

PRESS RELEASE



DJIBOUTI

Statement by

**His Excellency Mr. Roble Olhaye
Ambassador, Permanent Representative
To the United Nations
And
Head of Delegation**

**Before
The General Assembly**

On

**Conference on the World Financial
and Economic Crisis
and Its Impact on Development**

Friday 26 June 2009

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Mr. President,

I Should like to express our deep thanks to the President of the General Assembly, H.E. Father **Miguel d'Escoto Brockmann** for his many bold initiatives during his tenure, in particular for this Conference on the World Financial and Economic crisis and its impact on Development. Indeed, the two Facilitators, Ambassador Frank Majoor of the Netherlands, and Ambassador Camillo Gonsalves of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines deserve our recognition as well as praise for their diligence, perseverance and relentless conviction for producing an outcome document that finally met the satisfaction of all delegations.

Mr. President,

Our coming together is symptomatic of the gravity the world is passing through at this critical moment ---- in which we are confronted with the worst financial and economic crisis since the Great Depression. In order to reverse the current breakdown, and, equally as important, mitigate if not prevent future recurrences, we must

explore the possible causes. The present crisis is the third of what I call "the crisis of the three Fs", namely, food, fuel and finances, all of which are enveloped in climate change. As the outcome document aptly explains" the crisis began within the world's major financial centers, has spread throughout the global economy, causing severe social, political and economic impacts ---- and thus negatively affecting all countries, threatening the livelihoods, well-being and development opportunities of millions of people".

The Republic of Djibouti, like many other small, vulnerable developing countries has been experiencing difficulties highlighted in higher prices, shortages, fall in direct investments and increase in unemployment. The Government reassured the public through its proactiveness and series of initiatives directed at increasing activities in all sectors and enhancing and strengthening social programs. No doubt, the Government's ability to absorb all the negative consequences of this crisis is very limited, and it is hoping that the united global determination to reverse the current challenges will soon bear fruits. The challenges threaten severely, particularly developing countries in maintaining the economic and social progress

achieved in recent years, in particular on internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

Mr. President,

Africa stands potentially to be overwhelmed by the present world economic crisis. Available international credit has tightened at a time when the continent's foreign reserves have depleted to precarious levels; trade barriers remain in place hampering its ability to expand growth, while the burden to be assumed by the international financial institutions is unclear, at best uncertain.

Given the pervasive, destabilizing and destructive nature of the current crisis, none is spared; we are all affected, threatened and overwhelmed. We all know the origins of this economic and financial catastrophe. It requires comprehensive, collective and sustained response, and determination to overcome it; in order to "to mitigate its impact, and strengthen or establish the necessary mechanisms to help prevent similar crises in the future".

Mr. President,

What's at stake now is a global coordination mechanism for the multiplicity and variety of responses to the crisis, in order to ensure enhanced and sustained economic growth that in turn helps poverty eradication and sustainable development. The opportunity also arises to aim at balanced restructuring and sharing of power in the governance of global institutions in order to impart a sense of empowerment, responsibility and relevance among all peoples. The history of the free market has been one of rising monopolies who come to dominate both markets and governments. Unbridled greed leads us to where we are today. Laying the basis for a saner, more productive, more responsive, more ethical and accountable economy, never forgetting those in most need, is the reason why we are here today.

Thank you Mr. President