



**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE
G E N E V A**

**Statement by
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to the United Nations, New York

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Mr. President, Excellencies, Distinguished Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure and privilege to address this year's high-level segment as it is setting the stage for a renewed and strengthened Council, with its first Annual Ministerial Review and the launch of the Development Cooperation Forum, midway to the target date of 2015 for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. The meeting's focus on the crucial, number one Millennium Development Goal, that is our fight against hunger and poverty, is particularly timely. Croatia has aligned itself with the statement of the European Union, so I will restrict myself to the priorities of my delegation.

Croatia welcomes the strengthening of coordination within the UN system with other multilateral financial, trade and development institutions in order to support sustained economic growth and sustainable development. Croatia supports the commitments regarding the goals deriving from the UN Summits in Monterrey and Johannesburg, as well as related processes such as the Doha Development Agenda and the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness. Croatia also welcomes the initiatives to enhance the quality of aid and to increase its impact, bearing in mind that progress can be facilitated only by harmonization of efforts at the international and regional levels.

We, as a middle-income country in transition, have achieved progress and are ready to share our experiences. Traditionally, Croatia has focused its contribution for development mainly within the region of the South-East Europe, but has also committed its development assistance through various international financial institutions and multilateral organizations. By such donations Croatia shows its readiness to participate more actively in the processes of **building peace worldwide** and gives its concrete support to the operational activities of the UN aimed at development, which makes Croatia's candidacy for non-permanent seat on the UN Security Council for the term 2008/2009 all the more credible.

Several years ago, Croatia began the transformation from a recipient of aid into

an emerging donor country at both regional and international levels. A more active approach to the provision of development assistance was also guaranteed by signing of the UN Millennium Declaration and assumption of the obligation to implement the Millennium Development Goals, as well as obligations resulting from the preparations for the membership in the European Union. This year, Croatia has donated for the first time to the World Food Programme. Croatia was among the first to voluntarily contribute to the UN Central Emergency Response Fund and the UN Peace Building Fund. During the inauguration of the Fund, UN former Secretary General Kofi Annan laid a special emphasis on the **role of non-traditional donors**, one of which is Croatia.

The Croatian government is currently in the process of designing a specific strategy of the development policy. The establishment of an **"Interdepartmental Working Group for Development Assistance Policy and Advancement"** by the end of the year 2006 has been the first step towards building up the administrative capacity necessary to formulate and to implement this strategy. Initially, this working group consists of all line ministries, the relevant offices of the Croatian government, the private sector and NGOs. This step underlines the fact that Development cooperation is becoming a part of the Croatian foreign policy. Only in the year 2006, the Republic of Croatia has carried out projects amounting to approximately 16 million USD which, according to the OECD Development Assistance Committee criteria can be considered a form of development assistance.

Active participation in international efforts in financing for development is not only a political or moral obligation, but a common responsibility of **all** - Governments, but also the private sector and civil society. As UN Deputy Secretary-General Asha-Rose Migiro stated in her address to this ministerial review preparatory meeting in April, "if we all join hands, we can actually still meet the 2015 Millennium Development Goals deadline, we can advance against poverty and hunger, and we can build a true partnership for development". Mr. President, allow me to wish all of us present today well in our future undertakings to achieve these goals. Thank you.