



PERMANENT MISSION OF FINLAND TO THE UNITED NATIONS
866 UN PLAZA, SUITE 222, NEW YORK, NY 10017 - TEL. 1-212-355-2100 - FAX 1-212-759-6156

STATEMENT BY

Dr. Paavo Väyrynen
Minister for Foreign Trade and Development
Finland

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and Its Impact on Development

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Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Finland fully aligns itself with the statement made by the Czech Republic on behalf of the EU. Let me make a few additional remarks.

The current economic slowdown is exceptionally deep. The crisis threatens to reverse the progress already made in achieving the Millennium Development Goals. This is totally unacceptable. We need targeted, concrete and coordinated measures to mitigate its worst effects.

Finland emphasises that this conference provides an excellent opportunity to focus on the development impacts of the economic crisis, concentrating especially on the least developed and most vulnerable countries. It is crucially important that we have been able to reach agreement on an outcome document. There were differences of opinion but now we have a broad consensus on our future action.

Mr. Chairman,

It is important that different parts of the international system focus on the areas where they have strongest expertise and where they can best provide added value.

The UN needs to focus on the impacts of the crisis on the developing countries. The role of the international financial institutions is also essential, particularly in responding to the systemic financial issues. Both have a role to play in development cooperation in the field.

There has been some progress already in strengthening the financial resources of the IFIs and accelerating their reform processes. It is at least as important to enhance the reforms

of the UN system. Strengthening the System Wide Coherence and the ONE UN concept is crucial. The ECOSOC should be made stronger and play a more meaningful role.

Finland encourages closer cooperation between the UN system and the Bretton Woods institutions at all levels.

Mr. Chairman,

Whatever improvements are being made into the international multilateral system, it is necessary that we all focus on development issues in a more comprehensive and rigorous way.

We all, both the developed and developing countries, must keep our commitments for effective poverty reduction and sustainable development.

The commitments made in Monterrey and Doha, in Paris and Accra must be safeguarded. We must have substantial increase in the funding for development and we must use these resources effectively.

But increasing aid and improving aid effectiveness is not enough. In order to meet the enormous global challenges of development we need effectiveness in our development policies as a whole. We must have better **development policy coherence** and better **development policy effectiveness**.

Effective **poverty reduction** must be a central goal in all international negotiations in areas like trade, energy, climate change and the environment. Special attention must now be paid to the WTO Doha round negotiations and the preparations for the Copenhagen Climate Change Conference. We must reach on both forums agreements that effectively support our efforts for poverty reduction.

On the other hand, we have to understand that our development efforts can be effective - they can bring fast and lasting results - only if we follow the principles of **sustainable development**, commonly agreed in many UN Summit Meetings and Conferences.

If our policies are not **ecologically sustainable**, both globally and locally, we undermine the basis for prosperity and well-being of ourselves and the generations to come. The environment must be protected and the natural resources must be utilised in a sustainable way. We must focus strongly on food security, rural development and agricultural productivity and base our development efforts on the sustainable utilisation of renewable natural resources in agriculture, forestry and energy production.

Poverty reduction has been most effective in countries with **sustainable economic development** based on opening markets and flourishing private sector. Economic growth has lifted people out of poverty and the governments of these countries have been able to gather revenues for financing their own poverty reduction programmes.

Social sustainability is many times understood too narrowly only as progress reached in education, health care and social well-fare. Still, the foundation of social sustainability is formed by good governance, human rights and democracy. Social sustainability is important as such, but it is also a necessary precondition for all development.

Mr. Chairman,

We have enormous challenges in front of us. Let's meet them with a more and more effective development policy. UN has a key role in these efforts. Our unearmarked contributions to the UN Funds and Programmes have increased steadily, and continue to do so this year despite the economic downturn.

