

BANQUE AFRICAINE DE DEVELOPPEMENT



Rencontre de la Task Force pour la Tunisie

Allocution de Donald Kaberuka

Président de la Banque Africaine de Développement

Tunis le 28 septembre 2011.

Excellence Monsieur le Premier Ministre,

Madame Ashton,

Mesdames et Messieurs, chers amis et partenaires de la Tunisie,

Je tiens tout d'abord à vous féliciter pour cette initiative et merci pour nous avoir associé.

J'ai tenu absolument à être présent personnellement pour exprimer l'appui de la Banque Africaine de Développement à votre action et à la transition en Tunisie et en Afrique du Nord en général.

M. Le Premier Ministre, Excellences,

Le Peuple Tunisien et l'Afrique du Nord ont fait UN choix courageux.

Cette révolution génère naturellement des grandes attentes.

Les jeunes diplômés veulent du travail immédiatement.

Les régions marginalisées veulent des investissements tout de suite.

Les salariés demandent des augmentations importantes.

Ces demandes s'expriment parfois par des protestations.

Et tout cela au moment où l'appareil économique tourne au ralenti, et les investisseurs minimisent leur risque.

Ceci m'amène à constater comme vous que les défis de la transition sont énormes. Ils sont économiques, politiques et sociaux.

La réussite de cette transition dépendra donc de l'action du Gouvernement, des opérateurs économiques et de la Communauté Internationale.

Je tiens ici à vous féliciter Monsieur Le Premier Ministre ainsi que votre Gouvernement, pour votre action décisive sur beaucoup de fronts.

Un Calendrier politique clair, le retour rapide à la sécurité et un plan de relance économique très apprécié.

Chers amis, Chers collègues,

C'est aujourd'hui que la Tunisie et l'Afrique du Nord ont besoin de nous, de nous voir traduire nos engagements en actes concrets, afin de construire une région démocratique, ouverte et prospère.

Monsieur le Premier Ministre,

A présent, permettez-moi de lire le reste de mon texte en Anglais.

The African Development Bank of which Tunisia is a founding member and the temporary home of the institution has engaged fully with the Tunisian Authorities and People of North Africa right from the beginning of the changes here.

We are proud to be part of the Coalition to support the transitions in North Africa, to maximize economic opportunities and meet social expectations.

That is as it should be.

We are Africa's premier development institution and we could not but demonstrate our solidarity.

We are fully committed to support the economies create jobs opportunities and prosperity as we have demonstrated over the last few months.

We have, we are translating into concrete programs our support.

In Tunisia, Our total commitments to date add up to 940 million dollars. These are examples of some of the things we are doing and have done over the last eight months:

- (a) A quick disbursing \$500 mn budget support to enable the Government meet part of its deficit and finance social programs.**
- (b) A major regional highway in Ras Jedir highway in an amount of \$184mn.**
- (c) A \$50 mn Apex Facility In support to small businesses.**
- (d) A \$96 mn rural water supply program is under way.**

In Egypt we are working on budget support, energy projects, the green economy and the Sharm el Sheikh airport.

In Morocco, we remain the country's leading partner.

In Libya, we are set to respond to the requirements of the Authorities which I expect to be mainly in the domain of building institutions.

In Algeria where we recently opened an office we are particularly keen to work on private sector development and financial sector deepening.

All this to tell you that we know the region very well, we have a large portfolio here, we remain committed. And I want to assure the world of Business that this country is safe for business.

My message to the private sector is that we understand how to mitigate the risks and we invite you to join us in wealth creation in this region, now that the conditions for a competitive private sector are much brighter.

We have teamed up, as International and Arab financial institutions, the World Bank, the Arab Fund for Social and Economic Development, the IFC, the Islamic Development Bank, the OPEC Fund, the IMF, the European Investment Bank, the EBRD, the Arab Monetary Fund and of course ourselves.

We have teamed up in a platform for the implementation of the DEAUVILLE partnership to coordinate our support.

Indeed only last week we had our first meeting in Washington at which we agreed on deliverables.

We fully understand that the long term solutions are dependent on job creation by the private sector.

We have agreed to:

- **Create investment vehicles to catalyze FDI flows back to the Region**
- **Consider a special guarantee fund to provide risk mitigation on a temporary basis.**
- **Provide liquidity and trade financing where that is needed.**
- **Support local currency and capital markets**

- **Facilitate private public partnership projects**
- **Work together on the business environment, capacity, skills and vocational training.**

We have been entrusted by sister IFIs to set up the secretariat, a focal point, to launch that partnership.

I have four points I would like to make.

First: For the Government and Friends of Tunisia.
The need for speed. Revolutions by nature raise huge expectations for improved conditions.
Yet they do so at a time when the economies are experiencing temporary dislocations and when markets and investors reassess the risk profile and adopt a wait and see attitude.
That is exactly the time we are needed and called to act with dispatch.
The People of Tunisia and the Region at large are anxious to see us translating promises and good intentions into actions visible and concrete.

Second: For our European friends.
The need for innovation in instruments. These are countries that do not wish to be aid dependent.
They are looking for multi form partnerships on trade and investment.
Europe in particular should expedite the Process geared at trading opportunities.

As UK Chancellor Osborne has frequently said "it is much easier to take in the goods than the people".
Although I think creating opportunities for both the goods and the People is even more helpful.

Third: The need for letting countries be in the driver's seat.
Everything we do must be demand driven. We must avoid temptations to be prescriptive Let the countries and their People decide, chart their path and we rally behind them.
In this way our actions will be complementary to the domestic efforts and sustainable.

**Fourth: For the Private sector: Take the long term view.
The challenges of this region are to promote economic growth
that creates jobs, which is inclusive.
This is a chance for business.
That by nature takes time.**

We would like to work with you to create durable jobs. That is why we are putting a lot of efforts on infrastructure, the private sector, in particular SMEs.

Prime Minister, Excellencies,

North Africa is African, in the first instance; it is anchored in the Mediterranean Region and the Arab World.

This triple belonging is an opportunity to maximize as they look for national but also regional solutions.

You can count on our support such as this relationship with the European Union.

Thank you.