

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ



STATEMENT

By

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AT

**The Meeting of the General Assembly**

ON

**The High-Level Consultations regarding the First  
Draft of the Doha Outcome Document on the Review  
of the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus**

NEW YORK, 8 September 2007

**Mr. President, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

It gives me great pleasure to take the floor at the beginning of this high-level consultations convened by the General Assembly on the outcome of the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus, to be held in Doha from 29 November to 2 December 2008, following the generous offer made by His Highness Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani, Emir of the State of Qatar, that Qatar host the international conference.

I would like at the outset to thank you, Mr. President, for your proactive role and wise leadership in energizing the discussions and consultations regarding the first review of the implementation of the Conference on Financing for Development. The upcoming review would no doubt provide the first opportunity in more than six years to take stock of the achievements of the 2002 Monterrey summit on financing for development, which was the subject of consultation at the highest political levels.

I would also like to commend the efficient tireless work done by the facilitators, H.E. the Permanent Representative of the Arab Republic of Egypt and H.E. the Permanent Representative of Norway, which culminated in the formulation of the first draft of the Doha Outcome Document on the review of the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus.

The Monterrey Consensus on Financing for Development constituted a milestone in identifying the elements of a comprehensive, complete and multilateral work program that was approved by the donor and recipient countries alike, in view of promoting sustainable development and reducing poverty. The risks surrounding this event are therefore great. The greatest achievement of the Conference on Financing for Development (the Monterrey Consensus) was the setting up of a comprehensive process for a continuous dialogue and the involvement of all parties to clarify the elements of the work program for achieving the outcome of the conference.

While the Monterrey conference included some unrealistic promises, most of its promises could only be achieved through the continuous involvement of all parties in developing and endorsing concrete implementation actions. In this regard, I would like to commend the progress made in implementing the decisions of the Monterrey Consensus that were adopted by the International Conference on Financing for Development, held in Mexico in March of 2002. I would like to commend also the developing and developed countries and other donor countries, in addition to the United Nations system, the Bretton Woods institutions, the World Trade Organization, the international financial and financing institutions, the private donors and the international community, that were keen on activating those decisions and putting forward constructive initiatives to support their implementation,

particularly the subject of international partnership whose general principles were laid down by the Conference on Financing for Development (the Monterrey Consensus). The Conference stressed that in order to implement the development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), halve the poverty by 2015, and achieve sustainable development, it would be imperative to provide the necessary resources to do so. The Conference considered the international partnerships as one of the crucial sources of funding necessary to achieve the MDGs. Reaching those goals constitutes one of the important basic foundations of the international partnership whose principles were established by the 2002 Conference on Financing for Development.

**Mr. President,**

It is unfortunate that United Nations reports indicate that while some progress has been made in achieving the MDGs, Sub-Saharan African Countries still lag behind in the timetable for achieving the MDGs set out by the United Nations, that include halving the level of extreme poverty by 2015, despite the fact that half of the period specified for this purpose has elapsed. The reports also state that while the percentage of the population living on one dollar a day has decreased, reaching that goal by 2015 requires achieving a twofold decrease or more of that percentage .

Furthermore, it has become clear that while some other developing nations have made promising achievements, it remains uncertain whether many of them will be able to reach that goal. In this regard, we cannot but welcome the many initiatives that have been taken to tackle this issue, by the developing countries, such as the initiative of the Islamic Development Bank to establish a special fund for financing the achievement of MDGs, or by the developed countries such as the initiative of the G-8 and the European Union on the exemption of the heavily indebted poorest countries and increasing their official development assistance (ODA) and their efforts to combat infectious diseases and poverty. We also value the initiative by His Excellency the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom in launching the appeal for Action for the Millennium, which was joined by several parties to mobilize and consolidate efforts to achieve the goal of establishing global partnerships for development.

**Mr. President,**

The importance of the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus, to be held in Doha from 29 November to 2 December 2008, derives from the fact that since the 2002 Monterrey Conference, new developments, challenges

and issues emerged on the international arena that need to be dealt with in an open dialogue and with creative and innovative solutions.

The poor face many problems, including access to income-generating opportunities, social and basic services, in addition to non-participation in and exclusion from national policy-making and decision-making procedures, weak or negative economic growth, and unequal distribution of wealth, that generate conflicts and civil wars. The question of mobilizing resources continues to be a major focus of efforts to eradicate poverty in developing countries, especially African countries and LDCs. In order for those efforts to bear fruit in achieving the desired goals, it is necessary to explore and activate partnerships at the international, regional and national levels, and involve civil society groups and the private sector in them.

**Mr. President,**

The State of Qatar is making great efforts in preparing for the follow-up conference in order to create a conducive environment for conducting a genuine assessment of the implementation made thus far, defining clearly the magnitude of the existing and emerging challenges and obstacles, drawing lessons, identifying best practices, conducting a frank discussion of the various proposed initiatives and how to deal with them in order to overcome the obstacles and challenges, and achieve the agreements, commitments and obligations that the development partners have been or will be taking upon themselves to implement.

In making those efforts, the Government of the State of Qatar seeks to make a major contribution to the promotion of international participation in the implementation of the outcome of the Conference on Financing for Development and encouraging its spirit and objectives, in a manner that is consistent with the positive achievements made by the State of Qatar in the area of international partnerships for development. Such achievements place our nation among the countries that are at the forefront in striving to promote multilateral progress towards achieving the MDGs.

Finally, I wish that our consultations be concluded with full success and consensus and that we meet in Doha at the end of November.

**I thank you all.**