

**Statement by Ambassador Richard T. Miller, United States of America**

**Launch of the Development Cooperation Forum (5 July 2007)**

*[As delivered]*

Thank you very much, Mr. President.

I wanted very much to add the voice of the United States to those welcoming the launch of the Development Cooperation Forum. It is my hope that as we go forward we will be as creative in designing the Development Cooperation Forum as we have been with the Annual Ministerial Review whose good results we saw earlier this week.

A forum is ultimately a place for the exchange of ideas and information – a kind of marketplace almost for ideas. I know that from the point of view of the United States as a donor the kinds of information that we are most interested in are basic indicators of aid effectiveness: the where, when and how of aid effectiveness.

- Where can aid be most effectively applied?
- When should it be most effectively applied?
- And how? Through what processes?

This is the kind of information that will help us build and maintain political support for aid flows out of the United States. We know well from our experience both in the UN funds and programs and our own bilateral aid programs that it can be very difficult to link specific interventions of aid with specific development results, and yet it is this kind of information that can have the most impact on aid flows. We often fall under the trap of measuring inputs into the process rather than outputs, but this is ultimately unsatisfactory in maintaining political support or even in ensuring that we are delivering aid in ways that truly have an impact on the developing countries.

So these are our hopes for the Development Cooperation Forum and we look forward to participating in it actively both this year and in the future.

Thank you.