

Islamic Republic of

I R A N

Permanent Mission to the United Nations

Statement by

H.E. Mr. Manouchehr Mottaki

Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran

at the

High-Level event on the Millennium Development Goals

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In the Name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

Mr. Chairman;

At the outset, I wish to express our gratitude to you and the Secretariat for convening this important high-level meeting to assess the progress made thus far in the realization of the MDGs as well as to address the challenges that we are facing. We associate ourselves with the statement made by Antigua and Barbuda on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

Mr. Chairman;

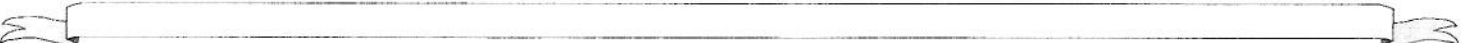
Excellencies;

Ladies and Gentlemen;

Since the adoption of the Millennium Declaration in September 2000, the international community has focused on eradication of poverty. Eradicating extreme poverty continues to be one of the main challenges of our time, and a major concern of the international community. Tackling this issue needs the collective efforts of all players, including governments, non-governmental organizations and the private sector, in the context of a stronger and more effective global partnership for development. The year 2008 is the midpoint between the adoption of the MDGs and 2015--the target date. My government has committed to eradicate poverty and hunger at national and international levels.

Mr. Chairman;

At the national level, the Islamic Republic of Iran has made significant progress towards the achievement of many of the MDGs, particularly in the field of poverty eradication, literacy, sanitation, and access to drinking water in villages. In this context, the Government has decided to subsidize certain food stuff, and to guarantee buying some agricultural products from the farmers with reasonable price. The reason behind this decision is the unprecedented cold whether in the last winter and the lack of rain in the spring which has extensively damaged agriculture.



The time is ripe to evaluate that whether developed countries have fulfilled their commitments toward LDC countries on eradication of poverty. The UN reports indicate that a few countries have met the target of providing aid to LDCs on eradication of poverty. If we add the weakness of the management of the world to trade-distorting and tariff policies of developed countries and shortcomings in fulfilling their commitments, we will find that not only these actions have not contributed to eradication of the poverty, but also have deepened the roots of poverty.

This situation demands urgent and decisive action. Countries need to continue to promote sustained, proper growth strategies, maintain macroeconomic stability and enhance agricultural productivity in an environmentally sustainable manner, particularly in developing countries. In addition to these measures, rising food prices underscore the need for well designed safety nets for the worst affected. This situation endangers the achievement of the millennium development goals (MDGs) by reversing some of the progress made so far in that regard. This crisis is a great humanitarian concern, and in light of the rapid population growth, may also pose a threat to social and political stability in many countries.

Mr. Chairman;

This meeting should pay special attention to one of the most important Goals namely MDGs 8 on global partnership for development. Implementation of MDG 8 plays an important role in enabling the developing countries to make advancement on other MDGs.

In this connection, I would like to remind the distinguished delegates that the final document adopted by the 15th Ministerial Conference of the Non-Aligned Movement in Tehran, held from 27 to 30 July 2008, has stressed that economic and social development should remain the centerpiece of the deliberations at the UN, and that the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the MDGs, should continue to be the over-arching framework of the UN.

Tank you Mr. Chairman