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FOR ACTION	POUR SUITE A DONNER
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FOR SIGNATURE	POUR SIGNATURE
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NOTE AND RETURN	NOTER ET RETOURNER
FOR INFORMATION	POUR INFORMATION

For the Secretary-General's information.
(This note is in response to a hand-written comment by the SG on an earlier note from Desai on this Dialogue, which took place 20-21 September.)

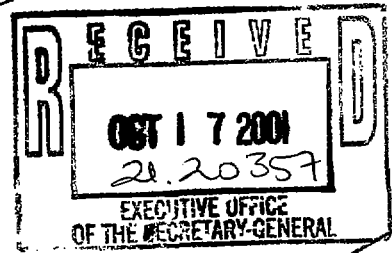
It is worth adding that several of the Zedillo ideas have "taken root" in the debate, which shows the Zedillo High-Level Panel was worthwhile...

- 1) DSG Do note
- 2) RC 3) HJB
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SG HLP 18/10

DESA ~~MM~~



Note to the Secretary-General

High-level dialogue on strengthening international economic cooperation for development through partnership

(#21-18324)

In response to your queries on my note of 24 September on the above on whether there were any substantive discussions and recommendations; and whether the gathering was worthwhile, I would like to provide the following supplementary information concerning the meeting.

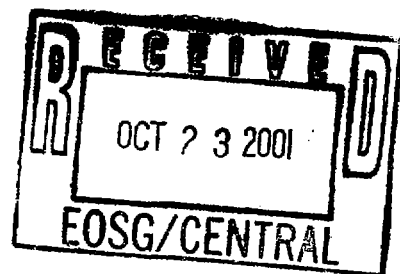
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This was the second in a series of events (the first was held in 1998) originally designed as an intergovernmental follow-up to the Agenda for Development. They were conceived as occasions to promote understanding and build partnerships, and not to carry out negotiations. Thus, no resolution or other negotiated text is to be adopted at the conclusion. Instead, the President of the General Assembly is mandated to give a summary at the closure of the event.

The feedback from delegations has been that it was a worthwhile event, not least because it helped to restore normalcy and confidence in the work of the United Nations after the disruption of other General Assembly events. The presence of the Deputy Secretary-General at the opening was appreciated. Although only two Ministers came to participate (originally some 30 Ministers were expected), the number of speakers in plenary was higher than at the first dialogue in 1998 (46 as compared to some 40). The round tables-cum-informal panels were well attended and led to very lively and spirited discussions, facilitated by very useful panelists' presentations. The panel on financial issues allowed delegations to reaffirm the importance they attach to the Financing for Development process and their determination that preparations proceed expeditiously despite the 11th September events.

One of the key points that was emphasized was the role of the United Nations as a unique forum for addressing issues of globalization and development through dialogue rather than through violence and extremism. While the content of the globalization debate was along traditional lines, the tone and atmosphere were exceptionally up-beat, reflecting a wish to convey an image of the United Nations as a source of hope and positive dialogue. Particular attention was paid to the Millennium Declaration follow-up. Forthcoming events, such as the WTO Ministerial Meeting in Doha, the International Conference on Financing for Development, and the Johannesburg Summit on Sustainable Development, were seen as key opportunities to spread the benefits of globalization in a more equitable manner.

The Annex outlines in greater details the main issues discussed and the recommendations for further action that emerged.



#3 19 Oct.

Main issues discussed and recommendations for further action

Globalization

- Actions are needed more urgently than ever to bridge the gap between the developed and the developing countries, and to meet the targets for development and poverty eradication set in the Millennium Declaration, and in the conference outcomes of the 1990s.

Financing for development

- The **International Conference on Financing for Development (FfD)** presents a unique opportunity to make concrete advances and significant improvements in the growth and development prospects of developing countries. To preserve the credibility of the international community, the **process has to go beyond existing agreements**.
- **Proposals** contained in the Zedillo panel report were highlighted, including those relating to new and innovative sources of financing (from international transactions and particularly the consumption of fossil fuels) and the possibility of creating an **International Tax Organization**.
- The role of trade in financing development, and as a critical step for the integration of developing countries into the global economy, was generally stressed. Together with the WTO meeting in Doha, the Finance for Development process was viewed as an opportunity to realize **unfettered market access for developing** country products, especially agricultural and textiles, deal with tariff, protectionist and anti-dumping measures, and with subsidies. The need to strengthen capacity building and technical assistance in trade was repeatedly noted.
- As ODA remains an important source for development, reversing the decline in ODA, and working towards the realization of the 0.7% target of GNP for ODA was seen as a key objective of the Financing for Development process. Aid efficiency and effectiveness also need to be improved. Consideration should be given to assessing contributions for UN operational activities. A **dedicated pool of international financing** for infrastructure development in LDCs should be considered. Proposals such as the “**common pool proposal**”, put forward by the Zedillo panel, national ownership of development strategies and public/private partnerships were presented as means for lowering **high aid transaction** costs and for increasing returns on aid.
- The role of private capital flows was also widely stressed. Conditions to secure them on a predictable basis were highlighted, among them: appropriate mechanisms to deal with short-term volatility, better crisis management, confidence building measures at the domestic level including transparency, good governance, and anti-corruption measures, and measures to increase domestic savings, including through **funded, defined-contributions pensions schemes** (another proposal of the Zedillo panel). It was pointed out that ways remain to be found to involve the private sector in financial crisis management.

- Debt relief was also a main theme of several interventions. Among the points made: notwithstanding the positive results of the enhanced HIPC initiative, further progress is needed. This should include **effective and coherent debt sustainability strategies beyond HIPC** to ensure real transfer of resources to indebted countries. Debt cancellation for African countries should be considered. Attention needs to be devoted to the debt of middle-income developing countries.
- International economic decision-making processes need to be enhanced, requiring new rules and institutions. In this regard, several references were made to the proposal of the Zedillo Panel for the **creation of an apex economic institution** but the issue was not taken up in depth.
- The role of the State was another topic addressed by many. The view was that while a growing number of stakeholders play critical roles in the development process, a number of areas continue to be the responsibility of the State, such as provision of public goods, social services and prevention and management of crises. Thus, a mixture of public and private sector action in support of development is essential.
- The FfD process should launch the debate on **global public goods**, including their financing.

ICT for development

The main points highlighted included:

- In order to bridge the digital divide, and to harness the potential of ICT for development, partnerships between the public and the private sector are vital. The focus should be on **universal connectivity** and the provision of accessible and affordable service for all; the promotion of local content; human resource development, especially education and training; attention to gender aspects; and efforts to bring down the cost of Internet services.
- Intergovernmental cooperation should be pursued on issues such as copyright, computer security, electronic trading standards, legal and tax questions, and to cope with cyber crime and other illegal activities.
- The **UN ICT Task Force** and other ICT initiatives have a **vital role in supporting the integration of developing countries** into the global information networks. An **ICT Trust Fund** should be established to support such activities. The World Summit on the Information Society will be an opportunity for addressing ICT related issues in a comprehensive manner.
- The UN system can play an important role in promoting public awareness of the potential of ICT for development, especially by assisting African and the least developed countries in putting in place infrastructure and build capacity to process and use information. The **functional commissions of ECOSOC** should be important actors in this effort.



Nitin Desai
9 October 2001

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OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL
Handwritten initials and signatures: (Rec'd 28/9), F4E, 2/10/01, #14 Oct.

Note for the Secretary-General

**High-level dialogue on strengthening international economic cooperation
for development through partnership**

20 – 21 September 2001

The second high-level dialogue, originally scheduled to take place on 17-18 September, took place in a somewhat compressed format on 20 – 21 September. Ministerial round tables were combined with the informal panels on each of the two sub-themes.

Notwithstanding these constraints, participation in the dialogue was very active. A total of 45 speakers took the floor in plenary. The Russian Federation and Belarus were represented by Deputy Ministers for Foreign Affairs, Mexico by an Under-Secretary for Economic Relations and International Cooperation, Indonesia by the Director-General for Foreign Economic Relations, and the United States of America by a Director of the Agency for International Development. Delegations welcomed the presence and statement by the Deputy Secretary-General at the opening session. The President of the GA chaired the dialogue for the whole duration.

Speakers in plenary almost unanimously referred to the terrorist attacks of 11 September, and called for urgent efforts by the broader international community to combat terrorism as part of broader international cooperation for sustainable development. Many speakers discussed challenges created by globalization, in particular in the context of the current global economic slowdown, and placed high expectations in global processes, including the WTO meeting in Doha, the Financing for Development Conference, and the World Summit for Sustainable Development. The United Nations was seen to play a lead role in humanizing globalization and making it more inclusive.

The two round tables-cum-informal panels took place in parallel to the debate in Plenary on Thursday morning (*Enhancing the integration of developing countries in the emerging global information network, facilitating access to information and communication technology for developing countries*) and afternoon (*Promoting the integration of developing countries into the world economy and generating new public and private financing resources to complement development efforts*). They were both well attended, and provided a welcome opportunity for an exchange of views, ideas and recommendations. In particular at the second round table, participants engaged in a direct and lively exchange with the panelists on a range of issues before the Financing for Development process, including proposals put forward by the Zedillo Panel. During the first round table on ICT for development, participants expressed strong support for the ICT Task Force.

The Rapporteurs of the two round tables (Paraguay and Moldova, respectively) reported the main issues and themes raised during the round tables to Plenary (attached). *attached*

At the closure of the dialogue, the President gave a summary of the debate. A more detailed summary of the dialogue will be submitted to the Second Committee.

Nitin Desai

Nitin Desai

24 September 2001

Was there any substantive discussion and recommendations. Was together with the mobile?
[Signature] 2/10/01. #14 Oct.