

COLOMBIA



COLOMBIAN MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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**Statement by H.E. Ambassador Claudia Blum
Permanent Representative of Colombia to the United Nations**

**Conference on the world financial and economic crisis
and its impact on development**

New York, 24-26 June 2009

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Mr. President,

1. Colombia values this dialogue within the United Nations as an opportunity to promote international coordination, support the efforts to overcome the world financial and economic crisis, mitigate its effects, and reaffirm our commitment to development.
2. Today it is clear that the economic and social impacts of the crisis have been transmitted to all regions around the world. The depth and dimension of this situation requires global responses, that should be taken as an opportunity to strengthen the efforts to work towards common goals such as poverty eradication and the consolidation of a global partnership for development. In particular, we hope that *this conference can contribute to the advancement of the United Nations agenda with regard to the fulfillment of the MDGs and the international commitments emanating from the Monterrey Consensus.*
3. It is crucial that the Assembly promote, in a constructive spirit and with solidarity, the various ongoing initiatives, such as the processes that *are being led within the framework international financial institutions and the actions planned by the Group of 20.* The document to be adopted by the Conference represents a step in the right direction. It contains areas where the contribution of the United Nations system can be effective and complementary to the action of other institutions. I avail myself of this opportunity to acknowledge the important leadership of the *co-facilitators of the intergovernmental negotiations in the achievement of a positive and balanced outcome.*
4. With respect to mitigation, Colombia highlights the importance that fiscal stimulus packages, counter-cyclical measures and international cooperation, contribute to effectively address the

needs of the developing world in strategic areas for medium and long-term economic sustainability, such as infrastructure, environment, employment, education and health.

5. Likewise, this crisis presents opportunities to give new impetus to the strategies aimed at improving the impact and scope of multilateral cooperation, including the work of UN funds and programs. Colombia recognizes the contribution that current intergovernmental processes on aid effectiveness and the principles of the Paris Declaration can make, so as to advance towards and ever more transparent and results-oriented international cooperation, in line with the priorities of recipient countries.
6. Furthermore, my country joins the calls to resist protectionism in trade, finance and migration. The recovery of global economic confidence also depends on the ability to reassert commitment to the trade of goods and services as an engine of development, as well as on the benefits of an increasingly free movement of labor.
7. We emphasize the central role of financial stability and funding to reduce poverty. Within proper regulation, greater financial liberalization facilitates the entry of investment to developing economies through domestic banking systems and capital markets, which provides alternative sources of development resources.
8. The actions of the monetary and financial policy which Colombia considers essential in resolving the crisis and improving the international financial system, fall within five main areas:
 - Greater consistency in macroeconomic policies at the global level.
 - Adoption of conduct codes, improved information flows and strengthening of supervision and regulation.
 - Maintenance of developing economies autonomy.
 - The Design of a network of regional and sub-regional organizations that support international monetary and financial management.
 - The Strengthening and reform the international financial institutions, including the International Monetary Fund, in order to provide international liquidity in times of crisis.
9. In the reform and modernization area of the international financial system, we must expand efforts to strengthen institutions that serve the interests of the countries, and that are able to respond efficiently and transparently to the needs and actions of the actors in the public and private sectors.
10. Strengthening of the multilateral financial institutions is imperative in the current scenario of the crisis and to implement strategies to revitalize the global economy. In this context,

increasing the financial capacity and creditworthiness of the regional development banks is a strategic priority. In the case of Latin America and the Caribbean, the Inter-American Development Bank provides more than 50% of multilateral financing. Colombia supports the recent measures to increase ordinary capital resources of the Bank and the Fund for Special Operations which serves the 5 most vulnerable economies in the region.

11. Furthermore, I would like to stress the importance of promoting measures at the national level in order to improve macroeconomic management, institutional strengthening, and continue promoting a gradual integration in the international economy, privileging criteria for long-term financial markets and promote the expansion financing for small businesses. These five areas constitute the core agenda of Colombia in promoting a sustainable financial system that supports growth, equity and stability.

Mr. President,

Allow me in conclusion to ratify the commitment of Colombia to the dialogue momentum and the required actions to address the vast needs and vulnerabilities of developing countries in this time of crisis. This should be a continuous commitment, in all instances of the UN system and other partners in the international community alike.