

**STATEMENT BY  
THE REPRESENTATIVE OF BRAZIL**

Mr. Chairman of the Board of Governors  
Honourable Governors,  
President Donald Kaberuka  
Ladies and Gentlemen

It is for me a great honor to participate in the Annual Meetings of the African Development Bank as representative of the Government of Brazil.

Permit me, on behalf of my Government, to thank the authorities and people of Cote d'Ivoire for the warm and fraternal welcome extended to us in this beautiful city of Abidjan.

I represent a country that has in recent years risen to the challenges posed to it, thanks to its strong commitment with regard to fiscal responsibility, its inflation control and adoption of a development strategy geared toward growth and income distribution. We have, within this period, succeeded in reducing the disparities existing in our country. We have brought a significant hitherto marginalized fringe of the population into the mainstream consumer market, improved social indicators and thus laid the basis for sustainable development of the national economy.

The current global economic crisis is of great concern to us, particularly as regards its effects on the under-developed countries. Unfortunately, it is these very countries that, owing to their vulnerability, will suffer the most from the effects of the slacking world economic growth, which will further undermine the positive initiatives aimed at reducing hunger and inequality in our world.

In this context, development agencies such as the African Development Bank play a key catalytic role for continued development in this category of countries. To play their role optimally, these institutions must acquire adequate resources to meet the additional needs of their member countries.

I take this opportunity to congratulate President Kaberuka on his conduct of the capital replenishment process for the African Development Bank, which is to be approved during these meetings. Without doubt, the significant increase in financial contributions negotiated in a context of financial constraint will increase the importance accorded by member countries to the Bank and to its role in the economic development of the continent.

Regarding the African Development Fund, we look forward to the successful culmination of the capital increase negotiations soon. I reaffirm Brazil's commitment to participate in the two capital replenishments.

Mr. Chairperson,  
Honorable Governors,

President Lula has on several occasions acknowledged the priority that Brazil accords to the African continent in its international relations, and he stands out in his encouragement and efforts toward Brazil-Africa cooperation.

As you are all aware, on President Lula's initiative, from 10 to 12 May of this year, our country's capital, Brasilia, hosted a forum dubbed "*the Brazil Africa dialogue on Food security, fight against hunger and rural development*". This event was attended by 45 African countries as well as multilateral finance agencies and civil society organizations of Brazil and the African countries.

In the context of South-South relations, this meeting was an opportunity for discussion of topics and proposals for cooperation in areas including agriculture, food and nutritional security, rural infrastructure, product marketing and market access, increased food stuff production and hunger reduction.

It should be mentioned that for meaningful adoption of the measures agreed in the final paper issued at that meeting, Brazil and the African countries are seeking the effective commitment of financial institutions such as ADB, IFAD and the World Bank, as part of trilateral South-South cooperation mechanisms.

Mr. Chairperson,  
Honorable Governors,

The intensification of relations between Brazil and Africa calls for the strengthening of Brazil's ties with the African Development Bank. It is within that purview that a high-level Brazilian government team visited the Bank in April of this year. On that occasion, the bases for formulation of a work programme were discussed, with the aim of bringing the Brazil and the Bank closer through the identification of cooperation mechanisms favoring the development of African countries.

In conclusion, Mr. President, allow me to extend to you my best wishes for success in your new term at the helm of this prestigious African institution. Together, we can change the realities. The increase in our institution's capital will allow for various actions, which, if judiciously conducted, could lead to sustainable economic and social development of our great continent. Brazil stands ready to provide all necessary support.

Thank you.