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Statement

By

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United Nations**

**On Behalf of the Organization of the Islamic
Conference**

**On the Report of the Independent Expert on
Human Rights and International Solidarity**

**At the
Sixth Session of the Human Rights Council**

**Geneva
13 September 2007**

Statement by Ambassador Masood Khan, Permanent Representative of Pakistan, on behalf of OIC on the Report of Mr. Muhammad Rizki, Independent Expert on Human Rights and International Solidarity

Mr. President,

I have the honour to make this statement on behalf of Member States of the OIC.

We appreciate the work done by Mr. Rizki and support the notion that international solidarity is not an option but an obligation. We second his call for international cooperation to facilitate and foster “comprehensive development” in the developing countries.

While calling for global response to natural disasters, diseases and agricultural pests, Mr. Rizki has highlighted some of the issues which are of key concern to the developing countries, such as access to medicines at reasonable prices, transfer of technology, enhanced market access for the agricultural produce of the developing countries to the developed markets, increase in Official Development Assistance (ODA), increase in annual aid flows by at least US\$ 50 billion, and a level playing field in global trade and financial architecture, to name a few. However, these issues are neither new nor unknown as the impediments to development of poor and the most vulnerable.

Mr. President,

While we should never give up hope or underestimate what we can collectively achieve, we should not blind ourselves to the stark realities which we face. The ODA has a declining trend, and so far only five of the donor countries have honoured their commitment to allocate 0.7% of their GNI to ODA. The negotiations at the WTO face serious challenges due to huge agriculture subsidies provided by the developed countries to their farmers. The livelihoods of the most vulnerable in the world are increasingly threatened by rapid climate change mainly due to excessive emissions by other countries. The burden of communicable and non-communicable diseases is on increase for the poor, either due to high medicine prices or lack of R&D in orphan diseases. And there is a big question mark on the access to knowledge, education and bridging the digital divide due to additional barriers to open source access.

We would request Mr. Rizki to share his views on how to overcome the challenge of honouring the already agreed international commitments into reality, particularly those related to the MDGs.

Mr. President,

We agree with concept of "comprehensive development" as highlighted by Mr. Rizki. It is a useful concept which can lead to better standard of living for all in the world. However, to realize this concept, there is a need for creating an enabling environment at the international level to provide a level playing field for all in global trade and finance. Such an enabling environment would need additional opportunities for the weak and vulnerable so as to enable them to share the benefits of globalization.

The OIC believes that effective international cooperation between the developed and developing world in all areas, based on the concept of mutual obligations, is the key to help achieve the right of peoples to better living standards. In this regard, proposals mentioned in the report for enhanced trade access, debt relief for LDCs, development assistance and endorsement of right to development are good basis to facilitate and foster comprehensive development.

The OIC also supports the view that "Third Generation Rights" are the collective rights of mankind, irrespective of the level of development and means available to access them.

Lastly, in our statement during the Fourth Session of the Council, we had requested Mr. Rizki to share his views on how to transform the *Lex Feranda* into *Lex lata*. We would once again request Mr. Rizki to share his views and specific suggestions with the Council Members in this regard.

I thank you Mr. President.
