



STATEMENT OF HEADS OF REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT BANKS AT THE WORLD SUMMIT FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Johannesburg, South Africa, 2 Sept. 2002 – *The following statement was issued today by the heads of the regional development banks including Asian Development Bank President, Tadao Chino; African Development Bank President, Omar Kabbaj; European Bank for Reconstruction and Development President, Jean Lemierre; and Inter-American Development Bank President, Enrique V. Iglesias.*

During the World Summit on Sustainable Development, heads of the world's regional development banks stressed their continuing commitment to promoting sustainable development and their belief that the principles of sustainability will be implemented best through a partnership of governments, international institutions, sub-regional organizations, private enterprises, local populations and other stakeholders.

Each of the four banks works to promote sustainable development in a separate region of the world and uses particular tools and approaches. Whether working to help countries to build and undertake sustainable development agendas that will reduce poverty and preserve the environment; enhancing transparency; or financing the private sector to invest responsibly towards development, the banks leverage their expertise towards sustainable prosperity for the people of their regions.

In each region there has been progress. But there are many challenges ahead in achieving the aims set out at the Earth Summit a decade ago.

At their meeting in March, at the Monterrey Conference on Financing for Development, the heads of development banks emphasized sensitivity to the particular conditions of each country. The regional development banks bring their special commitment, knowledge and focus on individual country situations to the collective international effort. They also pointed out the need to refine systems to monitor effectiveness of their programs.

The Johannesburg Summit underscores the importance of many voices around an agreed objective – the voices of institutions and governments alongside voices of NGOs and communities, responsible businesses and all stakeholders.

We, the heads of regional development banks, reaffirm our strong commitment to work in partnership to leverage the power of a multitude of voices to serve in the real and effective implementation of the principles of sustainable development.

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