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**Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and Non-Aligned Movement (NAM)
Panel Discussion on:**

“The Right to Development: Constraints and Perspectives”

**19 October 2011; (15:00-18:00pm)
Room XXIV, Palais des Nations, Geneva**

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First of all, we would like to thank the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) for the invitation to this panel discussion and the opportunity to contribute. Secondly, we are pleased to be involved in the continued efforts to discuss a topic that is at the heart of what UNDP stands for, namely human development, and I would like to share some observations on objective 3 (“States’ leadership and independence for the promotion of international development commitments”) from the “global partnership” perspective which is enshrined in MDG 8.

Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Achievement of the MDGs requires a continued and robust global partnership between developed and developing countries, and Goal 8 highlights the collective responsibility for international cooperation and technical assistance. The Goals are emblematic of our complex understanding of development, poverty and human freedoms, and in the Millennium Declaration, democratic governance is recognized as a prerequisite for the achievement of the MDGs and other development priorities.

Many commitments have already been made to support development under the auspices of the **‘global partnership for development’** as envisaged by MDG 8. Indeed, the initial targets and commitments in Goal 8 have been supplemented by new commitments, such as on aid quantity as a result of the 2005 Gleneagles G8 Summit, and a new framework on aid quality and effectiveness – the Paris Declaration in 2005, Accra Agenda for Action in 2008, and Busan just down the road. This rich fabric of partnerships reflects not only collaboration between partners in the North and the South, but also many new South-South models of cooperation. The rise of emerging economies not only provides the opportunity to induce changes in global governance, both in terms of the institutional architecture and the policies that govern globalization, but also an opportunity for the rest of the developing countries, in particular the Least Developed Countries

(LDCs), who benefit from opportunities to meaningfully engage in decisions that affect them.

At the 2010 Millennium Summit, world leaders agreed that achieving the MDGs was realistic and reiterated their commitments to reach them by 2015, including through creating a more enabling international environment for development and through direct assistance, such as South-South cooperation or direct budgetary support. However, the 2011 MDG GAP Taskforce Report, whilst acknowledging that support has risen sharply since the targets were set in 2000, with donor countries having provided a record-high \$129 billion in Official Development Assistance (ODA) last year, noted that there were still significant gaps in delivering on the commitments in the areas of aid, trade, debt relief, and access to new technologies and to affordable essential medicines and that a number of crucial commitments that were supposed to have been reached by 2010 had not been met. During the launch of the 2011 MDG GAP Taskforce Report last month, the UN Secretary General stated, I quote: ***“There is a troubling distance between what we have promised and what we are actually doing to support the global partnership for development. And that gap is expected to widen”*** (end of quote).

With the multiplicity of development cooperation partners now active, coupled with the negative impact of the global financial and economic crisis to sustainable development, the call for new policies, tools, greater coherence among the donors and their policies, and greater transparency and accountability in resource flows and management have been growing louder. Equally important is the strengthening of democratic processes, respect for the rule of law, guaranteeing human rights, and the countries’ capacity to formulate, implement and review policies and programmes is critical for long-term economic and societal development. The 2000 Millennium Declaration and the 2010 MDG Outcome Document further demonstrate the commitments of Member States to the interdependence of peace and security, development and human rights, including the Right to Development.

Within this context, UNDP facilitates donor-programme country partnerships, as well as strengthens its partner countries' capacity to coordinate and manage aid, and in scaling up aid, UNDP has identified the following key constraints: weak capacity of governments to manage domestic as well as foreign resources; volatile political environment, including election periods, causing delays and setbacks both in terms of disbursement and institutional management; lack of donor coherence and competing interests and inconsistent donor interest to support national ownership of the aid management process; lack of mechanisms to track resources provided by non-governmental and philanthropic organisations for alignment and identification of gaps; and the need to avoid duplication of efforts with other agencies and organisations.

As you may know, our work is demand driven and grounded in the principles of *national ownership* and *capacity development*. In particular, UNDP accords priority to strengthening mechanisms of responsiveness and public accountability to the concerns and interests of the most marginalized and vulnerable.

The work carried out on improving aid effectiveness – under the framework provided by the Paris Declaration – needs to be seen within this context. We do not seek to increase aid, or improve its quality, simply for the sake of doing so. The importance of increasing and improving aid is only matters if it increases the impact of aid on development, poverty, and ultimately the attainment of human rights for all. All partners need to track more closely the extent to which partnerships respect and support these principles, and ultimately to assess how aid leads directly and indirectly to improved human development outcomes.

UNDP also supports effective national public policy processes where the public sector at local, regional and national levels develops the capacity and resources to manage policies and services. Expanded capacity of governing institutions helps create a facilitating environment for delivering on promises and commitments. We also need to aim for much more catalytic impact from development assistance across the board. Narrow sectoral strategies must be replaced by a focus on the drivers of transformational change and by maximising the synergies across different strands of development work.

To accelerate and sustain MDG progress, we have to focus on equity and inclusion. Development efforts must reach those who have not been able to benefit from the growth and development of their countries. Economic growth per se does not necessarily result in poverty reduction, and poverty reduction does not automatically equate with a reduction in inequality. Both inequality and poverty reduction need to be specifically targeted, if development progress is to be broadly based and to create the social cohesion and sense of national purpose which helps to drive transformation.

In conclusion, Mr. Chair and distinguished participants, allow me to make the following concluding observations:

- a. The RtD reinforces a message that UNDP is advancing: Only an equitable, inclusive and stronger multilateral system of international cooperation that works in the interest of both developing and developed countries alike will generate and nurture the kind of partnerships needed to achieve the MDGs and the internationally agreed upon development goals.
- b. The RtD provides an integrated, holistic and cohesive framework for achieving just and equitable development for all. It encompasses both the civil and political as well as the economic, social and cultural dimensions of human rights and addresses both the national and international dimensions of development.

- c. Using the RtD framework, Member States, acting both individually and collectively, have the responsibility to create an environment conducive to development when formulating, adopting and implementing policies and programmes. In particular, it requires the international community to create an enabling global environment free of structural impediments, giving developing countries the space and opportunities they need to enhance their participation in the global economic sphere.
- d. The RtD incorporates the principle of international cooperation along with the principles of transparency, equality, participation, accountability and non-discrimination, and advances democratic governance at both the national and international levels.
- e. Key to addressing these and other challenges and opportunities are the States' leadership and ownership of development processes and commitments.

Thank you very much, and I look forward to our interaction.