



**ISLAMIC DEVELOPMENT BANK (IDB)**

**Message from H.E. Dr. Ahmad Mohamed Ali, President, IDB to the FAO  
High-Level Conference on “*World Food Security: Challenges of Climate  
Change and Bioenergy*”  
*Rome, Italy (3-5 June 2008)***

***Excellencies, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen:***

It is indeed a great honor for me to participate in this important gathering of distinguished and eminent personalities; and to represent the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) – a multilateral development bank based in Jeddah in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia; and whose membership is composed of 56 countries, 26 of which are classified as least developed..

I have been requested by H.E. Dr. Ahmad Mohamed Ali to deliver a message on his behalf to this august assembly. He would have much liked to attend this important conference but he could not do so as he is presently attending the 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors of IDB..

**Quote:**

I would like first of all to thank H.E. Jacques Diouf, Director General of FAO for taking this timely initiative to organize the FAO High-Level Conference on “World Food Security: Challenges of Climate Change and Bioenergy”

The IDB, like all other development partners around the world, is deeply concerned with the Global Food Crisis. As we speak, the IDB is holding its 33rd Annual Meeting of its Board of Governors in Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and I am pleased to inform this august gathering that on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of June 2008, the IDB's Board of Governors announced a comprehensive program of short, medium and longer term measures to help IDB member countries and particularly the least developed in their efforts to tackle the present Global Food Crisis. The total amount of this program is US\$ 1.5 billion over a period of 5 years, mainly in the form of grant and concessional financing. The short term measures under the program include assistance to the most affected countries to help them procure agricultural inputs such as improved seeds, fertilizers, pesticides, and agricultural tools and implements to boost food production for the next two cropping seasons. Funds will also be utilized to import grain to replenish domestic food security stocks; and procure animal feed and veterinary supplies.

In the medium to long-term, the program includes: (i) Pro-active identification of agricultural development and food security projects in the countries concerned, (ii) promotion of partnerships between member countries in the field of agricultural development and food security to maximize the use of the natural, human and financial resources available in member countries for the achievement of food security, (iii) intensification of efforts of the Bank in securing partnerships with the private sector within and outside the member countries for investment in agricultural development and food security projects, (iv) Coordination with specialized institutions in the agricultural sector for the development of projects that cater for all agricultural development aspects, including the development of agribusiness and the improvement of agricultural technologies through irrigation, mechanization, improved seeds, and marketing, (v) Provision of technical assistance to support agricultural extension and research with a view to improving and increasing productivity, (vi) Extension of lines to finance agricultural inputs, (vii) Preparation of Feasibility Studies for agricultural projects, (viii) organization of Conferences to promote investment in agriculture;

*Ladies and Gentlemen,*

The IDB will join hands in strategic initiatives and targeted funding programs with other institutions including sister multilateral development banks; specialized agricultural institutions such as the FAO and IFAD; other UN agencies and institutions of the *Coordination Group*.

With these remarks, I thank you for your attention and sincerely hope that agriculture and food security will receive its due and rightful place in our future work programs.

**Unquote:**

Thank you.