



Remarks

by

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President of the 68th Session of the United Nations
General Assembly

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Sixth High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development

Informal Interactive Dialogue

The link between financing for development and achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and advancing the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015.

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Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am pleased to welcome you to this informal interactive dialogue on ‘The link between financing for development and achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and advancing the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015.’

In the midst of all the complexities surrounding the MDGs, a number of factors have become abundantly clear. The first is that we have made significant progress in their achievement. Another is that in the months to come, our foremost challenge will be how to move even faster towards achieving these goals, by focusing on those that are most off-track and on the countries that face particular development challenges, including the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, small island developing States and countries affected by or recovering from conflicts or disasters.

Another clear reality is that financing is the engine of the whole MDG process. For this reason, with the 2015 target date for the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) approaching and as we prepare to formulate the post-2015 Development Agenda mobilizing, financing will be a central priority and therefore this discussion is timely and most welcome.

The financing for development process has a critical contribution to make to this global effort. Countries should make every effort to mobilize domestic resources, yet at the same time, there is a vital role for donor countries. It is absolutely critical that they meet their Official Development (ODA) commitments, including reliable and timely financial resources.

A strong and concerted effort to achieve the MDGs will lay the ground for an ambitious and bold post-2015 development agenda, which merges the three dimensions of sustainable development, addresses new and emerging challenges, and applies to all countries with common but differentiated responsibilities. Two core goals – sustainable development and eradication of extreme poverty – will be at the center of this new agenda.

Successful implementation it will require a coherent and comprehensive financing strategy, and should build on existing international agreements, as enshrined in the Monterrey Consensus and Doha Declaration on Financing for Development.

However, the renewed global partnership will need to go beyond MDG 8 to address issues such as climate change, financial stability, and tax evasion, which require concerted global action. Many of these issues have already been incorporated into the financing for development process, and we have taken them up over the past day and a half. Today's discussion should also serve as an input to the work of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing, created at Rio+ 20 and tasked by the General Assembly with developing options on an effective sustainable development financing strategy.

This year the General Assembly will hopefully advance and conclude its consideration of the follow up to and the implementation of the 2002 International Conference on Financing for Development. As you know, a proposal for a follow-up United Nations International Conference on Financing for Development was recently put forward in the ministerial declaration of the G77. A similar idea was proposed by the *High Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda*. During this two day event, many delegations have also made reference to this idea.

Distinguished Colleagues,

Over the last day and a half, we had fruitful discussions on the financing for development agenda. Today's informal interactive dialogue provides an opportunity to assess the issue of financing for development in an integrated manner in the context of the post-2015 development process. Of equal importance, it gives us an opportunity to go beyond the general statements such as we heard in the plenary sessions, to engage in the kinds of informal exchanges that are conducive to identifying common ground for future action.

Accordingly, I hope our deliberations will address some of the following questions:

- How can this renewed global partnership for development be best streamlined into the post-2015 development agenda?

- How can the three dimensions of sustainable development be integrated into a coherent financing framework? How can the different work streams be integrated?
- In the light of what has been learned from MDG 8, how can the financing for development process help shape the post-2015 UN development agenda? What kinds of goals and indicators should we consider setting?

Such operational considerations can enhance the usefulness of the interactive dialogue. I look forward to fruitful discussions on these and other questions.

Thank you.