

Madam President,

In these difficult times of successive and multidimensional crises, my country is more determined than ever to pursue its efforts in official development assistance and to continue to do its part towards realizing the international development goals, in particular the Millennium Development Goals.

Luxembourg has been since 2000 among the very few countries that contribute 0.7% of their gross national income (GNI) to official development assistance (ODA). In 2008, Luxembourg devoted 0.95% of its GNI to ODA.

The new government, which was elected in June this year, has confirmed this commitment in its programme of work, which was presented on 29 July, 2009 and states in particular that development cooperation is an important vector of the government's external action, a fortiori in the context of its cross-cutting policy of sustainable development, which the government considers a global and common cause. The government's development cooperation policy is a reflection of its international solidarity and is in the interest of Luxembourg and its partners in development, but also in Luxembourg's own interest to see a mitigation of the devastating effects of poverty and of other scourges such as climate change. In this spirit, and striving for an even more effective development cooperation, Luxembourg will maintain its objective, both in volume and in percentage of its GNI, to reach an ODA of 1% of the GNI in the years to come. The Luxembourg government will strive to further improve the quality of its development cooperation, and try to create synergies and mainstream the concept of partnerships to enhance its effectiveness.

Development cooperation through multilateral organisations, such as the Funds and Programmes of the United Nations, is one of the pillars of Luxembourg's Cooperation, and the budget allocated to multilateral cooperation represents a substantial part of the annual ODA.

Since 2004, the Luxembourg government has been following an innovative and unique approach in the context of its multilateral cooperation, in the sense that it has signed framework agreements, which are not limited in time, with four Funds and Programmes of the United Nations, namely the United Nations Development Fund (UNDP), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the United Nations Capital Development Fund for the Least Developed Countries (UNCDF). In these framework agreements, Luxembourg commits to either maintain its level of contribution from one year to the next or to try and increase it, as far as the evolution of its ODA permits and subject to the approval of the draft budget by the Parliament.

Luxembourg has substantively increased its voluntary contributions to the budget of these Funds and Programmes since 2004 (when the framework agreements with UNDP, UNFPA and UNICEF were concluded):

- The voluntary contribution to UNDP has gone up from 1,140,000 EUR in 2004 to 2,950,000 EUR in 2009, which represents an increase of 159%. In 2010, we plan to maintain our contribution at the level of **2,950,000 EUR**. In addition, we will make contributions for thematic issues (MDG's and fight against poverty, good governance, environment) for a total budget of **2,850,000 EUR**.
- The voluntary contribution to UNFPA has gone up from 920,000 EUR in 2004 to 2,650,000 EUR in 2009, which is an increase of 188%. In 2010, we plan to maintain our contribution above the level of **2,650,000 EUR**. Additional thematic contributions (maternal health, fight against fistula, demographics and census) will amount to a total of **2,140,000 EUR**.
- The voluntary contribution to UNICEF has gone up from 770,000 EUR in 2004 to 2,650,000 EUR in 2009, which is an increase of 245%. In 2010, we plan to maintain our contribution at the level of **2,650,000 EUR**. Additional thematic contributions (basic education and gender equality, young child survival and development) will amount to a total of **2,450,000 EUR**.
- The voluntary contribution to UNCDF has gone up from 65,000 EUR in 2004 to 850,000 EUR in 2009, which represents a multiplication by 13. In 2010, we plan to increase our contribution by almost 6% to **900,000 EUR**. We will make additional thematic contributions (local development, inclusive financial sector) for a total amount of **600,000 EUR**.

In voluntary and thematic contributions, Luxembourg will thus contribute a total of **17,19 million EUR** in 2010 to the four Funds and Programmes with which it has concluded framework agreements, subject to the approval of the 2010 draft budget by our Parliament.

Luxembourg also works with other Funds and Programmes of the United Nations, among which UNAIDS, UNEP, CERF and the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM). Our voluntary contribution to UNIFEM has gone up from 700,000 EUR in 2004 to 1,005,000 EUR in 2009, which represents an increase of 44%. In 2010, we plan to maintain our contribution at the same level, that is, at **1,005,000 EUR**.

The detail of Luxembourg's contributions to other Funds and Programmes, some of which I have just mentioned, will be communicated directly to them in due time.

Thank you.