

10 June 2010

Excellency,

We will be meeting in Toronto under the shadow of continued global financial and economic uncertainty. While the collective action and leadership of the G20 in Washington, London, and Pittsburgh helped to avert a global depression, economic recovery is still not on firm ground. The multiple crises of the past few years have taught us that we cannot fix one part of the global economic system while neglecting others. Enlightened self-interest requires that we ensure recovery for all. We must design recovery from the ground up: This must be led by growth that is inclusive, green and based on healthy populations.

High unemployment, rising food and commodity prices, and persistent inequalities have contributed to a substantial rise in hunger, poverty and associated social tensions. Now, more than ever, investments for the world's poorest are necessary to recover lost ground in pursuit of development objectives, including the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). That is why we will convene a summit on the MDGs at the United Nations in September 2010, where world leaders will commit to concrete actions in order to achieve the MDGs by 2015. With a unified effort and targeted investments, progress in maternal and child health could lead the way. I urge world leaders to take decisive action to put an end to the shameful reality of maternal and child deaths.

The focus of this year's G8 summit on accountability is most welcome. The G8 countries are right to recall their past commitments and review the extent to which they have been met. Delivering on the G8 Gleneagles commitments is an essential first step. More broadly, donors and recipient countries alike will need to work together to enhance the effectiveness of international assistance and mutual accountability by reducing fragmentation in aid delivery, as well as by ensuring greater predictability and alignment with national priorities and development strategies.

The fiscal problems some countries face undoubtedly demand urgent action. Yet, the recovery proceeds at varied speeds across the world, and is still fragile in most countries. Deflation still remains a concern, especially in developed countries. Private investment and job recovery remain tepid. It is clear that under these conditions a one-size-fits-all policy will not work. As the G20 considers “fiscal consolidation and exit strategies from extraordinary macroeconomic and financial support measures”, I urge all governments to take into account – besides the usual macroeconomic indicators – human development objectives and impacts, especially through job recovery. As the recovery takes hold, these measures should progressively be replaced with more targeted ones aimed at sustainable human development.

International tax cooperation and other initiatives to enhance tax revenues will also greatly contribute to fiscal capacity and consolidation efforts in the medium term. Furthermore, the G20 London summit announcement on banking secrecy will become more effective when strengthened by further anti-corruption and regulatory measures, as well as by orderly debt resolution schemes that do not put the burden on taxpayers, hence easing the potential strains on government budgets.

Based on our collective experience, the best way to enhance the framework for strong, sustainable and balanced economic growth is to put development front and centre, and to invest in a green economic recovery for all. I therefore welcome the G20 intention to broaden its focus to include development in the coming months and at the Seoul Summit in November 2010. Such an approach can help address food security and climate change, while ensuring job creation. Going forward, I encourage support for initiatives that will sustain recovery efforts while enhancing global economic stability, environmental sustainability and achievement of the MDGs. In particular, we must strive for a recovery that is based on:

- (1) Inclusive growth through initiatives like the Global Jobs Pact, the L’Aquila Food Security initiative – with adequate and well-aligned support for national investment plans, women’s economic empowerment, measures to expand access to credit and savings for the poor, and the conclusion of an international trade deal that takes into account the needs of the poorest nations by enhancing their market access. We must also build further momentum on education for all with a special focus on girls’ education.

(2) Growth based on healthy populations through investments in global health and health systems, such as the Joint Action Plan for Women's and Children's Health, and fully funding programmes like the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, and the Sanitation and Water for All Initiative. The Global Fund requires \$17 billion over the next three years to meet current and projected needs – a relatively modest sum considering the effectiveness of the Fund and the millions of lives yet to be saved. Nowhere is our collective and decisive action more needed than in Africa and in the Least Developed Countries where people live under difficult conditions.

(3) Green growth through addressing climate change by meeting mitigation and adaptation commitments – delivering \$30 billion in fast-start funding for developing countries over the next three years and ensuring that the climate finance pledged in Copenhagen is delivered – and by providing access to clean energy for all. Economic recovery will be more sustainable if it is embedded in a global green new deal. The G20 showed leadership in calling for the phasing out of fossil fuel subsidies and I encourage all to work individually and collectively to do so as soon as possible. We must address climate change targets together with the MDGs because our well-being as humans depends on the well-being of our planet.

Recent crises have changed our world in profound ways. To better address the vulnerabilities and suffering these crises have brought to billions, the United Nations is building a comprehensive system to monitor the impact of crises on the poorest and most vulnerable. It will use new and existing data, new technologies, and latest analytical approaches to strengthen resilience to future shocks at global, national and local levels. A second report of this Global Pulse initiative will be available to all Member States before we meet in Toronto.

We must act now. We must avoid reverting to the pre-crisis conditions that denied too many of our fellow human beings a fair chance at a decent living while keeping our planet on a dangerous climate course. Rather, we must work together to establish the basis for a more secure, prosperous and equitable world for all. Multilateral cooperation can enhance our efforts, and we, at the United Nations, stand ready to work with you and other United Nations Member States towards this noble objective.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

BAN Ki-moon