



REPÚBLICA DA GUINÉ-BISSAU

Follow-Up International Conference on Financing for  
Development to Review the Implementation of the  
Monterrey Consensus

Statement by His Excellency

Mr. Carlos Correia, Prime Minister of Guinea-Bissau

Doha, 30 November 2008

**Mr. President,  
Mr. Secretary General,  
Mr. President of the United Nations General Assembly,  
Your Excellencies, Distinguish Heads of State and Government,  
Honorable Participants,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

I have the privilege to address this august assembly on behalf of His Excellency Joao Bernardo Vieira, President of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau.

It is indeed for me a privilege to express the deep appreciation of my delegation to the Government and friendly People of the State of Qatar for their warm and friendly hospitality.

We are grateful to His Highness, the Amir of the State of Qatar, Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani, for hosting us so gracefully and for the increasing role played by Qatar on the international arena, in the pursuit of lasting Peace and Security in the world and International Cooperation for Development in particular.

**Mr. President,**

As we meet in this beautiful city of Qatar which has become a world forum for international negotiations on Trade, which the "Doha Rounds", the International Community is confronted with the most difficult crisis of the first decade of this century. Although not provoked by the weakest and most vulnerable among us, its consequences are not only limited to the most powerful countries in the world. The present international economic and financial crisis adds more obstacles to the already unsustainable difficulties and even tragedies provoked by the energy crisis, the food crisis and the devastating consequences of climate change in various parts of the globe, so harshly felt in the sister countries of the Caribbean, like Cuba and Haiti in particular.

**Mr. President,**

Six years after the adoption of the Monterrey Consensus which remains an historic achievement, in fostering international cooperation for development based on more equity and solidarity among peoples and nations of our planet, this conference could not be more timely.

We are grateful to the Secretary General of the United Nations, Mr. Ban Ki-Moon, and the presidents of the General Assembly, who served during that period, for their tireless efforts in bringing about this international gathering. I salute the presence among us of our distinguish partners for international development from the different countries, financial institutions, international organizations, private sector, NGOs and Civil Society, represented here.

We are gathered in Doha to create a synergy to confront the many challenges the international Community is facing, most particularly in the fight against poverty and hunger in the world.

How to better support the efforts of the developing countries remains a fundamental question to be addressed in a pragmatic and efficient way and in a spirit of human solidarity.

Obviously, we are conscious about the effects the present world economical and financial crisis could have on the willingness of our partners for development to fulfill their engagements in ensuring that the decisions of the Monterrey Consensus are put into practice. No doubt that much remains to be done in this regard

The temptation to focus primarily in addressing domestic issues by some in the developed countries and signs of protectionist measures are matters of serious concern to the most needy among us.

We have therefore to strengthen our capacity to adapt to the new situation and challenges by searching for new and innovative sources of financing, commensurate with the nature and complexity of a global crisis the solution of which demands a more effective international cooperation.

**Mr. President,**

We are thankful to the members of the European Union for their decision to maintain their strong support to the developing countries and to those in Africa in particular.

It is indeed important to remain engaged in the fight for the eradication of poverty and endemic diseases like HIV-AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria which unfortunately continue to have devastating effects on the populations of poor countries.

It is crucial that we join hands in bringing about the most needed reforms in the international financial system, in particular, by creating new mechanisms and more equity and larger participation in the decisions making of the Bretton - Wood institutions.

Developing countries, the emerging economies in particular have to play a larger role in the definition of policies of the IMF and the World Bank.

The world economy and the international financial system cannot remain hostage of a system based on speculation which unique concern is to make profit every time and at any cost.

Urgent changes are needed and indeed the participation of the International Community. The political support of all of us is necessary to ensure the success of these reforms.

**Mr. President,**

In this global village of ours, where interdependence has become a tangible reality, it is in our common interest to find innovative and pragmatic ways of strengthening our cooperation and solidarity in order to address the many challenges, new and old. We must join our hands, our minds and our means in creating better conditions of living for the poor and neediest in the world. The achievements of the Millennium Development Goals by the year 2015 should remain the priority of the International Community.

We must work together in mitigating the disastrous consequences of climate change on our planet with special focus on the most vulnerable among us, the island states, in particular.

We must confront with determination and more forcefully international terrorism, which unfortunately once again killed innocent people without distinction of race, religious faith or social background in Bombay, India.

I would like to take this opportunity to present from the rostrum on behalf of the Government and People of my country, Guinea-Bissau, my deepest sympathy and condolences to the Government and People of India for the loss of so many human lives, including citizens of foreign countries.

**Mr. President,**

In these challenging times, global issues demand bold and concerted responses. International cooperation and solidarity are indeed the new paradigms of our global village.

This reality should inspire us in our deliberations and guide us in the pursuit of pragmatic and durable solutions.

**I thank you for your attention.**