

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 Rabbani 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.

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* -

Created 2007-10-26 02:11

Broken Aid Promises Dim Hopes for Millennium Development Goals

By Thalif Deen - Inter Press Service

UNited Nations, 26 October, (Asiantribune.com): At a major international conference on financing for development in

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.

- 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.

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 materialised," 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.

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.

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 funds, 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 funds 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

New Push to finance development

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, f10.5 0 0 10 targets-9 -9 -9 -9

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."

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

“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.

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^e 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 d-25(donc)-24(la)-t3a25(paO)-3olaWv(est)-1s(donc 3a2cre1s(donc 17(tant25(donc)-24

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 Virgílio 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

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)

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.

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 bythe 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.

WWW.XINHUANET.COM

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

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

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

(END/2007)

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."

Inter Press Service News Agency

Monday, October 29, 2007 16:17 GMT

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 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

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.

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 Organi-sation, 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 boost-

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.

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.



“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.

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

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



“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.

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.

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 condi-

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

onu-desarrollo

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

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.

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 internacional.

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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 plenarias 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.

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Revela ONU poca ayuda países ricos para Africa

Naciones UNidas, 22 oct (PL(0aciones UNidasciones dee, Tf125(d1e)-26(o in-24(acones 10.5 0 0 i(aconeson)-7e)-2s)40(,)-ciones M

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.

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 invin países in pv355as d-33(de)-34(ldesar)- ihroll, oru,ms(or)11(la)-33acapesarano U

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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.

Al mismo tiempo, aUNque en 2006 se destinaron a nivel internacional casi 104.000 millones de dólares en ayuda 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.

Oscar 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, 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 "sufrir UN serio déficit de implementación".

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

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.

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 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.

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 lors du Consensus

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.

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

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 1 Tf10.ssist0.ssist0.

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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