

EGYPT



مصر

The Permanent Mission of Egypt  
to the United Nations  
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Statement by

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Informal Thematic Consultations of the General Assembly

Cluster I - Freedom from Want

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Mr. Facilitator,

I would like to associate myself with the statement made by the G-77 and China, as well as the statements that will be made on behalf of the African Group and the Arab Group, and to reflect further on a number of points.

We have to recall that the September event was initiated to address development, and particularly how best to fulfill and implement the commitments undertaken at the numerous conferences and summits that have been held to specifically address this issue, to re-double our energies to address the many challenges that we have identified, and to seek ways and means towards the achievement of our international development objectives, including the Millennium Development Goals.

First, the developmental needs of Africa:

It has become abundantly clear that Africa is the region facing the most challenges on the road to achieving its development objectives, including the MDGs. Our continent continues to suffer from poverty, hunger, drought, and diseases that ravage its economic and social infra-structure. Even though, as the Secretary General contends in his report, these problems and challenges may be global in nature, they hit the hardest in our continent. It is therefore imperative that the September meeting adequately addresses the special needs and particular concerns of Africa.

Towards this end, Egypt would like to emphasize the importance of the following:

- 1- Lending the full support of the international community to NEPAD, by strengthening its institutional structures, expanding partnership, and assisting NEPAD in executing its wide-ranging developmental agenda, including in its focus areas of agriculture, infrastructure and information and communication technology.
- 2- Supporting African countries' initiatives and projects aimed at building and strengthening capacities in Africa, particularly in the areas of health, eradication of poverty and education, all of which are fundamental to the achievement of the MDGs.

- 3- Examining the implementation of the recommendations contained in the Report of the Commission on Africa, in coordination with African countries, and by making full use of African mechanisms such as NEPAD.
- 4- Implementing the international community's commitments towards Africa, with regards to debt cancellation, improved market access, increased Official Development Assistance, increased flows of foreign direct investment and technology transfers.
- 5- In this context, we would like to encourage the development of the concept of "quick wins", which should be jointly launched by developed and developing countries, and which should be aligned with national development plans. The criteria for selecting countries benefiting from this process should be fair and transparent, and its programs should be sustainable over the period of time required for achieving its objectives.
- 6- A clear commitment by developed countries to support the fight against HIV/AIDS, Malaria, Tuberculosis and other infectious diseases in Africa, by providing necessary financial assistance, low cost antiretroviral medicine and technical assistance for capacity building in the health services of African countries.
- 7- In this context, additional substantial steps will have to be taken to encourage the pharmaceutical industry to make essential drugs more widely available and affordable by all who need them in developing countries, and particularly in Africa.
- 8- A clear and definite commitment by the international community to support and speedily implement the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, and to provide all necessary assistance to African countries in their efforts to implement the Convention.

Second, international economic issues:

Five years have passed since the adoption of the Millennium Declaration, three years since Monterrey, and we find ourselves confronted by the harshness of the realities of the current international economic order, the severe imbalances in the multilateral trading system and the reluctance of the international community to implement their commitments...and I cite these only as mere examples of many other realities that we face.

A serious, consistent and concerted effort towards addressing the international economic and developmental agenda has to be undertaken. Egypt believes that Member States need to re-commit themselves to the full implementation of the outcomes of the various international conferences, and in this regard, we would like to highlight the importance of the following issues:

- 1- On trade, there needs to be a re-affirmation that the development needs of developing countries are at the heart of the Doha work agenda, and that serious steps have to be taken to ensure progress in line with such concept. The linkage established by the Secretary General between the commitment of developed countries to a more development-oriented trading system, and steps taken by developing countries in their development strategies at the national level, lacks coherence and fairness, as well as feasibility and applicability to WTO trade negotiations. Furthermore, the conclusion of the Doha Trade Round by 2006 should not be an objective in and of itself, but rather our intent should be to adequately address the concerns and interests of developing countries and to resolve the current imbalances in the multilateral trading system.

Towards this end, we are proposing the following:

- Achieving substantial liberalization in the agriculture sector by eliminating agriculture subsidies.
  - Giving priority to the cotton regime which constitutes a priority commodity for many developing countries.
  - Allowing for greater market access for products of developing countries to developed countries' markets.
  - Implementing, in practical terms, the provisions of special and differential treatments in the GATT agreements.
  - Agree to consider a number of quick win actions that could bring immediate benefits to developing countries.
  - Strengthening the supply side capabilities and productive capacity in developing countries to strengthen export competitiveness.
- 2- On ODA, we welcome the achievement of the target of 0.7 percent of GNI by a number of donor countries, and encourage the efforts of others to set up specific time frames to reach this long-standing unattained commitment. Such commitment should be undertaken in a predictable, consistent and speedy, if not immediate, manner, that is inclusive of all developed countries, and that does not entail the imposition of conditionalities.

- 3- We also recognize the need to improve aid effectiveness, management and delivery, through increased country level and international cooperation between developed and developing countries, while re-affirming the right of developing countries to decide on their own developmental priorities. In this context, Member States should agree to devise a mechanism for the monitoring and evaluation of the delivery and effectiveness of international assistance.
- 4- The importance of generating additional resources for development, by thoroughly identifying and examining possible new sources of financing that could be transferred to developing countries in a stable, transparent and predictable manner, while emphasizing that such sources should be additional to other sources of development finance, and that they should not impose burdens on developing countries.
- 5- In this context, the International Finance Facility reflects a commitment to assist developing countries to achieve the MDGs by their target dates. Such idea should be encouraged, while re-affirming the importance of the participation of developing countries in its decision-making mechanisms, and ensuring that it would not negatively affect the financial situation of developing countries in the long run.
- 6- The urgent need for the international community to adopt effective, comprehensive and durable development-oriented solutions to the debt problems of all developing countries, including debt cancellation for HIPC Countries, and debt cancellation and significant debt relief for middle-income countries.
- 7- The development of mechanisms and source country measures by developed countries in a manner that does not impose additional burdens or conditionalities on developing countries to encourage foreign direct investment to these countries.
- 8- The importance of increasing international support for scientific research to address the special needs of developing countries including in the fields of health, agriculture, environmental protection and energy.

Third, policies and international systemic issues:

Developing countries have demonstrated their deep commitment to achieving progress and economic development by taking primary responsibility for their own development. In Africa, for example, regional mechanisms, such as

NEPAD, have been launched to support the efforts of the African countries. It has to be highlighted, however, that the achievement of our development objectives continues to be hindered by the persistence of a "disabling" international environment...one of deep systemic inequities, inadequate global economic governance, and unbalanced international political, monetary and financial policies. There is an urgent need to take significant steps to implement our commitments to address many of the problems that face us in terms of international policies and strategies:

- 1- The international community needs to re-affirm its position towards the negative impact of foreign occupation and unilateral coercive measures on development efforts. There needs to be a call on a quick, immediate and unconditional end to such policies that are in clear violation of international law and pose obstacles on the road to achieving the MDGs. The situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territories is a case to be highlighted in this regard.
- 2- The importance of implementing existing commitments in the field of international migration, and to seek to devise new policies to maximize the benefits of international migration for countries of origin, transit and destination, and for migrants and their families.
- 3- We should also re-affirm the importance of allowing for an appropriate balance between national policy space and international commitments in the areas of finance, development and trade.
- 4- As we seek to address reform at the UN, there is an urgent need to reform the global financial structure, including through finding ways to enhance the voice and participation of all developing countries in the decision-making processes of international financial and trade institutions.
- 5- Priority should be accorded to achieving the universal membership of the WTO by facilitating and accelerating the accession process by developing countries.

Mr. Facilitator,

The development challenges ahead are monumental, but they are manageable if we are to faithfully implement our commitments. The 2005 high level event provides us with a much-needed opportunity to re-assess and re-commit ourselves to the outcomes of the various related summits and

conferences, and to implement specific policies to ensure the achievement of our common development objectives, including the MDGs. I have outlined a number of issues that would have to be addressed during our review process. This is by no means an exhaustive list, but a contribution towards a process that my delegation will continue to work towards its successful conclusion.

Thank you.