

05:48, October 26, 2007

## UN concludes high-level meeting on development financing

The 62nd session of the UN General Assembly concluded on Thursday a three-day high-level meeting on development financing which focused on preparations for a review of anti-poverty promises pledged by world leaders in the 2002 Monterrey Consensus in Mexico.

More than 90 speakers took the podium to address the High-Level Dialogue on Financing for Development, calling for more concerted efforts by the international community to ensure the implementation of the consensus.

In Monterrey, developing countries took primary responsibility for their development, and for mobilizing domestic resources. Developed countries, in turn, agreed to provide assistance and promote an enabling international environment for development.

Since then developing countries have worked to improve macroeconomic and fiscal management and increased social expenditure but commitments to provide new resources to support achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) have not been fully met, according to a report by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon.

During the high-level dialogue, the third one sponsored by the UN in the last five years, representatives from developing countries voiced concern at the weak implementation of the Monterrey Consensus, urging the international community to take concrete measures to maintain the overall credibility of the consensus.

They called on developed countries to deliver commitments to increasing aid and achieve the 0.7 percent official development assistance target so as to help achieve the MDG.

On behalf of the "Group of 77" developing countries and China, Pakistan's Minister for Economic Affairs Hina Rab-Bani Khar said that the Monterrey Consensus suffered from a "serious implementation deficit."

While some developing countries had exhibited dynamic economic performance, many countries remained mired in a vicious circle of poverty, far from achieving the Millennium Goals, Khar said.

In the future, the international community should redouble its efforts to enhance official development assistance and to secure additional resources for developing countries, she said.

The United Nations should increase the ability of poor and vulnerable economies to attract private and multilateral investments and member states should do more to help solve the external debt problems of developing countries, she added.

In closing remarks, General Assembly President Srgjan Kerim said that many representatives expressed their concern with the growing economic inequalities, not only between countries but also within countries in the context of globalization.

Many speakers stressed the need to promote foreign direct investment in lower-income countries in order to boost productive economic activity, he said.

Many delegations urged "decisive progress" in the current round of multilateral trade negotiations in order to accelerate progress on development and poverty reduction, Kerim said.

Many participants reiterated the need to improving the voice and effective participation of developing countries in international economic decision-making, he said.

Delegates also stressed that adapting to climate change was an emerging issue that should be linked to the financing for development process, he added.

The meeting, which included a series of plenary sessions and informal meetings and six round-table conferences, brought together finance ministers, central Bank governors and representatives from world finance and trade institutions, the private sector and nongovernmental organizations.

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The high-level event was aimed at preparing for the International Review Conference on Financing for Development to be held in Doha late next year.

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- *Inter Press Service (IPS) News Agency* -

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Broken Aid Promises Dim Hopes for Millennium Development Goals

By Thalif Deen - Inter Press Service

UNited Nations, 26 October, ([Asiantribune.com](http://Asiantribune.com)): At a major international conference on financing for development in Monterrey, Mexico in March 2002, more than 100 world leaders pledged to help eradicate poverty, achieve sustained economic growth and promote sustainable development.

But most of the promises, predicated largely on significant increases in development aid to the world's poorest nations, have remained UNfulfilled.

Five years after the pledges -- dubbed the "Monterrey Consensus" -- the results have been mixed.

Addressing a high-level meeting on financing for development, described as a follow-up to the Monterrey conference, U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon admitted that many developing nations, including many low-income coUNtries, have experienced stronger economic growth.

Since 2002, he said, levels of official development assistance (ODA.), including new commitments, have risen.

"But the sustained increase required to meet the targets has not materialized," he told the two-day meeting which concluded Wednesday.

"Concerted action to close this fUNDing gap is essential if we are to alleviate extreme poverty, fight diseases and achieve the other development targets," he warned.

A new U.N. study, which takes stock of the successes and failures of the Monterrey Consensus, points out that ODA. "continues to remain crucial" for financing the internationally-agreed development goals, including the U.N.'s Millennium Development Goals.

The MDG include a 50 percent reduction in extreme poverty and hUNger; UNiversal primary education; promotion of gender equality; reduction of child mortality by two-thirds; cutbacks in maternal mortality by three-quarters; combating the spread of HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases; ensuring environmental sustainability; and developing a North-South global partnership for development.

The study, released last week, estimates that about 150 billion dollars in aid are needed annually to reach the MDG by their targeted date of 2015.

According to the latest figures, ODA. from the world's major donors fell 5.1 percent in 2006 compared to 2005: from a record high of 106.6 billion dollars in 2005 to 103.9 billion dollars in 2006.

The high figure for 2005, described as the largest ever, was primarily due to debt relief operations for Iraq and Nigeria.

But the U.N. study clearly says that "most debt relief included as ODA., especially for Iraq and Nigeria in 2005, did not really represent additional resources for development."

"The inclusion of the write-off payment arrears, which vary from coUNtry to coUNtry, means that in practice, ODA. resources actually available for development have been smaller than indicated by aid statistics. In addition, aid statistics usually include emergency and technical assistance."

According to the U.N.'s annual "World Economic and Social Survey", the top 20 recipients received more than half of net bilateral ODA., and less than 50 percent of aid recipients received 90 percent of all aid from Western donors.

"There are many poor low-income coUNtries that receive very little aid and a few that have experienced surges in aid flows," the study said.

In the early 1970s, the U.N. General Assembly adopted a resolution calling for 0.7 percent of gross national income (GNI) as ODA. from donor nations to the world's poorer nations.

But so far only five donor coUNtries -- Norway, Sweden, Denmark, the Netherlands and Luxembourg -- have met this elusive target.

Robert Pollock, a U.N. special adviser in the office of the General Assembly president, said some European coUNtries had pledged to reach the target by 2015, others by 2013.

But so far, the UNited States is the only coUNtry that has refused to set a deadline to meet its ODA. target.

Oscar de Rojas, director of the Financing for Development Office in the Department of Economic and Social Affairs told reporters Monday that besides development aid, there were also other important factors, including trade, debt relief and private capital flows.

"What good was development assistance," he asked, "if no open markets existed for selling products?"

Srgjan Kerim, president of the General Assembly, told delegates there were really six areas that embody the Monterrey Consensus agreed to by both rich and poor nations.

These include: domestic resource mobilisation; private capital flows; international trade; ODA.; external debt; and the reform of international financial institutions.

"The Monterrey Consensus has remained at the heart of the U.N. development debate," he pointed out.

Yoke Ling of the Malaysia-based Third World Network, one of the most active non-governmental organisations (NGOs) closely tracking development-related issues, said that in recent months, various U.N. negotiations have been hard and protracted along North-South lines -- from climate change and biodiversity to operationalising the revitalised U.N.'s Economic and Social CoUNcil (ECOSOC).

In each process, she told IPS, "Major developed coUNtries seek to backtrack from earlier commitments, including legally binding obligations."

The Development Cooperation Forum (DCF), laUNched by ECOSOC in early July to strengthen its role in international development cooperation, including its oversight of member states' implementation of international development commitments, is welcome.

On financing for development, she added, developing coUNtries want the DCF to urge developed coUNtries to honour their commitments to earmark 0.7 percent of their GNI as ODA. "as soon as possible and to encourage the establishment of more innovative mechanisms for financing."

Prolonged negotiations at the July ECOSOC High Level Segment resulted in a ministerial declaration calling for developed coUNtry commitments to achieve the 0.7 percent target for ODA. by 2015 and at least 0.5 percent by 2010.

The targets set for the so-called least developed coUNtries, the poorest of the world's poor, were 0.15 percent to 0.20 percent.

"But the reality is that overall ODA. continues to decline and there is no sign otherwise. While developing coUNtries are concertedly pressing, developed coUNtries continue to resist," Ling said.

Asked if a proposed follow up conference in Qatar next year will yield any positive results, she said: "Whether Qatar will really result in concrete developed coUNtry commitments, let alone significant action, seems UNlikely."

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- Inter Press Service (IPS) News Agency -

Monday, October 29, 2007 15:52 GMT

## DEVELOPMENT: Broken Aid Promises Dim Hopes for MDG

by Thalif Deen

UNITED NATIONS, Oct 24 (IPS) - At a major international conference on financing for development in Monterrey, Mexico in March 2002, more than 100 world leaders pledged to help eradicate poverty, achieve sustained economic growth and promote sustainable development.

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Since 2002, he said, levels of official development assistance (ODA.), including new commitments, have risen.

"But the sustained increase required to meet the targets has not materialised," he told the two-day meeting which concluded Wednesday.

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*Source: Xinhua*

13:07, October 25, 2007

**Chinese envoy urges integrated efforts on development financing**

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Liu Zhenmin, China's deputy permanent representative to the UNited Nations, called on the international commUNity on Wednesday to make integrated efforts to deal with the problems concerning financing for development.

Speaking at the High-Level Dialogue on Financing for Development held at the UN headquarters, Liu said that there is no shortcut to the settlement of the problems concerning development financing.

Integrated measures and various means must be employed to finance through all channels, including mobilizing domestic fUND, attracting international private investment, providing official development assistance and debt relief, as well as improving the international monetary, financial and trade regimes, he said.

As poverty and UNderdevelopment are mainly suffered by developing coUNtries, the most difficult part of financing for development is to mobilize fUND for developing coUNtries, Liu said.

The biggest obstacle to financing for development is the innate deficiency suffered by developing coUNtries due to their long-term backwardness, he said. In the light of this, the international commUNity should make constructive intervention, rather than rely solely on the market force.

On the one hand, it needs to provide financial assistance to help developing coUNtries resolve the pressing issue of development; and on the other, it should create a favorable external environment for developing coUNtries to build their capacity for mobilizing fUND through their own efforts, he added.

The 62nd session of the UN General Assembly began on Tuesday the High-Level Dialogue on Financing for Development to lay the groUND for a review of anti-poverty promises pledged by world leaders in the 2002 Monterrey Consensus in Mexico.

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Source:Xinhuanet

Last Updated(Beijing Time):2007-10-25 12:03

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Posted: Thursday, October 25, 2007

The future of development financing is UNDER discussion at a High-Level UNITED Nations event in New York that has attracted the participation of ministers, central Bank governors, government delegates and representatives of business and civil society, meeting to advance a 2002 agreement made in Monterrey, Mexico.

“Progress in implementing the Monterrey Consensus has been mixed,” Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon told at the General Assembly High-Level Dialogue on Financing for Development, which opened on Tuesday referring to the UNDERstanding which emerged from the Mexico conference based on developing coUNtries taking primary responsibility for mobilizing domestic resources and developed coUNtries agreeing to promote an environment conducive to this effort.

Many developing and low-income coUNtries had experienced stronger economic growth, he said, and official development assistance (ODA.) had improved, but the “sustained increase” in assistance needed to meet the targets agreed in Monterrey has not materialized.

“Closing the fUNDing gap is essential if we are to alleviate extreme poverty, fight diseases and achieve the other development targets,” Mr. Ban said.

The Secretary-General called on developing coUNtries to adopt policies that support sustained economic growth and job creation. Developed coUNtries must increase capital flows, especially to low-income coUNtries, Mr. Ban argued.

He called for a swift, development-oriented conclusion to the Doha trade negotiations, a sustainable path of debt repayment for low-income coUNtries and greater participation by developing coUNtries in international financial institutions.

“If implemented, existing commitments to finance development are enough to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, even in Africa,” said General Assembly President Srgjan Kerim, who is chairing the meeting.

“But each side of the partnership must deliver,” he said. “As developing coUNtries adopt comprehensive national strategies, then donors must deliver on commitments to provide additional assistance to enable them to succeed.”

Mr. Kerim called for moving beyond the “simplistic division” of the world into North and South. “We live in a far more complex and integrated global age, with new emerging economic powers and donors as well as private philanthropy in all regions of the world.”

The General Assembly President added that the Monterrey Consensus combined the energies of governments, international institutions, faith groups, civil society and the private sector. Mr. Kerim stated that: “If this - the greatest anti-poverty partnership in history - is insufficient to break from ‘business as usual’ many developing coUNtries and campaigners aroUND the world will be left without hope. Global trust will be irredeemably UNDERmined.”

On behalf of the group of least developed coUNtries, Bangladesh’s Mirza Md. Azizul Islam said they could not “effectively gain from trade” due to “a wide array” of harmful subsidies, non-tariff-restrictions and artificial standards imposed by importing coUNtries. He called on such coUNtries to provide “duty-free and quota-free market access” for all products from least developed coUNtries.

“Monterrey suffers from a serious implementation deficit,” said Pakistan’s Minister for Economic Affairs Hina Rab-Bani Khar, on behalf of the Group of 77 developing coUNtries and China. Official development assistance in 2006 had dipped to 0.3 per cent of gross domestic product, down from 0.36 in 2005. Developing coUNtries had little ability to influence financial trends, despite their importance for growth and development.

Perversely, to guard against the volatility of financial flows, developing coUNtries had accumulated large reserves that were transferred back to the deficit coUNtry, she said. This had helped to enlarge the net financial outflow from developing to developed coUNtries, which had gone from \$533 billion in 2005 to \$662 billion in 2006.

The two-day meeting is addressing the six major areas of the Monterrey Consensus: mobilizing domestic financial resources, mobilizing international resources, international trade, international cooperation for development, external debt, and the coherence of the international monetary, financial and trading systems.

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The outcome of the current meeting will provide the basis for next year's Review Conference on Financing for Development, to be held in Doha, Qatar.

In a related development, Barbara Adams of the UN Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) emphasized the importance of promoting gender equality when tackling the problems associated with financing for development.

"It's got to be economic growth plus; it's not policies only to stimulate economic growth," she said. Policies must be supported at the international level. "Just generating more resources without looking at the actual flows of how those flows help the society to develop can't work," she told a press briefing held at UN Headquarters in conjunction with the General Assembly meeting.

She emphasized the need for policies that support gender equality, especially at the macroeconomic level, where decisions are made that "determine and drive how resources are gathered and how resources are allocated within societies."

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29.10.2007. LUNdi

La Chine lancerait probablement son premier satellite d'exploration lunaire mercredi à 18H00

Tang Wei en photo du magazine américain "Interview"

ONU : ouverture d'une réunion de haut niveau sur la réduction de la pauvreté

2007-10-24 14:00:10

New York (Nations Unies), 24 octobre (XINHUA) -- La 62e session de l'Assemblée générale de l'ONU a entamé mardi le Dialogue de haut niveau sur le financement du développement en vue de jeter les bases d'une révision des promesses de lutte contre la pauvreté engagées par les dirigeants mondiaux dans le cadre du Consensus de Monterrey (Mexique) en 2002.

Selon le Consensus de Monterrey, les pays en voie de développement (PVD) se sont engagés à prendre la responsabilité principale de leur développement et la mobilisation des ressources intérieures afin de soutenir ces efforts. Les pays développés ont, pour leur part, accepté de fournir de l'aide et de promouvoir un environnement international pour assurer le développement.

Dans le cadre de ce plan, les PVD ont beaucoup travaillé pour promouvoir les gestions macroéconomique et fiscale, ainsi qu'augmenter les dépenses sociales pour le développement, cependant, les promesses faites par les pays industrialisés d'accorder de nouvelles ressources en vue de soutenir les efforts afin d'atteindre les Objectifs du Millénaire pour le développement (OMD) ne sont pas totalement remplies pour le moment, a déploré dans un rapport le secrétaire général (SG) de l'ONU, Ban Ki-moon.

Lors d'une intervention durant la conférence, le président de l'Assemblée générale, Srgjan Kerim, a indiqué que le dialogue de deux jours donnera le coup d'envoi du processus intergouvernemental pour réviser la mise en place du Consensus de Monterrey de 2002 et évaluer les défis à relever dans l'avenir.

Il a encouragé les délégations gouvernementales et d'autres bailleurs de fonds internationaux à exprimer leurs points de vue de façon franche, globale et ouverte afin de contribuer substantiellement à la prochaine conférence de Doha (Qatar), prévue pour l'an prochain.

"Nous ne pouvons pas traiter les affaires comme d'habitude", a lancé M. Kerim, "des millions de vies sont en péril, la réalisation des OMD et l'accomplissement de nos promesses sont avant tout un test pour nos obligations morales".

"Nous ne permettrons jamais aux engagements de devenir lettre morte, ce qui symboliserait un manque aux promesses. La communauté internationale doit être capable de faire un tour d'horizon en 2015 et de déclarer qu'aucun effort n'a été épargné pour atteindre les OMD", a affirmé M. Kerim.

Le SG de l'ONU a de son côté appelé, lors de la conférence de haut niveau, les pays développés à honorer leurs engagements en fournissant une aide de développement aux PVD.



“Pour le moment, les progrès réalisés par le Consensus de Monterrey sont mixtes”, a ajouté M. Ban, “depuis 2002, les niveaux de l’aide publique au développement (ODA.), y compris les nouveaux engagements, ont augmenté avant d’accuser UNE baisse depuis l’an dernier”.

“Plus important, l’augmentation durable exigée pour atteindre les objectifs fixés il y a des décennies et réitérée en 2002 et en 2005, n’est toujours pas matérialisée”, a-t-il déploré.

“Comblé le manque de fonds est UN élément essentiel si nous voulons alléger la pauvreté extrême, lutter contre les maladies et réaliser d’autres objectifs de développement”, a-t-il affirmé, ajoutant que les défis sont même plus difficiles à relever pour le moment face au changement climatique du monde.

“Cela n’aura lieu que lorsque les donateurs honoreront leurs engagements aux ODA. et octroieront davantage de ressources à travers les budgets nationaux”, a-t-il souligné.

Le président de l’Assemblée générale et le SG de l’ONU ont tous deux mis en valeur UN besoin clair d’entreprendre UNE action urgente et coordonnée, en insistant sur le fait que faute d’intervention rapide, il y aura davantage de personnes vivant dans la pauvreté avant 2015.

La réUNion de deux jours prévoit de rassembler des ministres des Finances, des gouverneurs de Banque centrale, des représentants venant d’institutions financières et commerciales mondiales, ainsi que des responsables de secteurs privés et d’ONG. La rencontre va également faire des préparatifs pour la Conférence internationale sur la révision du financement du développement, qui se tiendra à Doha l’année prochaine.

Le Consensus de Monterrey appelle les pays développés et les PVD à entreprendre des actions importantes dans l’adoption des politiques systématiques nationales et internationales.

En décembre 2002, l’Assemblée générale de l’ONU a introduit dans la motion UN processus intergouvernemental détaillé, à l’appel du consensus, pour superviser l’application de la déclaration et organiser des discussions internationales sur les politiques du financement du développement.

Liens connexes

Pour UNE accélération de la croissance dans les PVD

New York, Etats-UNis - Le Secrétaire général des Nations UNies, Ban Ki-moon, a appelé, mercredi, à l’intensification des efforts afin de permettre aux Pays en développement de progresser, estimant “trop lentes” les avancées qu’ils ont faites sur la voie de la réalisation des Objectifs du millénaire pour le développement (OMD).

“En fait, l’Afrique subsaharienne n’est pas sur la bonne voie”, a affirmé M. Ban Ki-moon, qui s’adressait à l’Assemblée générale, réUNie pour traiter du financement du développement. Il a, à ce sujet, plaidé pour de nouveaux allègements de la dette au profit des pays à faible revenu, ainsi qu’UN renforcement de la participation de ces pays au sein des institutions financières internationales.

Il a également déclaré qu’il convenait d’intensifier les efforts pour augmenter les flux de capitaux stables vers les pays en développement afin de promouvoir le développement.

Ban Ki-moon a ensuite appelé à UNE rapide finalisation des pourparlers de Doha, mis en oeuvre sous l’égide de l’Organisation mondiale du Commerce (OMC) et qui sont bloqués depuis quelque temps en raison de certains désaccords.

Il a cependant annoncé que l’ONU continuerait à demander plus d’efforts pour réaliser les OMD en Afrique subsaharienne.

Le correspondant de l’Agence panafricaine de presse (PANA) aux Nations UNies constate que la rencontre se tient en présence de ministres, de gouverneurs de Banques centrales, de délégués officiels ainsi que de représentants du secteur des affaires et de groupes de la Société civile.

Selon les information recueillies par la PANA, les participants ont examiné les voies et moyens de promouvoir l’accord

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qui avait été conclu en 2002, à Monterrey, au Mexique, sur les relations commerciales et les efforts de développement.

Le Secrétaire général des Nations Unies a rappelé à la conférence, prévue pour deux jours, au siège des Nations Unies, à New York, que les progrès enregistrés dans la mise en oeuvre du Consensus de Monterrey restent "mitigés".

La réUNion s'intéresse aussi aux six domaines majeurs du Consensus de Monterrey, notamment à la mobilisation des ressources financières, à la mobilisation des ressources internationales et aux échanges internationaux.

D'autres domaines, comme la coopération internationale pour le développement, l'endettement extérieur et la cohérence des systèmes monétaires, financiers et commerciaux internationaux, retiennent aussi l'attention des délégués.

Les conclusions de la réUNion en cours serviront de base à la Conférence internationale de suivi sur le financement du développement, qui doit se tenir l'année prochaine à Doha, au Qatar.

New York - 25/10/2007

Panapress

L'Angola défend UNE grande participation dans des décisions économiques de l'ONU

Photo Angop

New-York, 26/10 - Le Gouvernement angolais a plaidé pour l'affermissement des consultations multilatérales dans divers domaines du système international financier, particulièrement "UNE grande voix et participation des pays en développement dans la prise de décisions économiques globales".

Cette position a été défendue jeudi, à New-York, par le directeur chargé des Organisations Internationales du Ministère des Relations Extérieures, l'ambassadeur Virgílio Marques de Faria, lors de son intervention sur le thème: "Financement pour le Développement", dans le cadre des travaux de la 62<sup>e</sup> Session de l'Assemblée Générale de l'ONU, débutée en septembre dernier.

Après UN survol du rapport du secrétaire général de l'ONU à l'Assemblée Générale, selon lequel "la restructuration de l'architecture financière internationale pour répondre aux profonds changements dans l'économie globale est UN travail inachevé", le diplomate angolais a souligné que les pays en développement veulent UNE réforme inclusive du système financier international et de sa gestion.

Il a, d'autre part, affirmé que le financement pour le développement est l'UN des sujets cruciaux d'UN grand impact dans le développement, parce que "l'application du Consensus de Monterrey est important pour atteindre les objectifs de développement internationalement accordés, y compris ceux de Développement du Millénaire".

D'autre part, le diplomate angolais a dit que durant le Dialogue de Haut Niveau, tenu en juin 2005, et la Plénière Spéciale de Haut Niveau de l'Assemblée Générale de l'ONU, en septembre 2005, nous avons constaté des signes encourageants de progrès.

"Nous saluons donc la promesse des pays développés de conjuguer des efforts concrets pour parvenir à l'objectif fixé, celui d'accorder 0,7 pour cent de son Produit Interne Brut (PIB) comme aide de développement officiel et de chercher les sources innovatrices de financement pour le développement", a-t-il ajouté.

"Cependant, il y a encore beaucoup à faire pour assurer le financement, afin que le développement soit adéquat pour habilitier les pays en voie de développement, principalement les Africains", a-t-il souligné.

Dans son allocution, l'ambassadeur Virgílio Marques a précisé que le commerce international est UN important outil de développement, c'est pourquoi la suspension des négociations de l'Organisation Mondiale du Commerce dans les réUNions de Doha a lancé, non seulement, UNE ombre dans le futur de la coopération internationale aux sujets de commerce, mais aussi aux attentes de développement global des pays en voie de développement.

A ce propos, il a dit être nécessaire réalisé des progrès significatifs dans les négociations agricoles, qui se reflètent dans les prix et dans autres mesures de tarif, avec UN impact direct dans l'éradication de la pauvreté et le développement économique.

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Toujours dans le cadre du développement, le directeur chargé des Organisations internationales au Ministère des Relations extérieures a défendu l'annulation de la dette externe (surtout celles les plus lourdes) des pays en voie de développement, vu que cet handicap crée UN grand obstacle au développement du millénium et empêche le développement humain.

Il a affirmé que l'annulation de la dette extérieure doit continuer à recevoir la l'appui de la commUNauté internationale.

“Notre délégation aimerait se joindre à ceux qui demandent la disposition de mesures et les initiatives supplémentaires à assurer le développement durable de la dette à long terme, à travers l'augmentation du financement par des sommes, l'annulation à 100 pour cent de la dette multilatérale et bilatérale des pays pauvres fortement endettés et du soulagement significatif ou réorganisation de la dette des pays en développement de bas revenu et moyen avec UNe charge de dette insoutenable”, a-t-il défendu.

Le haut fonctionnaire du Ministère des Relations Extérieures a, d'autre part, souligné qu'en sa qualité de pays en développement, l'Angola est engagé dans l'accélération de sa croissance économique et diversité de ses secteurs financiers domestiques.

“UNe de nos priorités financières est de faciliter le financement d'investissements productifs, particulièrement en stimulant la création de petites et moyennes entreprises. Donc, nous consacrons UNe attention spéciale à l'accès, de les couches de la population, aux services financiers à travers la promotion de microcrédit “, a-t-il souligné.

Selon Virgilio Marques, “cela a apporté des progrès significatifs ces dernières années, notamment sur le plan économique comme dans les efforts pour atteindre les Objectifs du Développement du Millénaire”.

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M. Sahel plaide en faveur d'UN environnement international plus propice au financement du développement

NEW YORK (MAP) - L'ambassadeur représentant permanent du Maroc auprès de l'ONU, M. El Mostafa Sahel, a plaidé en faveur d'UN environnement international plus propice au financement du développement, notant que la conférence de Doha en 2008 constitue “UN rendez vous à ne pas manquer” pour donner UN nouveau souffle au partenariat Nord-Sud.

“Les pays en développement ne peuvent atteindre les Objectifs du Millénaire pour le Développement (OMD) sans disposer des moyens de financement suffisants et prévisibles. A mi-parcours de la réalisation de ces objectifs, les indicateurs de développement dans plusieurs pays en développement restent en deçà des objectifs fixés, augurant qu'à l'échéance 2015 ces pays ne seront pas en mesure de les réaliser”, a affirmé M. Sahel devant UNe réUNion de haut niveau, tenue mercredi, au siège de l'ONU à New York.

Ce sont en particulier les pays d'Afrique qui n'ont pas vu leur taux de pauvreté diminuer durant ces dernières années, a déploré l'ambassadeur, estimant qu'UNe mobilisation de tous les partenaires de développement et de tous les moyens, tant internes qu'externes, est nécessaire pour atténuer les effets de ce fléau sur le continent africain.

Rappelant que les pays en développement ont consenti des efforts considérables en matière de réformes et ont mobilisé leurs capacités internes de financement, afin de combler leur déficit en matière de développement, il a regretté l'insuffisance des moyens propres, la régression de l'Aide Publique au Développement (APD) et le fardeau de la dette qui continuent à limiter leurs ambitions.

“Il est urgent d'inverser la tendance actuelle qui s'achemine vers UNe régression continue des apports de l'aide publique au développement malgré les engagements pris et les promesses faites”, a plaidé M. Sahel.

Au recul des flux de l'aide, s'ajoute, selon lui, le fardeau de la dette qui continue de grever les budgets des pays en développement et anéantir leurs efforts de développement, soulignant à cet effet que les engagements pris récemment dans

le cadre de l'Initiative en faveur des pays pauvres lourdement endettés (PPTE), aussi louables et importantes soient-ils, demeurent insuffisants.

“Beaucoup reste à faire sur la voie d'UNE annulation de la dette des pays pauvres lourdement endettés. D'autres mesures sont nécessaires pour accompagner les efforts déployés par les pays en développement à moyen et faible revenu dans la gestion durable de la dette extérieure”, a insisté le diplomate.

Par ailleurs, il a souligné que si le commerce international est considéré comme UN moteur de croissance économique pouvant générer des ressources pour financer le développement, les attentes des pays en développement dans le cycle de travail de Doha risquent de ne pas être réalisées en raison du manque de progrès dans les négociations multilatérales.

De surcroît, leurs produits continuent à affronter des obstacles tarifaires et non tarifaires pour accéder aux marchés des pays développés.

“C'est dire que la dimension développement du cycle de Doha représente l'UN des rares espoirs sur lequel les pays en développement puissent compter pour tirer pleinement profit des opportUNITés qu'offre le système commercial multilatéral et parvenir à UNE croissance économique soutenue”, a-t-il dit.

Et d'expliquer que les investissements directs étrangers sont UNE source importante de financement de développement, du fait de leur impact sur l'emploi et le transfert de technologies, relevant que ce sont, encore UNE fois, les pays en développement et particulièrement les plus pauvres parmi eux qui reçoivent le moins d'investissements étrangers directs.

Pour M. Sahel, il est important de soutenir les efforts consentis par les pays en développement pour attirer les investissements directs étrangers en accompagnant leurs actions pour améliorer le climat des affaires et les systèmes de gouvernance.

A côté des sources de financement classiques, qui demeurent indispensables pour le développement, le diplomate a émis enfin l'espoir que la prochaine conférence de suivi sur le financement du développement à Doha sera l'occasion pour réfléchir à d'autres sources de financement novatrices.

Il a évoqué, pour exemple, la Facilité Internationale d'Achat de Médicaments (UNITAID), UNE initiative financée par le produit de la contribution internationale de solidarité sur les billets d'avion, qui a pour objectif d'améliorer l'accès aux médicaments dans les pays en développement pour lutter contre les trois grandes pandémies que sont le sida, la tuberculose et le paludisme.

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URL de cet article: <http://www.avmaroc.com/actualite/sahel-plaide-faveur-a105851.html>

ONU : les pays riches appelés à respecter leurs engagements

Le secrétaire général de l'ONU, Ban Ki-moon, a appelé les pays développés à respecter leurs engagements sur leur assistance aux pays en développement.

Prenant la parole lors d'UN dialogue de haut niveau sur le financement du développement, M. Ban a indiqué que les progrès enregistrés dans l'application du “consensus de Monterrey” étaient mixtes.

Le consensus de Monterrey avait été adopté en mars 2002 lors de la première conférence intergouvernementale sur le financement du développement qui a eu lieu à Monterrey au Mexique, à laquelle étaient présents plus de 50 chefs d'État et de gouvernements. Les pays développés s'étaient engagés à fournir leur assistance aux pays en développement et à promouvoir UN environnement international favorable au développement.

M. Ban a aussi demandé aux pays riches de prendre davantage de mesures pour réduire les dettes dues par les pays en développement. Il a également mis l'accent sur la nécessité de faire participer les pays en développement à la prise de décision au niveau international, notamment au niveau des institutions financières internationales.

“J'exhorte la commUNauté internationale à faire tout son possible pour mettre en oeuvre les engagements faits à Monterrey”, a-t-il dit.

Dans son rapport sur l'application du consensus de Monterrey, le secrétaire général de l'ONU a indiqué que les pays en développement avaient travaillé pour améliorer la gestion macro économique et fiscale et augmenté les dépenses sociales.

Mais les pays développés n'ont pas pleinement honoré leur engagement d'augmenter l'assistance aux efforts des pays en développement pour réaliser les Objectifs du Millénaire de Développement (OMD). Le dialogue de haut niveau sur le financement du développement, organisé par la 62e session de l'Assemblée générale de l'ONU, vise à préparer UNE révision des efforts contre la pauvreté, déployés par les pays dans le cadre du consensus de Monterrey.

XINHUA/VNA/CVN

(25/10/2007)

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24 October 2007

UN chief urges rich nations to honor aid pledges

UNITED NATIONS, Oct. 23 (Xinhua) -- UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on Tuesday urged developed countries to honor their commitment to providing development assistance to developing countries.

Speaking at a high-level UN event on financing for development, the UN chief said that progress on the implementation of the 2002 Monterrey Consensus has been mixed.

"Since 2002, levels of official development assistance, including new commitments, rose only to fall off since last year," Ban said.

"More importantly, the sustained increase required to meet targets agreed to decades ago, and reiterated in 2002 and 2005, have not materialized," he said.

"Closing this funding gap is essential if we are to alleviate extreme poverty, fight diseases and achieve the other development targets," he said, adding that the challenge is even greater now with the need to mitigate and adapt to climate change.

"This can only happen when donors meet their ODA commitment targets, and channel more resources through national budgets," he said.

He also called for more steps to be taken by rich nations to reduce the debt owed by developing countries, saying that "putting all low-income countries on a sustainable path of debt repayment must be a priority."

"And immediate action is needed to increase the voice and participation of developing countries in international decision-making, particularly in the international financial institutions," he said.

"This is essential for the legitimacy, credibility and, ultimately, the effectiveness of these institutions," he said.

The secretary-general said that the International Review Conference on Financing for Development, to be held in Doha next year, offers "a golden opportunity for all stakeholders to consolidate the gains made and to achieve new breakthroughs."

"It is an opportunity to strengthen the solidarity and partnership between rich and poor countries that was created five years ago in Monterrey," he said.

"I urge the international community to do its utmost to fulfill the commitments made at Monterrey, so that all countries, and all people, especially the poorest, can benefit," he added.

In his report on the implementation of the International Conference on Financing for Development held from 18-22 March 2002 in Monterrey, Mexico, the UN chief said that since the Monterrey Consensus, developing countries have worked to improve macroeconomic and fiscal management and increased social expenditure.

But commitments by developed countries to provide new resources to support achievement of the Millennium



Development Goals have not been fully met, the report said.

While European UNion coUNtries have set goals to achieve a 0.7 percent ODA. target by 2015, other large developed coUNtry donors still remain “considerably behind this target,” it said.

The High-Level Dialogue on Financing for Development, hosted by the 62nd session of the UN General Assembly, is to lay the groUND for a review of anti-poverty promises pledged by world leaders in the 2002 Monterrey Consensus.

At the 2002 Monterrey conference, developing coUNtries took primary responsibility for their development, and for mobilizing domestic resources. Developed coUNtries, in turn, agreed to provide assistance and promote an enabling international environment for development.

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#### UN hosts high-level meeting on development financing

UNITED NATIONS, Oct. 23 (Xinhua) — The 62nd session of the UN General Assembly began on Tuesday the High-Level Dialogue on Financing for Development to lay the groUND for a review of anti-poverty promises pledged by world leaders in the 2002 Monterrey Consensus in Mexico.

In Monterrey, developing coUNtries took primary responsibility for their development, and for mobilizing domestic resources. Developed coUNtries, in turn, agreed to provide assistance and promote an enabling international environment for development.

Since then developing coUNtries have worked to improve macroeconomic and fiscal management and increased social expenditure but commitments to provide new resources to support achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) have not been fully met, according to a report by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon.

Speaking at the meeting, General Assembly President Srgjan Kerim, said that the assembly’s two-day dialogue would begin the intergovernmental follow-up process to review the implementation of the 2002 Monterrey Consensus and assess the challenges ahead.

He encouraged government delegations and other stakeholders to engage in a frank, inclusive and open exchange of views in order to make a substantive contribution to the follow-up Conference in Doha, Qatar, next year.

“We cannot go on with ‘business as usual,’” Kerim said. “Millions of lives quite literally hang in the balance. Achieving the MDG and delivering on our promises is above all a test of our moral obligations.”

“We should not allow commitments to become words that symbolize broken promises. The international commUNITY should be able to look back in 2015 and agree that no effort was spared to achieve the MDG,” Kerim said.

In his remarks at the meeting, Ban urged developed coUNtries to honor their commitment to providing development assistance to developing coUNtries.

“So far, progress on the Monterrey Consensus has also been mixed,” Ban said. “Since 2002, levels of official development assistance (ODA.), including new commitments, rose only to fall off since last year.”

“More importantly, the sustained increase required to meet targets agreed to decades ago, and reiterated in 2002 and 2005, have not materialized,” he said.

“Closing this fUNDing gap is essential if we are to alleviate extreme poverty, fight diseases and achieve the other development targets,” he said, adding that the challenge is even greater now with the need to mitigate and adapt to climate change.

“This can only happen when donors meet their ODA. commitment targets, and channel more resources through national budgets,” he said.



The president of the General-Assembly and the secretary-general agreed that there is a clear need to take urgent and concerted action. Without rapid progress, by 2015 there will be more people struggling in poverty, and millions of people will not realize the basic promises of the MDG in their lives.

The two-day meeting is expected to bring together finance ministers, central Bank governors and representatives from world finance and trade institutions, the private sector and nongovernmental organizations. The high-level event will prepare for the International Review Conference on Financing for Development to be held in Doha late next year.

The Monterrey conference, which was held in March 2002 in Mexico, attracted 50 heads of state or government, over 200 ministers as well as leaders from the private sector, civil society and all the major intergovernmental financial, trade, economic, and monetary organizations.

The Monterrey Consensus reached at the conference calls on developed and developing countries to undertake important actions in domestic, international and systemic policy matters.

In December 2002, the General Assembly set in motion a detailed follow-up intergovernmental process, as called for in the consensus, to monitor implementation and carry forward the international discussion of policies for financing development.

Inter Press Service News Agency

Monday, October 29, 2007 16:07 GMT

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#### DEVELOPMENT: Women Make a Seven-Year Pitch

Haider Rizvi

UNITED NATIONS, Oct 23 (IPS) - Calls for a renewed commitment to women's human rights are on the rise as the world's top policymakers gather here this week to discuss international funding for development.

"There can be no sustainable development without women's empowerment," said June Zeitlin, executive director of the Women's Environment and Development Organisation (WEDO) on the eve of the high-level talks.

Zeitlin and other civil society leaders who work closely with the U.N. in setting the direction of its global agenda on development say they are increasingly disappointed with the implementation of the U.N. agenda.

"There is a lot rhetoric on development, but no money to address the question of gender inequality," Zeitlin told reporters in urging that the U.N.-sponsored dialogue on financing for development must reflect women's concerns about poverty, disease and illiteracy.

The two-day meeting is being convened by the 192-member U.N. General Assembly as part of the ongoing international efforts to generate financial resources required to meet the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) in the next seven years.

The MDG include a 50 percent reduction in extreme poverty and hunger; universal primary education; reduction of child mortality by two-thirds; cutbacks in maternal mortality by three-quarters; the promotion of gender equality; and the reversal of the spread of HIV/AIDS, malaria and other deadly diseases.

Studies suggest that most governments have failed to take initiatives on gender seriously despite committing to do so in the Monterrey Consensus, the agreement adopted at the 2002 international conference on financing for development.

Civil society groups contend that the progress on the MDG demands a human rights-centred policy framework, not the market-driven approach, which is failing to produce meaningful results.

"The development approach based on the neo-liberal economic model is creating a huge gap in policy and implementation," said Norea Craviotto of Women in Development Europe (WIDE), a continental lobbying group. "This approach leads to growth, but not fair distribution of wealth."

U.N. researchers agree that, worldwide, women are suffering from poverty, illiteracy and deadly diseases more than men

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because they face discrimination in obtaining jobs, education and healthcare.

When world leaders attended a summit in New York in September 2000, they agreed that the MDG must be achieved by 2015. That commitment included policy initiatives to reduce maternal mortality by 75 percent.

Many experts believe that in the past seven years, nothing much has changed for the millions of poor women with regard to their economic well-being and access to health care.

As reported by the British medical journal the Lancet this week, at the current pace, there is almost no hope that the world will be able to achieve the 75 percent target.

Annually, about 20 million women are forced to UNdergo UNSafe abortions, which, according to the journal, are a major factor in maternal deaths and illness. In some parts of Africa, more than one in every 15 women dies of pregnancy-related causes.

Public health activists say that governments must take drastic steps to reverse the situation if they are serious about meeting the MDG on reducing maternal mortality rates in the next seven years.

“We still have the situation we had 20 years ago,” said Ann Starrs of the independent group Family Care International in a statement. “Half a million women die every year from the complications of childbirth.”

A recent study by Harvard UNiversity foUNd that between 1990 and 2005, maternal deaths did fall, but by less than one percent a year. It estimates that at least 10 to 20 million women suffer injuries from the complications of childbirth every year.

This kind of suffering could be easily avoided if international donors contributed just 6.1 billion dollars over the next seven years, according to experts who see many of the wealthiest nations continuing to shy away from fulfilling their commitments.

Women’s groups, such as WEDO and WIDE, note that even when the promised money is delivered, it doesn’t get spent on development projects to address gender inequality.

Craviotto and Zeitlin said development policies must reflect a “firm” commitment on economic and social rights and demanded “a formal process” for civil society’s participation to prepare the Monterrey Consensus review.

“Financing for development must include substantial fUNding,” Zeitlin said. “The MDG cannot be achieved without gender equality. We have the commitment. We have the rhetoric. Now we need the money.”

According to Zeitlin, currently only 0.1 percent of the total official development assistance is being spent on gender equality.

Activists said they want the U.N. Economic and Social CoUNCil to ensure the effectiveness of the development process and reiterated calls for the creation of a high-level U.N. entity to assess policy implementations on gender equality.

In addition to individual governments, women leaders also criticised the world body for its failure to demonstrate gender equality in its own rank and file and continued lack of gender balance

“Look at UNIFEM,” said Zeitlin, referring to the U.N. women’s agency. “Last year, its fUNding was only 57 million dollars. By contrast, the U.N. FUNd for Population received about 565 million dollars.”

Amid calls for continued involvement of all relevant stakeholders, on Monday, U.N. General Assembly President Srgjan Kerim convened a series of informal “interactive hearings” with the representatives of civil society groups on financing for development.

“It is imperative that the views of civil society be fully UNderstood and duly taken into accoUNt,” said Kerim in his opening remarks, hoping that their participation in discussions would provide useful input to the high-level dialogue.

The two-day U.N. talks are aimed at shaping the agenda of the next U.N. conference on fUNding for development due to be held in Doha, Qatar in the second half of 2008. The conference will asses the implementation of decisions made at Monterrey.

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World

Russia to donate \$210 mln to poorest coUNtries in 2007

13:48 | 24/ 10/ 2007

UNITED NATIONS, October 24 (RIA Novosti) - Russia will allocate some \$210 million UNder UN assistance programs to the world's poorest coUNtries in 2007, five times as much as in 2004, the coUNtry's deputy finance minister said on Wednesday.

"Russian aid is gradually growing and, according to estimates, will reach some \$210 million, excluding debt payments, in 2007," Sergei Storchak said.

Last year, as G8 president, Russia committed itself to donating up to \$600 million over the next four to five years to fight infectious diseases, poverty and illiteracy, Storchak said.

"In favorable circumstances Russia should increase the average amoUNt allocated for this to \$500 million over the next four to five years," the official said, adding that the coUNtry is evolving as a solid international donor, which corresponds to its economic potential and political ambitions.

The Third High-Level Dialogue on Financing for Development was laUNched Tuesday at the UN headquarters in New York and will end later on Wednesday.

The ministerial forum, involving all participants in the Financing for Development process, has the aim of assessing "the coherence and consistency of the international monetary, financial and trading systems in support of development."

Russia allocated a total of \$40 million for the Millennium Development Goals in 2004.

According to the UN Web site, "the eight Millennium Development Goals (MDG) - which range from halving extreme poverty to halting the spread of HIV/AIDS and providing UNiversal primary education, all by the target date of 2015 - form a blueprint agreed to by all the world's coUNtries and all the world's leading development institutions."

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Inter Press Service News Agency

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(END/2007)

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Russia to donate \$210 mln to poorest coUNtries in 2007

bbj.hu

10. 24, 2007. Wednesday 12:48

Russia will allocate some \$210 million UNder UN assistance programs to the world’s poorest coUNtries in 2007, five times as much as in 2004, the coUNtry’s deputy finance minister said on Wednesday.

“Russian aid is gradually growing and, according to estimates, will reach some \$210 million, excluding debt payments, in 2007,” Sergei Storchak said. Last year, as G-8 president, Russia committed itself to donating up to \$600 million over the next four to five years to fight infectious diseases, poverty and illiteracy, Storchak said. “In favorable circumstances Russia should increase the average amoUNt allocated for this to \$500 million over the next four to five years,” the official said, adding that the coUNtry is evolving as a solid international donor, which corresponds to its economic potential and political ambitions.

The Third High-Level Dialogue on Financing for Development was laUNched Tuesday at the UN headquarters in New York and will end later on Wednesday. The ministerial forum, involving all participants in the Financing for Development process, has the aim of assessing “the coherence and consistency of the international monetary, financial and trading systems in support of development.”

Russia allocated a total of \$40 million for the Millennium Development Goals in 2004. According to the UN Web site, “the eight Millennium Development Goals (MDG) - which range from halving extreme poverty to halting the spread of HIV/AIDS and providing UNiversal primary education, all by the target date of 2015 - form a blueprint agreed to by all the world’s coUNtries and all the world’s leading development institutions.” (rian.ru)

News loc:

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Wednesday, October 24, 2007 - Web posted at 7:25:59 GMT

### UN reviews poverty reduction goals

UNITED NATIONS - The UN General Assembly is to host a meeting this week to lay the groundwork for a review of global poverty reduction pledges, made in Mexico five years ago, a UN statement said on Monday.

The two-day meeting, set to open Tuesday, will bring together finance ministers, central Bank governors and other senior officials as well as delegates from the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the World Trade Organisation, the private sector and non-governmental organisations.

The review itself is to take place at talks in Doha late next year.

At the 2002 Monterrey conference in Mexico, developing countries pledged accountability and good governance in marshalling domestic resources for their development.

In exchange, the developing world promised increased aid, debt relief as well as a European Union timetable to reach a 0,7 per cent official development assistance (ODA.) target by 2015, with the aim of meeting the poverty-reduction Millennium Development Goals (MDG) by 2015.

Since then, UN officials say poor countries have sought to enhance macroeconomic and fiscal management while boosting social spending but commitments for new resources from donors to achieve the MDG have not been fully met.

"Millions of lives quite literally hang in the balance," said General Assembly President Srgjan Kerim, who opened the session yesterday.

"Achieving the MDG and delivering on our promises is above all a test of our moral obligations," he noted.

"We should not allow commitments to become words that symbolise broken promises."

UN chief Ban Ki-moon, who is also to address the meeting, said that "so far, progress on the Monterrey Consensus has been mixed.

"Since 2002, levels of official development assistance, including new commitments, have risen," he added.

"But the sustained increase required to meet the targets has not materialised.

Without rapid progress, by 2015 there will be more people struggling in poverty."

Implementation of the so-called Monterrey consensus is to come under scrutiny at a Qatar review conference in 2008.

### Nampa-AFP

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### Pakistan, as G77 head, calls for reforming int'l financial system

UNITED NATIONS, Oct 24 (APP): Pakistan, speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 (developing countries) and China, has called for developing a strategic consensus on the comprehensive reform of the international financial and monetary system that would accommodate the interests of developing countries.

"(We) support a comprehensive reform of the international financial architecture, including enhancement in the voting powers of developing countries, within a specific time frame," Pakistani minister of state for economic affairs Hina



RabBani Khar told the UN General Assembly on Tuesday.

The 192-member assembly is hosting a High-Level Dialogue on Financing for Development to lay the groUNd for a review of anti-poverty promises pledged by world leaders in the 2002 Monterrey Consensus in Mexico.

At the 2002 Monterrey conference in Mexico, developing coUNtries took primary responsibility for their development, and for mobilizing domestic resources. Developed coUNtries, in turn, agreed to provide assistance and promote an enabling international environment for development.

In a her comprehensive statement on behalf of G77 and China, She said Monterrey Consensus suffered from a “serious implementation deficit”. While some developing coUNtries had exhibited dynamic economic performance, many coUNtries remained mired in a vicious circle of poverty, far from achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

Despite improved debt management strategies and intense international cooperation on debt relief, the total external debt of developing coUNtries had increased and the conditions that led to the global debt crisis were still in existence, she said. In this regard, the state minister reiterated G77 stand that debt sustainability should be linked to a coUNtry’s capacity to achieve its national development goals, including global development targets.

The low levels of Official development assistance (ODA.), the current impasse in the Doha RoUNd of trade negotiations, and the global economic slowdown were also bad signs, the state minister said.

Taken together, she said, they pointed to both a deficit of implementation of the Monterrey Consensus and the issues that Monterrey was UNable to adequately address.

In the future, the G-77 chairperson said the international commUNity should redouble its efforts to enhance ODA. and to secure additional resources for developing coUNtries. Aid should be delivered more effectively and be more responsive to the needs of recipient nations.

The UNited Nations, she said, should increase the ability of poor and vulnerable economies to attract private and multilateral investments and, overall, the Member States should do more to help solve the external debt problems of developing coUNtries.

Comprehensive reform of the international financial architecture was also necessary, though that alone would not resolve the fUNdamental problems of instability and UNavailability of liquidity for developing coUNtries.

A strategic consensus on the comprehensive reform of the international financial and monetary system was imperative, she added. Innovative and complex financial products developed and introduced in advanced coUNtries should be regulated to temper their impact on developing coUNtries.

Hina Khar concluded with a call to break the current impasse in the Doha RoUNd of trade negotiations and reiterated her commitment to its timely and positive completion.

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13:28, October 24, 2007

#### UN hosts high-level meeting on development financing

The 62nd session of the UN General Assembly began on Tuesday the High-Level Dialogue on Financing for Development to lay the groUNd for a review of anti-poverty promises pledged by world leaders in the 2002 Monterrey Consensus in Mexico.

In Monterrey, developing coUNtries took primary responsibility for their development, and for mobilizing domestic resources. Developed coUNtries, in turn, agreed to provide assistance and promote an enabling international environment for development.

Since then developing coUNtries have worked to improve macroeconomic and fiscal management and increased social expenditure but commitments to provide new resources to support achievement of the Millennium

Development Goals (MDG) have not been fully met, according to a report by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon.

Speaking at the meeting, General Assembly President Srgjan Kerim, said that the assembly's two-day dialogue would begin the intergovernmental follow-up process to review the implementation of the 2002 Monterrey Consensus and assess the challenges ahead.

He encouraged government delegations and other stakeholders to engage in a frank, inclusive and open exchange of views in order to make a substantive contribution to the follow-up Conference in Doha, Qatar, next year.

"We cannot go on with 'business as usual,'" Kerim said. "Millions of lives quite literally hang in the balance. Achieving the MDG and delivering on our promises is above all a test of our moral obligations."

"We should not allow commitments to become words that symbolize broken promises. The international community should be able to look back in 2015 and agree that no effort was spared to achieve the MDG," Kerim said.

In his remarks at the meeting, Ban urged developed countries to honor their commitment to providing development assistance to developing countries.

"So far, progress on the Monterrey Consensus has also been mixed," Ban said. "Since 2002, levels of official development assistance (ODA.), including new commitments, rose only to fall off since last year."

"More importantly, the sustained increase required to meet targets agreed to decades ago, and reiterated in 2002 and 2005, have not materialized," he said.

"Closing this funding gap is essential if we are to alleviate extreme poverty, fight diseases and achieve the other development targets," he said, adding that the challenge is even greater now with the need to mitigate and adapt to climate change.

"This can only happen when donors meet their ODA. commitment targets, and channel more resources through national budgets," he said.

The president of the General-Assembly and the secretary-general agreed that there is a clear need to take urgent and concerted action. Without rapid progress, by 2015 there will be more people struggling in poverty, and millions of people will not realize the basic promises of the MDG in their lives.

The two-day meeting is expected to bring together finance ministers, central Bank governors and representatives from world finance and trade institutions, the private sector and nongovernmental organizations. The high-level event will prepare for the International Review Conference on Financing for Development to be held in Doha late next year.

The Monterrey conference, which was held in March 2002 in Mexico, attracted 50 heads of state or government, over 200 ministers as well as leaders from the private sector, civil society and all the major intergovernmental financial, trade, economic, and monetary organizations.

The Monterrey Consensus reached at the conference calls on developed and developing countries to undertake important actions in domestic, international and systemic policy matters.

In December 2002, the General Assembly set in motion a detailed follow-up intergovernmental process, as called for in the consensus, to monitor implementation and carry forward the international discussion of policies for financing development.

Source: Xinhua

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UN chief urges rich nations to honour aid pledges

UNITED NATIONS, Oct. 23 (APP) -- UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on Tuesday urged developed countries to honor their commitment to providing development assistance to developing countries. Speaking at a high-level UN event on financing for development, the UN chief said that progress on the implementation of the 2002 Monterrey Consensus has been mixed.

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“Since 2002, levels of official development assistance, including new commitments, rose only to fall off since last year,” Ban said.

“More importantly, the sustained increase required to meet targets agreed to decades ago, and reiterated in 2002 and 2005, have not materialized,” he said.

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“This can only happen when donors meet their ODA. commitment targets, and channel more resources through national budgets,” he said.

The High-Level Dialogue on Financing for Development, hosted by the 62nd session of the UN General Assembly, is to lay the groUNd for a review of anti-poverty promises pledged by world leaders in the 2002 Monterrey Consensus in Mexico.

At the 2002 Monterrey conference in Mexico, developing coUNtries took primary responsibility for their development, and for mobilizing domestic resources. Developed coUNtries, in turn, agreed to provide assistance and promote an enabling international environment for development.

#### PML reacts to BB statement

LAHORE, Oct 23 (APP): Provincial Ministers, Advisors, office-bearers of Pakistan Muslim League and a large number of Senators and MPAs have strongly condemned the reaction of Benazir Bhutto on the statement made by President Pakistan Muslim League, Ch. Shujaat Hussain.

They said that the leaders and diehards of Peoples Party are issuing such statements deliberately in order to disrupt the political environment.

In a joint statement, Provincial Ministers, Abdul Aleem Khan, Hasnain Jehanian Gardezi, Ch. Iqbal, Ajmal Cheema, Rana Shamshad, Advisors to CM, Qaiser Ameen Butt, Mansha Sandhu, Hafiz Iqbal Khakwani, Makhdoom Ali Akbar Mehmud, Saba Sadiq, Syed Majida Zaidi, Memona Shaheen, President PML Lahore, Mian MUNir, Secretary General, Sohail Mehmud Butt, Senior Vice President PML PUNjab, Mian Abdul Sattar, Haji Shehbaz Ahmad, President Labour Wing, Syed Faqir Hussain Bokhari, Ch. Riaz, Ramzan Bhatti and others have said that other political leaders are also issuing statements regarding Karachi tragedy like the apprehensions expressed by Ch. Shujaat Hussain. Benazir or any other office bearer has full right to respond it, they added.

They said that the way Benazir is talking is reflective of the fact that there is something wrong at the bottom. They advised PPP leadership to refrain from issuing such statements and leveling baseless allegations otherwise Muslim League workers have right to respond in the same tone. They said that PPP has lost its popularity and the fact will come to surface in the general elections. They said that candidates of PML will contest election on every seat and will defeat PPP.

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#### Poor coUNtries dominate high level UN meeting

October 24, 2007, 05:00

By Thami Dickson

The world cannot go on with business as usual while millions of lives of poor people literally hang in the balance. This emerged at the kick-off of a high level meeting at the UN headquarters in New York.

This meeting is reviewing the outcomes of a groUNdbreaking UN conference held in Monterrey, Mexico, in 2002 where the rich coUNtries made commitments to financing development in regions such as Africa.

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Finance ministers, central Bank governors, global finance and trade institutions have attended the meeting, examining ways of closing the gap between the rich and poor of the world.

## Economic growth

Summarising the progress so far, the UN secretary general's report says some developing countries have achieved impressive economic growth and have done so with little or no official development assistance.

This is despite the funding promises made by the developed world five years ago which never materialised. But with climate change posing serious threats and the MDG unlikely to be realised in Africa, the need to assist developing countries is even deeper.

It is six years now since the Doha round of WTO negotiations started and the end is still not near. The second UN conference on financing for development is scheduled for Doha in Qatar in 2008.

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Monday, October 29, 2007 10:29 PM GMT+06:00

Published On: 2007-10-24

Business

UN to review poverty reduction goals

Afp, UNited Nations

The UN General Assembly is to host a meeting this week to lay the groundwork for a review of global poverty reduction pledges, made in Mexico five years ago, a UN statement said Monday.

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Since then, UN officials say poor countries have sought to enhance macroeconomic and fiscal management while boosting social spending but commitments for new resources from donors to achieve the MDG have not been fully met.

"Millions of lives quite literally hang in the balance," said General Assembly President Srgjan Kerim, who will open the session Tuesday.

"Achieving the MDG and delivering on our promises is above all a test of our moral obligations," he noted. "We should not allow commitments to become words that symbolize broken promises."

UN chief Ban Ki-moon who is also to address the meeting said that "so far, progress on the Monterrey Consensus has been mixed.

"Since 2002, levels of official development assistance, including new commitments, have risen," he added.

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“But the sustained increase required to meet the targets has not materialized. Without rapid progress, by 2015 there will be more people struggling in poverty.”

Implementation of the so-called Monterrey consensus is to come UNder scrutiny at a Qatar review conference in 2008.

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Antigua’s finance minister outlines debt challenge at UN

Published on Wednesday, October 24, 2007

NEW YORK, USA: Minister of Finance and Economy Dr Errol Cort has outlined the challenges that Antigua and Barbuda faces in securing finance from the international commUNITY for development projects.

Cort told the UNited Nations General Assembly that the single most pressing international finance challenge for Antigua and Barbuda is reducing the coUNtry’s external debt to a sustainable level. He was at the time addressing the UNited Nations General Assembly, during a special high-level meeting on international financing for development.

Minister of Finance and Economy Dr Errol Cort delivers an address to the UNited Nations General Assembly, outlining the challenges in sourcing finance for development

“It is extremely challenging for us to make mid- to long-term development plans backed by soUNd economic growth forecasts in the face of persistent levels of UNSustainable debt. It also challenges our ability to accurately forecast social spending beyond the short-term,” Cort told the other ministers and delegates in attendance.

The Minister joined other Economic and Finance Ministers from all over the world gathered at the UN to review progress made in implementing the international commUNITY’s commitments to financing development in low and middle-income coUNtries.

In addition to drawing attention to the issue of UNSustainable debt, he also highlighted some of the challenges faced in attracting foreign direct investment (FDI) and making sure investors contribute significantly to economic growth and increased standards of living. He pointed out, also, that although FDI has great potential for economic growth and for providing revenues needed for social spending, investors are often weary of small, vulnerable economies.

“Investors hedge their risks and in so doing they often choose to look to capital markets that are less risky than small-island states. The international system should help such coUNtries manage risks through, for example, lowering risks to investment in physical infrastructure projects and the provision of capacity building support to create the necessary regulatory framework,” Cort told the assembly.

The Minister will continue the dialogue on financing development tomorrow, when he will join other ministers and stakeholders for an interactive, frank exchange of views on the topic of debt reduction and how it can help coUNtries like Antigua and Barbuda achieve higher levels of economic growth and social development.

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Pide Ban cumplir compromisos del Consenso de Monterrey

Martes 23 de octubre (18:15 hrs.)

La ONU declara que el objetivo es ayudar a los países pobres

La comUNidad internacional suscribió en 2002 dicha declaración

El Financiero en línea

Naciones UNidas, 23 de octubre.- El secretario general de la ONU, Ban Ki-moon, pidió hoy a la comUNidad internac-



ional que haga todo lo posible por cumplir los compromisos asumidos en Monterrey en 2002 para ayudar al desarrollo de los países menos avanzados.

Ban inauguró el debate de Alto Nivel sobre Financiamiento para el Desarrollo, que concluirá mañana y reUNió a decenas de ministros, representantes de Bancos centrales y fUNCionarios de instituciones multilaterales.

La comUNidad internacional suscribió en 2002 la declaración conocida como Consenso de Monterrey, nombre de la ciudad mexicana en la que se firmó, y que tiene como objetivo cumplir las Metas del Milenio fijadas para 2015.

Entre otras, estas metas incluyen reducir a la mitad la pobreza extrema y el hambre, promover la educación primaria UNiversal, reducir la mortalidad infantil y detener el contagio del VIH/SIDA para esa fecha. De acuerdo con el consenso alcanzado, los países pobres asumen la responsabilidad principal para su desarrollo y la movilización de sus recursos nacionales.

Al mismo tiempo, las potencias ricas se comprometen a brindar asistencia y favorecer UN ambiente internacional que permita el desarrollo. En 2002, recordó Ban, se alcanzó UN “hito en la búsqueda del progreso económico y social”, cuando los países pobres y ricos forjaron UNa nueva alianza para el desarrollo.

No obstante, los países menos avanzados y organismos internacionales critican que los más desarrollados no realicen todo lo necesario para cumplir los compromisos.

“Pido a la comUNidad internacional que haga todo lo posible para cumplir los compromisos hechos en Monterrey para que todos los países, y todo el mUNdo, especialmente los más pobres se puedan beneficiar”, indicó el secretario general de la Organización de las Naciones UNidas (ONU).

Entre otros asUNTos, Ban consideró que es prioritario reducir la carga de la deuda de los países de bajos ingresos. “Se requiere acción inmediata para dar UNa mayor voz y participación de los países en desarrollo en la toma de decisiones, particularmente en las instituciones financieras internacionales”, dijo.

“Esto es esencial para que esas instituciones tengan más legitimidad, credibilidad y eficacia”, agregó Ban. Las críticas también vinieron de parte del Grupo de los 77 (G-77), que reúne a 132 países subdesarrollados y China. Su representante de turno, la ministra paquistaní de Economía, Hina RabBani Khar, señaló que el Consenso de Monterrey “sufre UN serio déficit de implementación”.

Ante el pleno de la Asamblea General, afirmó que aUNque algUNos países en desarrollo muestran progresos, la mayoría continúan atrapados en UN círculo vicioso de pobreza, sin capacidad productiva y sin atractivos para inversiones extranjeras.

“La deuda externa de los países subdesarrollados continúa creciendo a pesar de todo y, lo más importante, las condiciones que condujeron a la crisis global de la deuda aún persisten”, indicó. (Con información de Notimex/MVC)

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La Asamblea General de la ONU revisa el Consenso de Monterrey con ojo crítico

EFE - martes, 23 de octubre, 20.40

Naciones UNidas, 23 oct (EFE).- La Asamblea General de la ONU inició hoy dos días de debate de alto nivel en los que se revisará con ojo crítico el progreso en la implementación del Consenso de Monterrey sobre la financiación para el desarrollo.

(Publicidad)

El secretario general de la ONU, Ban Ki-moon, calificó en su intervención de “mixto” el progreso en el cumplimiento del acuerdo suscrito en la ciudad mexicana en 2002, que creó UN nuevo marco de referencia en la cooperación interna-



cional.

Los países en desarrollo se comprometieron a tomar la responsabilidad de poner sus gobiernos en orden e invertir sus propios recursos, mientras que los países más ricos prometieron aumentar su asistencia y crear las condiciones internacionales que permitieran crecer a las economías más pobres.

Ban señaló que en los últimos cinco años UN buen número de países de ingresos moderados se han beneficiado de UN fuerte crecimiento económico, pero al mismo tiempo la región del África subsahariana no está en vías de poder alcanzar los Objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio en 2015.

Al mismo tiempo, el incremento en la generosidad del mUNdo industrializado que siguió a Monterrey se invirtió el año pasado, por lo que no se han cumplido las metas en financiación para el desarrollo establecidas en 2002 y reiteradas en 2005, apUNtó Ban.

AUNque en el 2006 se destinó a nivel internacional casi 104.000 millones en asistencia al desarrollo, que es prácticamente el doble de lo que se desembolsó en 2001, la media de los países más desarrollados está aún lejos de invertir el 0,7 por ciento de su Producto Interior Bruto (PIB), que es la meta fijada por la ONU.

“Cerrar esa brecha en la financiación es esencial si queremos reducir la pobreza extrema, combatir enfermedades y alcanzar los otros objetivos del desarrollo”, agregó.

El líder de la ONU también instó a que los países más pobres tengan UNa mayor voz en las instituciones multilaterales, como el Banco MUNDial (BM) y el Fondo Monetario Internacional (FMI).

Precisamente estas dos instituciones fueron criticadas por el presidente de la Asamblea General, Srgjan Kerim, por haber enviado al debate UNa delegación de bajo nivel.

En su intervención, Kerim afirmó que “hemos llegado a UNa coyUNTura crucial en la agenda de la financiación para el desarrollo”.

“A pesar de las promesas hechas, el progreso ha sido mucho más lento del esperado. AUNque se han logrado éxitos, muchos de los objetivos fijados para la financiación del desarrollo en 2002 no se han alcanzado”, lamentó.

Kerim aseguró que los ODM se pueden alcanzar si se cumple la promesa de añadir 50.000 millones de dólares para el desarrollo antes de 2010 efectuada por el G8 hace dos años, y la que este año hizo este mismo grupo en Heiligendamm de destinar otros 60.000 millones a combatir el Sida, la malaria y la tuberculosis.

“Mientras los países en desarrollo adoptan estrategias de desarrollo nacionales, los donantes deben cumplir con su compromiso de proporcionar la asistencia adicional que les permita lograr el éxito”, agregó.

A las intervenciones hoy de los países miembros de la ONU en la sesión plenaria de la Asamblea General, le seguirá mañana la formación de grupos de trabajo divididos de acuerdo a los seis temas incluidos en el Consenso de Monterrey.

Estos son la movilización de recursos internos de los países en desarrollo, la inversión extranjera, el comercio internacional, la asistencia oficial, la condonación de la deuda y el sistema financiero internacional.

Tanto Ban como Kerim señalaron en sus intervenciones que la labor realizada estos dos días en Nueva York servirá para preparar la reUNión de alto nivel en Doha, Qatar, de 2008, en la que se evaluará el grado de implementación del acuerdo de 2002 y qué pasos se deben seguir para cumplirlo.

La Asamblea General de la ONU revisa el Consenso de Monterrey con ojo crítico

AÑADIR A MI YAHOO/RSSVer la lista completa »

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Fecha de impresión: 29-October-2007

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onu-desarrollo

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## Censuran deficiencias en fórmulas para desarrollo del tercer mUNdo

Tomás A. Granados

Naciones UNidas, 23 oct (PL) El consenso alcanzado hace cinco años entre países ricos y pobres en la ciudad mexicana de Monterrey fue sometido hoy severas críticas en el curso de UN debate de alto nivel en ONU sobre financiamiento para el desarrollo.

En la sesión inaugural de ese debate para revisar hasta dónde se ha avanzado con ese acuerdo, el poderoso Grupo de los 77 (G-77), que reúne a 132 países subdesarrollados y China, señaló que el Consenso de Monterrey “sufre UN serio déficit de implementación”.

AUNque algUNos países en desarrollo muestran progresos, la mayoría continúa atrapado en UN círculo vicioso de pobreza, sin capacidad productiva y sin atractivos para inversiones extranjeras, dijo la ministra paquistaní de Economía, Hina RabBani Khar.

“La deuda externa de los países subdesarrollados continúa creciendo a pesar de todo y, lo más importante, las condiciones que condujeron a la crisis global de la deuda aún persisten”, indicó la titular paquistaní hablar ante el plenario a nombre del G-77.

De acuerdo con el consenso alcanzado en 2002 en Monterrey, los países pobres asumían la responsabilidad principal para su desarrollo y la movilización de sus recursos nacionales.

Al mismo tiempo, las potencias ricas se comprometían a brindar asistencia y favorecer UN ambiente internacional que permitiera el desarrollo.

La representante del G-77 destacó además que a pesar del Consenso de Monterrey el flujo de capital neto de los países en desarrollo hacia los países desarrollados aumentó de 533 mil millones de dólares en 2005 a 662 mil millones en 2006.

Para el mayoritario grupo de países subdesarrollados en el seno de la ONU, estos hechos demuestran que “el Consenso de Monterrey es incapaz de enfrentarlos de manera adecuada”.

En la inauguración del debate de alto nivel sobre financiamiento para el desarrollo que deberá concluir mañana, el secretario general de la ONU, Ban Ki Moon, insistió en la necesidad de que los países ricos incrementen su ayuda a las naciones pobres.

Según el propio G-77, la gran mayoría de las naciones subdesarrolladas están aún muy lejos de alcanzar las discretas metas de desarrollo fijadas por la cumbre mUNdial celebrada en esta sede en 2000.

En ese sentido, el titular de la ONU afirmó que el logro de esas metas, entre ellas reducir la pobreza y el hambre en el mUNdo, depende como nUNca antes de “si compartimos responsabilidades y cumplimos nuestros compromisos”

lac tgj

PL-190

Revisará ONU implementación de estrategias para el desarrollo

Tomás A. Granados

Naciones UNidas, 23 oct (PL) UN debate de alto nivel comenzará hoy en la Asamblea General de la ONU para revisar la implementación hasta el momento de compromisos internacionales sobre el financiamiento para el desarrollo y lucha contra la pobreza.

Las sesiones de este debate se prolongarán hasta mañana con la participación de ministros de Economía, directores de Bancos nacionales, representantes de instituciones financieras mUNDiales y otros altos dignatarios de los 192 países miembros de la ONU.

Según fUNcionarios diplomáticos en esta sede, los participantes en esta reUNión estudiarán el cumplimiento del acuerdo firmado en 2002 entre países ricos y subdesarrollados en la ciudad mexicana de Monterrey para la lucha internacional contra la pobreza.

Los países pobres aceptaron en esa ocasión mejorar la gobernabilidad, luchar contra la corrupción y fortalecer sus instituciones, mientras las potencias ricas convinieron en aumentar su ayuda económica y crear condiciones para el desarrollo.

En los dos días de discusiones, los participantes precisarán lo que se ha avanzado y lo que aún falta por avanzar para alcanzar en 2015 los discretos Objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio (ODM), establecidos en la cumbre mUNDial de la ONU celebrada en 2000.

Entre esas metas figura reducir a la mitad el índice de pobreza extrema, así como el número de los que padecen de hambre, estimado en 854 millones de personas.

Pero según recientes informes de la ONU, los países del Africa subsahariana ya han sido declarados fuera de juego en los empeños por alcanzar los ocho indicadores establecidos como ODM.

“Nos encontramos en UNa coyUNTura crítica en este proceso, porque aUNque se ha conseguido avanzar nos queda mucho camino por recorrer”, según dijo a la prensa Robert Pollock, asesor especial de la presidencia de la Asamblea General de la ONU.

AUNque en 2006 se destinaron casi 104 mil millones de dólares en ayuda al desarrollo, casi el doble que en 2001, la mayoría de los países ricos no parecen dispuestos a invertir el 0,7 por ciento de su Producto Interior Bruto (PIB), que es la meta fijada por la ONU.

A juicio de Oscar Rafael de Rojas, del Departamento de AsUNTos Económicos y Sociales de la ONU, el debate de alto nivel que comienza hoy servirá para evaluar el cumplimiento de cada UNo de los actores de los compromisos adquiridos.

“Esta será UNa buena ocasión para revisar si se necesita UN cambio en las estrategias”, añadió.

Según los organizadores de esta reUNión, los participantes intervendrán en sesiones plenarios de la Asamblea General y participarán en las discusiones en seis paneles que abordarán respectivamente los seis temas del Consenso de Monterrey.

Esos temas son la movilización de recursos internos de los países en desarrollo, la inversión extranjera, el comercio internacional, la ayuda oficial, la condonación de la deuda y el sistema financiero internacional.

prl tgj

PL-7

Revela ONU poca ayuda países ricos para Africa

Naciones UNidas, 22 oct (PL) Naciones UNidas reveló hoy la poca ayuda de los países donantes al desarrollo del continente africano y señaló que se necesitan esfuerzos considerables para movilizar el nivel de recursos necesarios para el

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desarrollo de esa región.

UN estudio de la Comisión Económica para África (CEA) precisa que los gobiernos africanos realizan esfuerzos para movilizar los recursos nacionales, pero las tasas de ahorro en esas naciones son inadecuadas comparadas con los requerimientos de inversiones.

Las inversiones extranjeras directas han crecido, pero las autoridades africanas consideran que son insuficientes y demasiado concentradas en el sector de recursos naturales para ayudar a acelerar el crecimiento económico y el desarrollo, agrega CEA.

A juicio de los especialistas de ONU, los políticos africanos ven progresos significativos en el alivio de la deuda, pero consideran que los donantes no ofrecen respaldo en cuanto a los acuerdos vinculados al financiamiento del desarrollo.

Este estudio de la CEA está destinado a medir el progreso hacia la obtención de los objetivos del Consenso de Monterrey, UN plan de acción adoptada en 2002 para lanzar UNA nueva asociación entre países donantes y receptores.

El Consenso de Monterrey es considerado el primer intento a nivel mundial de enfrentar integralmente los desafíos del financiamiento para el desarrollo, en particular en el marco de la obtención de los Objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio.

Esas metas socio-económicas destinadas a reducir el hambre, la pobreza y las enfermedades, entre otras, fueron adoptadas por la Cumbre de la ONU de 2000.

La divulgación de los resultados de la investigación de ECA ocurren en vísperas de la celebración en esta sede de UN diálogo de alto nivel sobre Finanzas para el Desarrollo, que sesionará miércoles y jueves.

aprir

Búsqueda

Búsqueda: in

La ONU inicia mañana UN debate sobre la implementación del Consenso Monterrey

EFE - IUNes, 22 de octubre, 21.59

Naciones UNidas, 22 oct (EFE).- La Asamblea General de la ONU inicia mañana UN debate de alto nivel en el que se revisará la implementación del Consenso de Monterrey que desde 2002 enmarca la estrategia internacional para luchar contra la pobreza.

Publicidad

Decenas de ministros, funcionarios de Bancos centrales y representantes de las instituciones financieras multilaterales debatirán durante el martes y el miércoles el nivel de cumplimiento del acuerdo que se selló en esa ciudad mexicana entre los países desarrollados y los que están en desarrollo con la meta de alcanzar los Objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio (ODM) en 2015.

Los países más pobres aceptaron mejorar la gobernabilidad, luchar contra la corrupción y fortalecer sus instituciones, mientras que los más ricos aceptaron aumentar su asistencia económica y crear UNA atmósfera internacional propicia para el desarrollo.

“Nos encontramos en UNA coyuntura crítica en este proceso, porque aunque se ha conseguido avanzar, nos queda mucho camino por recorrer”, observó Robert Pollock, representante del presidente de la Asamblea General, Srgjan Kerim.

Tal como señaló en UN reciente informe el secretario general de la ONU, Ban Ki-moon, los países en desarrollo en general han mejorado su gestión macroeconómica y aumentado su gasto social.

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Al mismo tiempo, los países más ricos han aumentado su asistencia directa y UN mayor intercambio comercial ha favorecido el crecimiento de numerosas economías de países pobres.

Pero los resultados cambian mucho según la región del planeta, según la ONU, que en recientes informes ha señalado que los países del África Subsahariana están en camino de incumplir todas las ocho metas de los ODM.

AUNque se ha producido UN aumento de la inversión en países en vías de desarrollo, que ahora acaparan UN 35 por ciento de las inversiones mUNDiales, ese flujo de capital se concentra en UNa docena de países y en materias primas como el petróleo.

Al mismo tiempo, aUNque en el 2006 se destinó a nivel internacional casi 104.000 millones en asistencia al desarrollo, que es prácticamente el doble de lo que se desembolsó en 2001, la media de los países más desarrollados está aún lejos de invertir el 0,7 por ciento de su Producto Interior Bruto (PIB), que es la meta fijada por la ONU.

Óscar de Rojas, del departamento de AsUNtos Económicos y Sociales de la ONU, señaló que el debate servirá para evaluar el cumplimiento de cada UNo de los actores de los compromisos adquiridos y revisar si se necesita UN cambio en las estrategias.

En ese sentido, indicó que UN buen número de los países en desarrollo solicitarán a los donantes que les comUNiquen con suficiente antelación sus presupuestos de ayuda al desarrollo para que se pueda planificar la inversión de esa asistencia a largo plazo, agregó.

El debate de alto nivel se estructurará en sesiones plenarias de la Asamblea General y en grupos de trabajo divididos de acuerdo a los seis temas incluidos en el Consenso de Monterrey.

Estos son la movilización de recursos internos de los países en desarrollo, la inversión extranjera, el comercio internacional, la asistencia oficial, la condonación de la deuda y el sistema financiero internacional.

La ONU inicia mañana UN debate sobre la implementación del Consenso Monterrey Bottom of Form

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onu-desarrollo (previa)

ONU debate puesta en práctica del Consenso de Monterrey contra la pobreza

La Asamblea General de la ONU comienza mañana, martes, UN debate en el que se revisará la implementación del Consenso de Monterrey que desde 2002 enmarca la estrategia internacional para luchar contra la pobreza.

Decenas de ministros, directivos de Bancos centrales y de las instituciones financieras multilaterales estudiarán el martes y miércoles el cumplimiento del acuerdo firmado en esa ciudad mexicana entre países avanzados y los que están en desarrollo con la meta de alcanzar los Objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio (ODM) en 2015.

Los países más pobres aceptaron mejorar la gobernabilidad, luchar contra la corrupción y fortalecer sus instituciones, y los más ricos aumentar su ayuda económica y crear UNa atmósfera internacional propicia para el desarrollo.

'Nos encontramos en UNa coyUNTura crítica en este proceso, porque aUNque se ha conseguido avanzar nos queda mucho camino por recorrer', observó Robert Pollock, representante del presidente de la Asamblea General, Srgjan Kerim.



Tal como señaló en UN reciente informe el secretario general de la ONU, Ban Ki-moon, los países en desarrollo en general han mejorado su gestión macroeconómica y aumentado su gasto social.

Al mismo tiempo, los países más ricos han incrementado su asistencia directa, y su mayor intercambio comercial ha favorecido el crecimiento de numerosas economías de países pobres.

Pero los resultados cambian mucho según la región del planeta, según la ONU, que en recientes informes ha señalado que los países del Africa subsahariana incumplirán las ocho metas de los ODM.

AUNque se ha logrado UN aumento de la inversión en países en vías de desarrollo, que ahora acaparan el 35 por ciento mUNDial, ese flujo de capital se concentra en UNa docena de países y en materias primas como el petróleo.

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En ese sentido, dijo que UN buen número de los países en desarrollo solicitarán a los donantes que les comUNiquen con suficiente antelación sus presupuestos de ayuda al desarrollo para que se pueda planificar la inversión de esa asistencia a largo plazo, agregó.

El debate de alto nivel se estructurará en sesiones plenarias de la Asamblea General y en grupos de trabajo divididos de acuerdo a los seis temas incluidos en el Consenso de Monterrey.

Esos temas son la movilización de recursos internos de los países en desarrollo, la inversión extranjera, el comercio internacional, la ayuda oficial, la condonación de la deuda y el sistema financiero internacional.

Concluye en ONU diálogo sobre desarrollo sin grandes expectativas

Tomás A. Granados

Naciones UNidas, 24 oct (PL) Representantes de países ricos y pobres concluyen hoy en esta sede mUNDial dos días de diálogo de alto nivel sobre financiamiento para el desarrollo sin grandes expectativas de alivio para severas desigualdades económicas.

La reUNión comenzó la víspera con UN dramático llamado del secretario general de la ONU, Ban ki-Moon, a la comUNidad internacional para que haga todo lo posible por cumplir los compromisos para financiar los Objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio.

Esos compromisos fueron pactados hace cinco años en la ciudad mexicana de Monterrey, pero el examen realizado hasta el momento en estos debates revelan decepcionantes incumplimientos y la incapacidad de ese pacto ante los problemas el subdesarrollo.

UNa cumbre mUNDial celebrada en esta sede en 2000 fijó como metas para el 2005 reducir a la mitad la pobreza extrema y el hambre, promover la educación primaria UNiversal, reducir la mortalidad infantil y detener el contagio del VIH SIDA.

Los debates en la Asamblea general han estado dedicados a revisar de manera crítica el progreso en la implementación del Consenso de Monterrey sobre la financiación para el logro de los Objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio.

A juzgar por el criterio generalizado entre los participantes en este debate, el cumplimiento de los acuerdos contraídos por las potencias ricas en la ciudad mexicana en 2002 han tenido UN decepcionante progreso mixto.

Para el poderoso Grupo de los 77 (G-77), que reúne a 132 países subdesarrollados y China, el Consenso de Monterrey "sufre UN serio déficit de implementación".

AUNque algUNos países en desarrollo muestran progresos, la mayoría continúa atrapado en UN círculo vicioso de po-

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breza, sin capacidad productiva y sin atractivos para inversiones extranjeras, dijo la ministra paquistaní de Economía, Hina RabBani Khar.

“La deuda externa de los países subdesarrollados continúa creciendo a pesar de todo y, lo más importante, las condiciones que condujeron a la crisis global de la deuda aún persisten”, indicó la titular paquistaní hablar ante el plenario a nombre del G-77.

Destacó que a pesar del Consenso de Monterrey el flujo de capital neto de los países en desarrollo hacia los países desarrollados aumentó de 533 mil millones de dólares en 2005 a 662 mil millones en 2006.

El Consenso de Monterrey, que creó UN nuevo marco de referencia en la cooperación internacional, recoge el compromiso de los países en desarrollo a tomar la responsabilidad de poner sus gobiernos en orden e invertir sus propios recursos.

A su vez, los países más ricos prometieron aumentar su asistencia y crear las condiciones internacionales que permitieran crecer a las economías más pobres.

Pero esa generosidad del mUNdo industrializado mostrada en Monterrey retrocedió el año pasado, según indicaron participantes en en estos debates.

prl tgj PL-7

ONU : le dialogue de haut niveau sur le financement du développement prévu les 23 et 24 octobre

Des ministres des Finances et du Développement ainsi que des gouverneurs de Banques centrales se rencontreront, les 23 et 24 octobre, à l'ONU, afin d'évaluer la mise en oeuvre du Consensus sur le financement du développement, établi à Monterrey en 2002, selon UN commUNiqué de l'ONU publié lUNDi.

Le dialogue de haut niveau sur le financement du développement, dont les débats seront dirigés par le président de l'Assemblée générale, M. Srgjan Kerim, entendra notamment des interventions du secrétaire général des Nations UNies, M. Ban Ki-moon, du président du Conseil économique et social, M. Dalius Cekuolis, ainsi que de hauts responsables de la Banque mondiale, du Fonds monétaire international (FMI), de l'Organisation mondiale du commerce (OMC), de la Conférence des Nations UNies sur le commerce et le développement (CNUCED), et du Programme des Nations UNies pour le développement (PNUD).

UNe trentaine de ministres des Finances et du développement, en provenance de pays donateurs et de nations en développement, prendront part aux travaux.

Ce dialogue inclura toutes les parties prenantes au financement du développement : gouvernements, entreprises, société civile et institutions financières multilatérales.

Cet évènement, qui a lieu après la réUNion annuelle du FMI et de la Banque mondiale, qui a lieu ce week-end, doit contribuer aux préparatifs de la Conférence internationale de suivi de la mise en S uivre des engagements sur le financement du développement, qui se tiendra à Doha, au Qatar, dans la deuxième moitié de 2008.

Lors de la première Conférence intergouvernementale sur le financement du développement, qui a eu lieu à Monterrey au Mexique, en mars 2002, plus de 50 chefs d'État et de gouvernements ont adopté le “Consenso de Monterrey”.

Aux termes de ce Consensus, les pays en développement se sont engagés à assumer la responsabilité première de leur développement et de la mobilisation des ressources nationales en la matière.

De leur côté, les pays développés se sont engagés à leur fournir UNe assistance et à promouvoir UN environnement international favorable au développement.

Depuis son adoption, le Consensus de Monterrey est devenu le point de référence majeur de la coopération internation-

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ale en faveur du financement du développement.

Le Consensus de Monterrey couvre six grands domaines thématiques: la mobilisation des ressources financières domestiques; la mobilisation des ressources internationales telles que les investissements étrangers directs et les flux financiers privés; le commerce international; la coopération technique et financière internationale en faveur du développement; la dette extérieure et les questions systémiques, y compris la cohérence des systèmes monétaires, financiers et commerciaux. Le Dialogue de haut niveau débattrà, lui aussi, de ces six grands thèmes et domaines d'intérêt.

Le 23 octobre, le dialogue s'ouvrira par deux séances plénières. Six tables rondes sont organisées le 24 octobre dans la matinée, suivies d'UN dialogue interactif informel dans l'après-midi.

Le président de l'Assemblée générale prononcera UN discours lors de la séance de clôture du Dialogue. Il préparera à cet effet UN résumé des discussions du Dialogue de haut niveau qui servira de document de préparation à la Conférence d'examen prévue en 2008 à Doha.

Source: xinhua

Russie: 210 millions de dollars en 2007 pour le développement des pays pauvres

24/10/2007 11:26 NEW YORK (ONU), 24 octobre - RIA Novosti. La Russie aura versé environ 210 millions de dollars cette année pour le programme de développement des pays pauvres mené par l'ONU, soit plus de cinq fois sa contribution de 2004, a indiqué le vice-ministre russe des Finances Sergueï Stortchak.

“La contribution russe augmente de façon constante et devrait atteindre environ 210 millions de dollars en 2007 selon les estimations, sans tenir compte des dettes annulées”, a-t-il déclaré aux journalistes.

En 2004, la Russie avait contribué à hauteur de 40 millions de dollars aux Objectifs du millénaire pour le développement de l'ONU.

Présidant le G8 en 2006, la Russie s'était engagée à verser entre 500 et 600 millions de dollars dans les quatre ou cinq années à venir pour les programmes de lutte contre les maladies infectieuses, la pauvreté et l'analphabétisme, a rappelé M. Stortchak.

“D'ici quatre ou cinq ans, le niveau annuel des ressources allouées par la Russie à ces objectifs devrait se rapprocher du demi-milliard de dollars si les circonstances s'y prêtent”, a-t-il poursuivi.

La Russie est en train de devenir UN pays donateur solide, ce qui correspond à son nouveau potentiel économique et aux objectifs politiques qu'elle s'est fixé, a-t-il ajouté.

UNE discussion de haut-niveau de l'Assemblée générale de l'ONU a eu lieu mardi au siège des Nations UNies sur le financement du développement.

Ban Ki-moon invite les pays riches à respecter leurs engagements

Le secrétaire général de l'ONU, Ban Ki-moon, a appelé les pays développés à respecter leurs engagements sur leur assistance aux pays en développement.

Prenant parole lors du Dialogue de haut niveau sur le financement du développement, M. Ban a indiqué que les progrès enregistrés dans l'application du “Consensus de Monterrey” étaient mixtes.

Le Consensus de Monterrey avait été adopté en mars 2002 lors de la première Conférence intergouvernementale sur le financement du développement qui a eu lieu à Monterrey au Mexique, à laquelle étaient présents plus de 50 chefs d'Etat et de gouvernements. Les pays développés s'étaient engagés à fournir leur assistance aux pays en développement et à promouvoir UN environnement international favorable au développement.

M. Ban a aussi demandé aux pays riches de prendre davantage de mesures pour réduire les dettes dues par les pays en développement, disant que “mettre tous les pays à bas revenu sur UNE soutenue de remboursement de dettes doit être UNE priorité”.

Il a également mis l'accent sur la nécessité de faire participer les pays en développement à la prise de décision au niveau

international, notamment au niveau des institutions financières internationales.

La Conférence de révision internationale sur le financement du développement, prévue en 2008 à Doha, constitue "UNE occasion parfaite à cet effet.

"J'exhorte la commUNauté internationale à faire tout son possible pour mettre en oeuvre les engagements faits à Monterrey", a-t-il dit.

Dans son rapport sur l'application du Consensus de Monterrey, le secrétaire général de l'ONU a indiqué que les pays en développement avaient travaillé pour améliorer la gestion macroéconomique et fiscale et augmenté les dépenses sociales.

Mais les pays développés n'ont pas pleinement honoré leur engagement d'augmenter l'assistance aux efforts des pays en développement pour réaliser les Objectifs du millénaire de développement (OMD).

Le Dialogue de haut niveau sur le financement du développement, organisé par la 62e sessions de l'Assemblée générale de l'ONU, vise à préparer UNE révision des efforts contre la pauvreté, déployés par les pays dans le cadre du Consensus de Monterrey.

Source: xinhua

ONU : ouverture d'UNE réUNion de haut niveau sur la réduction de la pauvreté

2007-10-24 14:00:10

New York (Nations UNies), 24 octobre (XINHUA) -- La 62e session de l'Assemblée générale de l'ONU a entamé mardi le Dialogue de haut niveau sur le financement du développement en vue de jeter les bases d'UNE révision des promesses de lutte contre la pauvreté engagées par les dirigeants mondiaux dans le cadre du Consensus de Monterrey (Mexique) en 2002.

Selon le Consensus de Monterrey, les pays en voie de développement (PVD) se sont engagés à prendre la responsabilité principale de leur développement et la mobilisation des ressources intérieures afin de soutenir ces efforts. Les pays développés ont, pour leur part, accepté de fournir de l'aide et de promouvoir UN environnement international pour assurer le développement.

Dans le cadre de ce plan, les PVD ont beaucoup travaillé pour promouvoir les gestions macroéconomique et fiscale, ainsi qu'augmenter les dépenses sociales pour le développement, cependant, les promesses faites par les pays industrialisés d'accorder de nouvelles ressources en vue de soutenir les efforts afin d'atteindre les Objectifs du Millénaire pour le développement (OMD) ne sont pas totalement remplies pour le moment, a déploré dans UN rapport le secrétaire général (SG) de l'ONU, Ban Ki-moon.

Lors d'UNE intervention durant la conférence, le président de l'Assemblée générale, Srgjan Kerim, a indiqué que le dialogue de deux jours donnera le coup d'envoi du processus intergouvernemental pour réviser la mise en place du Consensus de Monterrey de 2002 et évaluer les défis à relever dans l'avenir.

Il a encouragé les délégations gouvernementales et d'autres bailleurs de fonds internationaux à exprimer leurs points de vue de façon franche, globale et ouverte afin de contribuer substantiellement à la prochaine conférence de Doha (Qatar), prévue pour l'an prochain.

"Nous ne pouvons pas traiter les affaires comme d'habitude", a lancé M. Kerim, "des millions de vies sont en péril, la réalisation des OMD et l'accomplissement de nos promesses sont avant tout UN test pour nos obligations morales".

"Nous ne permettrons jamais aux engagements de devenir lettre morte, ce qui symboliserait UN manque aux promesses. La commUNauté internationale doit être capable de faire UN tour d'horizon en 2015 et de déclarer qu'aucUN effort n'a été épargné pour atteindre les OMD", a affirmé M. Kerim.

Le SG de l'ONU a de son côté appelé, lors de la conférence de haut niveau, les pays développés à honorer leurs engagements en fournissant UNE aide de développement aux PVD.

"Pour le moment, les progrès réalisés par le Consensus de Monterrey sont mixtes", a ajouté M. Ban, "depuis 2002,

les niveaux de l'aide publique au développement (ODA.), y compris les nouveaux engagements, ont augmenté avant d'accuser UNE baisse depuis l'an dernier”.

“Plus important, l'augmentation durable exigée pour atteindre les objectifs fixés il y a des décennies et réitérée en 2002 et en 2005, n'est toujours pas matérialisée”, a-t-il déploré.

“Comblé le manque de fonds est UN élément essentiel si nous voulons alléger la pauvreté extrême, lutter contre les maladies et réaliser d'autres objectifs de développement”, a-t-il affirmé, ajoutant que les défis sont même plus difficiles à relever pour le moment face au changement climatique du monde.

“Cela n'aura lieu que lorsque les donateurs honoreront leurs engagements aux ODA. et octroieront davantage de ressources à travers les budgets nationaux”, a-t-il souligné.

Le président de l'Assemblée générale et le SG de l'ONU ont tous deux mis en valeur UN besoin clair d'entreprendre UNE action urgente et coordonnée, en insistant sur le fait que faute d'intervention rapide, il y aura davantage de personnes vivant dans la pauvreté avant 2015.

La réUNion de deux jours prévoit de rassembler des ministres des Finances, des gouverneurs de Banque centrale, des représentants venant d'institutions financières et commerciales mondiales, ainsi que des responsables de secteurs privés et d'ONG. La rencontre va également faire des préparatifs pour la Conférence internationale sur la révision du financement du développement, qui se tiendra à Doha l'année prochaine.

Le Consensus de Monterrey appelle les pays développés et les PVD à entreprendre des actions importantes dans l'adoption des politiques systématiques nationales et internationales.

En décembre 2002, l'Assemblée générale de l'ONU a introduit dans la motion UN processus intergouvernemental détaillé, à l'appel du consensus, pour superviser l'application de la déclaration et organiser des discussions internationales sur les politiques du financement du développement.

At UN assembly, ministers discuss new push to finance development

Author: Moussa Ahmad

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RSS Feeds

INTERNATIONAL. The future of development financing is UNDER discussion at a high-level UNited Nations event in New York that has attracted the participation of ministers, central Bank governors, government delegates and representatives of business and civil society, meeting to advance a 2002 agreement made in Monterrey, Mexico.

“Progress in implementing the Monterrey Consensus has been mixed,” UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon said at the General Assembly High-Level Dialogue on Financing for Development, which opened today, referring to the UNDERstanding which emerged from the Mexico conference based on developing coUNtries taking primary responsibility for mobilising domestic resources and developed coUNtries agreeing to promote an environment conducive to this effort.

Many developing and low-income coUNtries had experienced stronger economic growth, he said, and official development assistance (ODA.) had improved, but the “sustained increase” in assistance needed to meet the targets agreed in Monterrey has not materialised.

“Closing the fUNDing gap is essential if we are to alleviate extreme poverty, fight diseases and achieve the other development targets,” Ban said.

The Secretary General called on developing coUNtries to adopt policies that support sustained economic growth and job creation. Developed coUNtries must increase capital flows, especially to low-income coUNtries, Ban argued.

He called for a swift, development-oriented conclusion to the Doha trade negotiations, a sustainable path of debt repayment for low-income coUNtries and greater participation by developing coUNtries in international financial institu-

tions.

“If implemented, existing commitments to finance development are enough to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, even in Africa,” said General Assembly President Srgjan Kerim, who is chairing the meeting.

“But each side of the partnership must deliver,” he said. “As developing coUNtries adopt comprehensive national strategies, then donors must deliver on commitments to provide additional assistance to enable them to succeed.”

Kerim called for moving beyond the “simplistic division” of the world into North and South. “We live in a far more complex and integrated global age, with new emerging economic powers and donors as well as private philanthropy in all regions of the world.”

The General Assembly President added that the Monterrey Consensus combined the energies of governments, international institutions, faith groups, civil society and the private sector. Kerim stated that: “If this – the greatest anti-poverty partnership in history – is insufficient to break from ‘business as usual’ many developing coUNtries and campaigners aroUNd the world will be left without hope. Global trust will be irredeemably UNdermined.”

On behalf of the group of least developed coUNtries, Bangladesh’s Mirza Azizul Islam said they could not “effectively gain from trade” due to “a wide array” of harmful subsidies, non-tariff-restrictions and artificial standards imposed by importing coUNtries. He called on such coUNtries to provide “duty-free and quota-free market access” for all products from least developed coUNtries.

“Monterrey suffers from a serious implementation deficit,” said Pakistan’s Minister for Economic Affairs Hina Rab-Bani Khar, on behalf of the Group of 77 developing coUNtries and China. Official development assistance in 2006 had dipped to 0.30% of gross domestic product, down from 0.36% in 2005. Developing coUNtries had little ability to influence financial trends, despite their importance for growth and development.

Perversely, to guard against the volatility of financial flows, developing coUNtries had accumulated large reserves that were transferred back to the deficit coUNtry, she said. This had helped to enlarge the net financial outflow from developing to developed coUNtries, which had gone from US\$533 billion in 2005 to \$662 billion in 2006.

The two-day meeting is addressing the six major areas of the Monterrey Consensus: mobilising domestic financial resources, mobilizing international resources, international trade, international cooperation for development, external debt, and the coherence of the international monetary, financial and trading systems.

The outcome of the current meeting will provide the basis for next year’s Review Conference on Financing for Development, to be held in Doha, Qatar.

In a related development, Barbara Adams of the UN Development FUNd for Women (UNIFEM) emphasised the importance of promoting gender equality when tackling the problems associated with financing for development.

“It’s got to be economic growth plus; it’s not policies only to stimulate economic growth,” she said. Policies must be supported at the international level. “Just generating more resources without looking at the actual flows of how those flows help the society to develop can’t work,” she told a press briefing held at UN Headquarters in conjUNction with the General Assembly meeting.

She emphasised the need for policies that support gender equality, especially at the macroeconomic level, where decisions are made that “determine and drive how resources are gathered and how resources are allocated within societies.”

#### G-77 Criticizes Monterrey Formulas at UN

UNited Nations, Oct 24 (Prensa Latina) The consensus reached five years ago between rich and poor coUNtries in the Mexican city of Monterrey was harshly criticized at a high-level UN debate on development financing.

At the opening session of the debate to review how much has been achieved since the Monterrey Consensus, the powerful Group of 77 (G-77), made up of 132 developing coUNtries and China, pointed out that the the accord suffered from a “serious implementation deficit”.

“While some developing coUNtries had exhibited dynamic economic performance, many coUNtries remained mired in a vicious circle of poverty, far from achieving the Millennium Development Goals,” Pakistani Hina RabBani Khar

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said.

“Despite improved debt management strategies and intense international cooperation on debt relief, the total external debt of developing coUNtries had increased and the conditions that led to the global debt crisis were still in existence,” she added on behalf of the G-77.

According to the 2002 Monterrey Consensus, developing coUNtries took primary responsibility for their development, and for mobilizing domestic resources, while developed coUNtries agreed to provide assistance and promote an enabling international environment for development.

The G-77 representative noted that despite the Monterrey Consensus, the flow of net capital from developing coUNtries to developed coUNtries increased from 533 billion dollars in 2005 to 662 billion dollars in 2006.

According to the G-77, the Monterrey Consensus was UNable to adequately address these problems.

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Qatar to host meet on development financing

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Business Reporter

Doha: Qatar is scheduled to host the follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development in the second half of next year to review the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus.

This was disclosed at the International Monetary FUNd/World Bank meeting held in Washington.

The G-24 nations will co-operate with the G-77 in the preparation for the conference with the support of the Financing for Development Office of the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

The Monterrey Consensus, arrived in Mexico in 2002, had resolved to address the challenges of financing for development aroUNd the world, particularly in developing coUNtries.

It aimed at eradicating poverty, achieving sustained economic growth and promoting sustainable development for a fully inclusive and equitable global economic system.

The Monterrey Consensus was the outcome of the 2002 Monterrey Conference, the UN International Conference on Financing for Development. It was adopted by heads of states and governments on March 22, 2002.

The conference embraced six areas of financing for development such as mobilising domestic financial resources for development as well as international resources for development — foreign direct investment and other private flows; international trade as an engine for development; and increasing international financial and technical co-operation for development.

It also addressed external debt and systemic issues such as enhancing the coherence and consistency of the international monetary, financial and trading systems in support of development.

Ban wants greater growth for developing coUNtries

New York, UN - UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has called for greater development efforts to enable developing coUNtries to progress.

Addressing the UN General Assembly’s High-Level Dialogue on Financing for Development Wednesday, Ban noted that progress by the developing coUNtries towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) was slow.

“In fact in Sub-Saharan Africa it is clearly not on track,” he said, and called for further debt relief for low-income coUNtries, as well as increased participation for those coUNtries in international financial institutions.

The Secretary-General also said much more must be done to increase stable capital flow to developing coUNtries to

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enhance their development’.

Ban called for a quick conclusion of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) Doha trade negotiations, which were stalled recently due to disagreements.

But, he said the UN would continue to push for more efforts to achieve the MDG in Sub-Saharan Africa.

The UN Correspondent of the Pan African News Agency (PANA) reports that the dialogue attracted ministers, Central Bank Governors, government delegates and representatives of the business and civil society groups.

PANA learnt that the participants discussed ways to advance a 2002 agreement, made in Monterrey, Mexico, on trade relations and development efforts.

“Progress in implementing the Monterrey Consensus has been “mixed”,” Ban reminded the meeting, which will last two days at the UN headquarters in New York.

The meeting is also addressing the six major areas of the Monterrey Consensus, which included mobilising domestic financial resources, mobilising international resources and international trade.

Others are international cooperation for development, external debts and the coherence of the international monetary, financial and trading systems.

The outcome of the current meeting will provide the basis for next year’s Review Conference on Financing for Development, to be held in Doha, Qatar.

New York - 24/10/2007

Panapress

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Press Conference on Financing for Development and Gender Equality

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Even as Member States were contemplating better ways to finance the development of nations, proponents for the advancement of women’s issues said the international commUNITY was failing to devote enough resources to realizing gender equality, which they stressed was key to achieving international development goals.

Addressing that issue at a Headquarters press conference this morning -- moderated by Barbara Adams of the UNited Nations Development FUNd for Women (UNIFEM) -- were JUNE Zeitlin of the Women’s Environment and Development Organization, and Nerea Craviotto of the Women in Development Europe, who called for more fUNDing for gender equality and women’s empowerment against the backdrop of a General Assembly dialogue on the implementation of the outcome of the International Conference on Financing for Development.

Ms. Zeitlin recalled that the Conference on Financing for Development, held in Monterrey, Mexico, in 2002, had sought to foster partnerships between developed and developing coUNtries in soliciting fUNds to build up poor nations. The High-Level Dialogue currently taking place in the General Assembly, she said, would lay the groUNDwork for a follow-up meeting on financing for development in Doha, Qatar, scheduled for late next year. As it happens, the dialogue was taking place at the midpoint between the creation of the Millennium Development Goals -- eight Goals set by the UNited Nations to improve living conditions aroUND the world -- and the final deadline for achieving them.

“Progress has not been as great as it needs to be”, said Ms. Zeitlin, referring to the Millennium Development Goals. “One reason for that is that there hasn’t been the kind of serious attention, priority and fUNDing for the goal of gender equality, which is both a goal in and of itself, but also linked to the achievement of other goals.”

She said the so-called Monterrey Consensus, a set of agreements adopted by States at the 2002 Conference on Financ-

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ing for Development, spoke of commitments to mobilize resources to achieve sustainable development and poverty eradication, but had not addressed gender equality to the extent called for by advocates. A study commissioned by a group of bilateral donors to examine the flow of foreign aid had foUNd that less than 1 per cent of official development assistance was being spent on gender programmes.

Ms. Craviotto, whose job was to coordinate the lobbying and advocacy work of Women in Development Europe, said that that was because traditional development models tended to focus on wealth generation, but not the equal distribution of wealth and its attendant social issues – such as women’s empowerment.

“There is now, more than ever, a need for policy coherence in terms of sustainable development, gender equality and poverty eradication,” she said, adding that most development debates failed to address the complexity of female roles in society.

Nevertheless, said Ms. Zeitlin, women’s groups and other non-governmental organizations devoted to social justice concerns continued to support the UNited Nations’ Monterrey process because it provided a forum for discussing world economic trends and domestic development issues at the same time. But, even so, much more needed to be done by the UNited Nations to tackle development matters and women’s issues in a more coordinated fashion, and to channel fUNds towards women’s issues in a focused way.

She told correspondents that the Division for the Advancement of Women, the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and UNIFEM – three women-specific agencies at the UNited Nations – were grossly UNderfUNded compared to agencies such as the UNited Nations Population FUNd (UNFPA), the UNited Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and the UNited Nations Children’s FUNd (UNICEF).

“The budget last year for UNIFEM was \$57 million. That is to implement the entire Beijing Platform for Action in coUNtries aroUNd the world”, said Ms. Zeitlin. That amoUNt was roughly one tenth of the fUNds allocated to UNFPA, and was dwarfed by the budgets of UNICEF and UNDP, which fell in the range of \$2 billion to \$3 billion.

“Part of what we’re seeking is a much stronger, higher level, better resourced women’s entity here at the UNited Nations”, she said, adding that women’s groups had begUN calling for a new women’s entity at the UNited Nations that would have the capacity to receive and spend “significant resources” on women’s issues in the field. That entity would also be tasked with holding other UNited Nations agencies accoUNtable for gender mainstreaming, since “evaluation after evaluation documents that they’re not doing the job, but there aren’t any consequences”.

Asked by a correspondent how the UNited Nations had responded to the idea, she said it had been discussed by the General Assembly during the sixty-first session, but no action had been taken. But, she said she felt it was only a question of time before the goal was realized, since most Governments and those at the Secretariat were generally supportive of the idea.

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