

United Nations  Nations Unies

THE PRESIDENT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

LE PRESIDENT DE L'ASSEMBLEE GENERALE

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short of the 0.7% target. It is interesting to note, in this regard, that it is among the same group of countries that usually fund development activities that pledges are being made for significant increases in ODA.

There are nascent, and encouraging signs pointing towards the resolution of the debt crisis, with ideas such as a "comprehensive, statutory approach to restructuring the external debt of governments" and the use of collective action clauses now being discussed.

For their part, many developing countries and countries with economies in transition are working towards the creation of an enabling environment at the national level, by strengthening economic governance and enhancing democratic participation, as called for in the Monterrey Consensus.

Overall, however, the other side of our report card has not been encouraging. Net private financial flows to a significant number of developing countries have declined or are negative. There is little change in respect challenges such as lack of market access, special and differential treatment, debt, the deteriorating situation of commodity dependent countries protectionism and agricultural subsidies and lack of participation of developing countries in the decision making of international financial institutions. Further, much more needs to be done to reach the additional \$50 billion needed in ODA annually to meet the Millennium Development Goals (MDGS). The failure of make tangible progress in trade relations at Cancun put us no closer to our quest for a level playing field, and enhanced opportunities for developing countries.

In some instances, special circumstances have hampered progress in meeting the objectives of the Monterrey Consensus. Civil strife and military conflict, for example, is hindering development in a number of the most vulnerable countries and populations. Basic health care also remains alarmingly inadequate in a large number of countries.

In this High-level segment of our Dialogue, we should openly and frankly discuss all the issues that present a challenge to the successful implementation of commitments and agreements reached at Monterrey be they at the national, international or systemic levels. If we are to effectively use it, we must be forthright in asking ourselves pertinent questions, in order to arrive at pertinent responses.

Is the United Nations system, for example, positioned to adequately impact the development funding process? Have sufficient steps been taken towards improving coherency and efficiency amongst donor agencies? Regarding partnerships, have a sufficient effort been made to engage civil society and the private sector both nationally and internationally? And in respect of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council - what should be their role in tracking y and

must take up and address in our interactive discourse, so that we may move decisively forward, and effectively implement the Monterrey Consensus.

I thank you.