Joint Statement of the African and Asian Development Banks Regarding Regional Development Bank Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus

Plenary Session of the High Level Dialog on Financing for Development

Mr. John Lintjer, Vice President, Asian Development Bank UN Headquarters, New York, New York 30 October 2003

Mr. President, Delegates, Colleagues,

On behalf of the African and Asian Development Banks, I am very pleased to be here. We appreciate your recognition of the importance of the Regional Development Banks in the Monterrey Consensus, and in meeting the Millennium Development Goals. Monterrey has been cataclysmic both in gaining consensus on a framework for development finance, and in bringing greater inclusiveness to discussions such as this.

I find heartening the post-Monterrey successes and disheartening the areas where implementation has lagged. While noting achievements, it is clear that more must be done:

More resources including more grants -- must be made available and used more effectively;

Governments must take even more responsibility and ownership of their national development processes;

The developed countries must find ways to keep their commitments to Monterrey; and The international financial institutions, including the Regional Development Banks, must make sure that we are making positive, optimal contributions to the development process.

The African and Asian Development Banks are committed to the Monterrey Consensus and to the Millennium Development Goals. Our special attributes within the international financial architecture provide advantages in tackling the problems of equity and development. Four of these are of particular importance:

As regional institutions, we have a close partnership with and strong representation from our developing member countries. This has enabled our continuing leadership in important areas

such as governance, anti