

**INTERVENTION
BY DR. IVO SANADER
PRIME MINISTER OF CROATIA
HIGH LEVEL MEETING ON AFRICA
UN, 22 SEPTEMBER 2008**

Mr. Chairman,

- I am pleased to take part in a meeting that once again places Africa, a continent of immense potential but with multiple security and developmental challenges, at the focus of international attention.
- I am sure that we all share the hope that today's deliberations will help us move towards a real global partnership for development in Africa.
- More than stocktaking, today's meeting should pave the way for concrete action while respecting certain key principles: national ownership, tailor-made approaches and, first and foremost, the comprehensive understanding of and dealing with the challenges before us.
- Countries that have unfortunately had the experience of conflict and have subsequently rebuilt their national capacities and institutions understand well the notion of comprehensiveness and the link between development, security and human rights in the prevention and resolution of conflicts – including post-conflict peace building.
- Croatia has gained extensive experience in post-conflict management, particularly in the fields of the return of refugees and the displaced, confidence-building and reconciliation efforts, as well as economic revitalization and reconstruction.
- Through our participation in UN missions in Burundi, Liberia, Cote d'Ivoire, Sudan and Western Sahara, as well as in the EU-led Mission in Chad, Croatian servicemen are contributing to lay the foundations for development and progress.

- They fulfill their mandates with professionalism. However, they also bring with them Croatia's own experience in dealing with the consequences of war and successfully turning the country on to the road of peace, reconciliation and development.
- This experience and know-how could prove to be invaluable to states emerging from conflict on the African continent. We are pleased that these notions, given their importance, found their place in our deliberations here.
- Over the years the development dialogue has resulted in a number of key international documents which bear witness to the significant progress made in the UN on poverty-related issues, including with regard to ways in which we have agreed to address these most vital challenges: the Johannesburg and Monterrey processes being prominent amongst them.
- Even though we are making positive strides in the fight against under-development and poverty, we are concerned with figures presented by the World Bank stating that "the developing world is poorer than we thought",
- The estimates of the world's poor has been revised from 986 million to 1.4 billion living below the poverty line, the majority of whom live in Africa.
- Thus, while it is important to reaffirm the agreed international development framework, it is equally necessary to move forward. Comprehensive debt relief and better trade access to the markets of developed countries is, in our opinion, the right way forward.
- This means we must seriously redouble our efforts, especially in sub-Saharan Africa, if we are going to meet agreed targets.
- We are aware that the current level of aid to Africa is not sufficient to successfully implement all facets of the Millennium Development Goals (MDG's). Specific arrangements between donor and recipient countries on the MDG's need to be put into action through a human centered approach to the key themes of the MDG's.

- It is also necessary to look at ways to increase the effectiveness of existing aid, to introduce innovative sources of financing, and ways of adhering to the agreed timetable for progressively increasing flows.
- In order to help further the partnership of the international community with Africa in meeting the development needs of the continent, the above mentioned steps should go hand in hand with efforts in the context of NEPAD [New Partnership for Africa's Development] and the African Union.
- Equally, due attention should be paid to national development strategies and programs as a cornerstone to build upon. It is here that the role of national leadership and local ownership becomes extremely important.

Mr. Chairman,

- In conclusion, allow me to reiterate Croatia's readiness to add its contribution, within its capacities and including through various UN programs and funds it contributes to – in particular the UN Trust Fund for African Development and the Peace-building Fund – to the collective efforts in meeting the development needs of Africa.

Thank you.