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PRESIDENT OF ECOSOC**

**THE DCF HIGH-LEVEL SYMPOSIUM,  
“WORKING TOGETHER TO INCREASE THE DEVELOPMENT IMPACT OF  
AID”**

**PRESS CONFERENCE  
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**OPENING PRESS REMARKS**

Excellency Minister Jacobs,  
Madam Deputy-Secretary-General,  
Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the Government of Luxembourg for hosting this important symposium.

Today’s meeting takes place at a critical time when the recovery of the world economy from the global financial and economic crisis seems to be losing much of its momentum.

If effective policy coordination and cooperation among Governments does not take place, there is a real risk of a new global recession.

This would add to the already immense human cost of the crisis, which has seriously set back the development efforts of many developing countries.

The leaders of the world have pledged that, by 2015, we would achieve eight goals related notably to health, education, equality and solidarity with developing countries-- the Millennium Development Goals.

United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has warned that “In a volatile and changing world, we must not disappoint the many millions of people who look to us... Let us respond to the full spectrum of their aspirations — economic, social, environmental, democratic. Let us listen to their voices, today and tomorrow.”

The crisis has severely affected the ability of developing countries to access the resources they need for development. Some of the poorest countries remain dependent on aid as the main source of external finance.

A first message for this symposium is that developed countries must keep their promises to increase aid to developing countries.

Secondly, increasing the development impact of aid is at the heart of our symposium.

It is urgent that developing countries mobilize financial flows such as investment, trade and domestic revenues to bolster their own development. Aid can help them to do this.

But this has to be done carefully. The kind of financial flows they want to mobilize are those that will have maximum impact on poverty. We will discuss how this can best be done.

The United Nations – and the Development Cooperation Forum (DCF) which we are preparing through today's symposium – has a role to keep countries focused on scaling up development cooperation and making it more effective and coherent.

Maximizing the impact of aid is a powerful argument for giving more aid.

All of us, governments of rich and poor countries, foundations, business, international organizations and civil society, need to present a concerted development cooperation approach.

We have to build a stronger “partnership for development” with more aid – and better mechanisms to maximize its results.

Thank you