



Statement of the Republic of the Sudan
Delivered by

H.E. Ambassador John Ukec,

Before

The thematic panel discussion

on

" The current, economic, food and climate change crises and their
effects on the achievement of the MDGs:

the role of the United Nations system's support to national efforts"

Geneva, July, 15, 2009

Madam Chair,

My country expresses its appreciation to you for convening this thematic panel discussion. We deem it very important that the United Nations has remained seized with this critical issues economic, food and climate change crises. We believe that eradication of hunger and the attainment of food security and managing economic and climate change crises are global imperatives.

Madam Chair,

Despite the progress made by developing countries, commitments to increase the provision of resources have not been fulfilled. There is a commitment to collaborate on international resource mobilization, but the international financial environment is still not transparent, stable or predictable.

If global poverty is to fall to levels required to reach the MDGs by 2015, global GDP growth must remain at, or exceed, current annual levels of 3.5%. In addition, to ensure that all developing countries make progress, global economic growth must reach the poorest. However, a global economic slowdown that originated in the developed world forecasts a recession, falling commodity prices and fluctuations in the international financial markets that threaten to stagnate growth and further marginalize the poorest. Thus, it is also critical for international financial institutions to increase efforts to establish adequate financial strategies for developing countries that are vulnerable to economic crises. This can prevent a reversal of progress towards the MDGs caused by global instability.

We all aware that there is a commitment to collaborate on increasing the coherence and sustainability of international systems, but the development efforts from the BWIs, WTO and other international financial institutions remain disconcerted and incoherent. There is also a commitment to collaborate on financial and technical cooperation, but official development assistance (ODA) levels, as a percent of Gross National Product (GNP), have decreased despite improved absorptive capacities in developing countries.

Madam Chair,

Developed countries must be evaluated not only in their implementation of the Monterrey Consensus as the mechanism that ensures the resources necessary to achieve the goals, but also in the progress made on MDG 8, which unfortunately, holds no clear benchmarks to monitor its implementation. Therefore, we call on the UN and its relevant bodies to contribute to the elaboration of a comprehensive matrix of the commitments made under MDG 8 and specific benchmarks to facilitate monitoring of its implementation. Making MDG 8 work for the most vulnerable countries, and particularly for countries in Africa, is a priority concern of the African countries including Sudan. There seems to be no coordinated thinking or work on addressing how the potential of MDG 8 can be systematically harnessed, tracked or monitored to support development in general, and in Africa in particular. The

task of achieving the MDGs by 2015 is a shared responsibility among all stakeholders. I would like to call for concrete focus on the lack of progress on MDG 8 - Global Partnership for Development.

Madam Chair,

The current financial crisis and global economic slowdown have placed additional constraints on the ability of developing countries, especially the poor, to gain access to food. Steps to eradicate hunger have yet to be translated into concrete action to help those most impacted by the crisis, and concerns still remain over the situation of the rural and urban poor, landless or small-scale farmers and households.

Any successful strategy to defeat hunger should therefore involve stronger institutions with better accountability, stability of the global markets, enhanced market access for agricultural products from developing countries, sustainable investments in agricultural production and research, and targeted support to the advancement of the agricultural sector in developing countries, including small-scale farmers and the poor.

According to FAO reports, the total number of undernourished people in the world reached more than 963 million. And in spite of the volatility in food prices, the number of the world's hungry is still higher than they were in 2002, leaving the poor still unable to purchase food. Addressing the global food crisis, which is caused by multiple interlinked factors, including subsidies and protectionist policies of developed countries, requires a coordinated international response.

Actions by both national governments and the international community, including donor, are required in the short, medium- and long-term, to meet global food security needs, the world's most vulnerable populations and countries especially in developing countries. Revival of agriculture in developing countries is a key to eradicating poverty and achieving food security, through coordinated short, medium and long term measures at the national and international levels. The international community should support national, regional food initiatives to stabilize prices and serve as emergency stock.

Actions taken by both governments and the international community must aim at minimizing risks and mitigating the effects of food prices volatility on the most vulnerable.

To maintain solid solutions to food crises I would like to ensure the following:

1. International assistance to support policies aimed at strengthening social safety nets in developing countries, particularly in least developed countries to deal with the adverse impacts of food crisis.
2. In the short- to medium-term, national and international efforts should be made to ensure that international emergency food assistance is

delivered as quickly and efficiently as possible to the most vulnerable people particularly in developing countries.

3. The international community to support capacity building activities in developing countries in the design and implementation of social protection policies and programs.
4. Enhance the capacity of regional and sub regional organizations to effectively contribute to the strategies to cope with volatile food prices and natural disasters in agriculture sector.
5. Synergize all efforts by governmental and non-governmental organizations to strengthen immediate humanitarian and development assistance with those of the multilateral organizations in line with national strategies.
6. National ownership should be granted to support coordination of development stakeholder.
7. Stronger assessment, monitoring and surveillance system are needed to prevent the recurrence of crisis.
8. Early warning system on food security should be enhanced through:
 - Developing a better food security information system to monitor and report on the status of national, regional and global food supply, demand, and prices, and that can act as an early warning system for global food insecurity.
 - Establishing better coordination of information system to facilitate a comprehensive analysis and response to the global food crisis.
 - Strengthening the role of United Nations System to monitor and evaluate agriculture commodities supply and demand at the global level.

Madam Chair,

Climate change poses serious risks and challenges particularly to developing countries and therefore demands urgent global action and response. We are concerned about the fact that while the adverse effects of climate change and the associated phenomena threaten the sustainable development, livelihoods and the very existence of many developing countries in particular Africa, the scientific evidence in support of our claim is now globally recognized, and the Conference of the Parties (COP) in Bali established a plan for urgent immediate and long term action. The Bali Action Plan is geared towards the enhancing action to enable the full, effective and sustained implementation of the convention. It requires us, on the basis of a shared vision for long-term cooperation action and in accordance with the provisions of the Convention, in particular the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capacities to do the following:

- Provide the financial resources and investment to support action on mitigation adaptation and technology cooperation.
- Make the monumental effort required to mitigate climate change, in the shortest possible time.
- Enhance the level of adaptation to the damage already done and that being done with each day we delay mitigation action.

Finally, we are in need to focus on achieving the integrated and comprehensive common understanding on addressing economic, food and climate change crises, of the where we are going and what we are doing and precisely how and with what enabling means we are going to get there.

I thank you, Madam Chair,