



64th Session of the General Assembly

Statement
by

Mr. Oussama Khachab
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to the United Nations

at the Second Committee General Debate

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(Check against delivery)

Mr. President,

At the outset, I would like to congratulate you on your election to steer the work of the Second Committee during the 64th Session of the General Assembly. I also extend my congratulations to the other members of the bureau. We are quite confident, Mr. President, that under your wise and able leadership, the 2nd committee will make substantive achievements, and my delegation assures you of its full support and cooperation.

I would like also to record that my delegation aligns itself with the statements delivered by the delegation of Sudan on behalf of the G77 and China and of the Arab Group.

Allow me also to extend our sympathies to the peoples and Governments of Indonesia, the Philippines, Samoa, American Samoa and Tonga for the loss of lives and properties due to the recent tsunami and earthquakes in the South Pacific.

Mr. President,

With the current global food, energy, and financial crises, with the threats of climate change, and with the persistence of violent conflicts, the ghost of poverty looms over us more than ever.

The magnitude, severity and adverse impacts of the current international financial and economic crisis have challenged the world tremendously. Measures aimed at addressing the systemic vulnerabilities of the international economic order must be adopted and implemented swiftly. In the advanced and developed countries, this crisis became a financial one. However, due to the globalization of markets and the accompanying transmission mechanisms, the crisis rapidly spilled over and spread to the developing countries. In so doing, it affected the real economy and led, in turn, to a social crisis. If not addressed promptly and appropriately, this crisis may lead to political unrest and turmoil.

In addition, the crisis is negatively impacting the financial and economic stability of developing countries. They are responding by diverting resources

originally earmarked for development towards coping with the crisis and mitigating its multidimensional impacts. Their efforts towards the eradication of poverty and hunger and the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, have been frustrated, along with their national development strategies and goals.

The livelihood of the poorest of the poor is being threatened. Women are facing greater income insecurity and increased domestic burdens. Access to health services and education also face the peril of being reduced. Moreover, the financial and economic crisis is further compounded by the food crisis, by the volatility in energy prices, and by the adverse impacts of climate change.

Mr. President,

The economic, human and social impacts of the crisis are alarming. A global stimulus package must be adopted in order to help developing countries recover economically. Indeed, developing countries have a narrow fiscal space and cannot be left alone to address the crisis. Therefore, developed countries should not retreat on their commitments, but need to increase their assistance by providing adequate and predictable financial resources without conditionality.

The crisis has revealed the pressing need to reform the international financial and economic system in order to meet the realities and challenges of the 21st century. It is time to reform the Bretton Woods institutions substantially, particularly their governance structure, in order to increase the voice and participation of developing countries in the process of decision-making and norm-setting.

Mr. President,

A comprehensive approach to sustainable development, based on its three pillars of economic development, social development, and the protection of the environment, is a necessity today more than ever.

We strongly believe that the implementation of the agreements reached in Rio de Janeiro in 1992 at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, and in Johannesburg in 2002 at the World Summit on Sustainable Development, is all the more relevant and urgent today.

We support the offer of Brazil to host a summit on sustainable development in 2012 to review the progress and challenges in the implementation of the outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Sustainable Development, including the World Summit on Sustainable Development held in Johannesburg, South Africa.

Mr. President,

Lebanon welcomes the FAO World Summit on Food Security, to be held in Rome next month, as an opportunity to discuss an integrated approach to food security that can allow for comprehensive and durable solutions. Special attention should be given to the needs of Africa.

As we approach the Copenhagen Climate Change Summit in December, it is vital to reach a landmark agreement based on the principle of “common but differentiated responsibilities”. Developed countries are invited to undertake ambitious commitments under the Kyoto Protocol for subsequent commitment periods beyond 2012 and to assist developing countries.

We look forward to a successful outcome of the upcoming High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation to be held in Nairobi, Kenya in December 2009.

Thank you, Mr. President.