

Translated from French

Niger

Let me at the outset convey the warm greetings of His Excellency Issoufou Mahamadou, the President of the Republic and Head of State of Niger, and his wishes for the complete success of this meeting. On behalf of my delegation and my own behalf, Mr. President, I want to offer you my warm congratulations on your election to the guiding role in our work.

I would also like to offer our sincere thanks to the people and Government of Ethiopia for the warm welcome and the typically African hospitality we have received here in Addis Ababa. To the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Ban Ki Moon, we pay the tribute he deserves for his tireless efforts in organizing this conference.

This conference, which follows on from those of Monterrey and Doha, takes place in a context in which the international community is tackling the task of drawing up an ambitious post-2015 development programme, which will succeed the Millennium Development Goals and is chiefly intended to promote the socioeconomic and environmental dimensions, to achieve sustainable and inclusive development.

My delegation associates itself with the statements made by South Africa on behalf of the Group of 77+China, by Benin on behalf of the least developed countries, and by Zambia on behalf of the land-locked developing countries.

I would, however, like to make a few remarks on behalf of my own country.

In Niger, we have long understood that there can be no development without security. Accordingly, given the present state of international economic relations and the interdependence that characterizes our economies, we believe that any search for a solution to the sustainable development problem must necessarily include a security dimension.

This means that, beyond the classic actions of humanitarian aid and one-time support for development, what we seek to do today is set up systems and conditions that will lay the groundwork for sustainable and inclusive development.

This conference should enable us to define adequate sustainable mechanisms for marshalling substantial resources to respond effectively and collectively to the challenges identified.

Hence, the conference should take into account the following major concerns:

- Effective financing for security issues, in particular the fight against terrorism and organized crime;
- Financing of measures to mitigate and/or adapt to the effects of climate change;
- Capacity-building in developing countries through the financing of the construction of educational and economic infrastructure.

So weak, indeed, are our internal resources, a large part of them being absorbed by anti-terrorism efforts, that with the drastic reduction of official development

assistance arising from a kind of weariness among the partners, very few opportunities are open to us to develop our infrastructure and our human capital — two factors that are essential to inclusive and sustainable growth.

Niger, which belongs both to the category of least developed countries and that of land-locked developing countries, is nonetheless undertaking sensible institutional reforms and bold actions in public finance, good governance, anti-corruption activities, public finances, and the fight against money laundering, graft and every kind of illicit traffic. Those efforts deserve to be properly recognized by the partners through increased resource allocation.

In any case, they will be continued, to improve the health of the business environment so as to encourage direct foreign investment and maintain an environment conducive to public-private partnerships (PPP), which are beginning to show convincing results, even though our preference still goes to official development assistance.

Finally, please be assured of my ardent wish to see our work through to a successful conclusion, with the adoption of a negotiated document embodying specific, concrete commitments to financing for development.
