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STATEMENT BY

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Mr. Chairman, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am honored to address this Development Cooperation Forum (DCF), only few weeks after the successful DCF Symposium in Helsinki. In my opening statement at the Helsinki Symposium, I emphasized the importance of the DCF as a remarkable forum which gathers together the key actors of development policy and cooperation. It provides us with a useful opportunity for open multi-stakeholder dialogue.

I have participated in the DCF from the very beginning. I remember well the first DCF held in New York in June 2008. While moderating a panel discussion about South-South and triangular development cooperation, I made an effort to provoke you to a lively discussion. Hopefully we can again engage in a vivid discussion during this second meeting.

We need an open dialogue on development and development policy. We should not shy away from speaking our minds in order to avoid confrontation. Actually, we need it in order to reach a sustainable consensus.

Mr. Chairman.

The positive development results that we have seen in many parts of the world over the past years are in danger due to the global economic crisis. At the same time we are struggling with two other burning global problems, namely the food and the climate crises. These global crises have made the agenda of sustainable development more important than ever.

Finland's development policy is based on a comprehensive view of sustainable development. This approach builds on the Rio Conference on Environment and Development in 1992 and subsequent international commitments to reduce poverty and

to enhance sustainable development in its three interrelated dimensions: economic, social and ecological.

The 20th century economic model of the industrialized world is not ecologically sustainable. Climate change and other forms of environmental degradation are signs, that we must make changes in our lives and in our policies. I believe that there is a sustainable way of creating welfare for all mankind. Every nation has the right to develop and prosper.

Sustainable economic development, based on a thriving private sector, domestic and foreign investments and trade, is the main contributor to poverty reduction. Economic growth must, of course, be inclusive and it must be accompanied by effective national poverty reduction programs. However, we must develop together a new economic model based on low carbon dioxide emissions and ecological sustainability.

Ecological sustainability, especially the challenges related to climate change, requires urgent joint action on the national, regional and global level. The recent Copenhagen Accord calls for effective measures in reducing the greenhouse gas emissions. It also calls for strong financial support for both climate change mitigation and adaptation in the developing countries. The Copenhagen Summit was however, only a beginning. We must go further in Mexico in November with the ultimate aim of achieving an ambitious and binding agreement.

Social sustainability, based on good governance, human rights, democracy and rule of law, is in the core of our development efforts, but it is also an essential pre-requisite for economic development. Poverty reduction can bring fast and lasting results only when our policies also take into account the social dimension of sustainable development. And here, the national ownership and engagement of developing countries themselves is essential.

In order to be effective in our joint development efforts we have to improve coordination among all donors and partners. An important step was taken when the EU and the USA

agreed at their Summit in November 2009 to strengthen their cooperation in reducing poverty and in promoting sustainable development. These two actors provide up to 80% of all ODA and 85% of all humanitarian assistance in the world. This transatlantic partnership for sustainable development between the EU and the USA was initiated by Finland in January 2009.

We have to continue on this path and enhance cooperation and coordination between all actors in development policy. In our opinion, we must strive for greater coherence and convergence in the development policies of all the donors and the partners.

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Policy coherence for development has been one of the most important issues in the recent meetings on development policy.

In the Helsinki Symposium we agreed that policy coherence for development has to be enhanced, nationally and internationally, between all the stakeholders.

The EU development ministers discussed policy coherence at their last meeting in couple of weeks ago when preparing for this DCF and for the MDG Summit in September.

I proposed that in order to reach real coherence in its development policies the EU should create a global strategy for its external policies. This strategy should link into development policies various other policy areas such as trade policy, climate and environmental policies, financial policies, and foreign and security policies.

The EU's global strategy would be based on the comprehensive approach to development created in the Rio Conference in 1992. It would provide a comprehensive framework for all external actions of the EU. Through this strategy, the EU would promote ecologically, economically and socially sustainable development all over the

world. The global strategy and the internal sustainable development policies of the EU would be mutually supportive. We are going to discuss this idea at our next informal meeting in October.

I know that other development policy actors are considering their own strategies. The US new foreign policy strategy is based on a three “D” approach where defense, diplomacy and development are seen as equal elements.

I wonder if we are approaching a new era in the globalization process.

The different global crises are interlinked and they have deep influence on the lives of all people in the world. In order to solve the problems and in order to promote prosperity and well-being of our citizens we need more ambitious global policies and cooperation.

Actually we have to ask, if we should move from the present type of global cooperation towards a new geographical level in policy planning and in political decision making, something I would call “**humanity policy**”. This would be a logical consequence of the globalization process.

The humanity policy would be formed in the same way we have promoted regional integration in different parts of the world. The nation states and the existing regional unions should analyze their needs, set their goals and outline their strategies, both internal and external. These strategies should then be combined and dovetailed into coordinated and common policies, which would benefit us all. Humanity policy would be based on the common values and interests of the mankind.

What could be the institutional framework for humanity policy? The embryo has already been created on the basis of practical needs, the G 20. It must only be reformed and linked into the official global institutions.

We discussed the global institutions already in Rio. As the leader of the Finnish delegation I was among those who wanted to establish in the framework of the United Nations a Council for Sustainable Development. It would have had a leading role in the economic, social and environmental sectors of the UN, just as the Security Council has in its area of competence. The new council would have been composed of the key players of the global development policies, with permanent and rotating memberships.

That kind of council was not established. What we got was the Commission on Sustainable Development which has done valuable work but has not had any leading role in the global development policy.

Since Rio we have lost the comprehensive approach on development and environment. The link between these two has weakened. The wide view on development has been reduced into development cooperation. The environmental policies have been split into several separate processes.

Could we consider now, when approaching the Rio+20 conference, that the G 20 would be transformed into an UN body responsible for economic, social and environmental affairs, into the **UN Council for Sustainable Development**? The composition and the mandate should be carefully considered and negotiated between the G 20 countries and all the UN Member States.

Mr. Chairman,

In my opinion, the DCF is a suitable forum for discussions on our future humanity policy. I am convinced that it must be created - the sooner, the better.

I hope that this DCF will continue the good and honest dialogue that we started at our earlier meetings. Let's keep our common goal clear: effective poverty reduction through

sustainable development. The DCF can play an important role in enhancing the most effective means in reaching those goals.

Thank you for your attention.