

Statement

By

His Highness
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Emir of the State of Qatar

Before

The High-level Plenary Meeting
of the United Nations General Assembly
Meeting on Financing for Development

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In the Name of God
The Merciful, The Compassionate

Mr. President,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives me great pleasure, at the outset, to acknowledge the progress achieved in the implementation of the decisions of the "Monterey Consensus" adopted by the International Conference on Financing for Development, held in Monterey, Mexico, in March 2002. I would also like to pay tribute to all the states, developed and developing alike, which have striven to put those decisions into effect and undertook constructive initiatives to support their implementation.

These efforts acquire significance in the context of the endeavor by the International Community to achieve the MDG's. In this respect, I would like to express my profound appreciation for the serious efforts exerted by the majority of the developing countries to apply the concept of good governance in all political and economic fields in the face of mounting domestic and regional challenges. My appreciation also extends to the initiatives launched by the G-8 and the European Union regarding the cancellation of the debts of the heavily indebted poorest countries, also, the ODA they provide and their efforts to combat epidemics and poverty. In this regard, I cannot but commend the initiative to combat hunger and poverty, and the sponsoring states. In this regard, Qatar supports the French proposal to set aside solidarity contributions that would accrue from a surcharge to be added to the price of airline tickets as an innovative source of financing for development.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The International Conference on Financing for Development was a landmark in the process of international cooperation for development. The participation of the Heads of State and Government reflected the political will

of the International Community at the highest level, and affirmed their desire to deal in earnest with the question of financing for development. Also, the involvement of the IMF, the World Bank, and the WTO, in addition to the representatives of the business community and the civil society together with the United Nations in the proceedings of this conference greatly contributed to the importance of this conference and its practical nature which promoted a spirit of constructive participation. The world has been in dire need of such a spirit to face the challenges of Globalization and to transform the financing for development from an arena for conflict and confrontation to a realm of participation and cooperation.

Mr. President,

The State of Qatar has endeavored to be a supportive partner in the international efforts for development, especially as regards combating poverty and the more equitable and fairer distribution of the benefits of global growth, in view of the positive effects of these on stability and the maintenance of international peace and security. Also, Qatar's interest in international development stems from its membership in the G-77 and China, which it had the honour to preside over in 2004.

In this vein, the State of Qatar seeks to support international initiatives related to development and its financing. It had the honour of hosting the "WTO Fourth Ministerial Meeting" which adopted the Doha agenda, which reflected the importance of achieving development in the framework of multilateral international negotiations to liberalize trade.

In spite of our concern over the logjam in the current consultations on the implementation of the Doha Programme of Action, we hope that it will be possible to go beyond this phase, and that all the parties concerned, especially the developed countries, will evince the necessary flexibility to arrive at practical results of benefit to all, especially since the "WTO Sixth Ministerial Conference" will be convened soon in Hong Kong in December.

Mr. President,

The State of Qatar, in seeking to participate in serving the questions of development, was honored to host the Second Summit of the South last June. It

submitted, through it, an initiative to establish "The Fund of the South for Development and Humanitarian Emergencies". It also affirmed its commitment to provide the designated percentage of the GNP as development assistance, of which 15% will be earmarked for the LDC's as of 2006.

At the conclusion of my statement, I am honored to express the willingness of the State of Qatar to host the First Follow-up Conference of the International Conference on Financing for Development, as provided for in the Monterey Consensus. In this regard, I propose that the conference be convened during 2007 at a time to be defined by the General Assembly. In this context, I look forward to seeing you all in Doha in 2007 to promote international cooperation for development in the pursuit of further progress.

Thank you.