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Statement by

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Even before its publication the long-awaited report of the Secretary-General is seen as a crucial point of reference in charting our joint movement to achieve the noble development goals set out by world leaders five years ago.

We hope that it will also be a handy tool for the global community of nations to identify unused development potential and overlooked means and mechanisms which, when used, could ensure a significant and tangible progress in our efforts to alleviate the plight of the disadvantaged part of mankind.

As an issue of paramount importance we regard the need for a **radical increase in available official development assistance** funds. Making the provision of assistance more related to specific objectives, addressing the concerns of donors about the transparent and effective use of aid is undoubtedly important. Yet at the end of the day it all boils down to the simple **ability and need to give and help**.

We said it before and we repeat it today – true international leaders of the new age will be forged by a **competition in giving**. Of the more recent impressions – we truly admire a ‘contribution contest’ to support the work of the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization involving the United Kingdom, Norway and the Gates Foundation. The extra funding the Global Alliance received will help to save five million lives in the developing world over the next ten years. This is a real quick-win strategy in action.

We feel that there may be a greater role for the United Nations to play in order to make charitable actions of states and individuals much more visible and noticeable. By placing actions like this in a **more prominent focus**, by ensuring **wider public acknowledgment of the generosity of those who give** the United Nations may try to encourage further magnanimity and responsiveness on the part of public and private donors.

A successful strategy for the undertaking of such tremendous magnitude as the Millennium Development Goals will have to be comprehensive. This spells a clear case for the appropriate placing of **countries with economies in transition** in the context of global development activities. Most of these countries have every reason to be regarded as potential and prospective donors. Thoughtful, target-oriented yet **bold investment** in their economic development today may create critically important prerequisites for **increasing the potential of this group of countries as active contributors to the process of international development** tomorrow.

It would be wise to keep the specific **needs and capacity** of countries with economies in transition - especially so within the context of achieving MDGs –

in the right focus. For instance, the capacity of these often technologically developed countries to contribute sensibly to the **global scientific research and technology development** to address special needs of the poor in areas of health, natural resource and environmental management should not be overlooked.

The past five years were unfortunately not best used for getting closer to the development goals of the Millennium. Now we definitely need a spurt. Maybe without any great fanfare we should call for a new, low-key kind of international decade – **a decade of action to achieve challenging development goals**. A decade with a clock ticking away – in lives not saved, in children not fed, in hopes not born. Let us see if we can stand up to this challenge.