



ITALY

HIGH-LEVEL MEETING ON AFRICA'S DEVELOPMENT NEEDS: STATE OF IMPLEMENTATION, CHALLENGES AND WAY FORWARD

Round Table number 3

(22 September 2008, 3 to 6 p.m., Trusteeship Council Chamber)

ELEMENTS FOR THE STATEMENT BY DEPUTY MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS, HON. VINCENZO SCOTTI

- The principle that “development, security and human rights are interconnected and mutually reinforcing,” as indicated in the Millennium Declaration and reiterated in the draft political declaration scheduled to be adopted at the conclusion of the High-level Meeting, is central to the Italian approach to African development issues. It is also the founding vision of NEPAD.
- In proposing the adoption of a Plan of Action for Africa at the Genoa G-8, later approved at Kananaskis, Italy sought to respond to the need to identify, in this broad and complex field, the priority actions for the achievement of the goal of an Africa free of conflicts, hunger and oppression. We thus understand fully well the African demand that this meeting not be yet another UN ritual exercise, destined to have no impact on reality, but that it instead mark a gear shift, sanctioning a collective commitment to targeted action on priority goals.
- We will of course convey this sense of urgency also to the G-8, through our incoming Presidency of the Group. The visions and perceptions of the African leaders that emerge from this meeting will be an important legacy in view of an updating of the G-8 African Action Plan, which we wish to keep firmly anchored to the principle of African ownership. We are ready to build on your inputs.
- We have taken note of the strong demand for enhanced flows of resources, although let us not forget that ODA is not the only response to Africa's special needs. We believe that improving the quality of assistance should also be a key priority. As governance in Africa continues to advance at national and local level, assistance