

The World Summit on Sustainable Development 2002

76 Commitments on Financial and Technical Assistance to Developing Countries

The World Summit on Sustainable Development ended on 4th September, one of the key outcomes being the Plan of Implementation. This document contains pledges of development aid that will be made by industrialised countries to developing countries.

The Danish 92 Group has examined the Plan of Implementation and found that a vast number of commitments were made in the areas of financial and technical assistance. In the entire document, pledges of financial assistance appear forty-six times in thirty-two paragraphs, whereas those of technical assistance appear thirty times in twenty-four paragraphs. In total, within the 153 paragraphs in the Plan of Implementation, commitments of financial and/or technical assistance appear seventy-six times in thirty-three paragraphs. This indicates that development aid is a key element in the implementation of commitments made in Johannesburg. It also emphasises the importance put on development aid during the Summit in Johannesburg.

To ensure a sound and trustworthy follow-up of the World Summit, all industrialised countries should analyse and plan how to fulfil each and every of the 76 commitments on financial and technical assistance made in Johannesburg. In this respect, the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities should be kept in mind:

“States shall co-operate in a spirit of global partnership to conserve, protect and restore the health and integrity of the Earth’s ecosystem. In view of the different contributions to global environmental degradation, States have common but differentiated responsibilities. The developed countries acknowledge the responsibility that they bear in the international pursuit of sustainable development in view of the pressures their societies place on the global environment and of the technologies and financial resources they command.” (Paragraph 75, Plan of Implementation.)

The document attached to this letter has been deducted from the Plan of Implementation. It shows the various paragraphs where commitments of financial and technical assistance have been made. The text in bold highlights the pledging of either financial or technical aid whereas the underlined text shows what the assistance will be used for.

When reading the text, it becomes lucid that a need arises to increase the amount of development aid to developing countries. Consequently, we hope that this document will stimulate a debate in the respective parliaments of industrialised countries to increase the amount of assistance granted to developing countries in order to fulfil commitments made in Johannesburg.



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**Excerpt from the
Plan of Implementation, World Summit on Sustainable Development**
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II. Poverty eradication

6 (f) Deliver basic health services for all and reduce environmental health threats, taking into account the special needs of children and the linkages between poverty, health and environment, **with provision of financial resources, technical assistance and knowledge transfer** to developing countries and countries with economies in transition;

(l) Combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought and floods through such measures as improved use of climate and weather information and forecasts, early warning systems, land and natural resource management, agricultural practices and ecosystem conservation in order to reverse current trends and minimize degradation of land and water resources, including through **the provision of adequate and predictable financial resources to implement the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification** in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa, as one of the tools for poverty eradication;

8 (a) Improve access to reliable, affordable, economically viable, socially acceptable and environmentally sound energy services and resources, taking into account national specificities and circumstances, through various means, such as enhanced rural electrification and decentralized energy systems, increased use of renewables, cleaner liquid and gaseous fuels and enhanced energy efficiency, by intensifying regional and international cooperation in support of national efforts, including **through capacity-building, financial and technological assistance and innovative financing mechanisms**, including at the micro and meso levels, recognizing the specific factors for providing access to the poor;

(g) **Assist and facilitate on an accelerated basis, with the financial and technical assistance of developed countries**, including through public-private partnerships, the access of the poor to reliable, affordable, economically viable, socially acceptable and environmentally sound energy services, taking into account the instrumental role of developing national policies on energy for sustainable development, bearing in mind that in developing countries sharp increases in energy services are required to improve the standards of living of their populations and that energy services have positive impacts on poverty eradication and improve standards of living.

9 (a) **Provide assistance and mobilize resources to enhance industrial productivity and competitiveness as well as industrial development in developing countries**, including the transfer of environmentally sound technologies on preferential terms, as mutually agreed;

(b) **Provide assistance to increase income-generating employment opportunities**, taking into account the International Labour Organization (ILO) Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work;

(d) **Provide financial and technological support**, as appropriate, to rural communities of developing countries to enable them to benefit from safe and sustainable livelihood opportunities in small-scale mining ventures;

(e) **Provide support to developing countries for the development of safe low-cost technologies** that provide or conserve fuel for cooking and water heating;

(f) **Provide support for natural resource management** for creating sustainable livelihoods for the poor.

10 (b) **Use low-cost and sustainable materials and appropriate technologies for the construction of adequate and secure housing for the poor**, with **financial and technological assistance** to developing countries, taking into account their culture, climate, specific social conditions and vulnerability to natural disasters;

III. Changing unsustainable patterns of consumption and production

14. Encourage and promote the development of a 10-year framework of programmes in support of regional and national initiatives to accelerate the shift towards sustainable consumption and production to promote social and economic development within the carrying capacity of ecosystems by addressing and, where appropriate, delinking economic growth and environmental degradation through improving efficiency and sustainability in the use of resources and production processes, and reducing resource degradation, pollution and waste. All countries should take action, with developed countries taking the lead, taking into account the development needs and capabilities of developing countries through mobilization, from all sources, of financial and technical assistance and capacity-building for developing countries. This would require actions at all levels to:

(f) Increase eco-efficiency, with financial support from all sources, where mutually agreed, for capacity-building, technology transfer and exchange of technology with developing countries and countries with economies in transition, in cooperation with relevant international organizations.

19(f) Support efforts, including through provision of financial and technical assistance to developing countries, with the involvement of the private sector, to reduce flaring and venting of gas associated with crude oil production;

(n) Utilize financial instruments and mechanisms, in particular the Global Environment Facility (GEF), within its mandate, to provide financial resources to developing countries, in particular least developed countries and small island developing States, to meet their capacity needs for training, technical know-how and strengthening national institutions in reliable, affordable, economically viable, socially acceptable and environmentally sound energy, including promoting energy efficiency and conservation, renewable energy and advanced energy technologies, including advanced and cleaner fossil fuel technologies;

20 (b) Promote investment and partnerships for the development of sustainable, energy efficient multi-modal transportation systems, including public mass transportation systems and better transportation systems in rural areas, **with technical and financial assistance** for developing countries and countries with economies in transition

IV. Protecting and managing the natural resource base of economic and social development

24. Launch a programme of actions, **with financial and technical assistance,** to achieve the millennium development goal on safe drinking water. In this respect, we agree to halve, by the year 2015, the proportion of people who are unable to reach or to afford safe drinking water as outlined in the Millennium Declaration and the proportion of people without access to basic sanitation, which would include actions at all levels to:

(a) **Mobilize international and domestic financial resources at all levels, transfer technology, promote best practice and support capacity-building for water and sanitation infrastructure and services development,** ensuring that such infrastructure and services meet the needs of the poor and are gender-sensitive;

(c) Promote priority action by Governments, with the support of all stakeholders, in water management and capacity-building at the national level and, where appropriate, at the regional level, and promote and provide new and additional financial resources and innovative technologies to implement chapter 18 of Agenda 21;

25(f) Support, where appropriate, efforts and programmes for energy-efficient, sustainable and cost-effective desalination of seawater, water recycling and water harvesting from coastal fogs in developing countries, **through such measures as technological, technical and financial assistance and other modalities;**

36(c) **Provide technical and financial assistance and capacity building to developing countries and countries with economies in transition** in accordance with commitments under the UNFCCC, including the Marrakech accords;

37(a) **Strengthen capacities of developing countries and countries with economies in transition to measure, reduce and assess the impacts of air pollution, including health impacts, and provide financial and technical support for these activities;**

38(i) Adopt policies and implement laws that guarantee well defined and enforceable land and water use rights, and promote legal security of tenure, recognizing the existence of different national laws and/or systems of land access and tenure, and **provide technical and financial assistance to developing countries as well as countries with economies in transition that are undertaking land tenure reform in order to enhance sustainable livelihoods;**

(j) Reverse the declining trend in public sector finance for sustainable agriculture, **provide appropriate technical and financial assistance, and promote private sector investment and support efforts in developing countries and countries with economies in transition** to strengthen agricultural research and natural resource management capacity and dissemination of research results to the farming communities;

(m) **Increase brown-field redevelopment in developed countries and countries with economies in transition, with appropriate technical assistance** where contamination is a serious problem;

39(g) **Improve the sustainability of grassland resources through** strengthening management and law enforcement and **providing financial and technical support** by the international community to developing countries.

40(f) Mobilize national and international support for applied research and capacity-building, **provide financial and technical assistance for the effective implementation of sustainable development of mountain ecosystems in developing countries and countries with economies in transition,** and address the poverty among people living in mountains through concrete plans, projects and programmes, with sufficient support from all stakeholders, taking into account the spirit of the International Year of Mountains, 2002.

41(c) **Provide technical assistance to developing countries and countries with economies in transition to support sustainable tourism** business development and investment and tourism awareness programmes, to improve domestic tourism, and to stimulate entrepreneurial development;

42(h) **Provide financial and technical support to developing countries,** including capacity-building, in order to enhance indigenous and community-based biodiversity conservation efforts;

(m) **Encourage technical and financial support to developing countries** and countries with economies in transition in their efforts to develop and implement, as appropriate, inter alia, national sui generis systems and traditional systems according to national priorities and legislation, with a view to conserving and the sustainable use of biodiversity;

(t) Invite all States which have not already done so to ratify the Convention, the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and other biodiversity-related agreements, and invite those that have done so, to promote their effective implementation at the national, regional and international levels and **to support developing countries and countries with economies in transition technically and financially in this regard.**

44(c) **Foster sustainable mining practices through the provision of financial, technical and capacity-building support to developing countries and countries with economies in transition** for the mining and processing of minerals, including small-scale mining, and, where possible and appropriate, improve value-added processing, upgrade scientific and technological information, and reclaim and rehabilitate degraded sites.

V. Sustainable development in a globalizing world

45. **Assist developing countries and countries with economies in transition in narrowing the digital divide**, creating digital opportunities and harnessing the potential of information and communication technologies for development, through technology transfer on mutually agreed terms and the provision of **financial and technical support**, and in this context support the World Summit on the Information Society.

VI. Health and sustainable development

47(c) **Provide technical and financial assistance to developing countries** and countries with economies in transition to implement the Health for All Strategy, including health information systems and integrated databases on development hazards;

(l) **Transfer and disseminate**, on mutually agreed terms, including through public-private multisector partnerships, technologies for safe water, sanitation and waste management for rural and urban areas in developing countries and countries with economies in transition, **with international financial support**, taking into account country-specific conditions and gender equality including specific technology needs of women;

49(a) **Strengthening regional and national programmes**, including through public-private partnerships, **with technical and financial assistance to developing countries**;

(d) **Assisting developing countries in providing affordable energy to rural communities**, particularly to reduce dependence on traditional fuel sources for cooking and heating, which affect the health of women and children.

VII. Sustainable development of small island developing States

52(j) **Assist small island developing States in mobilizing adequate resources and partnerships** for their adaptation needs relating to the adverse effects of climate change, sea level rise and climate variability, consistent with commitments under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Changes, where applicable;

VIII. Sustainable development for Africa

56. (h) **Provide financial and technical support to strengthen the capacity of African countries to undertake environmental legislative policy and institutional reform for sustainable development** and to undertake environmental impact assessments and, as appropriate, to negotiate and implement multilateral environment agreements;

(n) **Provide financial and technical support for afforestation and reforestation in Africa** and to build capacity for sustainable forest management, including combating deforestation and measures to improve the policy and legal framework of the forest sector.

57. **Provide financial and technical support for Africa's efforts to implement the Convention to Combat Desertification** at the national level and integrate indigenous knowledge systems into land and natural resources management practices, as appropriate, and improve extension services to rural communities and promote better land and watershed management practices, including through improved agricultural practices that address land degradation, in order to develop capacity for the implementation of national programmes.

58. **Mobilize financial and other support to develop and strengthen health systems** that aim at:

- (a) Promoting equitable access to health-care services;
 - (b) Making available necessary drugs and technology in a sustainable and affordable manner to fight and control communicable diseases, including HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis, and trypanosomiasis, as well as non-communicable diseases, including those caused by poverty;
 - (c) Building capacity of medical and paramedical personnel;
 - (d) Promoting indigenous medical knowledge, as appropriate, including traditional medicine;
 - (e) Researching and controlling the Ebola disease.
59. (a) **Provide financial and technical assistance to strengthen the capacities of African countries**, including institutional and human capacity, including at the local level, for effective disaster management, including observation and early warning systems, assessments, prevention, preparedness, response and recovery;

IX. Means of implementation

75. “States shall cooperate in a spirit of global partnership to conserve, protect and restore the health and integrity of the Earth’s ecosystem. In view of the different contributions to global environmental degradation, States have common but differentiated responsibilities. The developed countries acknowledge the responsibility that they bear in the international pursuit of sustainable development in view of the pressures their societies place on the global environment and of the technologies and financial resources they command.”

The internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration and Agenda 21, as well as in the present plan of action, **will require significant increases in the flow of financial resources** as elaborated in the Monterrey Consensus, including **through new and additional financial resources, in particular to developing countries**, to support the implementation of national policies and programmes developed by them, improved trade opportunities, access to and transfer of environmentally sound technologies on a concessional or preferential basis, as mutually agreed, education and awareness-raising, capacity-building, and information for decision-making and scientific capabilities within the agreed time frame required to meet these goals and initiatives.

79. Recognize that **a substantial increase in ODA and other resources will be required if developing countries are to achieve the internationally agreed development goals and objectives**, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration. To build support for ODA, we will cooperate to further improve policies and development strategies, both nationally and internationally, to enhance aid effectiveness, with actions to:

(a) **Make available the increased ODA commitments announced by several developed countries at the International Conference on Financing for Development.**

80. Make full and effective use of existing financial mechanisms and institutions, including through actions at all levels to:

(c) Work to ensure that **the funds are made available on a timely, more assured and predictable basis to international organizations and agencies**, where appropriate, for their sustainable development activities, programmes and projects;

(e) **Support new and existing public/private sector financing mechanisms for developing countries and countries with economies in transition**, to benefit in particular small entrepreneurs and small, medium-sized and community-based enterprises and to improve their infrastructure, while ensuring the transparency and accountability of such mechanisms.

89. **Build the capacity of commodity-dependent countries to diversify exports through, inter alia, financial and technical assistance**, international assistance for economic diversification and sustainable resource management, and address the instability of commodity

prices and declining terms of trade, as well as strengthen the activities covered by the Second Account of the Common Fund for Commodities to support sustainable development.

99. **Promote, facilitate and finance**, as appropriate, access to and the development, transfer and diffusion of environmentally sound technologies and corresponding know-how, in particular to developing countries and countries with economies in transition on favourable terms, including on concessional and preferential terms, as mutually agreed, as set out in chapter 34 of Agenda 21...

100. **Improve the transfer of technologies to developing countries**, in particular at the bilateral and regional levels, including through urgent actions at all levels to:

(d) **Provide assistance to developing countries**, as well as countries with economies in transition, in accessing environmentally sound technologies that are publicly owned or in the public domain, as well as available knowledge in the public domain on science and technology, and in accessing the know-how and expertise required in order for them to make independent use of this knowledge in pursuing their development goals;

(e) Support existing mechanisms and, where appropriate, **establish new mechanisms for the development, transfer and diffusion of environmentally sound technologies to developing countries and economies in transition.**

101. **Assist developing countries in building capacity to access a larger share of multilateral and global research and development programmes.** In this regard, strengthen and, where appropriate, create centres for sustainable development in developing countries.

103(d) **Assist developing countries in developing and implementing science and technology policies;**

104. **Assist developing countries**, through international co-operation, in enhancing their capacity in their efforts to address issues pertaining to environmental protection including in their formulation and implementation of policies for environmental management and protection, including through urgent actions at all levels to:

(a) Improve their use of science and technology for environmental monitoring, assessment models, accurate databases and integrated information systems;

109. Education is critical for promoting sustainable development. It is therefore **essential to mobilize necessary resources, including financial** resources at all levels, by bilateral and multilateral donors, including the World Bank and the regional development banks, by civil society and by foundations, to complement the efforts by national governments to pursue the following goals and actions:

110. **Provide financial assistance and support to education, research, public awareness programmes and developmental institutions in developing countries** and countries with economies in transition in order to:

112. **Allocate national and international resources for basic education as proposed by the Dakar Framework for Action on Education for All** and for improved integration of sustainable development into education and in bilateral and multilateral development programmes, and improve integration between publicly funded research and development and development programmes.

119. **Support** local, national, subregional and regional initiatives, with action to develop, use and adapt knowledge and techniques and to enhance local, national, subregional and regional centres of excellence for education, research and training in order to strengthen the knowledge capacity of developing countries and countries with economies in transition through, inter alia, the mobilization from all sources of **adequate financial and other resources**, including new and additional resources;

119.bis **Provide technical and financial assistance to developing countries, including through the strengthening of capacity-building efforts**, such as the United Nations Development Programme capacity 21 programme, to:

119.quater Strengthen national and regional information and statistical and analytical services relevant to sustainable development policies and programmes, including data disaggregated by

sex, age and other factors, and **encourage donors to provide financial and technical support to developing countries to enhance their capacity to formulate policies and implement programmes for sustainable development.**

X. Institutional framework for sustainable development

121 (c) **Strengthening of the implementation of Agenda 21, including through the mobilization of financial and technological resources, as well as capacity-building programmes, particularly for developing countries;**

135. **Significantly strengthen support for UNDP capacity-building programmes for sustainable development, building on the experience gained from Capacity 21,** as important mechanisms for supporting local and national development capacity-building efforts, in particular in developing countries.

143(c) Assist in the mobilization of technical and financial assistance, and facilitate the provision of adequate financing for the implementation of regionally and subregionally agreed sustainable development programmes and projects, including addressing the objective of poverty eradication;