Qatar, suggested having a multilateral investment alliance that would bring together donor countries, multilateral financial institutions and humanitarian bodies. These investment agencies could be administered and supervised by the United Nations, or by other regional developmental institutions. The profits generated by the project could then be made available to provide an increasing revolving fund of finance for additional projects. This fund could readily capitalize on successful national experiences; it could also provide infrastructure and humanitarian assistance, as well as support for South-South cooperation.

The principle of global solidarity and development in partnership applies not only to the solutions to the challenges raised by the current crisis, but to its impact on other challenges of a more structural and long-term nature. While we concentrate on the stability of the financial system and the accumulation of financial wealth, it becomes more likely that we shall no longer be able to provide for the basic needs of food, shelter and energy for the world's growing population.

Thus, while we may have reached a conclusion and agreed on a common view, as contained in our outcome document, and although we have concluded our Conference, our work will not finish. We must ensure that we will continue to monitor the commitment that we have undertaken and adapt our response to conditions as they evolve. The global economy is an ongoing process, as you know, and our evaluation of the measures that need to be taken in order to develop the resources and capabilities for all citizens of the world needs to be an ongoing process as well.

The State of Qatar has tried to support this multilateral process by hosting a number of international meetings, including the present Conference, and we are pledged to do everything we can to ensure our commitment to support the global development partnership. That is the basis for the financing for development process. To achieve this, we—the State of Qatar, join the President of the General Assembly in asking you to strengthen the global development partnership in the face of the critical challenges and choices that face the global community.

Finally, as the concluding document of the Conference has been adopted by consensus, I avail myself of this opportunity to thank the President of the United Nations General Assembly, the Secretary-General of the Secretariat, the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, the staff of the Secretariat, the interpreters, the Qatari National Committee, the volunteers and all the unknown soldiers, who contributed to the preparation and organization of this Conference and brought it to a successful conclusion.

I declare the close of the United Nations Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of Monterrey Consensus. Once again, welcome to Qatar and we wish you all a very pleasant trip back home.

Joint Statement by

The President of the General Assembly
His Excellency
Father Miguel D'Escoto Brockmann
and
President of the Conference
His Excellency
Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani
Amir of the State of Qatar

at the conclusion of the Follow-up Conference on Financing for Development to Review the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus held in Doha

Doha Statement

to strengthen the Global Development Partnership for Financing for Development

We the state of Qatar and the President of the United Nations General Assembly call upon the Member states of the United Nations assembled in Doha, Qatar for the Follow up International Conference on Financing for Development to join them in responding to the complexity of the global crisis by reaffirming our commitment to the Global Development Partnership as the underlying principle of the Financing for Development process and as the basic means for achieving the international development goals as outlined in the 2005 World Summit Outcome.

In a world that has witnessed accelerating technological advances, we have been unable to marshal this to provide for the simplest human needs of global food security, safe air and water, sustainable sources of energy or even a minimum of well being for half the world's population. Poverty, hunger, easily preventable diseases and illnesses continue to threaten our future generations by allowing some 10 million of our children to die every year. And we are far from our Millennium pledge to provide universal primary education for those who do survive.

The most serious global financial crisis since the creation of the United Nations further threatens our ability to confront these issues and provide the financing necessary to meet the internationally agreed development goals including the Millennium Development Goals. While the crisis in the global financial system threatens both rich and poor, developed and developing countries alike, its greatest impact will be on those least able to bear it, namely those who lead a precarious existence with little margin to meet the rapid rise in food and energy costs and who are most dependent on official aid flows. While we must take steps to protect and improve the operation of the financial system, we must not forget that it is the poorest that deserve our first concern and protection against the impact of the crisis. In this regard, we reiterate our pledge in the Monterrey Consensus and the Summit Outcome to maintain our commitment to official development assistance and action to ensure the least developed countries are not subject to unsustainable debt burdens and recall the commitment of developed countries to dedicate 0.7 per cent of their national income to official assistance.

We note that national financial institutions have thus far borne most of the burden of responding to the crisis and providing financial resources liquidity to the international financial system. We also note the difficulties that have arisen in providing a coordinated response across countries and institutions. In particular, the IMF has played a modest role in providing emergency financial support. To support the stable development of both developed and developing countries, the IMF requires resources commensurate with the task of confronting international liquidity and solvency crises without imposing burdensome conditionalities on borrowers. We encourage the Boards of Governors of these institutions to expedite measures to that end.

We also believe that the current financial crisis makes imperative a more fundamental review of the global institutions that govern international trade and finance. The global economy has seen major changes not yet reflected in our international governance arrangements. Measures taken to deal with the crisis should include major reforms that ensure a more equitable and stable global financial system, which would provide the basis for sustainable and equitable development for all countries.

We stress the importance of coordinated, coherent action in responding to the crisis as well as in formulating national development strategies. We urge the General Assembly to continue its efforts to reinforce the role of the Economic and Social Council as the central monitoring agency to ensure coordination of economic and financial policy across the UN system, including the monitoring of the multilateral financial institutions and bodies, their governance, their decisions, and their consequences, to assess broader social and economic impacts, including on growth, unemployment, and poverty. We recognize these increased responsibilities will require reforms in the relationship between the UN General Assembly and the Bretton Woods institutions as well as regulatory institutions, to enhance the latter's accountability to the international community.

The crisis has not been limited to the financial sphere, and will cause reductions in growth and employment Measures to combat the effects of the crisis must include additional support for developing countries to ensure their participation in the international trading system provides financing for development and serves as—an engine of development. Recognizing that countries have, in the past, sought to protect their national well being through restrictions on foreign producers and investors, we must ensure cooperative solutions to the crisis and prevent the temptation to respond to the crisis with trade restrictions and protection. This makes the full recognition and incorporation of the development dimension of the Doha trade round even more important. We pledge to pursue completion of the Round as part of an integrated response to the current crisis. We also note that it is important to maintain our attention to the other crises that we face in areas such as food security and climate change.

In dealing with the crisis, we must resist simplistic short-term solutions that will not deal with the basic causes of the crisis, as well as the belief that we need not act expeditiously. We must continue to monitor the situation and make more frequent periodic assessments of the measures to be taken and their implementation.

We reaffirm that it is in the common interests of both developed and developing

countries that reform of the global financial system must adequately reflect the interests of developing countries. It must ensure sufficient and suitable financing for rapid and sustainable development in developing countries including domestic financial systems to finance domestic investments for growth and employment creation.

It is important that any reform to international institutions with broad political legitimacy should provide for adequate representation of developing and the least developed countries and also emerging markets. Recalling that the United Nations has sponsored the "United Nations' Monetary and Financial Conference" that created the Bretton Woods institutions, it is appropriate that the Outcome document of this conference calls for the United Nations to hold a conference at the highest level on the world financial and economic crisis and its impact on development. We look forward to the work of the Commission of Experts of the President of the United Nations General

Assembly on Reforms of the International Monetary and Financial System concerned with the reforms to increase stability and support for financing development for all countries to provide support for the conference.

We call upon all countries to join us in supporting an international financial system that is fair and equitable in support of financing for development.

Chapter 7
Summaries of Roundtable Discussions

Round table 1
Mobilizing domestic financial resources for development

29 November 2008

1. Round table 1 was co-chaired by Emomali Rahmon, President of Tajikistan, and John Michuki, Minister for Finance of Kenya. Justin Yifu Lin, Chief Economist and Senior Vice-President of the World Bank, moderated the panel. Presentations were made by the following panellists: Azizul Islam, Minister for Finance of Bangladesh; Assane Diop, Executive Director, Social Protection Section, International Labour Organization; Angel Gurría, Secretary-General of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development; Michael Keating, Director of the Africa Progress Panel; Her Royal Highness Princess Máxima of the Netherlands, member of the United Nations Advisers Group on Inclusive Financial Sectors; and Vito Tanzi, former State Under-Secretary for Economy and Finance of Italy.

2. Mr. Lin introduced the topics under discussion. In particular, he stressed the importance of deriving investment from domestic rather than external sources as a foundation for long-term growth. He argued that now would be a good time for many countries to invest in development in order to prepare themselves for high economic growth in the future. He also noted that, if financial resources were derived from domestic sources, it would help countries to minimize currency mismatches and withstand the impact of financial crises.

3. Mr. Islam noted the importance of synergy between domestic resource mobilization, debt, trade and private capital flows. With regard to direct taxation in developing countries, he pointed out the lack of sufficient databases and information technology in tax administration. Given that the value-added taxes introduced in many developing countries did not sufficiently cover the shortfall of tax revenue caused by trade liberalization, donor countries should support national efforts in the area of tax collection. Because of insufficient physical infrastructure in developing countries, there was an urgent need for the international community to assist the least developed countries in that respect. Transnational corporations should not seek tax incentives that lasted long periods of time. Lowering the transaction cost for remittances was also identified as a useful measure.

4. Mr. Diop referred to the impact of the current financial crisis on financing for development, which would negatively affect employment and poverty-reduction prospects. It was estimated that 20 million jobs could be lost by 2009, which could significantly increase poverty levels. A multilateral framework was necessary to minimize such effects. It would be necessary to protect the most vulnerable segment of the population by providing basic social services. The need for decent work for all was emphasized.

5. Mr. Gurría stressed the importance of taxation for effective State-building. Since there was a direct link between the quality of Government expenditure and the readiness of citizens to meet their tax

obligations, the importance of improving the relationship between Governments and taxpayers was emphasized. A clear understanding was needed that tax revenues would be spent in a transparent and efficient manner. However, tax collection was not necessarily confined within national borders. Tax havens undermined the tax base of both developed and developing countries by offering secrecy and a no-tax environment to evaders. There was a need to develop a renewed focus on enhancing domestic revenues through broadly based taxation, thus enabling greater predictability of revenues. Necessary measures would include creating effective tax systems, tackling the scourge of corruption, addressing tax havens and tax evasion, and helping to create an investment-friendly environment.

6. Mr. Keating focused on the impact of the global economic slowdown on Africa. In the light of declining commodity prices, the levels of trade and remittances from overseas had been decreasing. Given the critical lack of productive capacity and relatively high cost of electricity in developing countries, further investment in infrastructure was essential.

7. Princess Máxima addressed the issue of inclusive finance for development. She noted that much of the population in developing countries had no access to formal financial services, such as banking and insurance. As a result, the poor faced high transaction costs and high risk in the informal financial sector for sending and receiving remittances. In order to enhance domestic resource mobilization it was important to educate people how to save.

8. Mr. Tanzi referred to his 27 years of experience at the International Monetary Fund in providing advice to developing countries. He emphasized the need for effective tax policies that were fair, neutral, simple and broad-based. It was equally important that tax administration should be easy to comply with if sustainable development was to be achieved. Debt financing of budget deficits—the most common way to finance Government expenditure—was not sustainable in the long term. Lowering taxes usually resulted in higher tax revenue. In developing countries, however, owing to the existence of large informal sectors and the difficulty of enforcing tax collection, lowering tax rates did not guarantee increased tax revenues nor did providing tax incentives to transnational corporations.

9. The presentations by the panellists were followed by an interactive discussion among participants, including representatives of Governments, institutional stakeholders, civil society and the business sector.

10. The following key points were made in the presentations and discussions:

- Taxes represent the most important resource for investment, which in turn is essential for effective State-building. Effective tax policies that are fair, neutral, simple and broad-based, together with a tax administration that is easy to comply with, are essential for sustainable development. There is a need to avoid the politicization of tax compliance and collection.
- In order to support capacity-building in tax policy and administration in developing countries, it is essential to provide technical assistance in those fields, in particular to establish bilateral tax treaties and the exchange of information. Upgrading the technical skills of tax officers and the use of information technology in tax administration are prerequisites for enhancing tax revenue.
- Given that developing countries are not fully integrated into international forums on tax matters, the United Nations Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters could play an important role for such countries. To further promote such international cooperation, several participants supported the upgrading of the Committee to a Commission.
- Capital flight—derived mostly from illicit financing flows, tax evasion and avoidance, transfer-mispricing by transnational corporations and corruption—imposes large costs on development. It denies developing countries the precious financial resources essential for development. Capital flight is estimated at between $500 and $800 billion per year, an

amount greater than total official development assistance to all developing countries. In order to prevent such capital flight, it is necessary to strengthen the exchange of information among tax authorities on a regular basis.

- Corruption is an issue for both developed and developing countries. In order to reduce corruption in the area of natural resources, the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative should be recognized as an important instrument for preventing corruption. The United Nations Convention against Corruption and the Stolen Asset Recovery Initiative should be strengthened, extended and adopted by more countries.
- The taxation of natural resources and fees on public services could supplement existing tax revenues in developing countries. In the light of the high volatility of the prices of natural resources, the taxation of natural resources should be designed so that tax rates can be increased when the price is high and a price support mechanism can be triggered when the price is low. Commodity price fluctuations call for prudent management of fiscal revenues to ensure a source of permanent stable revenue for commodity-dependent developing countries. When public services are provided without any fee, consumers tend to overuse such services. Thus, imposing a modest fee on public services is an ideal way to support the efficient management of Government expenditure.
- It is estimated that approximately 20 per cent of the population in developing countries (2 billion people) do not have access to formal financial services, such as banking (savings and loans) and insurance. As a result, the poor face both high transaction costs and high risk in the informal financial sector for sending and receiving remittances.
- In order to enhance incentives for savings, it is necessary to ensure that real interest rates are positive rather than negative. Financial depression should be avoided.
- Taking into consideration the recent bankruptcy of some major financial institutions, there is an urgent need to establish a guideline or regulation for transparent loan terms and consumer-protection mechanisms for microcredit.
- Given the critical lack of productive capacity and relatively high cost of electricity in developing countries, further investment in infrastructure, including energy, agriculture and human development (especially education), is essential.

Round table 2

Mobilizing international resources for development: foreign direct investment and other private flows

30 November 2008

1. Round table 2 was co-chaired by Denis Sassou Nguesso, President of the Congo, and Bob McMullan, Parliamentary Secretary for International Development Assistance of Australia. Supachai Panitchpakdi, Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, moderated the panel. Presentations were made by the following panellists: Hiroto Arakawa, Senior Special Adviser, Japan International Cooperation Agency; Trevor Manuel, Minister for Finance of South Africa, Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Conference; Joyce H. de Ginatta, President, Federación Interamericana Empresarial of Ecuador; Huguette Labelle, Chair of Transparency International; Avinash Persaud, Chairman of Intelligence Capital; and Kamalesh Sharma, Commonwealth Secretary-General.

2. Mr. Supachai referred to the positive developments in financing for development that had occurred since the Monterrey Conference, such as trade expansion, improvement in macroeconomic discipline, surpluses in current accounts and the accumulation of foreign reserves in developing countries. In the light of the current financial crisis, that progress might come to an end. A new

landscape would have implications for foreign direct investment (FDI) and for creating productive capacity for sustained economic growth. FDI trends since 2002 had been variable. Even though the total amount of FDI to developing countries had tripled, it had not been evenly distributed, with most funds to major emerging economies, such as Brazil, India and South Africa, while the least developed countries had received only 3 per cent of total global FDI flows. The direction of total net flows had shifted from North-South to South-South, with increased greenfield investment and a concentration in the extractive industries. FDI had consistently exceeded official development assistance (ODA). To prepare for difficult times, developing countries needed to set their own macroeconomic policies and mobilize funds from abroad for their own needs. FDI could sometimes have a negative effect on domestic business in terms of competition. Governments needed to be explicit in their policies and strategies in terms of where they wanted to direct FDI investments. It was important for financial relationships to be transparent.

3. Mr. Arakawa stressed that the current financial crisis would have an impact on private flows to developing countries. It was expected that real gross domestic product (GDP) growth would decrease from 8.0 per cent in 2007 to 6.6 per cent in 2008 and to 5.1 per cent in 2009, as a result of the slowdown of GDP growth rate in developed economies. The challenge ahead was to set strategies for sustained growth and inclusive development, which should include high levels of investment; macroeconomic stability; urbanization and rural investment; effective government; competition and structural change; export promotion and industrial policy; and infrastructure development. To promote FDI, there was a need for an enabling environment, created through policy reform and institutions, and for risk mitigation. In both cases, ODA could have a catalytic role in technical assistance.

4. Mr. Manuel noted that the current international financial crisis had exposed the failure of the existing crisis-prevention system. Regulatory systems in developed countries, aiming at better risk management and consumer protection, did not work and needed to be re-evaluated. A number of questions about underlying issues needed to be addressed, including the great volatility of capital markets and aspects of capital market innovations that were harmful to financial stability. The speaker also noted the need to address the spillover of the international credit crunch into a global recession, and underscored the impact of the crisis on risk appetite and the move of investment back to dollar-based securities and treasuries.

5. Mr. Manuel also referred to the interruption of good economic performance on the African continent and the setback to achievement of the Millennium Development Goals resulting from the crisis. He highlighted areas critical at the current juncture: coordinated global action in response to the crisis and its impact; the need to license, regulate and supervise all financial intermediaries; the need to overhaul and oversee custodial institutions, such as credit-rating agencies, that had not worked; and the need to revisit accounting standards. As for the implementation of Basel II, issues designated for internal risk management within financial institutions needed to be drawn out to be regulated by external institutions.

6. Ms. de Ginatta discussed dollarization and its impact on FDI. A solid currency allowed businesses—and not the Government—to have control over most of their decisions. In the case of Ecuador, the United States dollar had been adopted as the national currency and the local currency had been eliminated in order to regain the trust of economic actors. Ecuador's macroeconomic plan was centred around the adoption of the United States dollar as its currency, which together with investment promotion policy had created a fiscal system that provided incentives; strengthened the country's competitiveness; and ultimately promoted exports, improved legal security and reduced corruption and speculation. Annual inflation had been reduced from 91 per cent in 2000 to 1.39 per cent in March 2005. The scenario after the dollarization process also favoured the growth of deposits in the economy, from just under $3 billion in 1999 to over $10.5 billion in 2008. Regarding exports, non-petroleum exports had increased from US$ 3 billion in 1999 to $4.6 billion in 2007, of which non-traditional exports had increased from $1.15 billion in 1999

to almost $3.0 billion in 2007. The activity of the real economy had been reflected in the growth of electric consumption by almost 40 per cent from 1999 to 2006. In conclusion, in Ecuador, the dollarization process had shielded the economy from political crisis, protected the banks and generated trust, which had in turn led to increased bank deposits. With those policy approaches, countries could achieve economic growth more easily as currency distortions were reduced.

7. Ms. Labelle emphasized that private capital flows needed to directly promote development in the recipient country; therefore, enterprises should not only focus on the short term. She noted that not all FDI was productive and there was a need to strike the right balance between the roles of the Government, the private sector and civil society in attracting and utilizing FDI. She suggested five ways to encourage productive and sustained FDI: (*a*) transparent reporting of revenues by corporations and payment of taxes and fees to the Government to ensure that there was no diversion to unwarranted personal gain and commitment to corporate social responsibility, with the Extractive Industry Treaty Initiative being an important mechanism; (*b*) ensuring that international corporations operated in a transparent way, with disclosure standards, to prevent conflict of interest; (*c*) supporting enforcement and monitoring mechanisms for regional and international commitments on transparency, such as the United Nations Convention against Corruption and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development Convention against Corruption; (*d*) ensuring, through source-country Governments, that companies acted with the same level of integrity abroad as they did within their national borders; and (*e*) enforcement of a transparent financial system and investment in infrastructure and human resources on the part of developing countries.

8. Mr. Persaud, in his presentation, debunked the myth that FDI was better than other forms of private capital flows. Over the long term, the outflow of dividends from profits related to FDI, when investors were nervous, could destabilize recipient country financial markets. Also, international corporations could use transfer-pricing to avoid taxation. Equity investment flows were not especially volatile; it was short-term loans which could not be rolled over in an adverse financial environment, such as during the Asian financial crisis, that could be destabilizing. The way to get the best financing arrangements for FDI was to encourage competition among investors. There was real opportunity in targeting the sovereign wealth funds and private pension funds of developed countries, which were obligated to diversify their portfolios. With regard to the reform of financial regulation, it was important to establish better regulation and not just more regulation.

9. Mr. Sharma noted the need for coherence in governance at the local, national and global levels. There also needed to be coherence in human development at those levels. Regional integration was also vital in order to attract private capital for development. There was a need to develop a solid foundation for entrepreneurship. With respect to the activities of international financial institutions, consideration also needed to be given to the type of funds made available for the development of small and medium-sized enterprises, with importance given to funds that promoted entrepreneurship by youth and women. There was also a need for more discussion on "aid for investment" in addition to "aid for trade".

10. After the panel presentations, a policy discussion was held among participants, including representatives of Governments, as well as institutional and non-institutional stakeholders. The following points were made:

- Transfer of profits abroad by companies should be discouraged. There is a need to improve the visibility, transparency and predictability of investments. A strong regulatory framework is also important in limiting the volatility of private capital flows.
- In order to strengthen international tax cooperation, the United Nations Committee of Exports on International Cooperation in Tax Matters should be upgraded to an international tax organization.

- There is a need to increase ODA in areas that would enhance the functioning of the business sector.
- It is important to enhance the provision of long-term debt to entrepreneurs.
- There is a need to strengthen parliamentary oversight over the reform of financial systems.
- Particular attention should be paid to policy implications arising from the current economic crisis.

Round table 3

International trade as an engine for development

30 November 2008

1. Round table 3 was co-Chaired by Olga Algayerova, State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Slovakia, and Ana Vilma de Escobar, Vice-President of El Salvador. Valentina Rugwabiza, Deputy Director-General of the World Trade Organization, moderated the panel. Presentations were made by the following panellists: Pedro Luiz Carneiro de Mendonça, Under-Secretary-General for Economic Affairs of Brazil; Debapriya Bhattacharya, Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the United Nations and other international organizations in Geneva, and President of the Trade and Development Board of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development; Miguel Hakim, Secretary for Iberoamerican Cooperation, Secretaria General Iberoamericana; Abdoulie Janneh, Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa; Sun Zhenyu, Ambassador of China to the World Trade Organization; and Paavo Väyrynen, Minister for Foreign Trade and Development of Finland.

2. Ms. Rugwabiza, introducing the subject, noted the importance of keeping international trade open in the face of the current financial crisis since it was intrinsically related to growth and development, and stressed the urgency of completing the Doha round of multilateral trade negotiations with a balanced outcome. The coordinated liberalization of trade under fair and equitable rules was vital for all countries; one of the key objectives of the World Trade Organization was to ensure a level playing-field for all its members and help countries neglected by globalization to integrate themselves. "Aid for trade" was critical in that respect since many poor countries lacked the supply capacity to take advantage of improved market access, and, developed countries therefore needed to renew their commitments.

3. Mr. de Mendonça stated that Brazil had benefited from trade liberalization in the 1990s thanks to the industrial base built under the import-substitution phase. Subsequently, an enabling international environment was critically important for development. However, that environment had been defined by United States and European policies; as an important exporter of agriculture and resources, the United States competed with developing countries and Europe, and its agricultural subsidies gave it a competitive advantage. Although some developing countries, such as those in East and South-East Asia, managed to achieve export-based development, many developing countries failed to benefit from international trade. A successful Doha round could rebalance the system. Still, the current crisis threatened that opportunity and it was crucial to coordinate crisis-fighting and resist protectionism. As President Lula had stated, the Doha round had become not just an opportunity but a necessity.

4. Mr. Bhattacharya noted that trade was just one of the engines for development and depended on the other engines, such as domestic policy space and foreign direct investment. The major instrument for facilitating the beneficial effects of trade for developing countries was special and preferential treatment. Complimentarity and coherence were the key principles involved. However, international conditions were going to be extremely difficult in the near future owing to the current financial crisis, climate change and the volatility of food and commodity prices. Worldwide recession was not only an economic but also a political threat, as demonstrated by recent events in

Afghanistan, Iraq and South Asia. Immediate challenges included sustaining the multilateral trading system and resisting hegemonic and protectionist tendencies; concluding the Doha round with a balanced outcome, including tariff-free and quota-free market access for all least developed countries and their goods; and resolving the commodities issue, the cotton issue being the prime example. Domestic policy and institutional reforms were also necessary to ensure that trade benefits resulted in poverty reduction.

5. Mr. Hakim assessed the implementation of five trade-related paragraphs of the Monterrey Consensus. Substantial progress had been made in expanding World Trade Organization accession; increasing financial resources derived from trade, although 2009 would see the first decline in exports since 1982 in the Latin American and Caribbean region; expanding bilateral and regional free-trade agreements; and redoubling aid for trade. However, the most important paragraph on the conclusion of the Doha round had not been achieved, although the "Lamy package" had come close to convergence. Therefore, the Doha Conference needed to provide at least a political impetus and a road map for further negotiations.

6. Mr. Janneh stressed that trade was indeed the most important engine for development for Africa in many ways, although the continent faced serious obstacles, such as limited supply capacity, limited trade-related infrastructure and credit availability, a lack of diversification and difficult geography, including 15 landlocked countries, so that the cost of trade could reach 50 per cent of goods value, as in the case of Chad. Therefore, well-targeted aid for trade for ports, telecommunications and customs capacity-building was effective, as the newly established trade policy centre in Addis Ababa had shown.

7. Mr. Zhenyu spoke of China's historical experience of 400 years of closed-door policies and their liberalization since the late 1970s. He stated that the 30 per cent annual increase in Chinese imports in recent years was helping other countries, especially in Asia. The financial crisis was already having an impact on trade, however, with export orders for Christmas falling by 30 per cent—and by up to 70 per cent for some goods. China needed over 100 million new jobs annually, which required at least 8 per cent annual growth. Therefore, worldwide stimulus, open trade and financial flows were needed to avoid the mistakes of the 1930s; the conclusion of the Doha round was vital in that sense. Agricultural subsidies needed to be eliminated and tariffs needed to be cut deeply with less than full reciprocity by developing countries, and vulnerable countries should enjoy special and preferential treatment. China's average bound and applied tariff was 15.2 per cent, compared with the 60 per cent world average bound rate and the average agricultural tariff rates of 42 per cent in Japan and 22 per cent in the United States of America and Europe, and China's tariff would be cut further to 12 per cent. He stressed that China's aid was strictly based on non-interference in the internal affairs of recipient countries, an approach that China had itself requested of its donors in the past.

8. Alluding to Finnish experience, Mr. Väyrynen emphasized that trade and poverty reduction were the right policies for developing countries. He was optimistic about the Doha negotiations following Mr. Lamy's plan to convene a new ministerial meeting before the end of 2008 and the planned European Union meeting on free trade agreements. The speaker also expressed hope that emerging market countries would follow the European Union lead in offering tariff-free and quota-free access to least developed countries, and complimented China's announcement of such treatment for 95 per cent of least developed countries' exports.

9. Following the presentations, an interactive debate was held. Some delegates expressed dissatisfaction with the level of progress in the Doha round, the current international trading system and restrictions on World Trade Organization accession, and called for reforms of the international trading system and institutions. Many delegates stressed the importance of keeping international trade unrestricted in the current difficult times and encouraging South-South cooperation. They noted the complementary nature of aid for trade to the Doha round, and called for it being additional to official development assistance and transparent.

Round table 4

Increasing international financial and technical cooperation for development

1 December 2008

1. Round table 4 was co-chaired by Laurent Gbagbo, President of Côte d'Ivoire, and Laszlo Varkonyi, State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Hungary. Olav Kjorven, Assistant Secretary-General and Director, Bureau for Development Policy, United Nations Development Programme, moderated the panel. Presentations were made by the following panellists: Bader Al-Dafa, Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA); Ahmad Mohamed Ali Al-Madani, President of the Islamic Development Bank; Eckhard Deutscher, Chair of the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development; Gargee Ghosh, Senior Programme Officer for Development Finance and Policy, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation; Jean Ping, Chairperson of the African Union Commission; Sam Worthington, President and Chief Executive Officer of InterAction.

2. In his introductory remarks, Mr. Kjorven stressed the importance of delivering on official development assistance (ODA) commitments and making changes to make aid more effective. Those adjustments include further untying of aid, improving coordination and harmonization, and strengthening triangular and South-South cooperation. Discussions on those measures must be placed in the context of the negotiation of the draft Doha outcome document, which would set the stage for work in the coming years. Also, against the backdrop of the international food, energy and financial crises, development cooperation is all the more important. Counter-cyclical public investment is needed now in developing countries and ODA must be scaled up to help.

3. Mr. Al-Dafa reviewed the trends and patterns of ODA in the Western Asia region, where ODA is particularly important for infrastructure projects. Recent increases in ODA in the region were mainly attributable to debt relief and natural disaster assistance. The Arab States—mainly the oil exporters of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)—provided generous official assistance to a large number of developing countries. The amount of ODA in the ESCWA region had reached 25.5 per cent of FDI and 47 per cent of remittances received. The distribution of Arab development funds was comprised of 15 per cent to Africa, 27 per cent to Asia and 65 per cent to Arab States, based on a foundation of solidarity and cooperation. The top two institutions providing funding were the Islamic Development Bank and the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development. Assistance went primarily to the services sector—transportation and communication, education, health and housing and energy. Technical assistance was provided in all areas and the Arab development funds supported "Aid for Trade" to increase competitiveness and research and development. Saudi Arabia provided about two thirds of total aid from Arab States, followed by Kuwait, United Arab Emirates and Qatar. Although those were still developing countries, aid disbursement from the region constituted 0.5 per cent of GNP, higher than the percentage among DAC countries. The aid, which was non-conditional, was mainly provided in the form of grants and long-term loans of high concessionality. In recent years, the significant increase in aid had been due to assistance for the reconstruction of Iraq, Sudan and Palestine.

4. Mr. Al-Madani noted that all members of the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) were developing countries; sub-Saharan African countries, where acute poverty was still a serious problem, made up 40 per cent of its membership. He stressed that the current crises would have a further negative impact on the poor. He discussed the IsDB lessons learned and best practices in the area of official assistance. Improvement of coordination and innovative mechanisms in scaling up aid through the Islamic Solidarity Fund for Development had resulted in substantial increase in aid to the poorest countries to facilitate reaching the Millennium Development Goals. Technical assistance had been developed to enhance absorptive capacity and lead to self-reliance of recipient countries. Partnership with non-official institutions in strategic areas had

resulted in providing affordable access to health care and microfinance. Mr. Al-Madani put forward some concluding thoughts concerning how to make aid more effective: (*a*) the need to encourage more initiatives to share knowledge and innovation through development cooperation; (*b*) the need to help recipient countries to graduate from aid; and (*c*) the need to realize that helping the poor was a win-win situation.

5. Mr. Deutscher pointed out that failure to meet the goals set by the DAC donors would have a severe impact on the poor, particularly in the wake of food and financial crises. He also emphasized that economic and financial crisis should not affect the ODA budget of DAC donors. Referring to what had been agreed at the Accra High-Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness, a mid-term review of the implementation of the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness, which had been held in Accra in September 2008, he emphasized that further efforts were needed to strengthen country ownership during development cooperation; build more effective and inclusive partnership for development; increase productivity and concessionality of aid; and improve the management of aid by recipients. Recent evaluation showed that although there had been some improvement in those areas, the pace of progress was slow. He added that further reform and faster action were needed to meet the time frame of the Paris Declaration Commitment. Currently, 75 per cent of ODA from DAC donors to the least developed countries was untied. That amount had to be further increased to allow local and regional suppliers to benefit from procurement. With regard to technical cooperation, the speaker stressed that it must be country-led and country-owned and donors should facilitate coordination between themselves to avoid fragmentation. He highlighted that the bottom line was the need for action to implement commitments to address problems with all partners doing their part.

6. Ms. Ghosh discussed the activities of Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, which focused on working to help all people lead healthy and productive lives. There were two programmes geared to developing countries: the Global Development Programme aimed to increase opportunities for people in developing countries to overcome hunger and poverty, while the Global Health Programme ensured that advances in health care were created and shared with those who needed them most. She emphasized the need for political will and a results-oriented framework for ODA. Better data and evaluation mechanisms for better policy-making were required. The need for new finance mechanism to supplement existing ODA was also noted.

7. Mr. Ping referred to the recent economic and financial crisis, which had driven down demand, export and price for commodities and consequently had a negative impact on the African economy. Based on past experience, ODA from developed countries was usually reduced after a crisis. In that environment, he emphasized the need for developed countries to lower agricultural subsidies and improve market access for developing countries. Finally, he called for increased aid to Africa from Islamic countries.

8. Mr. Worthington discussed the change in the aid architecture, especially regarding the NGO community. He pointed out that with rapid growth of private fund for development cooperation there was a need to acknowledge these funds; $54 billion of private funds had been disbursed through NGOs for development cooperation in 2006. From 2000 to 2006, there had been a tripling of private funds from individuals, foundations and corporations through NGOs to development programmes. NGOs worked with Governments and in partnership with community-based organizations, the United Nations, business and foundations. NGOs added value at the local level, helping in local capacity-building and strengthening the capacity of Governments. He emphasized that NGO programmes were participatory in design and implementation. Long-term programmes (10-15 years) were established in partnership with governments to ensure a steady flow of aid. NGOs had launched a process to ensure the effective use of aid, based on Paris Declaration principles, to consider a platform of standards and norms. He stated that his organization would lobby the new United States administration to double ODA commitments and to seriously explore innovative financing mechanisms, including the Currency Transaction Tax (CTT).

9. After the panel presentations, a policy discussion was held among participants, including representatives of Governments and institutional and non-institutional stakeholders. The following points were made during the presentations and discussions:

- Innovative sources of financing should be additional and complementary to ODA, and new initiatives should be inclusive and participatory. The implementation of new initiatives, such as CTT, is welcome. Governments should be urged to pilot and take part in the Working Group on Solidarity Levies.
- Provision of aid through NGOs should be transparent and accountable.
- Some specific aid programmes may not be consistent with the development needs of recipient countries.
- What are the conditions that are conducive to aligning public wishes for ODA with the actual budgetary allocations for aid in developed countries?
- Aid for climate change should be additional to ODA commitments.
- The United States representative stated that his country would meet ODA commitments, including doubling ODA to Africa. ODA should be predominantly for leveraging other resources, such as private flows and trade. Therefore, the Doha round must be concluded. The Millennium Challenge Account was working on providing untied aid at the request of countries that had good governance and sound economic and social policies.

Round table 5

External debt

1 December 2008

1. Round table 5 on external debt was co-chaired by Isatou Njie-Saidy, Vice-President of Gambia, and Mario Delgado Alfaro, Deputy Director-General for International Financial Affairs, Ministry of Economy and Finance of Spain. Murilo Portugal, Deputy Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) moderated the panel. Presentations were made by the following panellists: Nancy Birdsall, President of the Center for Global Development; Carlos Braga, Director of the Economic Policy and Debt Department of the World Bank; Benoît Coeuré, Co-Chairman of the Paris Club; Robert Gray, Chairman of Debt Financing and Advisory, HSBC; and Mary Robinson, President of the Ethical Globalization Initiative.

2. Ms. Birdsall's presentation was in the context of the ongoing financial and economic crisis, including the crisis in employment, food and energy. She argued that the impact of those crises would undo the progress made since the Monterrey Conference unless rapid and creative changes were made in the international financial system. Debt relief under the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Initiative, for all its success, had failed to reduce the vulnerability of poor countries. The main message of her presentation was that low-income countries faced two kinds of vulnerability: structural and episodic. Terms-of-trade volatility was the highest for low-income countries, almost two thirds higher than high-income countries and one third higher than middle-income countries. Terms-of-trade shock frequency was even higher than natural disaster frequency. Some of the possible responses to volatility and risk, such as procyclical fiscal adjustment and export diversification, were outside the reach of many low-income countries. While the former could be tackled through aid, the latter was a more complex issue. Similarly, self-insurance through reserves was not a feasible option for many low-income countries, and market and market-like insurance was a missing option for that group of countries.

3. Ms. Birdsall suggested two policy solutions to mitigate the impact of structural and episodic vulnerability. For the former, the rule that determined access to International Development Association (IDA) grants should be simplified instead of giving loans to countries with a per capita income of, say, $800 and subsidies to make IMF financing grants equivalent. To deal with episodic external shocks, a contingency facility should be created that was automatic and timely and delayed debt service or otherwise relieved debt in the event of an external shock and allowed more borrowing under the current debt sustainability framework. There was still hope if fixes to HIPC rules could lead the way to fixes to aid transfers overall and the Bretton Woods institutions should take charge in making those changes.

4. Mr. Braga affirmed that while most areas of the Monterrey Consensus had experienced very limited progress since its adoption, substantial improvement had been achieved in the area of external debt. He admitted that the financial crisis had the potential to undo some of that progress. He focused his presentation on low-income countries and the HIPC Initiative. In his opinion, the role of debt in promoting development raised many economic and philosophical questions. On the one hand, borrowing allowed countries to pursue economic objectives, such as financing investment and smoothing consumption, but on the other hand, indebtedness could be harmful and on balance its effect depended on how the new resources were utilized. In response to Ms. Birdsall's view that structural and episodic vulnerability were the areas where solutions had to be found in the form of debt relief for low-income countries and the provision of grants and concessional loans, the speaker explained that structural and episodic vulnerability were not the objectives when the HIPC Initiative was formulated. When evaluating the HIPC Initiative, one needed to use the criteria established when the Initiative was launched, namely, to reduce debt overhang in developing countries, to increase transparency, to reduce debt payment rescheduling and to release resources for poverty alleviation. According to the speaker, substantial progress had been made in achieving all those objectives. Most developing countries had experienced growth during the last six years, their debt overhang had been reduced and the number of instances of debt payment rescheduling at the Paris Club had been reduced by 50 per cent. However, out of 23 countries which reached the point of completion, only 9 currently had low risk of debt distress. That analysis of risk did not factor in the effects of the financial crisis. The debt sustainability framework of IMF and the World Bank for low-income countries attempted to limit borrowing from other sources in order to keep debt sustainable. Prudent macroeconomic policies and debt management played a crucial role in debt maintaining debt sustainability.

5. Mr. Coeuré first presented the implementation of the Monterrey provisions on external debt. Significant progress had been made in the provision of debt relief under the HIPC Initiative/ Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative, and Paris Club members have been major contributors under the HIPC Initiative. Debt burdens have been alleviated in the HIPC countries, enlarging the fiscal space for poverty eradication. Paris Club members had also been major contributors to debt relief outside the HIPC Initiative too. He also gave examples of debt treatments accorded to countries to deal with natural catastrophes, severe terms-of-trade shocks and conflict. Paris Club members supported the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) principles and guidelines on sustainable export credit lending (2008) and used the Debt Sustainability Framework to make sure that new lending did not exceed a country's repayment capacity.

6. In the context of Doha and new challenges, Mr. Coeuré emphasized that we needed to make efforts to avert the current crisis. We had to build-up on existing frameworks or arrive at new ones to deal with exogenous shocks and price and asset volatility. In the current Debt Sustainability Framework for low-income countries, no new lending was allowed for countries identified as being in debt distress. That had to be revisited. One option was to relax the Debt Sustainability Framework to finance infrastructure investments, etc. Looking towards the future, the new challenge was in

working out the involvement of non-Paris Club creditors. Paris Club had already had two outreach meetings in 2008 with 11 non-Paris Club creditors. Another challenge was to determine ways of arriving at long-term debt sustainability. He also took up the issue of litigating creditors and called on all creditors to refrain from selling claims to non-cooperative litigating creditors. The Paris Club was ready to revisit its own principles and learn from others. It had recently taken steps to become more transparent through data-sharing. Paris Club debt data was now available on its website and an annual report of Paris Club activities was also in the offing.

7. Mr. Gray provided a private sector perspective on the ongoing challenge of creating a stable and durable environment for the management of external debt by developing countries. Some of the salient developments since the Monterrey Conference in 2002 were the improved working relationship between the private and official sectors in the area of crisis prevention and resolution, which had contributed to a better dialogue on debt sustainability; the increasing realization that regulations, including Basel II, had to be counter-cyclical in order to maintain debt sustainability; the increasing introduction of collective action clauses in bond issues; and the increased blurring between domestic and external debt, creating a new set of challenges.

8. Increased transparency, including complying with the IMF Special Data Dissemination Standards and early dialogue between debtors and creditors could, in his view, contribute to reducing misunderstandings by creditors about a country's measures to restore confidence. In addition, the IIF's Code of Conduct for Emerging Markets endorsed by the Group of 20 in 2004 could contribute to stability of capital flows. The private sector was working with the Paris Club to provide relief under the HIPC Initiative in the areas of debt reconciliation and providing debt relief. Reconciliation of commercial debt posed challenges and there should be room to develop a template that addressed the issues of delays in reconciliation. On the issue of litigation, he was of the view that authorities should distinguish between the majority that provided relief and the minority that litigate. Even in the case of the latter, he was of the view that if the debtor was well organized and prepared to negotiate on mutually acceptable terms, a solution could be found. On the issue of new debt in HIPCs, Mr. Gray underscored the importance of debt management in the HIPCs. The speaker also pointed out the importance of longer-dated fixed rate Government bonds, as well as the role gross domestic product (GDP) and inflation-linked bonds played in keeping debt sustainable. He felt that IMF could play a role by purchasing the latter instruments and helping to define their market price.

9. Ms. Robinson addressed the issue of external debt from a human rights perspective, focusing on the need for responsibility and accountability on the part of developed countries. Developing countries were affected by food, fuel and financial crises as well as by climate change, but these were not inevitable. They were the result of the behaviour of developed countries. The current financial crisis, for example, had been caused by the irresponsible financial behaviour of developed countries, accompanied by too much deregulation and living beyond their means. She pointed to the asymmetry between the developed and developing countries in terms of policy space. Developed countries had a lot of policy space to deal with their problems, as exemplified in the response to the ongoing crisis in the form of bail-outs and the steps taken to shore up the global financial system. Developing countries, on the other hand, did not have similar policy space and would get criticized for interventionist policies. Developed countries should also think in terms of policy space when dealing with the problems of developing countries and take measures to resolve the fall-out of the crisis on developing countries.

10. An effect of the financial crisis was the expected worsening of the debt distress situation in developing countries. The review of HIPCs by the World Bank had shown that many post-completion point HIPCs were falling back into debt-crisis situations. Fourteen low-income HIPCs, which had reached the HIPC completion point by being rigorous and responsible, were now facing deep or moderate risk of debt distress. The actual situation of HIPCs was probably worse, since the financial crisis had

occurred after that analysis had been carried out by the World Bank. Ms. Robinson made an appeal to the international community not to let the poorest countries feel the heaviest burden. The financial crisis carried a moral responsibility and the burden must not fall unfairly on developing countries. The crisis, which had been created by the "first world", created moral and ethical issues. She proposed to add a new dimension to the financing for development agenda to deal with responsibility and accountability.

11. After the panel presentations, a policy discussion was held among participants, including representatives of Governments and institutional and non-institutional stakeholders. The following points were made:

- The costs of climate change, financial, food and energy crisis will have to be borne by Africa and other developing countries although it is not their fault.
- Full delivery on the HIPC Initiative will require more efforts. Eighteen countries have not reached the decision point. The new assistance promised to developing countries is going ahead at slow pace. If the Gleneagles target is to be reached, a much faster rate of growth of those funds needs to be achieved.
- Debt relief puts blame on the debtor countries. The impact of debt relief is diluted by conditionality and worsened terms of trade. Financing for development's failure in the area of debt relief includes the inability to promote debt cancellation and policy space. A deeper and broader debt cancellation is needed because the current debt relief mechanism has failed.
- There is a need to examine odious/illegitimate debt. The Paris Club has indicated that it is ready to discuss odious debt although it poses legal issues.
- The Debt Sustainability Framework, debt relief mechanisms and terms of treatment remain a challenge. Some of the features recommended for improvements are speed, comprehensiveness, realism, fairness and transparency.
- A weakness in debt relief initiatives is how to deal with post-conflict countries. There is a need for a broader debt relief for those countries.
- The approach to the debt problem is flawed because it is considered only an economic problem when it has many dimensions (the human rights aspect is missing). The United Nations is the proper place to address the problem because it is a democratic institution where all have an equal voice.
- There is a need to enhance the debt management capacity of developing countries in a transparent legal framework and create a charter of principles that promote responsible lending and borrowing.
- Debt problems include unsustainable and unresolved debt. If debt problems remain unresolved then poverty remains unresolved too.
- There is a need for short-term loans to help developing countries deal with the consequences of the current financial crisis.
- IMF financing is needed to provide funds to budgets.
- How should the post-HIPC countries, which are in pre-crisis situation, be handled? The HIPC Initiative is not available to some low-income and middle-income countries.
- In 2008, about $30 to 35 billion is available to middle-income countries in response to their demand related to the crisis. Some of the loans will be budget support loans.
- Is a rules-based approach for middle income debt needed? Maybe a moratorium on debt makes sense but a rules-based approach is better. Middle-income debt treatment should focus on unsustainable debt.
- Accountability of the international financial system is an issue. There are failures on the part of regulators, ratings agencies and investors themselves, and those failures have an impact on the debt situation of developing countries.

Round table 6

Addressing systemic issues: enhancing the coherence and consistency of the international monetary, financial and trading system in support of development

2 December 2008

1. Round table 6 was co-chaired by Joon Oh, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea, and Jorge Valero, Vice-Minister for North America and Multilateral Affairs of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. The Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat moderated the panel. Presentations were made by the following panellists: Hany Dimian, Deputy Chairman of the International Monetary and Financial Committee and Deputy Finance Minister of Egypt; John Eatwell, Professor, University of Cambridge; Adib Mayaleh, Chair of the Group of 24, Governor of the Central Bank of Syria; Louis Michel, European Commissioner for Development and Humanitarian Aid; Joakim Stymne, State Secretary, International Development Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Sweden; and Heidemarie Wieczorek-Zeul, Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development of Germany, Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Conference.

2. Mr. Sha, introducing the subject, identified the two major issues of the systemic agenda: (*a*) specific policies to support the more effective functioning and coordination of the international financial architecture; and (*b*) strengthening the role of developing countries and transition economies in global economic governance. Recently, the international community attention had been focused largely on the challenge of crafting policy responses to the weaknesses in the financial system, exposed by the ongoing global financial turmoil. Those responses were spawning additional challenges in adapting the governance structures of the international institutions and other global decision-making bodies. The financial crisis had broadened the consensus on the urgency of a far-reaching reform of global economic governance and the international financial architecture. Mr. Sha noted that the President of the General Assembly had created a Commission of Experts on Reform of the International Monetary and Financial System, tasked with a report on proposals to reconfigure the mechanisms and institutions of global economic governance, based on lessons learned from the financial crisis. The Doha Conference was another important step in that direction. Mr. Sha noted the call from the Conference to hold a United Nations conference at the highest level on the world financial and economic crisis and its impact on development.

3. Mr. Dimian shared the recent observation that at the current time markets were less concerned about the return on money and more on the return of the money—indicating that a crisis of confidence had engulfed the global financial system. In restoring confidence, global coordination was needed. While fiscal stimulus packages were an important measure to restore market confidence, the global community had to step up efforts for the prudent regulation of financial markets. The problem was not the existence of an early warning system but the lack of enforceability of such warnings on countries which accumulated financial fragility caused by the sale of financial assets by firms that later on turned out to "troubled".

4. Mr. Eatwell stated that while Governments were currently struggling with short-term responses to the international economic and financial crisis, in the medium term Governments had to agree on effective global regulatory reform. The current financial crisis represented a shock to both the theory and practice of financial development and regulation. While risks undertaken by individual private actors had a systemic effect, individual firms could not tackle a systemic crisis when it erupted. Financial regulation in the system had been heavily biased at the firm level and that had been evident in such initiatives as Basel II and the Capital Requirement Directive of the European Union. That would require a fundamental overhaul of the international financial architecture. A regulatory approach should focus less on the differentiation between types of financial institutions and more on the scale of leverage that institutions engaged in. There was an urgent need for an economic and

political consensus on global multilateral financial reform and a Bretton Woods II system. The Commission established by the President of the General Assembly could respond to that need. The United Nations and the United Nations system had an important role to play in systemic issues since they were essentially of a political nature.

5. Mr. Michel stressed that the current financial crisis should not provide an occasion for donor countries to shirk their responsibility in terms of meeting their official development assistance (ODA) commitments. He emphasized that the European Union (EU) would meet its targets of 0.56 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP) for ODA by 2010 and 0.70 per cent by 2015. The threat of a deep crisis was very real. Protectionist tendencies should be resisted. Climate change had been mostly caused by the actions of developed countries and therefore assistance on climate change grounds should be additional to aid already committed. The overall goals of the Monterrey Consensus should be realized, including effective and transparent taxation. The current crisis required countries to be less "ego-centric" and to mobilize together the political will to resolve it.

6. Mr. Mayaleh emphasized the two key issues in the systemic chapter—financial architecture and the voice and participation of developing countries. Global finance should contribute to development, not undermine it. Since Monterrey, increasing global inequality had not been addressed. Surveillance mechanisms had been asymmetric. The Monterrey Consensus called for the establishment of an orderly debt-restructuring mechanism and that objective needed to be reinvigorated. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) needed to review the conditionalities associated with its instruments and should reconsider those that blocked their use by developing countries. It was an important moment to reform the governance of the international financial institutions in order to restore the legitimacy and effectiveness of those institutions. Deliberations on those reforms should include countries that were not members of the Group of 20. Many of those countries were members of the Group of 24.

7. Mr. Stymne stressed that a global crisis required global solutions. Regulations should be effective and not excessive. While one must be careful, in creating new institutions, to recognize the potential of existing institutions, it was important to strengthen the integrity and accountability of the international financial institutions. There was a need to establish a broader ownership of the Bretton Woods institutions, and the reform process itself should be inclusive, legitimate and transparent. Mr. Stymne pointed out that in the specific area of increasing the resources of the Bretton Woods institutions, Sweden could be an important contributor but it was not a member of the Group of 20 and thus it would be "counterproductive" to limit the discussion of resources to that Group. The United Nations had an important multilateral role in fostering governance and rule of law. There was also a need to successfully conclude the Doha round of trade negotiations.

8. Ms. Wieczorek-Zeul stated that the time had come for a new global deal. We must see the current crisis as an opportunity and seize it to fight the economic crisis and prevent it from becoming a humanitarian crisis in developing countries. We needed to rethink the relationship between markets and the role of States. The lack of a clear set of international principles for the management and resolution of financial crises was a major problem. The Group of 20 had recommended and decided on measures to manage the international financial system, but without inclusive international representation. The crisis also suggested that the current international financial institutions did not have the capacity to effectively address such situations. Better macroeconomic policy coordination was required.

9. Following the presentations, an interactive debate was held. Civil society participants emphasized the importance of protecting the participation of the sector as the source of new and critical ideas. The business sector representative stressed the capabilities that the business sector could contribute to government policy design and implementation in addressing systemic issues and their strong willingness to do so. Other participants proposed that IMF should focus more on overall systemic

issues, including addressing the need for new forms of global regulation. IMF needed to strengthen its multilateral surveillance and pay more attention to the consistency of macroeconomic policies of developed countries and not be distracted by the public sector governance issues in developing countries from its true mandate. IMF should be active in promoting the reform of the international monetary system, including better management of external shocks, macroeconomic policy coordination, efficient multilateral liquidity provision and consideration of a debt workout mechanism.

Chapter 8
Civil Society Forum

OUTCOME OF THE CIVIL SOCIETY FORUM*

CIVIL SOCIETY DECLARATION

25-27 November 2008, Doha, Qatar

Preamble

We, the members of more than 250 civil society organizations and networks from around the world gathered before the official Review Conference on Financing for Development in Doha, Qatar, 25 – 27 November 2008 under the theme "Investing in people centered development". We reviewed the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus and discussed pressing new challenges and debated possibilities for innovative financing. The Monterrey conference emerged out of a financial crisis in Asia and Latin America in the 1990s. But it was also guided by a perceived crisis in development: the need to examine the shortfall in resources required for countries to achieve international agreed development goals including Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and to cut the number of people living in extreme poverty by half by 2015, improve social conditions such as health and education, employment, raise living standards, support gender equality and women's empowerment, and protect the environment.

Today the world is consumed by an urgent series of crises: energy, food, climate, and finance that not only threaten the realization of the MDGs and the lives and livelihoods of hundreds of millions of people, in the North and the South, but also the stability of the world's economies. The Northern governments and financial system are responsible for the current crises, but the costs and the impacts are paid for by the entire world, and by the poorest countries in particular. According to the Food and Agriculture Organization $30 billion are required every year to eradicate poverty. Trade negotiations have reached a stalemate. Persistent gender inequalities reflect and are related to all these structural imbalances in the global economic system; thus it is urgent to include a gender perspective into all policies, at all levels and sectors, as well most Northern countries are falling far short of meeting their aid commitments. Overcoming these crises requires decisive action and leadership from the global community. To date however, such leadership has been sorely missing.

Besides, the dramatic effects of the current crises, in recent years the world has witnessed a substantial and growing transfer of capital from the global South to the North. Conservative estimates indicate that between $500 – 800 billion leaves Southern countries every year through capital flight. The major component of such illicit capital flows is due to tax evasion by multinational corporations operating in Southern countries and is facilitated by tax havens. Moreover, Southern countries

* The civil society forum was convened by the Doha NGO Group on Financing for Development (ANND, NGO Committee on FfD, CIDSE , New Rules for Global Finance Coalition, EURODAD, AFRODAD, Third World Network, Social Watch - Third World Institute, LATINDADD, UBUNTU Forum, ITUC, Women's Working Group on Financing for Development, AWEPON)

continue to send most of their resources to the North in the form of debt servicing and exports. Taking into account all the financial mechanisms, there is a net capital flow of hundreds of billions of dollars per year going from the South to the North. This is a scandalous "reverse welfare" in which the poorest countries are financing the richest.

The swift and massive response of governments of the richest countries to bail out banks and private financial institutions with more than three trillion US dollars of public guarantees and funds stands in stark contrast to their failure to respond decisively to the unabated crisis of poverty, and marginalization that has afflicted the majority of peoples in the world. According to the World Bank, to cut by 2/3 the child mortality in the poorest countries, some 20 – 25 additional billion dollars per year are needed. The International Labor Organization (ILO) estimates that the current crisis will result in the loss of 20 million jobs by the end of 2009; another 100 million people will be pushed into the informal economy on top of the existing 200 million unemployed and 1.3 billion underemployed workers. As every minute a woman is dying because of complications in pregnancy and birth, we call for an increase in funds to fight the persistent high mortality rates. To guarantee basic instruction to all the children in the world, between 10 and 30 billion dollars per year is required. So far the international community has proven incapable of raising such sums, which are in the range of a few percentage points of the enormous capital dished out to save financial institutions. Moreover, twelve years of debt relief initiatives have generated only slightly more than 100 billion dollars in debts cancelled. Working people, particularly, women are being forced to pay the bill for a system founded on the concentration of wealth and economic control in the hands of a few and the continuing and deepening impoverishment of the majority. The commitments made by the G-20 government leaders two weeks ago in Washington to strengthen regulation and oversight will not be sufficient.

We are deeply concerned to see the G-20 process give a central role to failed global financial and trade institutions such as the IMF, World Bank and the WTO. These institutions in the last 30 years have pushed for increased capital flows, market liberalization and eroded national policy space violating national sovereignty. They are among the major institutions responsible for the current situation, have no legitimacy and no credibility to play such a role in the reform of the international financial system, let alone to start a self-reform process. Trade liberalization, of the kind pursued under the Doha Round, has contributed to increased vulnerability of developing countries in key areas. These include unemployment, downward pressure on workers' conditions and rights, the reduction of access to key public services and the threat to food sovereignty.

We demand global economic structures and policies that put peoples´ rights first, that respect and promote human rights and social and environmental justice, that ensure decent work opportunities which are based on employment opportunities, respect for labor rights, social protection, social dialogue, sustainable livelihoods taking into account the care economy largely dependent on women as well as essential services such as health, education, housing, water and clean energy. People need to have greater control over resources and the decisions that affect their lives.

We observe that instead of engaging in a high level comprehensive debate on financing for development, most countries from the North are reportedly not sending their head of state and the absence of the Heads of the IMF and the World Bank to attend this conference reveals their disregard for an inclusive development discourse.

Global key issues

Exchanged views on some development trends on:

Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)

Foreign direct investment in its current format has failed to address the social development dimension as well as enhance technology transfer from the rich to the poor countries. In this regard deliberate attempts must be made to institute a holistic approach to foreign direct investment that includes among others, the social development aspects, sustainable technology transfer and elimination of tax havens that deny poor countries much needed

financial resources for development. The history of FDI has shown that its involvement in natural resources has been highly disruptive. As such, investment in natural resources should respect national sovereignty, the environment and guarantee the right to prior and informed consent by affected communities including indigenous peoples. FDI should follow environmentally and socially sustainable production systems, and align its operations with national and local economies.

Appropriate regulatory frameworks should be put in place to ensure corporate accountability, including the ILO Declaration on Multinational Enterprises and social policy. Measures should be developed at international level to align business activities with observance of human and workers' rights, in particular in the areas concerning the state duty to protect and promote human rights, the corporate responsibility to respect human rights, and the need for access to effective remedies for victims, including through judicial mechanisms.

Bilateral investment and free trade agreements should be discussed with all relevant stakeholders, notably national parliaments, social partners and civil society ensuring democratic ownership. Such agreements that do not promote development and decent work should be reversed or not concluded.

The drive to improve productivity and competitiveness, particularly through outsourcing, subcontracting and value chains, should not be pursued at the cost of workers' rights, working conditions and wages, but should be based on the social and environmental imperatives of sustainable development.

Instruments promoting foreign trade such as export credit and investment guarantees should be made conditional on compliance of multi-national corporations with environmental, social and human rights standards, and binding transparency criteria. Governments should simultaneously make use of them to actively support technology transfer to the South in particular structurally weak regions and to development enhancing endeavours, such as addressing climate change. Further, there is a need to create effective regulation of capital flows and utilization of FDI to support social development goals, including ensuring that FDI creates decent employment and appropriate skills training.

Domestic resource mobilization

In order to achieve the international development goals and overcome dependence on external lenders, whether governments, banks or the International Finance Institutions, the countries of the South need to substantially increase revenue from national resources, and channel these resources towards meeting the needs of the people living in poverty. The Monterrey Consensus had highlighted domestic resource mobilization both public and private as essential for sustaining productive investment and increasing human capacities. The domestic policy tools that can inform this process include fiscal reform, as well as fiscal and monetary instruments to moderate economic downturns and protect at risk economic sectors and populations from negative impacts.

The just allocation of domestic resources toward gender equality is critical to achieving MDG3 and signals a country's commitment to gender equality through investments of their own resources. National development planning needs to enhance the participation of women and actively take into account their concerns. To this end, national women's, youth and civil society organisations especially at the grassroots level should be included in the process of planning, programming, managing, monitoring and evaluating national development plans, including through Northern country support, informed by the principles of national democratic ownership and mutual accountability. Further, we call on signatories of the Abuja Declaration (2001) to undertake all possible efforts to achieve the allocation of 15% of national resources to health, in order to achieve MDGs 4, 5 and 6.

We call for deeper and meaningful policy space for developing countries' governments and stakeholders to be free to develop social and economic policies, micro and macroeconomic policies that are based on people-centered sustainable development providing decent work opportunities and capacity-building for the working poor as well as addressing the causes and impacts of climate change, the

food crisis, and to include the informal economy. We call on greater attention towards women, vulnerable people, including the disabled, in facilitating their access and control over resources for the purposes of enhancing their contribution to their economies in developing countries, and urge governments to institute progressive tax regimes that are sensitive to their activities. Further, there must also be greater attention to rural economies that need broader and more equitable access to credit, in-puts, information and technology, and the just and equitable redistribution of land assets.

We propose a more representative space for dealing with taxation, building on the work of the OECD tax committee, by upgrading the UN tax committee to an adequately resourced and fully mandated intergovernmental body based on political representation and technical expertise.

We recognize the net resource outflow from the poor to the rich countries through commercial capital flight and other instruments including debt servicing. We call for sustainable measures including closing enhanced corporate disclosure of revenue, ownership of assets and taxes paid, closure of harmful tax havens, addressing illicit capital flows and implementation of the UN Convention against Corruption. There should be an effective monitoring mechanism on the implementation of the Convention. This reinforces the need for enhanced corporate and governmental disclosure of revenue on a country level (Country-by-Country Reporting). Further, we call for adoption of the Code of Conduct prepared by the UN Tax Committee's group of experts.

Debt

In order to free developing countries of their perpetual debt crisis, we call on governments to take immediate action to ensure the cancellation of all debts claimed of impoverished countries and delinked from lenders´ conditionality. South country governments should also take the necessary unilateral actions to recover sovereignty over their finances, including debt repudiation and non-payment.

Despite debts cancelled in recent years, the majority of countries throughout the South are still suffering from huge debt burdens and the current food, climate, energy and financial crises threaten to further exacerbate the problem of debt domination. Particularly in times like these of severe crisis, the autonomy of South governments to prevent badly-needed resources from being diverted away from fundamental human and environmental rights and needs must be recognized and upheld by the entire international community.

We oppose the continued role and proposed strengthening of the International Financial Institutions IFIs) given their failure to address the debt crisis over the years and their role in generating illegitimate debt and imposing harmful policy conditionalities. Instead, governments should establish a new financial architecture that is inclusive, participatory and democratically accountable to the peoples it aims to serve. The United Nations should play a key role in its development and the institutions and mechanisms should be subject to international human rights norms and treaties. Among other needs, the new binding institutional framework should revise the current debt sustainability framework so as to include domestic debt, human development and environmental and climate justice considerations. There is also an urgent need to establish fair and transparent debt work-out mechanisms that are independent from the IFIs.

A significant development following the Monterrey Consensus has been the growing legal and political interest in a recognition of the concepts of odious and illegitimate debts. The current debt relief schemes, such as the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) initiative and the multilateral Debt Relief Initiative (MDRI) are not adequate solutions to the debt problem. Some developing countries such as least developing countries and middle-income countries have been excluded from both initiatives. We call for the cancellation and repudiation of illegitimate and odious debt as well as decisive actions to stop the re-accumulation of such debt. These actions should include, in the immediate, a commitment to undertake and support the realization of comprehensive audits of financial, social, ecological and historic debts - both official audits such as the recent Ecuadorian experience and citizen audits as are now being

proposed in numerous countries - in order to expose the illegitimate debt claims. A charter on principled or responsible lending and borrowing should also be developed.

We call on the governments of South countries to reorient their economic policies, currently dominated by the IFIs and their focus on insuring debt repayment, and to join together in concerted action to strengthen their political and institutional capacity to deal with the problems related to the current system of indebtedness.

Aid

In 2006 and 2007, levels of global aid fell, indicating a blatant failure of developed countries to live up to their aid promises. The financial crisis must not be used as an excuse to further renege on aid promises. Indeed, increasing aid is needed more then ever. The number of people suffering form hunger is now nearing one billion. Developing countries need support to weather the financial, climate, and food crises – crises principally caused by developed countries that will hit the poorest countries and poorest communities the hardest. Countries in the South continue to need funding to fight poverty and gender inequality. Developed countries should therefore advance their aid commitments. The G8 should speed up their promise to increase annual aid by US$50bn to US$130 billion by 2010. All countries should accelerate progress towards realizing the 0.7% ODA/GNI target. We call upon donors to act coherently by establishing binding timetables for increasing ODA to reach the 0.7% target by 2015 at the latest.

We recognize and commend the five countries that have honored the 0.7% previous commitment to meet their ODA target, namely: Norway (0.89%), Sweden (1.03%), Luxemburg (0.89%) Denmark (0.8%), Netherlands (0.8%). We urge donors to allocate genuine resources to ODA; items such as debt relief and cancellation, and aid to refugees, should not be included in the count. Also we call for donor countries to refrain from putting remittances in the same basket as aid; these are private flows not in the control of governments. We are concerned that Public Private Partnership might be detrimental to genuine pro development projects and benefit only profit making initiatives.

Stronger efforts are urgently needed to further improve the quality of aid, in particular by strengthening democratic ownership, with a greater focus on targeting gender justice, and ending economic policy conditions. Aid must make a more positive impact on recipient communities' by strengthening inclusive and democratic governments and targeting beneficiaries. We urge donor organizations and donor countries to not just adopt agreed principles, best practices and mechanisms based on Good Humanitarian Donorship Principles, the Paris Declaration and the Accra Agenda for Action, but to go beyond these agreements and to further broaden and deepen the aid effectiveness agenda. Donors should encourage and financially support Civil Society engagement and recognize the key role they play in implementing and monitoring program and policies. Building on these agreements, donors should agree to fully untie aid as well as to fully de-link aid from economic policy conditions. Such conditions undermine ownership and often increase poverty, and as such they conflict with the goals of poverty eradication and increased aid effectiveness.

Greater transparency of aid would increase its impact on poverty reduction and achieving the Millennium Development Goals: it would allow greater developing country ownership and reduce transaction costs and waste. Donors should agree and implement an international aid information standard to make it easier for everyone to access more detailed, comparable and timely data so that aid can be traced to the intended beneficiaries and deliver a yearly transparent update. Greater aid transparency should reflect the needs of Parliamentarians, civil society, governments and other stakeholders, and complement important efforts on the part of developing countries to make national budgets more transparent and accountable particularly regarding the spending on health and education. We urge more donors to participate in the work of the International Aid Transparency Initiative and look forward to its report to the DCF and other relevant bodies.

The Development Cooperation Forum (DCF) as a universal body, must be mandated to address development strategies, policies and the financing of development cooperation, as well as promoting coherence between the activities of various development partners. This forum should receive the necessary political, institutional and financial support to enable the relevant development actors to convene, including the new official development cooperation providers, for discussions on fundamental issues of development cooperation. We support an invitation to the Secretary-General to make a comprehensive report on these issues to the Development Cooperation Forum.

Innovative Financing Mechanisms

While welcoming innovative financing mechanisms, we believe it is necessary to clearly define the key aspects of such mechanisms. Innovative sources of finance provide much needed additional resources for development, and these should be above and beyond the 0.7% commitments of GNI to ODA. We furthermore ask the member states to commit themselves to studying, developing and implementing a levy of 0.005% on, progressively, all foreign exchange transactions. Numerous studies demonstrate that a currency transaction tax would be technically feasible, could be efficiently raised, and could mobilise far more funds than all innovative financing instruments so far put together. Moreover, the implementation of such a levy would mean that a very important step has been made towards a better distribution of the world's wealth.

Trade

The impact of the global financial crisis in developing countries is exposing vulnerabilities that stem from the implementation of an export-led model that placed much emphasis on the liberalization of trade, without looking at mechanisms for ensuring trade would become an instrument for the stable provision of development finance. We call upon Member States to use the FfD Doha process to reshape the WTO Doha negotiations towards a genuine development round. In the interests of policy coherence, outcomes should be fully aligned with the Internationally Agreed Development Goals (IADGs) including the MDGs, as well as with decent work objectives and the observance of core labor standards. Developing countries must be accorded the policy space to determine whether, how and when they want to liberalize sectors and markets.

Trade liberalization should not be carried out if it has the potential to negatively impact on employment, hurt vulnerable sectors and threaten industrial development. It must be coherent with the aims of "re-distribution of wealth, decent work, gender equality and democratic and participative ownership".

We contend that trade and investment have the potential to serve as effective instruments to raise financing for development, but only in the presence of a number of complementary policies. Such policies should target:

- Restrictions on profit repatriation;
- Balanced rules on investment, with rights and obligations for investors and the observance of workers' protection and rights;
- Value-adding, technology and skills transfer, technology content and creation;
- Creation of backward and forward linkages with the domestic economy;
- Linkage to development and decent work outcomes;
- Fiscal policies to maximize the developmental benefits of trade and its potential for progressive redistribution of resources.

On the WTO's Doha Round negotiations, we re-affirm the centrality of development concerns and the interests of developing countries in any outcome of the Round. It should be remembered and reaffirmed that the objective of this Round is not market access per se, but the reorientation of the multilateral trading system so that it will contribute to the development of developing countries. To promote a just and balanced trading system, agricultural subsidies by the North that affect trade should be stopped. Commitments on movement of persons should be made effective. Also, governments should provide 100% duty-free and quota-free access to all products from LDCs.

The Doha Round would worsen the financial crisis through the pressures put on developing countries to open their financial services to foreign financial institutions. The practices and financial instruments of these institutions are now recognized as causing the financial crisis. The FFD process is much-better equipped to deal with trade and development concerns that clearly exceed an institution like the WTO, whose mandate is centered on negotiating market opening concessions. Given the link between financial deregulation and liberalization and the global financial crisis, the WTO should suspend negotiations on liberalizing financial services in the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS). Any other GATS negotiations including on domestic regulation should not affect governments' policy space to regulate financial services. WTO members should ensure that acceding countries are not be required to undertake WTO-plus commitments, particularly when it would undermine sustainable development and poverty eradication. Trade, not political or other factors, should determine accession.

Existing Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) including Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) that pressure developing countries to lower their agricultural tariffs and to liberalize their financial sector and other services should be reviewed, re-negotiated or stopped. Modalities that impose deeper liberalization, such as the negative-list approach, should not be imposed. WTO rules should be reviewed to enable developing countries to have sufficient flexibility, special and differential treatment and non-reciprocal treatment in regional agreements so that they do not face additional pressure towards excessive liberalization.

Aid for Trade should not be conceived as a substitute for a reformed trading system that refocuses its objectives on achieving full employment and sustainable development. Aid for trade can only succeed if it is unconditional, non-debt creating, additional to existing commitments and oriented to build the productive capacities of recipient countries, rather than the mere implementation of trade rules. We reaffirm the call of UNCTAD XII that successful integration of developing countries into international trade requires proactive policies at the national and international levels, that support capital accumulation and enhance productivity.

Systemic issues

The United Nations, through the General Assembly, ECOSOC and other bodies, has a fundamental responsibility to address root causes of human distress and obstacles for the achievement of human development, security and dignity, including militarization, occupation, collective punishment and economic embargo. It should also recognize the important role of women in negotiating and in facilitating peace processes where their participation should be enhanced.

The agreements of the global conferences of the 1990s, their action plans and established human rights, labor and environmental agreements should be implemented, and systemic reforms undertaken in financing for development should be coherent with them.

A "major international conference at Summit level should be held in 2009 to comprehensively review the international financial architecture and global economic governance structures". Such a Conference should be held under the umbrella of the United Nations with the inclusive principles that govern the Financing for Development process, including the active participation of civil society organizations.

In the longer term, in order to bring the more limited agenda of the G-20 initiative, with its restricted membership, into the universal forum of the United Nations, a permanent Executive Committee under the auspices of the UN with regional representation and a rotation systems needs to be established that can deal with pressing economic and financial issues in a comprehensive way. Modalities for the establishment of such a forum should be set up in the coming months. A more effective ECOSOC BWI High Level meeting would provide an opportunity to start such a process.

Overall

We therefore urge all governments gathered here in Doha to take immediate action on the following critical policy issues:

- Place people and their needs back at the centre of development.
- Developing countries should be allowed to take effective democratic ownership and leadership of their domestic policy space that allow national social and economic policies as well as development programs to foster the creation of decent work for all, gender equality and equitable growth and fair trade and investment policies that maximize potential domestic resource mobilization and improve resource utilization as a key step towards poverty eradication - without interference from Northern countries or the Bretton Woods Institutions.
- Fair and progressive taxation systems should be established that are re-distributive and gender sensitive and accord tax relief for low wage workers and the poor.
- Countries should ratify the United Nations Anti-Corruption Convention and establish an effective system of monitoring its implementation.
- The Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters should be upgraded to become an intergovernmental body and incorporate the International Task Force on Illicit Financial Flows and Capital Flight into this intergovernmental body.
- Governments should agree to binding timetables to reach the UN target of 0.7% of Gross National Income of ODA by 2015 at the latest. Donors and recipients should scale up the share of ODA for gender equality and women's empowerment to reach 10% by 2010 and 20% by 2015. As well, ensure that year-to-year increases of a satisfactory level are also agreed.
- ODA processes must uphold the mutual responsibilities and obligations of governments to fulfil internationally agreed development commitments related to gender equality and women's rights, such as the Beijing Platform for Action, the CEDAW, the Maputo protocol, without resorting to impositions and conditionality within the narrow framework of aid delivery.
- Recognizing the global challenges to meet cuts in Green House Gas emissions, countries should acknowledge responsibility for their historic emissions and commit additional funds to address climate change and explicitly outline by how much they will finance the adaptation needs of developing countries.
- Measures should be adopted which have the promise to generate significant levels of additional funding for environmental and development initiatives including further work on currency transaction and financial tax initiatives. To demonstrate this support, interested governments should become members of the Leading Group on Solidarity Levies and take a pro-active role.
- Political and financial support towards solidarity mechanisms in information and communication technology (ICT) transfer should be increased.
- Governments should develop gender sensitive indicators, tools and methodologies for the evaluation of the quality and effectiveness of development.
- A fund or financial facility should be created to promote women's empowerment.
- Gender equality should be back on the systemic issues agenda. Gender should be a cross-cutting issue through the whole financing for Development document and process, including in the systemic issues agenda. It must be ensured that these follow-up mechanisms are effective spaces for consistent and regular inputs on gender equality.
- Political and financial support towards solidarity mechanisms in information and communication technology (ICT) transfer should be increased.

- Debt cancellation of Southern countries must be extended and de-linked from lender conditionality. Structures should be established for addressing the debt crisis in a transparent and accountable manner. Issues related to odious and illegitimate debt have to be addressed. More critical review and redefinition of the debt sustainable framework must be undertaken including women's rights organizations as well as in debt swaps.
- Northern countries should drop their demands on onerous tariff reductions in all WTO negotiations, end their subsidies for agricultural exports to Southern countries and other agricultural subsidies that negatively affect trade. They should instead address the trade, financial and monetary pre-conditions for southern countries to utilize trade as a tool for development, the promotion of gender equity and full employment. Policy flexibilities to protect agriculture in developing countries should be proportionate to the flexibilities currently available to developed countries. In particular developing countries should be allowed to protect their agriculture using a flexible and effective Special Safeguard Mechanism (SSM).
- In the context of the current financial crisis and its impacts on development, measures such as closing tax havens, ending the shadow banking system, stronger regulation of private equity funds and hedge funds and a ban on speculative financial products including over the counter derivatives should be urgently implemented.
- In 2009, the UN should organize a "major international conference at Summit level to comprehensively review the international financial economic governance structures" and include the active participation of civil society.
- In the longer term, instead of a restricted membership G-20, a permanent forum under the auspices of the UN needs to be established that can deal with pressing economic and financial issues in a comprehensive way. Modalities for the establishment of such a forum should be set up in the coming months.
- The ECOSOC-BWI High-Level meeting has to be reshaped to become a more effective and action-oriented instrument and thus could provide an opportunity to start such a process.

Conclusion

In the face of the multiple crises, we urge governments to take the side of women and men workers, farmers, youth and children to promote environmental sustainability by taking an alternative economic path. We, 250 national and international civil society networks, representing millions of people from around the world, therefore call for change in Doha that puts effective development, poverty eradication, human rights, gender equality, decent work, and environmental sustainability at the fore.

From Talk to Action: the way forward after Doha

The FfD follow-up process should continue in the same inclusive principles as demonstrated to date. Civil society organizations should be recognized as an important development actor in their own right and should accordingly have their own space in the FfD process at national, regional and international level. This should be accompanied by sustained financial support especially for organizations and movements of the South.

The FfD follow-up process should provide for a new institutional mechanism within the legitimate framework of the UN which ensures full respect of all aspects of the Internationally Agreed Development Goals and brings together all institutional stakeholders, not only the International Financial Institutions, the World Trade Organization and World Health Organization, but also the UN specialized agencies such as the International Labor Organization and UNIFEM, as well as civil society.

All aspects of the Internationally Agreed Development Goals (IAGs) including the MDGs need to be addressed and there needs to be regular national and international reporting of the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus and the Doha Outcome

Document. Systematic evaluation and monitoring mechanisms should be implemented to guarantee ongoing accountability with clear indicators.

Accessibility to information and access to all proceedings for all stakeholders, including all civil society organizations should be improved to ensure that FfD is upheld as a truly multi-stakeholder process. There needs to be an adequately staffed and resourced unit within the United Nations system that is able to support this process. We support the holding of a follow-up FfD conference in 2013. Systematic evaluation and monitoring mechanisms should be implemented to guarantee ongoing accountability with clear indicators.

SUMMARY OF THE DOHA CIVIL SOCIETY FORUM

25-27 November 2008, Doha, Qatar, Ramada Plaza

The Civil Society Forum was held was held under the theme "Investing in people-centered development" in preparation for the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus (Doha, Qatar, 29, November - 2 December 2008). More than 250 civil society organizations and networks participated in the meeting, which featured plenary sessions, roundtables and side events. Participants adopted a Civil Society Declaration at the Forum, which was delivered by Ms. Gemma Adaba, Representative to the United Nations for the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) to the plenary session of the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development in the afternoon of 29 November 2008. The declaration put forward a number of key recommendations, organized around the six thematic areas of the Monterrey Consensus.

I. On domestic resource mobilization, the Declaration affirms that in order to achieve the international development goals and overcome dependence on external sources, developing countries need to substantially increase revenue from national resources, and channel them towards meeting the needs of the people living in poverty.

II. With respect to foreign direct investment the Declaration calls for a holistic approach that includes, among others, the social development aspects, sustainable technology transfer and elimination of tax havens that deny poor countries much needed financial resources for development.

III. Concerning trade, it concludes that the impact of the global financial crisis in developing countries is exposing vulnerabilities that stem from too much emphasis on the liberalization of trade, without looking at mechanisms for ensuring that trade provides a stable source of development finance.

IV. On the question of aid, civil society organizations called for binding timetables for donor countries to reach the 0.7% ODA/GNI target by 2015 at the latest. Innovative sources of finance, such as a small currency transaction tax, can provide much needed additional resources for development.

V. As for external debt, the Declaration calls for a new debt architecture that is inclusive, participatory and democratically accountable to the peoples it aims to serve. The United Nations should play a key role in its development, and the institutions and mechanisms should be subject to international human rights norms and treaties.

VI. With regard to systemic issues, the Declaration calls for a new mechanism within the UN, which ensures implementation of the internationally agreed development goals and brings together all institutional stakeholders. The UN should hold a major international Summit level conference in order to comprehensively review the international financial architecture and global economic governance structures.

Chapter 9
International Business Forum

SECOND INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS FORUM ON FINANCING FOR DEVELOPMENT

28 November 2008, Doha, Qatar, La Cigale Hotel

The Business Sector Steering Committee, with support from the Financing for Development Office of the United Nations and the Government of Qatar, in preparation to the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus, held the ***Second International Business Forum on Financing for Development***, on 28 November 2008 in Doha, with the theme - ***"The Impact of the Financial Crisis and Proposed Roadmaps: Mobilizing Private Sector Resources for Development".*** It was attended by over 200 business leaders, country delegations, and international financial institutions who participated in sessions that set forth specific proposals and opened discussions on the current financial crisis, the ongoing challenges facing developing country governments and private sector companies in accessing long term affordable finance, and on the next steps for improving economic growth, job creation, environmental stewardship, and poverty reduction. The outcome of the Forum was presented by Dr. Louise Kantrow, Permanent Representative to the United Nations of the International Chamber of Commerce, to the plenary session of the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development in the afternoon of 29 November 2008.

The Second International Business Forum consisted of an opening plenary and four issue-based sessions:

I. The opening plenary theme ***"Assessing the Global Financial System and Next Steps for Ensuring Stable Financial Flows for Development",*** provided views on the impact of the global financial situation and the implications it has on developing countries. Policy responses were discussed on how to limit potential damage and actions needed to increase financial stability and aid effectiveness. Private sector companies made proposals on how to manage risk and how they can contribute as corporate citizens to development.

II. The first session, with the theme ***"Proposals for Building a Stable Public-Private Framework for Development",*** focused on how to create a globally balanced, ecologically sustainable economic growth and on how to be proactive in the equitable distribution of wealth. Proposals aimed to improve public-private frameworks for development, increase the transparency and stability of the global financial system and its underlying economy, and improve the capacity of both investors and policymakers to access needed information for risk management, investment decision-making, and economic growth.

III. The second session with the theme, ***"Proposals for Building Business-Enabling Environments and Enhancing Donor Effectiveness"***, presented ideas aimed to increase the capacity of developing country governments to work closely with the private sector and civil society to create a sustainable

business-enabling environment that centers on economic growth and job creation. These frameworks would increase the capacity of donors to align their activities in support of national and regional development, enhancing aid effectiveness.

IV. The third session on ***"Proposals for Leveraging Limited ODA with Private Capital: Proposals for Advancing Infrastructure, Domestic Capital Markets, and Venture Capital"***, set out specific ideas for development agencies and governments to more effectively mobilize private sector resources for infrastructure projects and other critical development needs.

V. The fourth session on ***"New Paradigms for Development Finance"***, set forth actionable proposals for developing country governments, development agencies, and the private sector, to enable greater success in meeting emerging challenges – finance for small and medium companies; financial services to the poor; climate and water challenges.

21 December 2008

Chapter 10

Parliamentary Hearings on Financing for Development

PARLIAMENTARY HEARING
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON FINANCING FOR DEVELOPMENT

28 November 2008, Doha, Qatar

Summary Report

Chaired by the President of the IPU, Dr. Theo-Ben Gurirab, the Hearing was held to provide parliamentarians with an opportunity to exchange views on some of the salient issues before the Conference. In all, some 50 parliamentarians participated.

Welcome remarks were made by the Honorable Mohamed Bin Mubarak Al-Khulaifi, Speaker of the Advisory Council of Qatar. The panel consisted of: Mr. Eckhard Deutscher, Chair of the OECD/DAC Development Assistance Committee; Ms. Jane Stewart, Director of the ILO Office to the United Nations in New York, former MP and cabinet minister (Canada); and Mr. Roberto Bissio, Executive Director of Social Watch and representative of the Civil Society Forum at the Doha Conference.

Mr. E. Deutscher focused on development aid and its importance for inclusive globalization. He suggested that development aid and effectiveness in its delivery were central issues of the Doha Conference. He pointed to the important role of parliaments in ensuring broad national ownership of the development agenda and in holding government to account. He welcomed the strong participation of parliamentarians at the Accra High-Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness held in September 2008 and the numerous references to the role of parliament in its outcome document. He was pleased that the IPU would participate in the Working Party on Aid Effectiveness.

However, Mr. Deutscher warned that the financial and economic crises would have a negative impact on aid flows and said that it would be important for the credibility of donors to honour their commitments. On a positive note, he informed the meeting that in a recent statement, OECD DAC members had confirmed their aid commitments and agreed to maintain aid flows in line with those commitments. The performance of DAC donors against that pledge would be monitored by the OECD Secretariat.

Ms. J. Stewart spoke about the importance of employment for development. She stressed that work was at the centre of development and proposed that the ILO declaration on full and productive employment and decent work could provide a simple yet powerful framework for development. Referring to the dual financial and economic crises, she said that they had already resulted in an additional 20 million jobless persons and another 40 million who had to live on less than one US$ 1 a day. She proposed that work and employment be placed at the centre of any development plan. Echoing other speakers, she hoped that the current crises would give rise to creative thinking and a search for new strategies.

Mr. R. Bissio reminded the parliamentarians that the Monterrey Conference had also been held at a time of crisis. However, the current turmoil that had followed the debt crisis of the world's biggest economy would be more serious and result in strong pressure on political and social systems, with the most vulnerable the hardest hit. He said that while it was difficult to make predictions, the crises would have a particularly severe impact on developing countries as exports would suffer and commodity prices would drop. He feared that millions of migrant workers from developing countries would be sent back as job opportunities dwindled. That was already happening in the USA, for example, where two million Mexicans were expected to return home the following year. Speaking on behalf of civil society organizations, he said that their presence at the Conference brought a sense of urgency to those issues and called on leaders to take responsible action.

An active discussion followed with interventions by several parliamentarians in attendance. It focused on the following issues:

The global financial crisis. Several speakers and panellists underscored that the crisis had spread from the financial sector to the real economy. In addition, decision-makers had to contend with increasing poverty and unemployment, as well as the growing cost of climate change. Gender was also mentioned as a key cross-cutting issue in many of those crises. The case for decisive counter-cyclical measures to shore up demand and thus reboot the global economy was made.

The opportunity for creative thinking and change. Speakers proposed that the concurrent crises provided an opportunity for reflection on the unfair global income distribution and uneven development and on how to address these issues with a new economic world order and international financial architecture. The new world order must have parliamentary democracy as its backbone.

Development aid. The importance of donors honouring their commitments was touched upon by several speakers. Concern was expressed that aid levels might lag behind and that demonstrating impact and results would be even more necessary to keep donors motivated. At the same time, it was noted that aid alone could not suffice to support the achievement of the MDGs. For that, the entire FfD agenda must be supported.

Parliamentary engagement and oversight will be critical to advance the FfD agenda as a whole, especially at times of crisis. Parliamentary committees must become better informed of development cooperation issues: while dispelling myths about the purpose and impact of aid, parliaments must also intensify their scrutiny of how aid money was actually spent. Parliaments must also be more involved in ensuring that donors' systems on the ground were rationalized, avoiding fragmentation and duplication of efforts.

The Parliamentary Message to the International Conference was referred to in some of the interventions. The Message was found to be balanced and to touch on several issues that were often forgotten in such debates. One such issue had to do with military spending and how it had grown dramatically in recent years, sidestepping development priorities. Support was also expressed for the IPU's decision to convene a global parliamentary conference on the financial crisis in spring 2009.

In his closing remarks, the IPU President appealed to all present to press their national delegations to ensure that two important references on the role of parliament, which were still provisional in the draft outcome document of the Conference, would be preserved.

Chapter 11
Calendar of Side Events

29 November 2008

1:00 p.m. - 2:45 p.m.	Venue: Room 1 Waterhole/Laffan area, Sheraton Hotel (By invitation only) Title: Financing agriculture in a global financial crisis Organizer: United States of America
12:30 p.m. - 2:45 p.m.	Venue: Al Majlis Auditorium, Sheraton Hotel Title: Financing for development and the economics of gender Organizer: Norway and UN Regional Commissions
1:00 p.m. - 2:45 p.m.	Venue: Al Maha room, Sheraton Hotel Title: Mobilizing domestic financial resources for development: The role of microfinance Organizer: UNCDF with UN Advisors Group on Inclusive Financial Services (UNAG)
1:00 p.m. - 2:45 p.m.	Venue: Dukhan room, Sheraton Hotel Title: The role of asset recovery for financing for development Organizer: Principality of Liechtenstein and International Center for Asset Recovery (ICAR)
1:00 p.m. - 2:45 p.m.	Venue: Al Rayan, Sheraton Hotel Title: Effective financing for development: Longer term financial scenarios for developing countries Organizer: OECD
4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.	Venue: Al Maha, Sheraton Hotel Title: Innovative sources of development from Monterrey to Doha, towards a scaling-up [Les financements innovants de Monterrey à Doha, vers un changement d'échelle] Organizer: Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Innovative Sources of Finance, Government of France, Gavi Alliance, Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria and UNITAID
5:15 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.	Venue: Dukhan room, Sheraton Hotel Title: On the footsteps of Monterrey: Towards a holistic review of trade, debt and finance Organizer: Center of Concern

5:15 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.	Venue: Al Rayan, Sheraton Hotel Title: A time of crisis and opportunities: policy response and renewed multilateralism Organizer: UNDP
Dinner	Venue: Marriott Hotel (By invitation only) Title: High-level roundtable luncheon on "Innovative financing for digital development" Organizer: Global Alliance for ICT and Development

30 November 2008

8:15 a.m. - 9:45 a.m.	Venue: Al Maha, Sheraton Hotel Title: Mobilizing the private sector for development: Launching the FfD toolkit Organizer: Nicaragua and Switzerland
8:15 a.m. - 9:45 a.m.	Venue: Dukhan room, Sheraton Hotel Title: Monitoring development results for women and the poor in One UN Country System Organizer: Women's Working Group on Financing for Development, Friedrich Ebert Stiftung and International Association For Feminist Economics (IAFFE)
8:15 a.m. - 9:45 a.m.	Venue: Room 2 Waterhole/Laffan area, Sheraton Hotel (By invitation only) Title: Facilitating agrofinance for Africa Organizer: Germany
11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	Venue: Al Rayan, Sheraton Hotel Title: Debt2Health - Signing ceremony and press encounter Organizer: The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria/ Innovative Financing Team
10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.	Venue: Al Maha, Sheraton Hotel Title: The role of regional cooperation and global partnership in financing for development Organizer: UN Regional Commissions
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	Venue: Dukhan, Sheraton Hotel Title: In times of crisis: Making budgets work for children, women and the MDGs Organizer: UNICEF and UNIFEM
9:00 a.m. - 2:45 p.m.	Venue: Room 1 Waterhole/Laffan area, Sheraton Hotel Title: Debt relief, debt sustainability and the MDGs Organizer: The World Bank and IMF
1:15 p.m. - 2:45 p.m.	Venue: Al Majlis, Sheraton Hotel Title: Panel discussion on "Tackling the food and hunger crisis: Investing in food security, safety nets, and smallholder agriculture"

	Organizer: FAO, IFAD and WFP
1:00 p.m. - 2:45 p.m.	Venue: Al Maha, Sheraton Hotel Title: Jointly fighting tax evasion and tax avoidance – Ensuring sustainable domestic resource mobilisation domestic resource Organizer: Germany
1:00 p.m. - 2:45 p.m.	Venue: Dukhan, Sheraton Hotel Title: The role and level of private resource assistance for NGO sponsored development Organizer: InterAction (American Council for Voluntary International Action)
1:15 p.m. - 2:45 p.m.	Venue: Sheraton Hotel (By invitation only) Title: Financing education to achieve the education for all goals Organizer: Qatar, Her Highness Sheika Mozah bin Nasser Al Missned with UNESCO
3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.	Venue: Dukhan room, Sheraton Hotel Title: Financial crisis, global imbalances and national policy space Organizer: The Netherlands and UNCTAD
3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.	Venue: Al Maha, Sheraton Hotel Title: Financial stability, a global public good: A Latin American perspective Organizer: Chile and ECLAC
5:15 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.	Venue: Room 2 Waterhole/Laffan area, Sheraton Hotel Title: To ensure human development: currency transaction tax (CTT) for FfD and new international financial structure Organizer: UBUNTU Forum Secretariat and NGO Working Group on CTT and FfD
5:15 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.	Venue: Dukhan, Sheraton Hotel Title: Global framework agreements: a new tool for regulating transnationals? Organizer: Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung and Gemma Adaba and the International Trade Union Confederation
5:15 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.	Venue: Al Maha, Sheraton Hotel Title: Visible and invisible contributions: gender equality, domestic revenues and ODA Organizer: UNIFEM/UNDP
5:15 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.	Venue: Room 1 Waterhole/Laffan area, Sheraton Hotel Title: South perspective on challenges and opportunities beyond Doha: Systemic issues and the need for a new global economic architecture Organizer: South Centre

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8:15 a.m. - 9:45 a.m.	Venue: Dukhan, Sheraton Hotel Title: Financing decent work – an imperative for sustainable development (may join task force) Organizer: International Trade Union Confederation, European Trade Union Confederation, Global Progressive Forum and Solidar and Social Alert International
8:15 a.m. - 9:45 a.m.	Venue: Al Maha, Sheraton Hotel Title: Aid for trade: the EU response; including launch of the UK aid for trade strategy Organizer: European Commission and the United Kingdom
10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.	Venue: Dukhan, Sheraton Hotel Title: Working out of crisis: Aligning finance with decent work for a fair globalization Organizer: UN-NGLS, ILO and Realizing Rights: The Ethical Globalization Initiative
10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.	Venue: Room 2 Waterhole/Laffan area, Sheraton Hotel Title: New partnerships in the extractive industries Organizer: Transparency International
10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.	Venue: Room 1 Waterhole/Laffan area, Sheraton Hotel Title: Avoiding future financial meltdowns: what kind of financial regulations? Organizer: Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung and Initiative for Policy Dialogue
10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.	Venue: Al Maha, Sheraton Hotel Title: Introduction to cash on delivery aid Organizer: Center for Global Development, The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, African Center for Economic Transformation and Education for All – Fast Track Initiative
1:15 p.m. - 2:45 p.m.	Venue: Al Maha, Sheraton Hotel Title: Climate change and development – How to mobilize, transfer and use innovative funding Organizer: European Commission, Governments of Germany and Sweden
1:15 p.m. - 2:45 p.m.	Venue: Room2 Waterhole/Laffan area, Sheraton Hotel Title: Taxation and development Organizer: CIDSE along with church-based/CSO partners
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	Venue: TBC (closed meeting) Title: First meeting of the taskforce on "Innovative international finance for health systems" Organizer: Taskforce on Innovative International Finance for Health Systems
1:15 p.m. - 2:45 p.m.	Venue: Room 1 Waterhole/Laffan area, Sheraton Hotel Title: Challenges of financing for development in Africa Organizer: African Business Roundtable and NEPAD Business Group (FfD Business Sector Steering Committee)

3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.	Venue: Al Maha, Sheraton Hotel Title: The global financial and economic crisis: African perspectives Organizer: African Union, African Development Bank, Economic Commission for Africa and Africa Progress Panel
3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.	Venue: Room 1 Waterhole/Laffan area, Sheraton Hotel Title: Lessons from practitioners: innovative financing for development Organizer: France, the World Bank and the Gates Foundation
3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.	Venue: Room 2 Waterhole/Laffan area, Sheraton Hotel Title: Launch of 2008 report: Human rights and financing for development Organizer: Social Watch
3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.	Venue: Dukhan, Sheraton Hotel Title: Accra to Doha: from aid effectiveness to better financing for development Organizer: The Reality of Aid
5:15 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.	Venue: Al Maha, Sheraton Hotel Title: Facing the crisis, which priorities for aid allocation? [Face à la crise, quelles priorités dans l'allocation de l'aide?] Organizer: France
5:15 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.	Venue: Dukhan, Sheraton Hotel Title: A new deal for people in a global crisis: Social security for all Organizer: ILO, UNDESA, UNICEF and HelpAge International

Chapter 12
Selected Press Releases

General assembly president hails Doha Conference as paving way for 'people-centered development'

2 December 2008

Stressing that the world was insisting on democratization of the United Nations and international decision-making processes, General Assembly President Miguel d'Escoto Brockmann said this evening that the successful conclusion of a development financing summit in Doha, Qatar, would pave the way for "people-centred development to replace profit-centred development".

As he summed up the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development on the Implementation of the 2002 Monterrey Consensus, which opened on 29 November, Mr. d'Escoto said at a press briefing that the Conference's concluding "Doha Declaration" stressed the need to maintain aid commitments despite global economic uncertainty, and called for the convening, "at the highest level", of a summit under United Nations auspices to examine the impact of the crisis on development and review the international financial and monetary architecture.

He said he planned to make preparations for that summit a priority and to define its organizational structure by no later than March 2009. Further, he had convened a Commission of Experts on Reform of the Monetary and Financial System, including the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF), in response to the current crises that were affecting all countries, large and small, rich and poor.

He said delegations recognized the need for the General Assembly to continue its efforts to bolster the role of the Economic and Social Council in monitoring multilateral financial institutions, their governance, decisions and the consequences of such decisions in order to assess their broader social and economic impacts on growth, employment and, in particular, poverty reduction. Those expanded responsibilities would require reforms in the relationship between the Assembly and the Bretton Woods institutions.

Responding to questions, the Assembly President said that, well ahead of the proposed summit, he planned to present political leaders with a proposal for a new financial architecture, adding that he expected participation at the highest political level, from all regions of the world, for a meeting that would be tantamount to the launching of a new Bretton Woods system.

He said the Doha Conference had not set out to establish alternatives to the Bretton Woods institutions. Stakeholders had come to review the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus and the state of the international development financing agenda. The Declaration recognized that the international context had changed profoundly over the past six years, and discussions during the Conference had evinced a "universal rejection" of the prevailing model that a few countries could make decisions for the entire world.

Saying that the world had repudiated the notion of a Group of Seven (G-7), a Group of Eight (G-8) or even a G-20, he declared: "We believe the only relevant forum is the G-192—that is the entire membership of the United Nations General

Assembly." The Conference marked the only time since Monterrey that systemic issues and reform of the global financial system had been discussed in a United Nations forum. Since Monterrey, the great Powers had been trying hard to move such issues outside the United Nations system, so the Conference had been a great advance.

There was also commitment to reactivate the Doha Round of World Trade Organization (WTO) negotiations. "We did not come to ask the rich to give charity but to stand by past commitments and the moral obligation to help countries that had consistently suffered because of marginalization and exclusion," he declared, adding that it was time to move from the logic of "I and me" to the logic of "we and ours", which was the way to ensure brotherhood, peace and justice.

Many people thought the Conference would not be a success, he noted. Sadly, right until the last minute, some had even been trying to sabotage negotiations, but the "spoilers" had, in the end, come round and decided not to be isolated. The international community had delivered its mandate in the Doha Declaration that the world was moving away from the dominant culture of greed towards democracy, cooperation and peace.

Asked if the Declaration was "mere pious rhetoric" and a restatement of the commitments made at Monterrey that had languished ever since, he said that after Doha, and the strongly stated position of the European Union, there would be greater pressure on those who had sat outside the development financing process.

Indeed, French President Nicolas Sarkozy had presented the European Union's firm decision to ensure that the bloc's Member States would reach the 0.7 per cent gross domestic product target for official development assistance (ODA) in 2015, he recalled. "Some had not wanted us even to mention the official development target here, but we will keep talking about it because it is a debt and a moral obligation," he said, adding that if some countries could find trillions of dollars to prop up their flagging, outmoded institutions, they must stand by their long promised obligations.

Responding to another question, he said developing and middle-income countries should expand South-South cooperation, even as those countries pressed the richest nations to comply with their commitments. He highlighted the development efforts of Saudi Arabia and Cuba, as well as those of Qatar, but stressed that poverty and hunger were "ticking time bombs" that required the cooperation and political will of all nations. Such democracy was also required of the Bretton Woods institutions, which, since their creation, had slowly been twisted into possessions of the rich; hijacked by the so-called "Washington Consensus".

Expressing optimism that the United Nations was moving in the right direction, he said the world body had been "dragging its feet" in many areas of its mandate, but he had been heartened by the support he had received as he had presented his proposals on democratizing the Organization.

Non-governmental organizations welcome conference outcome, note 'missed opportunity in some respects'

2 December 2008

Welcoming a proposed United Nations meeting on the financial crisis and its impact on development, non-governmental organizations attending the development financing conference in Doha, Qatar, said this afternoon that while the just-concluded four-day event had made advances in several areas, it was also, in many respects, "a missed opportunity".

Evaluating the outcome document adopted by acclamation at the closing session of the Conference, the non-governmental organizations released a statement that was read out at a press conference featuring John Foster of Social Watch International Network, Gemma Adaba of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, Sylvia Borren of the Global Call for Action against Poverty and Ziad Abdel Samad of the Arab NGO Network for Development.

They said 250 civil society organizations, representing more than 100 million citizens around the world, had come to a Civil Society Forum in

advance of the Doha Conference. "The Review Conference reaffirmed Monterrey goals, took hesitant note of the current crises and their impacts, failed to move adequately forward in a number of urgent subjects, but moved beyond Monterrey in several important areas," the statement said.

The outcome document went far beyond the 2002 Monterrey Consensus in making the link between the promotion of gender equality, women's economic empowerment and equitable and effective development. However, that would only be meaningful if the systemic issues underpinning poverty were decisively addressed. Cuts in public services, for example, would increase the burden of unpaid and invisible work carried out by women.

With regard to decent work, the non-governmental organizations welcomed the clear recognition of its centrality to development strategies and poverty eradication. However, decent jobs must be created for women and men. On tax issues, civil society had asked for the upgrading of the United Nations Committee on Tax to an intergovernmental body, but that had not been agreed, though consideration of the matter continued and there had been some advance in the focus on tax leakages. Non-governmental organizations were prepared to continue contributing to strengthened action on the issue through the United Nations.

Members of the group also welcomed progress on innovative financing mechanisms and commented that there was no slipping backwards in Monterrey commitments on the Millennium Development Goals, the right to development and the need for just and democratic societies. There was evidence that some of the advice conveyed to the Conference by the Civil Society Forum had been incorporated into the outcome document, although not as much as had been hoped.

They also reminded delegates and officials that those most seriously affected in every country were expecting material action that reversed the slide into poverty, increased resources for development and mobilization against climate change, stimulated employment and supported life and access to health for "those marginalized and threatened by disease and disaster".

Conference went beyond follow-up to mark 'historic' new beginning, says French Development Minister

2 December 2008

The Doha Follow-up Conference on Development Financing had gone beyond mere follow-up to the Monterrey Consensus of 2002, to marking a historic new beginning, Alain Joyandet, Minister for Development of France and chief negotiator for the European Union said at a press conference in Qatar this afternoon.

Welcoming the general consensus reached this morning in the outcome document of the meeting—formally known as the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus—Mr. Joyandet said it was a consensus of responsibility that showed good will on the part of the international community.

He said the European Union had arrived in Doha with a spirit of consensus and a will to renew its commitments. It had accepted the document submitted by the co-facilitators without reserve. Some modifications were inevitable and some countries disagreed on various points, but in the end those obstacles had been overcome. In the process, a new and more solid world partnership had been created.

To a question about the response to the financial crisis, he replied that it was important that it take into account the decisions of the G-20, but also create a better balance between the countries of the industrialized North and developing South. Asked whether he would now request his own Government to meet its aid commitments, the Minister said there would be "no problem" with that because that aid was budgeted to increase through 2011, as would the contributions of the French development agency.

Asked whether a completely new world financial structure was needed rather than reform, he said the reforms needed were so extensive that it might as well be called reconstruction.

Conference succeeded in reaffirming need to continue development aid, says Secretary-General's envoy

2 December 2008

The Financing for Development Conference in Doha, Qatar, had succeeded in reaffirming that development assistance should continue even throughout the current financial crisis, Heidemarie Wieczorek-Zeul, Germany's Minister for Development Cooperation, said at a press conference this afternoon.

"Now is the time to show that we do not leave the poor in this world aside," said Ms. Wieczorek-Zeul, who is a Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Conference, following the agreement on the final text of the |outcome document. In all preceding financial crises, development aid had been cut, but this time, partly because of the Conference, it had been shown that it was against all countries' interest to cut back on such aid.

"The conference was and is a success because it shows that the world stands together in the face of the economic crisis," she said, adding that solidarity was important for everyone, but particularly for those in developing countries. The Conference was significant in that it was a meeting not only of special groups like the G-20, but of the entire General Assembly membership of 192. The unanimity on the outcome document was important, representing a Doha consensus that could build on the Monterrey Consensus of 2002, to which the Conference was a follow-up.

She said the outcome document reaffirmed the Monterrey agreement on development assistance, and stated that extra funding was needed because of the financial crisis. Timetables for fulfilling commitments for assistance had also been reaffirmed. Aid effectiveness and quality had become a high priority, which had not been the case in Monterrey. In addition, it urged new donors to join the effort, and stressed innovative financing mechanisms. She herself had emphasized emissions-trading schemes, because the link between development and climate agenda was crucial.

A strong statement on gender equality had been included, because the world was lagging behind in reducing maternal and child mortality, as well as the empowerment of women, she said. In that context, the maintenance of basic services was a priority.

She said the Conference had focused on tax evasion, which had robbed many developing countries of money that could go towards public goods such as education and health. The document reflected agreement that transparency in the extractive sector must be increased and related initiatives commended. Debt sustainability analysis was supported, as were innovative relief schemes such as the Debt2Health initiative that benefited the Global Fund, which was signed by Germany and Pakistan.

Finally, she said it had also been agreed that many cross-cutting issues were relevant to financing for development.

Asked about advances in foreign direct investment, she said that recognition of its importance in development was included in the document, along with discussion of corporate responsibility. The partnership between the public sector and private sector was stressed, as was the importance of remittances and transparency in natural resource extraction.

She said there was a strong consensus that existing financial structures must be widened. Within the World Bank, for example, there was a movement to ensure better representation for African countries. The African Union should be represented in many more organizations. The high level-conference on the financial crisis, proposed in the draft document, should better focus that discussion. There was a need for inclusive financial reform process. There needed to be more partnership, but there was no blueprint for what a new financial architecture would finally look like.

In answer to other questions, she said there was full affirmation of all existing Group of Eight (G-8) commitments. The text also contained a stronger section on official development assistance (ODA) than in Monterrey. The Conference was not

the venue to negotiate trade agreements, but World Trade Organization (WTO) officials were present.

Asked what major disagreements had occurred over the outcome document, she said the real differences in the world could no longer be described by groupings of countries. There was a great need for cooperation because the current crises had hit people in all countries. Official development assistance was, of course, a contentious issue, as was the holding of a conference on the financial crisis under the auspices of the United Nations. It would be better, however, to stress the consensus rather than the differences.

Finally, asked what difference the Conference outcome would make in the lives of poor people, she said: "A conference does not change reality, only action that implements the decisions changes reality."

Final conference text to include plans for meeting on world financial crisis, Executive Secretary says

2 December 2008

The draft outcome document for the Financing for Development Conference in Doha, Qatar, included plans for an international meeting on the world financial crisis to be held under United Nations auspices, Oscar de Rojas, Executive Secretary of the Conference, said at a press conference this morning.

"We have white smoke," said Mr. Rojas as he announced that delegates had reached agreement late last night on the draft final outcome text for the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus.

Mr. Rojas, who is also the Director of the Financing for Development Office in the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, said the modalities of the upcoming conference would be decided by March 2009, but it would include issues directly affecting development.

He explained the idea of such a conference had been controversial since some thought the United Nations should not be directly involved in financial matters, while others felt the world body should be the venue for all international negotiations, especially since it was more inclusive than any other organization.

There had also been a very important decision to strengthen the financing for development follow-up process in New York and to hold another follow-up conference in five years, in a location yet to be decided, he said. As for the draft outcome document, there remained some "minor clean-ups" to perform, but it would almost certainly be ready for this afternoon's closing session, where the text would be adopted by acclamation.

He said the final document would send a very strong message to the trade negotiations in Geneva for a successful conclusion of the Doha Round. On foreign direct investment, it stressed that it must be directed to the right sectors and that an enabling environment for investment must be created in each country. In that area, developing countries had been more flexible than they had been in Monterrey with up-front language on labour and environmental standards. There had also been a recognition that much more could be done to facilitate the remittances that migrant workers sent back to their home countries.

On official development assistance (ODA), he said there had been no expectation of new commitments, but the draft outcome document did include a strong call to meet existing ones. An increase in the quality of aid was stressed. On taxes, those hoping to create a stronger intergovernmental body within the United Nations had been disappointed, but the text did agree that something must be done internationally. The momentum for concrete action seemed to be building and something was expected to happen "within a year or two".

Questioned about discussions on climate change language, he said there had been some disagreement between the United States and the European Union over a paragraph concerning how far the text should go on an issue that was not part of the Conference, but it had not been a major factor.

As for whether the Conference would make a difference to poor people around the world, he stressed that the United Nations was a norm-setting organization, and it took time for those norms to translate into action on the ground. However, the Conference would certainly make for improvements in people's lives eventually.

Asked whether non-governmental organizations would be happy with the document, he said the text included many of their ideas, though not others that they had advocated strongly, such as a currency transaction tax. Because the follow-up process had been kept alive, however, there was a possibility that the idea would be found more acceptable in five years' time.

With regard to whether donor countries should avoid corruption by implementing projects directly on the ground rather than handing over financial aid to Governments, he said that, in varying situations, both were needed. The text took the problem of corruption seriously, but the risk must be taken in order to provide the necessary funding.

UN officials call for 'new global deal' at press conference to launch report on world economy

1 December 2008

With a deepening global recession in view, United Nations development officials called this morning for a "New Global Deal" of coordinated, massive stimulus measures aligned with sustainable development and systemic reform of world finance, as they launched a major economic report at the Financing for Development Conference in Doha, Qatar.

"We have a house that is still on fire and we have to put out the fire and take measures to keep this from happening again," said Rob Vos, Director of the Development Policy and Analysis Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs said at a press conference to launch the 2009 World Economic Situation and Prospects. Accompanying him were Jomo Kwame Sundaram, Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development, and Heiner Flassbeck, Chief Economist of the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).

Introducing the report, Mr. Vos warned that the world might dip into a recession that would probably include developing countries due to global financial linkages. World gross production could actually fall, which had not happened since the 1930s. Borrowing costs and private financial flows to developing countries were slowing, world trade growth was decelerating rapidly, and commodity prices, including those of food and fuel, were plunging.

He said the report predicted a decline in per capita income, a recession in the most developed economies and slowing growth in countries with economies in transition. Middle-income countries would be hit hardest by the spill-over effects of the financial crisis, but all developing countries would be affected due to slowing trade. Net food and oil importers might see lower prices, but they would suffer mainly through reduced trade pushing them further into poverty. Many countries might have to borrow more or see their reserves evaporate while exporting countries would see sharp cuts in income.

So far, about $11 trillion, or 20 per cent of world gross product, had been committed to stimulus and bailout packages, he said, noting that the report maintained that the measures would be much more effective if such measures were coordinated internationally and aligned with other international objectives such as sustainable development. Among the systemic measures required were governance reform at the International Monetary Fund (IMF) as well as reform of financial regulation and supervision, liquidity provisioning and of the present international reserve system.

"What we are experiencing now is a crisis foretold," said Mr. Jomo, noting that the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and UNCTAD had been warning about global financial imbalances and the precariousness of the housing market for several years. The objective now was to limit the spread of the financial crisis, especially to the real economy. That could be done by maintaining liquidity and public spending as well as

other stimuli. It was also important for the United Nations to continue providing leadership on systemic reform, which had last occurred at Bretton Woods in 1944. Since then, the system had developed in an ad hoc fashion. Leadership by exclusive groups such as the Group of Seven (G-7) had not produced optimal results; the redesign of the multilateral system must be inclusive.

Mr. Flassbeck added that problems involving commodities and currencies as well as the unwinding of risky positions all over the world had clearly been foretold in United Nations analyses. Fluctuations in commodity prices had been exacerbated by the crisis and there were new imbalances and overvaluations of currencies without anyone offering a viable currency regime. Those problems could only be handled systemically and simultaneously.

Asked about lower oil prices and the response of the Gulf countries, Mr. Vos said those countries should participate in the stimulus measures, while Mr. Jomo noted that they, as well as Asian countries, would be buying many of the bonds that developed countries would be selling to fund their stimulus programmes. Reserve management would also be crucial for the Gulf States.

Responding to a question about the origins of the crisis and various possible future scenarios, Mr. Voss said it could be said that the housing crisis had begun in the United States. However, because world financial flows were so interconnected, the financial crisis had been global from the start. Worst-case scenarios would most likely occur if the financial panic continued. Mr. Jomo added that an expansion of available resources was needed to deal with the problems of the status quo because only China and the Gulf States had enough funds to provide the kind of large-scale economic stimulus that was needed.

Asked about the competence of the United Nations to lead a multilateral response to the crisis, Mr. Jomo said the Organization had a good track record in that area, pointing out that the Secretary-General had set up a commission led by Nobel Prize-winning economist Joseph Stiglitz. Whether that initiative would have a major impact would depend on negotiations with Member States.

Continue struggle against pandemic, panellists urge at press conference to mark world AIDS day

1 December 2008

Marking the twentieth anniversary of World AIDS Day at the Financing for Development Conference in Doha, Qatar, a panel of experts this morning urged the international community to continue to fight the scourge despite the current financial crisis.

"Our dream is not to say 'Yes, we can', but 'Yes, we did it,' " said Luisa Morgantini, Vice-President of the European Parliament. The regional legislature remained strongly committed to the struggle against AIDS and it was to be hoped that coordinated international efforts would keep that commitment not only on AIDS, but also other endemic diseases, the fight against which was crucial to development.

Accompanying her at the press conference were Trevor Manuel, Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Conference and Finance Minister of South Africa; Joel Nhleko, Permanent Representative of Swaziland to the United Nations; Laila Isharair of the General Secretariat for Development Planning and a member of the Qatar National AIDS Committee; Christoph Benn of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria; and Renu Chahil-Graf of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS).

Dr. Benn noted that, despite great progress in the areas of prevention and treatment, the fight against AIDS remained a moral and survival obligation that should not be slowed by the financial crisis. The Global Fund had committed more than $14 billion to the struggle since its creation in 2002, but it faced a funding gap of $8 billion. Two million people had been put on antiretroviral treatment with millions more having been treated for tuberculosis and millions of orphans under care. However, millions more remained untreated and without care.

Describing the situation in his heavily-affected country, Mr. Nhleko said that while infection

rates had declined in Swaziland—the high point of 40 per cent prevalence had been reduced to 26 per cent—many people were infected daily, which remained a matter of great concern. Many families had lost their breadwinners and many others had been impoverished by spending on medical treatment and funerals. The economy suffered from a lack of productivity as the country had lost much of its labour force. Swaziland also lacked health workers in addition to having about 100,000 orphans out of a population of one million.

As a response, the country spent a large amount of its resources on raising awareness, voluntary testing and counselling, he said. Swaziland was reorienting spending toward the social sector while taking local culture into account, for example, by encouraging sexual abstinence in a culturally-specific way. AIDS programmes were being mainstreamed into many sectors, and more money was being spent on drugs and prevention. A raft of social projects for orphans had also been created.

Mr. Manuel said the issue of HIV was at the heart of the development challenge and should be considered together with access to water, sanitation and food. Finance ministers must ensure that all programmes were run in a "full-spectrum" manner and supported treatment regimes, aftercare as well as care for orphans, widows and others left behind.

Describing Qatar's efforts, Dr. Isharair said a Government committee had been established alongside a strategy created in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to encompass both prevention and services for those living with HIV. The disease was not highly prevalent in Qatar and the most important thing was that a law had been drafted to protect the rights of those living with the virus.

Dr. Chahil-Graf added that even given the low prevalence in the Gulf region, it was important to address HIV/AIDS because of an increase in the factors for infection, such as drug use and migration. While the exact figures were unknown due to underdeveloped surveillance systems, measures were being taken in the region, including the training of imams in awareness-raising. Groups for people living with HIV had also been formed, among other positive steps that needed to be encouraged.

Asked what the United Nations system was doing to counter the sex trade and satellite television channels that promoted risky lifestyles that could increase the spread of HIV, Dr. Chahil-Graf stressed the importance of applying all prevention strategies in countering the dangers of HIV spreading through prostitution. Dr. Isharair added that UNDP programmes were dealing with that issue and that there was a need to raise awareness. In Qatar, that was being done through mosques, schools and universities.

In response to a question about Swaziland's efforts to analyze gender-disaggregated data, Mr. Nhleko said statistics showed that HIV was more prevalent among women than men. As for polygamy and the spread of HIV, the emphasis of awareness-training was on getting all parties involved to remain faithful to each other.

Asked about universal access to HIV treatment, Dr. Benn said 3.5 million people were on treatment, which was 35 per cent of people who needed it. Dr. Chahil-Graf described the extensive efforts to protect the rights of people living with HIV/AIDS, adding that those efforts would be ramped up in the years to come.

On the need for strong health systems that would allow better handling of HIV/AIDS problems, Mr. Manuel said it was true that countries had to deal with a much wider set of health problems, adding that a wider sociological discourse was required.

Coordinated, massive and swift economic stimulus required to counteract synchronized global downturn, new UN report asserts

- world per capita income is expected to decline next year
- falling export growth and capital inflows and higher borrowing costs for developing countries, as contagion spreads from the major economies
- dollar set to resume its decline, with possibility of a hard landing in 2009
- deep reforms of global financial system called for to prevent crisis recurrence

(DOHA, QATAR, 1 December) UN economists are recommending massive economic stimulus packages that are coherent and mutually reinforcing on a global basis, and linked with sustainable development imperatives. These should come on top of the liquidity and recapitalization measures already undertaken by countries.

The 2007 sub-prime mortgage debacle spread into a global financial crisis in 2008, and since has turned into a calamitous economic downturn that will last into 2009 and likely beyond, says an advance edition of the UN annual economic report, issued today at the international Financing for Development review taking place in Doha.

Also recommended are stronger regulation of financial institutions, adequate international liquidity provisioning, an overhaul of the international reserve system and a more inclusive global economic governance, to prevent against any future repetition.

According to the baseline scenario of *World Economic Situation and Prospects 2009*, world output will reach a meagre 1 per cent in 2009, compared to 2.5 per cent in 2008 and global growth rates of between 3.5 and 4 per cent in the preceding four years (*see Table I.1*). The 2009 projection includes a decline in output of 0.5 per cent in developed countries, along with growth of 5.3 per cent in the transition economies and 4.6 per cent in the developing world.

This global growth trajectory points to a drop in income per capita for the world in 2009.

Under a more optimistic scenario—factoring in fiscal stimulus of between 1.5 and 2 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP) of the major economies, and further interest-rate cuts—the developed economies could post a 0.2 per cent rate of growth, and the developing world would surpass 5 per cent growth, UN economists calculate. Given the great uncertainty prevailing today, the unfolding of a more pessimistic scenario is possible.

If the present credit squeeze prolongs and confidence in the financial sector is not restored in the coming months, the UN warns, the developed countries could enter into a deep recession in 2009, causing world output to fall and GDP growth in the developing world to drop to 2.7 per cent, dangerously low for the ability of countries to sustain poverty reduction efforts and social and political stability.

Harsh development environment

Developing country policy makers spent the third quarter of 2008 tracking inflationary threats, acutely felt through the rising cost of basic commodities such as food and fuel. They were caught by surprise in October, when the financial crisis and economic downturn hit economies with the speed and strength of a tropical storm.

The cost of external borrowing has since risen sharply for developing countries and capital inflows are reversing. Stock markets have dropped further on the back of a difficult year, while currency and commodity markets have become extremely volatile, with the exchange rate depreciating at an alarming pace in several countries and prices of primary commodities tumbling since summer highs. Export growth is now decelerating and the current account balance of many countries has shifted back into the red.

Contagion from developed countries—with a majority of them already in recession—to the rest of the world entails a "globally synchronized downturn [that] may be the first of its kind in the post-war era," WESP says.

Crisis management has moved slowly . . .

Monetary policy in the United States during the first half of 2008 was aggressively expansive in attempts to stave off a recession, while European central banks maintained a tightening stance in the face of the inflation threat (see Figure I.11).

This policy mismatch typifies the lack of coordination during the boom years, when growth was strong and the over extension of credit in the United States and over-accumulation of savings in surplus countries could have been addressed with less pain and more room for manoeuvre. Along these lines, the UN's World Economic Situation and Prospects 2007 and 2008 advocated consolidation in the US

economy matched with stimulus in surplus countries such as China, Japan, and in Europe.

Finally by October 2008, response measures within countries took on a more comprehensive, less piecemeal approach, and unilateral national approaches gave way to increased international cooperation and coordination. About $4 trillion worldwide was invested in efforts to unfreeze credit and money markets. Interest rate cuts took shape rapidly in developed as well as some developing countries.

"But with consumer and business confidence seriously depressed and banks reluctant to lend, further lowering of interest rates by central banks will to little to stimulate credit supplies . . . and private spending," UN economists caution.

With limited space for monetary stimulus, fiscal policy options are needed to reactivate the global economy.

China has already launched a $586 billion (15 per cent of GDP) fiscal package to be implemented in two years, which may contribute to reinvigorating global as well as domestic demand. In the US, fiscal stimulus equal to 1.1 per cent of GDP in the first half of 2008 probably kept economic growth afloat for an extra quarter. The Republic of Korea recently announced a package of roughly the same size relative to its GDP.

To stave off a much deeper recession, UN economists argue for greater fiscal stimulus, in an internationally coordinated fashion. In a globalized economy, fiscal stimulus in a single country is undercut by import leakage and other effects; when instituted across the board, a reinforcing multiplier effect can take hold.

. . . but bold reforms are needed to prevent future crises

There is, however, a lack of an institutionalized and credible mechanism for coordination of stimulus packages or monetary policies. With net indebtedness of the United States still growing—to about $2.7 trillion at the end of 2008, up from $2.5 trillion in 2007—a disorderly adjustment of global imbalances and a hard landing of the dollar remain major downside risks. In that case, investors might again embark on a "flight to safety", but away from dollar-denominated assets instead of to them, pulling the US economy down further, and the global economy with it.

The UN sees an opportunity to align fiscal stimulus packages with long-term sustainable development goals. The massive resources required for fiscal stimulus can be applied in part to public investments in infrastructure, food production, education and health and renewable energy sources, helping developing countries to diversify their economies and meet their Millennium Development Goals.

To shore up weaknesses which led to the extraordinary damage brought on by the downturn and to prevent this from happening again, UN economists are advancing a broad range of steps, including the following:

- fundamental revision of the governance structure and functions of the IMF and the World Bank for enhanced international policy coordination and for more inclusive participation of major developing countries;
- fundamental reforms of existing systems of financial regulation and supervision to stem past excesses;
- reform of the present international reserve system, away from the almost exclusive reliance on the US dollar and towards a multilaterally backed multi-currency system;
- reforms of liquidity provisioning and compensatory financing mechanisms, backed, among others, by better multilateral and regional pooling of national foreign exchange reserves, and avoiding onerous policy conditionality.

The "Global Outlook" chapter of the UN World Economic Situation and Prospects 2009 is released today in Doha. The full report, including regional overviews and detailed trends in global trade and finance, is due out in early January 2009.

For more information, contact the UN Department of Public Information: Newton Kanhema in Doha, kanhema@un.org; or in New York, Tim Wall, wallt@un.org, 1 212 963 5851.

Secretary-General calls for $30 billion to restructure world agriculture, create long-term food security

30 November 2008

As the Financing for Development Conference continued in Doha, Qatar, United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon called this afternoon for an infusion of $30 billion to help restructure world agriculture and create long-term food security.

"This is not charity," Mr. Ban stressed at a side event themed "Tackling the Food and Hunger Crisis, Investing in Food Security, Safety Nets and Small Holder Agriculture". "It is an investment in our collective future. Ending hunger is critical to global stability and prosperity."

He noted that in 2007, an additional 75 million people had become undernourished, a number higher than the entire population of Turkey. Food prices were still twice as high as they had been in 2002 and the situation was expected to get worse as global population grew, climate change accelerated, prices fluctuated and the financial crisis continued to unfold.

The most vulnerable people needed food today, he said, emphasizing that, for that purpose, Governments must avoid export bans. For medium-term needs, smallholder farmers must get fertilizers and seeds, and for the longer term, the underlying structural problems plaguing the food system must be solved.

Jacques Diouf, Director-General of the Food and Agricultural Agency (FAO) and co-moderator of the side event, said that in the six years since Monterrey, many developing countries had fulfilled their commitments to reform, but official development assistance (ODA) had declined. At the same time, investment in agriculture remained extremely low in developing countries. About 86 per cent of people living in poverty were involved in agriculture, and almost 1 billion people in the world were on the edge of hunger.

Co-moderator Lennart Bage, President of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) said the global food crisis could be seen as a result of the failure to invest in agriculture in too many countries, stressing, "We cannot take food security at the global level for granted." Emergency funds must be mobilized immediately, but long-term production must be doubled by 2050, with a secure, more varied diet that would be sustainable in the context of climate change.

The moderators introduced the Chairperson of the side event, Luisa Dias Diogo, Prime Minister of Mozambique, and panellists Sibusiso Barnabas Dlamini, Prime Minister of Swaziland; Peter Power, Minister of State for Overseas Development of Ireland; Stefano Manservisi, Director-General for Development of the European Commission; Soraya Rodriguez Ramos, Secretary of State for International Cooperation in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Spain; and Nancy Birdsall, President of the Centre for Global Development.

Prime Minister Dias Diogo said her country was plagued by floods and droughts while productivity per hectare had stagnated, leaving it vulnerable to food insecurity. In 2007, Mozambique had launched its Green Revolution strategy with a focus on small-scale farmers, using a decentralized financing mechanism aimed at producing more food and increasing work opportunities in rural areas. The objective was to erase the deficit in maize, rice and wheat productivity over the next three years, with funding and technical assistance targeted to the particular need of each district. There was a need for assistance from international partners and for developing countries to share their experience of best practices.

Prime Minister Dlamini maintained that the global food, fuel and finance crises required global, coordinated action. Food was a priority and there was a necessity to help the vulnerable in the short term while boosting agricultural productivity in the long term, with the focus on small-scale farmers. Foreign direct investment had an important role to play, given the magnitude of infrastructure, technical assistance and resource needs. However, it was crucially important that such investment deliver concrete development benefits, including more employment and less hunger. In the face of

the financial crisis, assistance was more important than ever and the pledges made at Monterrey and elsewhere must be fulfilled. "Global food security deserves no less an urgent response than we have seen for the financial crisis."

Mr. Power said that in the last two years his country had become increasingly concerned that there had not been enough focus on agricultural production and the need to feed everyone on the planet. The same causes of the Irish "Great Hunger" potato famine in the nineteenth century had resulted in today's food insecurity—failed Government policies and lack of crop diversity. A report on world hunger produced by Ireland, therefore, expressed frustration at the lack of progress and the lag in extending to Africa the many techniques that had been used successfully to increase productivity in Asia. It set benchmarks for technical assistance and other resources needed, and stated that hunger was the result of a lack of political commitment and leadership. Development must focus on "putting food in the mouth of every person on this planet".

Ms. Rodriguez, emphasizing that the world food crisis had not disappeared even though the financial crisis had now taken over the media spotlight, said high food prices continue to hit the poorest people. Children were suffering stunted growth due to a lack of nutrition and could not afford to go to school because more money was needed for food. Among farmers, in particular, women suffered from "invisibility" and, in many places, from low land ownership. Aid efforts must provide small farmers with technical help, seeds and infrastructure. In addition, education and health services must reach rural areas. Rural development and food production must be boosted in a manner coherent with all other development sectors. Spain was increasing its aid for that purpose and would sponsor a conference in January to ensure coherence of efforts.

Advocating that rural development become the centre of national and international policy, Mr. Manservisi stressed that agricultural research and infrastructure augmentation should concentrate on benefiting small farmers and prioritize local and regional markets. Capacity-building should focus on training youth and keeping them in the rural areas. The European Commission's €1 billion programme would prioritize those areas, starting immediately, alongside emergency safety net programmes to feed those suffering from the food crisis in both rural and urban areas. For the medium term, microcredit and other resources would also be provided.

Ms. Birdsall stressed that long-term demand for food was outrunning long-term supply for many reasons, including population increase, climate change and subsidies. Volatility had also increased and prices had been rising gradually since around 2002. A spike in 2007 had led to a slight decline but food prices were still historically low in comparison to the era before the 1980s. It all added up to a situation in which supply and demand were out of sync and exacerbated by the demand for biofuels. To deal with that problem, the distortions caused by subsidized foodstuffs and biofuels should be eliminated. Food stocks should be rationalized, and research boosted dramatically.

Need for creative development finance initiatives stressed at signing of accord on turning debt into health funding

30 November 2008

In the current economic atmosphere, it was more important than ever to develop creative methods to finance development initiatives, an official of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria said this morning at the Financing for Development Review Conference in Doha, Qatar.

At the signing of an agreement between Germany and Pakistan to turn debt into health funding, Robert Filipp, Head of Innovative Financing for the Global Fund, said that under the Debt-2Health initiative, launched in September 2007, creditors would relinquish a part of their rights to repayment of debts on condition that the beneficiary country invested an agreed amount through Fund-approved programmes.

Joining Mr. Filipp at the signing, were Heidemarie Wieczorek-Zeul, Germany's Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development

and Special Envoy of the United Nations Secretary-General for the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus; Hina Rabbani Khar, Minister of State for Economic Affairs of Pakistan; Michel Kazatchkine, Executive Director of the Global Fund; and Uwe Ohis, Senior Vice President of the KfW German Development Bank.

"It is not abstract debt relief; it is conversion into investment and health," Ms. Wieczorek-Zeul said, noting that €40 million in claims was being relinquished under the agreement so that Pakistan could contribute to the Global Fund's programmes. Up to €200 million in debts to Germany had been made subject to such debt swaps, and Indonesia had been the first partner to participate in the arrangement. "If we are able to be creative, there is no limit to the amount of financing that is available," Ms. Khar added, commenting that the collaboration with Germany in that area had been "very fruitful". Debt swaps were win-win arrangements, she said.

Mr. Kazatchkine said that, for the first time, such a debt swap was being carried out through a multilateral institution, which showed the confidence that donors and recipients had in the Global Fund. Debt-for-health funds had been advocated for many years, particularly by former Secretary-General Kofi Annan. Meanwhile, malaria and tuberculosis remained endemic in Pakistan and the new source of funding would help save many lives.

Asked which countries were being considered for debt swaps, Ms. Wieczorek-Zeul said the priority was countries that were not eligible for Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) programmes. Dialogue was ongoing with Latin American countries in particular. The momentum from such initiatives could be strengthened, but development required a greater focus on the health sector.

Agreeing that health was a core pillar of development, Mr. Kazatchkine reiterated that innovative programmes should not replace official development assistance (ODA) in that regard.

UN Agencies: Investing in development is not only the moral choice, it is also in everyone's self-interest

29 November 2008

Time for a new kind of multilateralism: We cannot address the challenges of the 21st Century with 20th Century tools

The United Nations Development Group (UNDG) calls on all members of the international community to honour their commitments and invest more in sustainable human development and the Millennium Development Goals.

In a statement issued on the eve of the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus, the UNDG highlights the need to identify concrete ways in which the current multilateral system can be reformed to better respond to the unprecedented challenges posed by the global economic crisis.

The Doha Conference comes at a difficult time for the global economy. The world is confronted by a host of multidimensional and interconnected challenges: a global economic and financial crisis and the effects of the continuing volatility of food and fuel commodities, as well as the ongoing challenge of climate change.

"From some angles, the situation looks almost insurmountable. But the reality is that while we may face an unavoidable immediate global downturn, it is the decisions we make as policy makers at national and international levels that will determine how deep and long the present recession will be," said Kemal Derviş, Chair of the UNDG. "We have in our hands the keys that can open up the doors to a future of sustainable and equitable growth."

What we need to do

Even though this conference comes at a difficult time for the global economy, the UNDG argues that funding for development is not only a matter of resources, but also of political will. The world spends almost US$1.3 trillion a year on armaments.

Many more trillions are being mobilized for the financial crisis. The US$140 billion already pledged for official development assistance by 2010 is therefore clearly affordable.

The UNDG says that the increase in aid must be matched with increases in quality and effectiveness. Most notably, we must deliver aid more predictably and transparently, streamline conditionality, and make more strategic use of aid to complement growing new sources of development finance.

Extraordinary times require extraordinary actions, the UNDG asserts. The statement appeals to world leaders to find solutions that meet immediate needs and long-term development goals.

Now, the UNDG insists, is not the time to allow the global fight against poverty, hunger and disease to fall by the wayside. The statement affirms that governments must renew their pledge to spend 0.7 percent of their GNI to Official Development Assistance (ODA).

Increasing levels of human development is part and parcel of the process of reviving economic demand and shoring up social stability, as well as being a humanitarian imperative. Otherwise, many countries will see eight years of relative gains, especially in the achievement of halving extreme poverty and hunger by 2015, eroded and—ultimately—reversed. As the costs of dealing with this most recent crisis mount, developing countries could see the current dismal trio of limited access to financing, volatile commodity prices and a diminishing market for exports made worse by shrunken ODA flows.

The statement also stresses that developing countries need to mobilize more domestic resources and implement the policies needed to tackle poverty and promote growth and development. Specifically, more resources need to be invested in sustainable human development through concurrent investments in education, nutrition, health, decent work, human capacity, rights and opportunities, social protection, food assistance, agriculture, and infrastructure.

There is, the UNDG argues, a unique opportunity to make the global economic recovery sustainable. Strengthened public investment programmes are needed to boost economic demand and employment. The fiscal stimulus required to support global economic growth in response to the financial crisis gives an unprecedented opportunity to invest in new technologies, green jobs and our global green economy. Investments made now in the mitigation of and adaptation to the effects of climate change may provide an opportunity to both boost demand in the short-run and contribute to inclusive economic growth, access to energy and poverty reduction in the long-run.

A reformed, stronger and more inclusive multilateralism, affirms the UNDG, is the only option if we are to find workable and fair solutions. We cannot address the challenges of the 21st century with the tools of the 20th century, the UNDG contends.

The new structure should recognise the vulnerability of poor countries to the negative impact of interconnected crises: financial instability, climate change, volatile prices for food and energy, and unacceptable levels of hunger, poverty and inequality. And in developing policy responses decision-makers should never forget that the poor and most vulnerable had no hand in precipitating the crisis or the climate challenges we now face.

Only a global, equitable, inclusive and stronger multilateral system of international cooperation can generate the kind of investment, collaboration, synergies and innovation needed to simultaneously tackle global poverty, hunger, environmental sustainability, human development and climate change.

The UN Development Group stands ready to assist

The United Nations has a key role to play in this renewed multilateralism. With its inclusive membership, intergovernmental processes, leadership in peacekeeping, rapid engagement in post-crisis countries, and its ability to learn from the experience of the more than 160 countries where it has a presence on the ground, the UN system can play a critical role in transforming development finance into development results.

Bringing together the various agencies, funds and programmes of the UN development system, the UN Development Group is a reliable partner with a unique depth of capacity and breadth of voice. It stands ready to strengthen its efforts to assist countries in responding to the current global crises with sustainable solutions to development challenges.

For more information please contact Marco Baumann: UN Development Operations Coordination Office, 1-917-445-2803, Marco.Baumann@undg.org

Note to Editors

- The United Nations development system is a neutral partner for developing countries. Its collective presence is global, with teams in 136 countries and programmes in 160 countries. It delivers over $16 billion worth of activities that support development every year and is guided by national priorities within a globally-agreed normative framework of human rights and development goals.
- The UN development system helps countries to access sources of development finance, provides policy and technical advice, and strengthens national capacities to respond to existing and emerging development challenges. It plays a crucial role as part of a broader global framework to achieve effective financing for development and attain sustainable and equitable development outcomes.
- The UN Development Group unites 33 UN funds, programmes, agencies, offices and departments, and five observers to deliver more effective support to developing countries.The Secretary-General created the group in 1997 as a mechanism to strengthen the UN system and coordinate its operational activities for development at the country level. The UNDG creates common policies and mechanisms to help its members analyse country issues, formulate strategies, implement programmes, monitor results, and advocate for change. This creates synergies, efficiencies, and economies of scale that result in better development assistance.
- UNDG members include: ECA, ECE, ECLAC, ESCAP, ESCWA, FAO, IFAD, ILO, ITU, OHCHR, OSAA, SRSGCAC, UN DESA, UN DPI, UNAIDS, UNCTAD, UNDP, UNEP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UN-HABITAT, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNIDO, UNIFEM, UNODC, UNOHRLLS, UNOPS, UNWTO, WFP, WHO, WMO, the World Bank (observer), UNFIP (observer), OCHA (observer), the Office of the Spokesperson for the Secretary-General (observer), and the Office of the Deputy Secretary-General (observer).
- For more information on the UNDG, visit: www.undg.org

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The Secretary-General remarks at side event on innovative financing mechanisms

Doha, 29 November 2008

Minister Alain Joyandet
[*Minister of State for Cooperation and Francophony, France*],
Mr. Douste-Blazy,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am delighted to be with you at this important side event.

The Monterrey Consensus recognizes the value of innovative sources of financing as a complement to, and not a substitute for, traditional official development assistance.

Today, the search for new sources is even more urgent. The current financial crisis and the looming economic slowdown will certainly affect the budgets of developed and developing countries alike.

Since Monterrey, there has been significant progress on innovative financing.

One major development was the establishment in 2006 of the Leading Group on

Solidarity Levies to Fund Development. The Group has generated several new and well recognized projects.

The International Finance Facility for Immunization has been raising funds for programmes through the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization. GAVI is delivering on its promise of providing reliable, long-term and stable funding for children's vaccination.

In addition, an advanced market commitments programme aims to provide long-term funding for the development of much-needed vaccines. The challenge ahead is to expand the scale of this effort to cover a longer time period.

And the Air Ticket Solidarity Levy is meant to scale up access to treatment against HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria. Twenty-five countries have committed to introducing the levy.

The funds raised so far through innovative sources of financing remain small compared to ODA. But these pilot initiatives indicate the great potential that exists. And there are more initiatives in the pipeline.

President Arias of Costa Rica recently launched an initiative that would provide extra funding for countries that limit military spending.

Other proposals include internationally coordinated levies on carbon emissions, arms purchases and currency transactions.

My Special Adviser on Innovative Sources of Finance, Mr. Philippe Douste-Blazy, is exploring other ideas as well, and building consensus around pilot projects.

I am eager to see the international community bring its creativity to bear on this effort. Indeed, many new initiatives will be developed during this conference.

This is still a growing area, but already I know it will feature prominently in financing for development in the future.

I look forward to working with you to realize the great potential in this area.

Thank you very much.

The Secretary-General remarks to lunch event on financing for development and the economics of gender

Doha, 29 November 2008

Thank you Minister Erik Solheim
[*Minister of the Environment and International Development of Norway*] for your kind introduction.
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I welcome this opportunity to speak with you on the economics of gender. This is an extremely important subject, and I thank Norway for organizing this event.

Millions of women around the world wake up early, cook for the whole family, take care of children and elders, and go out to the fields or markets to work all day. They manage life's greatest hurdles, from birth to sickness to ageing to death. Some economists call this the "caring sector".

Without these contributions, all economic activity would grind to a halt. Yet their work is hard to quantify in conventional terms. It does not result a paycheck. It does not show up in national statistics. But make no mistake: these efforts create deep, lasting value.

Women and girls in the traditional labour market usually earn less than men. And they still do most if not all of the caring work at home. They face a double burden without a double reward.

There is a saying from my part of the world: "Women hold up half the sky". I would go so far as to say that women hold up much more than their share of the sky.

We have a moral imperative to empower women and promote gender equality. But doing so is also one of our most powerful tools for fighting poverty and realizing the Millennium Development Goals.

Financing gender equality should have a prominent place on the agenda here in Doha and in our response to the financial crisis.

Many women are concentrated in low-paying jobs with little security. They are often so busy working at home that they do not have time for full-time paid jobs. We need social security systems that take account of these constraints and respond to women's needs.

We must also address a little-known aspect of the "brain drain": the departure of so many educated developing-country women for opportunity in the global North,, at far higher rates than that of educated men. Developing countries face the real risk of shortages of women leaders.

The Monterrey Consensus provides guidance for investing in gender equality. The

United Nations Commission on the Status of Women has also made important recommendations for achieving this goal.

Measures to empower women may seem like a detour on the road to development. In fact, they are the straightest and surest path to reaching our common destination of a more peaceful and prosperous world.

Thank you.

The Secretary-General remarks at event for global sport fund for youth

Doha, 29 November 2008

Members of the Qatar Olympic Committee,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a pleasure to join you today in support of this important initiative.

We all know the vulnerability of young people to drug addiction and criminality.

And we are painfully aware that too many young people become child soldiers or victims of human trafficking.

Our challenge, in rich and poor countries like, is to give young people the skills, confidence and opportunities they need to make informed choices and lead safe, healthy and fulfilling lives.

Sport can empower young people in just this way. So I very much welcome this chance to learn about the teamwork between the Qatar Olympic Committee and the United Nations.

The Global Sport Fund uses sports to help young people—particularly the millions of boys and girls affected by poverty, natural disasters and armed conflict.

It is helping young people to get involved in amateur sports. It is bringing together parents, teachers, coaches and sports stars who can serve as positive role models.

And it is teaching youngsters how to play by the rules, engage in teamwork and show respect for each other. I should stress that these are important principles for people of all ages.

I congratulate the Government of Qatar for its commitment to this initiative.

I look forward to our continued work together to keep kids safe from drugs and to help them fulfil their dreams.

And while I know this is serious work, I hope the boys and girls will also be able to have a bit of fun in the process.

Thank you very much.

The Secretary-General remarks to the United Nations advisory group on inclusive financial sectors

Doha, 29 November 2008

Your Royal Highness Princess Maxima, [*of the Netherlands*]
Ladies and Gentlemen,
Dear Colleagues,

I am pleased to accept these key messages and the final statement of the United Nations Advisors Group on Inclusive Financial Sectors. You have

performed a great service to the United Nations and its Member States. You have fulfilled your mandate with distinction.

It is fitting that the handover is taking place at this international conference on financing for development. Your work reminds us that increasing financial flows to developing countries is only a first step. We must also address the exclusion of many poor people from the benefits of financial services within their countries. Such an effort takes on even greater importance amid fears that the global financial crisis will further constrain aid budgets and our work for development in general.

Many of us take for granted the benefits of financial services. By contrast, most poor people have no bank accounts, insurance plans or facilities for loans and money transfers. Such services can bring ideas to life. They can help people manage risks and invest in their children's futures. They can play a crucial role in attaining the Millennium Development Goals.

Microfinance has been particularly successful in enabling poor communities to prosper. This shows that inclusive financial services are a good way of helping people to help themselves. So we should also be concerned about the possible impact of the current crisis on microfinance—from the ability of institutions to raise funds to the ability of borrowers to repay their weekly loan installments.

I am grateful to the UN Advisors for leading the way. Your key messages to governments, regulators, development partners and the private sector provide a tangible framework for action.

I encourage all who receive these messages to share them widely. We must carry the message to governments, banks, development agencies, and other stakeholders. I am sure that many organizations and institutions would get involved if only they knew how. These messages provide clear direction.

We cannot continue denying more than two billion people the opportunity to reach their full potential. We must break down the entrenched barriers to access.

Thank you again for this contribution to the Doha review conference and to making the world a better place.

Secretary-General calls for genuine 'elastic multilateralism' to tackle global challenges simultaneously

29 November 2008

Genuine inclusiveness was needed in order to tackle simultaneously the great global challenges represented by the world financial crisis, global warming and extreme poverty,

Secretary General Ban Ki-moon said this evening at a side event during the Financing for Development Conference in Doha, Qatar.

"As the spokesperson for the world's most universal body, I am, naturally, an advocate for greater inclusivity in international decision-making," he said, adding: "But let me be clear—inclusiveness doesn't mean we just expand the number after the letter 'G'." A new multilateralism should be elastic enough to forge an optimal response to the full range of challenges the world faced. Different issues were particularly relevant for different countries, and different forums would therefore be needed to respond to diverse issues.

He said success could be achieved by balancing the legitimacy that came from universal involvement in decision-making with the efficiency that resulted from delegating deliberations to a few key players. "In some cases, small committees within existing multilateral institutions might help them move more nimbly and decisively. In some cases, we may need to build stronger links between emerging bodies like the G-20 and larger assemblies like the UN."

The recent G-20 summit of the biggest economies had begun a necessary re-consideration of the world's financial system and the Doha Conference had brought together developed and developing countries to continue the response to the financial crisis, he said. However, it was crucial that the views of those most affected be considered before important decisions were made. Stronger links must be forged to ensure that all countries had a stake in multilateral processes that were both authoritative and effective.

Also present at the side event were Kemal Dervis, Administrator of the United Nations

Development Programme (UNDP), Pascal Lamy, Director General of the World Trade Organization, and Angel Gurria, Secretary-General of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). Olav Kjorven, Director of the UNDP's Bureau of Development, introduced the participants.

Mr. Lamy said coherence between national and international policies was crucial in meeting current challenges. Macroeconomic imbalances, the current financial crisis, the lack of early warning systems, climate change and other challenges must be addressed together, both nationally and internationally, and the voices of all must be heard. However, that did not mean that all countries must be members of one core group on any one particular issue. Innovative ways, including innovative forums, must be found to allow all to contribute to solutions.

Mr. Dervis agreed with the need for new solutions, stressing that it was crucial for all existing forums operate effectively, in order for all voices to be heard and in order for all problems to be addressed coherently. A massive worldwide Keynesian dose of spending, on the order of trillions of dollars, was needed to deal with the current crisis. Part of the public expenditure could be used to move to a low-carbon economy. Toward 2030, between $250 billion and $600 billion would be needed for that adaptation, some of which could be private, but initial public expenditures should give impetus to the transition.

Mr. Gurria underscored the particular importance of political leadership in tackling the three interlinked global crises because those who were always prone to inaction on reducing economic imbalances and climate change now had an excuse because of the financial recession.

Daily press briefing by conference spokesperson

29 November 2008

A draft outcome document for the financing for development conference that opened today in Doha, Qatar, had been submitted for discussion by Member States, Enrique Yeves, Spokesperson for the President of the United Nations General Assembly said at a press briefing this afternoon.

Introduced by Maher Nasser, Spokesperson for the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus, Mr. Yeves said a group of countries had been negotiating the document in New York since the beginning of the sixty-third session of the General Assembly. They had hoped to complete it there, but that had not been possible. A group had then met from 10 a.m. yesterday to 1 a.m. this morning and come up with a 66-paragraph document on the six themes of the Conference, which had been presented to the Main Committee at 10 a.m. today. Negotiations on the text would now continue.

Mr. Nasser, who was joined by Olav Kjorven, Director of the Bureau of Development at the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and Mohamed Abdullah Al-Rumaihi, Assistant Minister at Qatar's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, reported that this morning's opening of the Conference had featured Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, who had presided over a moment of silence for the victims of the attacks in Mumbai, India, as well as the election of the Emir of Qatar as President of the Conference. The first statements by State delegations had started in the plenary this morning and would run until the end of the four-day event.

He said the first round table discussion, on "Mobilizing domestic financial resources for development", was taking place from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. Tomorrow morning's round table at 10 a.m. was scheduled to focus on "Mobilizing international resources for development: foreign direct investment and other private flows".

Mr. Al-Rumaihi then spoke of the challenges of negotiating and organizing the Conference, which runs through 2 December. The sheer numbers of Heads of State and Government, ministers and vice-ministers, organizations and other participants rendered the logistics very complex. It was part of the objective, however, to bring together as many kinds of participants from as many sectors as possible. During the Conference, it was hoped that politics would be set aside, that a meaningful outcome document would emerge from the negotiations and that speakers would propose strategies to develop true financing for development.

Elaborating on a theme introduced by Secretary-General Ban on the eve of the Conference, Mr. Kjorven mentioned how solutions to the global financial crisis could open up doors to a future of sustainable development and equitable growth and how investing in "green" technology could produce jobs, spur growth and end the global recession.

He said Governments today were faced with a complex mix of challenges. Revisiting the 2002 Monterrey Consensus, it was evident how the world had changed in the interim, and how many severe crises now dominated international attention. However, it was important to remember that a time of crisis could be a time of opportunity and that the best solutions might be found in the nexus where all the concurrent crises came together. New technologies to mitigate climate change, for example, could provide jobs and economic stimuli.

Among the challenge at the climate change meeting in Poznan, Poland, in two weeks' time would be turning financial flows and stimulus packages toward sustainable development, he said. For multilateralism to become an instrument for progress, it was important to bring together not only all stakeholders, but also all the current challenges because they were all interlinked.

Addressing common concerns through renewed cooperation[1]

Informal high-level discussion on the implications of the financial crisis for development, climate change, and multilateralism

Hosted jointly by the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Emir of Qatar

28 November 2008

Four Seasons Hotel, Doha , Qatar

The retreat takes place on the eve of the International Conference on Financing for Development to Review Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus, 29 November to 2 December.

Background

The Doha Conference on Financing for Development will take place at a time when significant instability in global financial markets is undermining the real economies of both developed and developing countries. Slower economic growth and continued uncertainty are threatening efforts to tackle the key concerns of the United Nations and its members: human security, poverty and hunger, and climate change. As the costs of dealing with the financial and economic crisis mount, all forms of financing for development identified in the Monterrey Consensus are coming under pressure—domestic resources, trade and investment, remittances, foreign lending and ODA.

As the international community works to address this crisis, it will be critical to assist and support the poorest and most vulnerable countries. The trading prospects of these countries need to be expanded not curtailed, and the promises of increased ODA made in earlier summits must also be met. Providing sustained support to developing countries so that they can maintain growth and their prospects for achieving the

1 Note to Journalists: The following concept note gives background on the high-level retreat on the global financial crisis being convened by the UN Secretary-General and the Emir of Qatar.

Millennium Development Goals is likely to prove a wise long-term investment—not just for the moral imperative of development within developing countries, but for prosperity and security worldwide.

Beyond the need to safeguard developing countries through this turmoil, the cloud of the financial crisis has some emerging silver linings. First, the fiscal stimulus required to support global economic growth in response to the financial crisis gives an unprecedented opportunity to invest in new technologies, green jobs, and our global green economy. This shift to a low-carbon economy would help us to tackle climate change and protect future generations. Second, recent coordinated action in the developed economies to address instability in financial markets has shown some results. Similar actions are needed to protect developing country economies. The existing challenges that the world faces in terms of maintaining growth, reducing poverty and tackling climate change require this same spirit of enhanced and pragmatic cooperation. The key issue then becomes: How can this new multilateralism be forged, and what institutions are required to support it?

Objective of the meeting

To act as a bridge from the G20 Washington meeting to the Doha Conference by proposing concrete actions that:

- limit the impact of the financial crisis on developing countries
- maximize the potential for responses to the crisis that also address climate change
- allow for a strengthened and more inclusive multilateralism to develop that will allow faster and more coordinated actions to tackle common challenges

Output of the meeting

A short statement by the chair summarizing areas of concern and agreed actions. A summary of the informal discussions will be relayed in the opening plenary session of the Doha Conference on November 29th.

A press encounter will follow
Time : 7:30 pm
Four Seasons Hotel
Doha , Qatar

Summary by the Chair (UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon) of the high-level informal discussion on the implications of the financial crisis for development, climate change and multilateralism

Doha, Qatar, 28 November 2008

On the eve of the Doha Conference to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus, a group of committed leaders met to discuss how a globally coordinated response to the financial crisis can protect developing countries, underpin our drive to a green economy, and stimulate a commitment to a renewed multilateralism.

Leaders expressed their deep gratitude to His Highness the Emir of the State of Qatar for hosting this meeting and the Financing for Development Review conference.

Leaders unanimously condemned the terrorist attacks in Mumbai over the past two days, called for the perpetrators to be swiftly brought to justice, and expressed solidarity with the people and government of India.

Leaders agreed that the Doha conference was timely, falling just two weeks after the G-20 Summit in Washington on Financial Markets and the World Economy. They also agreed that the Doha conference offers an opportunity to listen to the perspectives and concerns of a larger group of countries. Broad participation in and support for the designs of reforms will make them more effective and sustainable. Finally, they reiterated their determination to remain committed to achieving the Millennium Development Goals, even in the face of the financial crisis, and meet ODA commitments. The importance of meeting the special needs of Africa was emphasized.

In the discussion, leaders stressed the importance of a globally coordinated response to the

financial crisis and recession. Emerging markets and developing countries will need sustained access to credit, including for trade financing. Because of the impact that the economic slowdown will have on domestic resource mobilization and investment, many developing countries will also need continued support through ODA. The role of the private sector in mobilizing additional resources for development was also emphasized. Leaders recognized that economic growth in emerging economies and developing countries must be maintained for the good of the global economy. It will be important to curb protectionist tendencies and bring the

Doha Trade Round to a successful development-focused conclusion. Previous progress made on the Millennium Development Goals and realizing basic human rights must not be undermined. Leaders agreed that we would work within our own administrations and international organizations to ensure that our responses to the global financial crisis would prevent it from becoming a global human crisis.

Many leaders at the meeting stressed that their countries had started to reorient their economies to support investment in low carbon technologies and green market-based growth. Green investments have the potential to stave off the economic slowdown by creating jobs.

Leaders recognized that the G-20 Summit held in Washington prepared the ground for a strong action-oriented agenda to stabilize and reform financial markets. Building on this example, they stressed that there was now a unique opportunity to inject this new sense of multilateralism into other areas that need our common attention, especially fighting poverty and climate change. Fundamental to this is a recognition that developing countries will require greater voice and influence in our institutions.

Finally, leaders agreed that a strong outcome at the Doha conference would send a signal to the global community that we will stand together to fight common problems, and take advantage of shared opportunities. Leaders therefore agreed to instruct their delegations at Doha to do everything possible to support the final stages of the negotiations on the outcome document.

Secretary-General, in message to flag raising ceremony at development financing

Review in Doha, says big global challenges require big, practical solutions

28 November 2008

Following is the text of UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon's message to the flag raising ceremony for the Follow-Up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus, as delivered by Sha Zukang, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, yesterday, 27 November, in Doha, Qatar:

With the raising of this flag, we welcome the world to Doha for a crucially important United Nations conference.

This is a time of great turmoil in global finance markets and the world economy. Our vital work to eradicate poverty and promote development is threatened, not only by an international credit crunch, but also by higher prices for food, energy and basic commodities, accelerating climate change and a stalemate in global trade negotiations. There is great concern that a severe economic slowdown could have a chilling effect on trade, aid, investment flows and efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

At such times, it is right and necessary that the international community gather under the auspices of the United Nations. These are global problems, affecting all people. They demand global solutions, arrived at with the involvement of all people.

The Monterrey Consensus can point the way forward. That landmark text is the most comprehensive and authoritative statement of development principles to which both developing and developed countries have formally subscribed. We are here now to assess progress in implementing those commitments, and to find ways past the obstacles in our path.

That effort has become more urgent and complex as a result of multiple global crises. We face big challenges. So we are called on to think big, and find practical solutions that work for all the world's people, especially the poor who bear the fullest brunt of the consequences. I urge all participants in this review Conference to keep the global good foremost in mind throughout their deliberations. With leadership and goodwill, we can rise to the test.

As global economy falters, world leaders to meet in Doha on ensuring sufficient finance for development

Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon convenes Heads of State in response to financial crisis one day prior to UN development summit, 29 November – 2 December

New York, 11 November 2008

Heads of State and Government ministers will gather in Doha, Qatar, in late November for a long-planned conference to make recommendations on key inputs required to fuel development—trade, aid, investment, debt alleviation, national resource mobilization and effective international financial architecture. Their task has become more urgent and more complex following the debacle in world financial markets and sharp deceleration in economic growth.

The UN's Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development was scheduled to assess progress made on the 2002 Monterrey Consensus, a landmark North-South agreement on development principles. The Doha meeting will also steer the Monterrey agenda on challenges that have taken on a higher profile since 2002, such as climate change and food and agriculture.

UN officials stress that the Finance for Development ("FfD") review will have the most universal and inclusive participation of all formal intergovernmental meetings on economic issues held since the abrupt fall in financial markets in the second half of the year. Also playing a key role will be officials from the World Bank, International Monetary Fund and World Trade Organization.

Negotiations on an outcome document are underway in New York, as Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and other heads of multilateral organizations warn of the toll that the economic slowdown may exact on developing nations and the poor. There is concern as to the chilling effect the crisis may have on trade, aid and investment flows, and a potential rise in protectionism.

Secretary-General Ban has invited Heads of State to an advance meeting on 28 November, co-hosted by the Emir of Qatar, at which responses to the financial crisis and economic slowdown will be discussed.

A year of UN focus on development

The Doha conference culminates a year of extraordinary turmoil in finance markets. It also has been a year of heightened UN activity on development, including the 12th UN Conference on Trade and Development and the formation of a system-wide task force on the global food crisis, in the first half of 2008. In September, the

Secretary-General garnered over $17 billion in pledges in support of the Millennium Development Goals at a high-level meeting in New York, and the UN General Assembly held an informal hearing on the global financial crisis in October.

Plenary sessions and six interactive round tables will be held during the meeting, hosted by Qatar, at the Convention Centre annexed to the Sheraton Doha Resort and Convention Hotel. It will be preceded by the Doha Global Civil Society Forum (26-27 November) and the second International Business Forum (28 November). Side events will also be held by Governments, UN agencies, and private sector and civil society organizations.

Background

The first UN-sponsored summit-level meeting to address financial and related issues pertaining to global development and international economic cooperation was held in Monterrey, Mexico, in

March 2002. Fifty Heads of State and over 200 ministers of finance, foreign affairs, development and trade were joined by the heads of the UN, World Bank, International Monetary Fund and World Trade Organization, and by business and civil society leaders.

The six-part Monterrey Consensus that emerged from the summit is the most comprehensive and authoritative statement of development principles to which both developing and developed countries have formally subscribed.

Commitments made in Monterrey marked the turnaround in the previous decade-long decline or stagnation in levels of development assistance. The 2002 development summit also marked the beginning of a new era of cooperation between the Bretton Woods institutions, the WTO and the UN.

Schedule of media events

24 November
Media accreditation facilities open at Doha convention centre.

28 November
High-level meeting on the global financial crisis, convened bythe Emir of Qatar and the UN Secretary-General. Press conference or stake-out to be announced.

29 November
Opening of the Finance for Development Review Conference. The Emir of Qatar, President of the General Assembly, UN Secretary-General will be among the speakers.

29 November - 2 December
In plenary, the Head of State or Government or Minister from each delegation will make a short statement. A list of speakers giving the order will be available in the Media Centre.

- In a separate forum, negotiations to finalize an agreed outcome document will be on-going as needed.
- A daily press briefing will be held by the Conference Spokesperson—timing to be announced

Six roundtables will be held on the following issues:

29 November (3 pm – 6 pm)
Mobilizing domestic financial resources for development

30 November (10 am – 1 pm)
Mobilizing international resources for development: foreign direct investment and other private flows

30 November (3 pm – 6 pm)
International trade as an engine for development

1 December (10 am – 1 pm)
Increasing international financial and technical cooperation for development

1 December (3 pm – 6 pm)
External debt

2 December (10 am – 1 pm)
Addressing systemic issues: enhancing the coherence and consistency of the international monetary, financial and trading systems in support of development

For more information, see http://www.un.org/esa/ffd/

All official meetings and press conferences will be webcast, at www.un.org/webcast

Media accreditation: Detailed information and on-line applications are available at the UN Media Accreditation and Liaison Unit website: www.un.org/media/accreditation.

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Talks on development finance start today in UN General Assembly

Doha outcome will review and update the 2002 Monterrey Consensus

United Nations New York, 8 September 2008

The first draft of an inter governmental action plan on ways and means to finance development is being taken up at an informal meeting of the UN General Assembly today, following opening speeches by the Presidents of the GA and the UN Economic and Social Council, the Deputy Foreign Minister of Qatar and two special envoys of the UN Secretary General.

Negotiations for the review of the Monterrey Consensus—the North-South development accord agreed in Mexico in 2002—take place in a year of global financial turmoil and record-level global imbalances. The Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development (29 November – 2 December, Doha, Qatar) also culminates 2008 high-level meetings on trade and development, aid effectiveness, food crisis, Africa's development needs and the Millennium Development Goals. Expectations have been raised that Doha will build upon these discussions to advace the UN development agenda.

The initial negotiating text, prepared under the direction of the President of the UN General Assembly by two co-Facilitators (Egypt and Norway), with the support of the Financing for Development Office of the Secretariat, in New York over the summer, finds notable expansion in trade, aid and finance flows and in reducing debt burdens since the 2002 Monterrey Conference. But uneveness in the reach of private flows, shortcomings in hitting aid targets and ongoing difficulties of vulnerable economies (least developed, landlocked and small island nations especially) are cited among the areas of concern, along with gaps in international financial structures and mechanisms.

Among the proposals that are under consideration:

- More robust support for regional development banks and for the Bretton Woods insitutions as "the key pillars of a »» strengthened international financial architecture", and the convening a conference to "review the international financial and monetary architecture and global economic governance structures". The IMF Board of Governors would be invited to place this discussion on the agenda of its next meeting.
- Attention to strengthening the tax base of developing countries and combating tax evasion and illicit capital flight, including by upgrading the UN Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters to the status of an intergovernmental body.
- While opening-up of domestic economies is essential to take advantage of opportunities provided by globalization, sufficient policy space should be allowed to enhance resilience to its risks; thus, governments should be able to control pace and sequencing of liberalization.
- Efforts should continue to pursue the other Doha agenda—the round of development oriented multilateral trade talks initiated in Doha in 2001.
- Advocating new and more effective ways to leverage the catalytic role of development assistance, including through regional cooperation, and continuing to roll out new and alternative sources of development funding.
- Special financial mechanisms to meet the challenges of climate change and high food and energy prices.

Before diplomats begin three days of talks (Monday-Wednesday, 8-10 September), the meeting will be opened on Monday morning by the General Assembly President, H.E. Dr. Srgjan Kerim (former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia). In turn, addresses will be made by the President of the Economic and Social Council, H.E. Mr. Léo Mérorès (Haiti); Qatari Deputy Foreign Minister, H.E. Mr.

Mohamed Abdulla M. Al-Rumaihi; South African Finance Minister Mr. Trevor Manuel, a Special Envoy of the UN Secretary-General for the Doha Conference on financing for development; and Director-General, Ms. Ingrid Hoven, speaking on behalf of another Special Envoy, Ms. Heidemarie Wieczorek-Zeul, German Minister for Development Cooperation.