

GREAT DECISIONS

GDTV 2010 Transcript

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Fall 2009

I thought we would start off talking about the Global Financial Crisis. Obviously it is hitting many countries around the world, but it is hitting the poor especially hard. How is that going to impact the ability to achieve the MDG's?

The Global Financial Crisis has [had an] impact [on the full] spectrum of our life, including major goals and objectives of the United Nations, the MGDs. I made it a top priority to implement the MGD by 2015, and thus during my participation in the London Summit meeting, G-20 summit meeting, last April, I made a very strong case to the leaders of the world's developed countries:

While I welcome [seeing the] stimulus packages they should never lose sight of the challenges and difficulties of many developing countries.

I was encouraged that the leaders have a way to [grow] global stimulus packages, particularly to developing countries. They reaffirmed their commitment to Millennium Development Goals, the reaffirmed their commitment to official development assistance and they also reaffirmed their strong leadership role in addressing climate change issues. I sincerely hope the leaders will translate their commitment into a reality. In fact, I made this case again, very clearly to the leaders, that when the G-8 made their commitment in Gleneagles in 2005, they pledged to provide \$50 billion by 2010, next year. Half of [these commitments] have not yet been delivered. Therefore, I sincerely hope that the leaders of the industrialized countries will keep their promises.

We must hit the target by 2015, we have eight very important pillars in the Millennium Development Goals. Starting from: Cutting in half the abject poverty, and also most importantly reducing the maternal and child mortality, [which are] very serious issues for the health of the international community.

I am very much committed to that. Next year, 2010, I will convene another summit meeting focused on the Millennium Development Goals, just five years before 2015, to review where we will be standing and how [much more we can do] before 2015.

In December representatives from around the world will gather in Copenhagen. How are nations responding to the climate change summit? How is the political climate different than from before Kyoto?

I think the political climate in addressing this climate change is moving positively, particularly with the advent of the new U.S. administration. President Obama has made it a priority of policy to participate in climate change issues. The U.S. has been convening a major economic forum two times, and he has told me that climate change is one of his top priorities.

Together with the European Union, if the European Union and [the] Americans are combined in their political, uh leadership role, I am cautiously optimistic. Now, what is most important is that in December in Copenhagen, we must “seal the deal” on this issue. This is a political, moral and historical imperative. I am very much committed to them. This is number one, the top priority, not only for me, not only for the United Nations, but for all of humanity. This is the most important issue. We have no time to lose.

The consequences are happening much, much faster, much, much more seriously than scientists have predicted. Just two years ago the scientists of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, are now revising their own predictions, scientific predictions which were made just two years ago. That means that climate change is coming faster than one may expect.

I [am counting] on the political leadership of all the leaders of the world. On September 22nd this year, at the United Nations I am going to convene a summit level meeting on climate change issues. This will be by far the largest, and the first and the last summit meeting to deal with climate change issues.

Is alternative energy something you see as part of the post Copenhagen agreement?

Yes, alternative sources of energy and renewable sources of energy - these are very important tools in addressing climate change issues.

Now, I see 5 major key challenges or issues [in addressing these issues]. First of all, industrialized countries should accept ambitious middle targets in greenhouse gas reduction by 2020. According to science, the scientists of IPCC, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, have recommended that they should reduce 25%-40% compared with the levels of 1990. Now we hope that world leaders take a political leadership role. The EU has taken what is known as a 20/20/20 vision, that means 20% reduction of greenhouse gas by 2020 with 20% of renewable sources of energy. This is a very important vision.

I know that the U.S. government is also seriously considering what type of measures they should be taking. The House Energy and Climate Sub Committee has already taken action on their domestic legislation. This will have to go through the House of the Congress and should

be approved by the Senate. If they take this action, this will have a huge political impact. The U.S. has already announced a domestic fuel efficiency standard, which is also a appreciated and important initiative by the United States.

Now we have started a United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change negotiations, UNFCCC, in Bonn last week. We have presented the draft text for the first time, so the delegations of the international community have become very serious now in looking at the real numbers and real languages of this treaty.

We must “seal the deal” in Copenhagen, which will be a successful regime of the Kyoto Protocol. We do not have much time. As far as this year’s concerned, we only have 6 months left. As far as the Kyoto Protocol is concerned, we only have three years left. And before three years [passes], we have to be able to agree and ratify and make this enter into force. This is a very important political and moral imperative.

Where do you see the Responsibility to Protect [R2P] doctrine moving in the next five years?

This concept of Responsibility to Protect is a very important and ambitious one that was approved by the leaders of the world in 2000 during the Millennium Summit meeting. As Secretary-General, I made it a priority to operationalize this concept as soon as possible. Thus I have appointed a special advisor to work on this, to operationalize this very important concept, Professor Edward Luck. He is working very hard, in close cooperation with member states.

We have several important pillars. First of all, members states should be responsible should protect their own people against such crimes as genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity and ethnic cleansing. These are four very serious, most serious crimes [that] we must protect our own people from being sacrificed for these crimes.

We also must help [these] states to succeed at implementing this, rather than to react when they have failed to prevent [these crimes] and protect their people. We also made this very efficient and effective [one]. Even though we have been trying very hard, unfortunately at this time, this has not become a policy of the United Nations, it is still a concept. [It still] remains an aspiration, not a reality. So my commitment is to make this concept into a policy and make this aspiration into a reality, as soon as possible. Now, I'm going to present my report very soon this year so that member states may be able to debate on this matter.

Global organized crime such as human trafficking and drug trafficking, is gaining more international attention. How are you dealing with some of these issues at the UN?

This is again a serious [issue] to prevent organized crime, transport crimes. [On that issue], we've been making a great effort led by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime based in Vienna. Mr. Kristof has been working on this campaign. We have been working on the basis of the initiative of UN Global Fight Against Human Trafficking (the abbreviation is UN.GIFT). I have made human trafficking as one of the most serious crimes which we have to prevent, and protect women and girls [particularly], from being trafficked in these crimes. But, I'll admit there is [many] more things that need to be done. We need concerted efforts by the member countries. This is not an issue that can be solved only by one country. We must try to prevent and eliminate the sources of these crimes. In such a case, you need all of the member states cooperation and coordinated action in this matter.

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