

Consultative Group Meeting for Vietnam

Hanoi, Vietnam: December 14-15, 2006

Chairman's Report to the Board

This report outlines the most pertinent issues raised during the end of year 2006 Consultative Group meeting in Vietnam, held at the National Conference Center on 14 – 15 December 2006. Pledges reached a record high US\$4.4 billion. Emphasis was placed on the need to focus on quality of growth as well as the consolidation of governance and financial reforms. Concerns prevail about the need to fight corruption and the persistent poverty among ethnic minorities.

1. Opening Session

Delegates offered congratulations on several highlights in 2006: World Trade Organization (WTO) accession, the successful hosting of the APEC summit, appointment of Vietnam to be a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council in 2008, the approval of the Socio-Economic Development Plan 2006 – 2010, and Government leadership in piloting the “one UN” initiative. This last is a pilot scheme at the cutting edge of the UN system-wide reform, which aims to develop one set of management practices, one plan, and one budget for the operations of all UN agencies in Vietnam. All UN agencies will be housed in one building and placed under one overall UN leader.

It was widely acknowledged that the challenges of the next five years will be substantively different from those of the past. The Prime Minister emphasized the desire to reach middle income status by 2010 and industrialized country status by 2020. Opening speeches discussed the need for quality and balance of economic growth, deepening structural reforms, ensuring social inclusion, protecting the environment and modernizing institutions.

2. Economic Growth and Global Integration

Discussion covered reforms that will help Vietnam complete its transition to a market economy, and simultaneously meet its international commitments. As Vietnam enters middle income country status it will need to focus on building complex institutions to support the **government's role as a regulator** rather than a provider of goods and services. Continued consultation with the private sector was encouraged as its role in economic activity expands. Key points raised by donors included:

- The need to **accelerate banking reform** – Donors expressed disappointment that progress has not been as rapid as expected. WTO commitments will increase competition in the banking sector, and Vietnam will need to adjust to this new reality as soon as possible. New targets for equitization of all State Owned

Commercial Banks (SOCBs) in 2007 and 2008 must encourage the participation of strategic investors. The State Bank of Vietnam (SBV) should become a modern central bank focused on market-based monetary policy and risk-based supervision. Furthermore, the stock and bond markets will become increasingly important sources of finance for a middle income country.

- The **reform of State Owned Enterprises (SOEs)** is now entering a key phase as General Corporations are being transformed, with some becoming Economic Groups. The State Capital Investment Corporation (SCIC) will become the sole exerciser of government ownership rights and will thus help eliminate interference from ministries and provinces in the operation of SOEs. It is crucial that these large Economic Groups and the SCIC follow modern practices of corporate governance .
- Modernizing **tax administration and customs** will be a crucial revenue-side reform, with agencies developing a clean and customer-service culture. Challenges lie in making the state's budget more transparent as well as bringing accounting and reporting into line with international standards. It will be important to continue to decentralize expenditures and increase the autonomy of service delivery units while making them more accountable.
- Increasing **global integration** offers benefits but will also heighten vulnerability to capital flows or other international shocks. Macroeconomic management needs to become more modern; this has implications for exchange rate management, foreign reserve adequacy and supervision of capital markets and the banking sector.
- The **World Trade Organization (WTO) commitments** must be implemented through a development approach that focuses on harnessing the benefits of accession rather than narrowly on compliance. It will require coordination across several ministries, as well as across all levels of government. Therefore an empowered coordinating mechanism is needed to implement the government's action plan. Communicating with all stakeholders, notably the private sector and civil society, is important, as is keeping with a special eye on detecting and responding to problems faced by the poor.
- The **Vietnam Business Forum (VBF)** acknowledged the increasingly consultative process in drafting laws and decrees. Nevertheless, the late issuance of guiding documents creates uncertainty around the requirements of the laws, and the VBF encouraged government to involve business at an earlier drafting stage. The forum placed a specific focus on infrastructure development, especially on sea ports and electricity and on the importance of attracting Foreign Direct Investment in these sectors as well as higher education to ensure a skilled work force.

3. Social Development and Environmental Sustainability

Discussion covered the challenges of providing education for a rapidly growing and integrating economy, the prevention of HIV/AIDS, the control of Avian Influenza (AI), progress in natural resource management, and protection of the environment. Key themes were the need for emphasis on lagging groups, especially ethnic minorities; the need to include the poor in integrated, sustainable, universal systems; and the need for sound, cross-ministry engagement. More detailed discussion covered the following issues:

- Delegates welcomed the establishment of a **comprehensive mechanism for donor-government coordination and dialogue (CAP)** in prevention of **HIV/AIDS**, which could enable more rapid progress than in the past. It was also suggested that this should go further, to include all resources, not just Official Development Assistance (ODA). Partners were eager to see stronger participation of ministries outside the Ministry of Health (MoH) and more intensive efforts to reduce stigma. Since HIV/AIDS in Vietnam is concentrated among young people, prevention through education is particularly important.
- Partners also praised the Government for its handling of **AI**. They recognized that Vietnam's success in handling AI so far should not lead to reduced assistance, and that donors should commit to supporting medium-term interventions such as capacity building for health workers, which will be key to minimizing the damage caused by any resurgence of AI.
- Delegates welcomed the presentation on education policy that retains an emphasis on inclusive, quality basic education while also focusing on higher education as a factor in improving Vietnam's competitiveness. Participants commented on the need for closer collaboration between the Ministry of Labor, Invalids, and Social Affairs (MOLISA) and the Ministry of Education and Training (MOET), particularly with regard to the provision of training. Delegates also expressed a hope that the forthcoming decree on teaching and learning for ethnic minority children would include a provision for bilingual education.
- Participants discussed a number of challenges associated with the provision of social security through universal systems, recognizing that the move to a middle income (and increasingly urbanized) economy requires a significant cross-sectoral effort in order to avoid fragmentation of the system. Some of the key considerations in this regard are:
 - *Targeted programs*: Analysis suggests that what has worked well so far may not be what will work well in the future. In particular, activities that have served the Kinh well may not serve ethnic minorities as well. There are grounds for arguing that policies and actions intended to benefit ethnic

minorities could be re-thought with a view to improving outcomes specifically for them.

- *Health insurance*: Partners welcomed the clear strategy of developing a universal system that includes the poor. As MoH prepares to pass the law, several issues will arise, such as the refund system, the ability of the Vietnam Social Security (VSS) to be a strategic purchaser, and experimentation with group insurance for those who will be expected to contribute voluntarily (those who are neither formally employed nor qualify for subsidised insurance). A particular concern will surround the management of health costs, which might accelerate quite rapidly.
 - *Pensions*: The discussion suggested that a great deal remains to be done to put in place a fiscally sustainable, inclusive pension system. Even with recent regulatory changes, the pension system is still quite far removed from an actuarial benchmark. The meeting encouraged MOLISA to consider the model being developed to provide universal health insurance. This would include explicit recognition of debts that are building up to cover pensions for the generation that will retire in 30 to 40 years and consideration of a subsidy along the lines of what is being done in health.
 - *Systems*: Experience from partner countries suggests that Vietnam should contain the proliferation of identity cards and numbers that arise from a fragmented system of social security provision. Instead, efforts now to make use of modern technology and to move towards an integrated system will greatly simplify management in the future. Delegates also suggested that the high rates of both occupational and physical mobility will necessitate systems that allow for portability of schemes from one place to another or from one job to another.
 - *Jobs*: Job opportunities will be crucial to making growth inclusive. Discussion suggested that maintaining flexibility in labor markets would be key to maximizing job creation. The minimum wage will have to be raised considerably over the short term, which implies a need for a cautious approach to labor market policies. This would include not raising fees and contributions and a shift away from using one tool for multiple purposes. In particular, it would be useful to dissociate pay in the public sector from wider labor market issues.
- Discussion suggested that ensuring that ethnic minorities have **access to land** along with appropriate technical inputs and market access will be important to addressing troubling, growing gaps.
 - Delegates congratulated the Government on the passage of the new Law on Environmental Protection, but suggested that both government and donors could be paying more attention to **climate change**. As a signatory to the Kyoto Protocol, Vietnam could be using the Clean Development Mechanism more creatively. Delegates also noted that robust implementation of the regulations on environmental protection will depend heavily on the skills and capacity of staff at

local levels of Government, especially in the Departments of Natural Resources and the Environment (DONRE).

4. Good Governance

Discussion covered the interconnected issues of Public Administration Reform (PAR), legal and judicial reform, and anti-corruption work. Key themes resonating through these connected areas include: the promotion of **accountability and transparency**, managing the interplay between information and systems, moving from “**civil masters to civil servants**”, and “whole-of-government” responses.

- Delegates suggested that **PAR** is the key tool for achieving goals for both governance and for broader social and economic progress. At a strategic level, reform of the public administration will involve defining borders between public and private, between central and local, and between state and society. The development of sound, register-based systems will be key to improving the efficiency and transparency of Government operations. Development partners also suggested there is a need to remedy incentive structures for civil servants that currently create a culture of risk aversion.
- **Legal and judicial reform:** With WTO accession, the economic costs of slow implementation of resolutions 48 & 49 (Legal Reform Strategy and Judicial Reform Strategy) could be considerable. Participants noted that a lack of qualified legal experts, particularly at local levels, was a key constraint in the implementation of justice. Delegates strongly encouraged the development of an enabling framework for local civil society and a continuation of participatory approaches to policy-making and law-making.
- Delegates praised the government for its strong will and considerable action in **tackling corruption** since the mid-term CG. There has been follow-up on specific issues (e.g. PMU18) and a strategy for system-wide change. Ratification of the International Convention on Anti-Corruption is likely early next year. The establishment of the high-level steering committee was praised, and seen as central to holding agencies accountable for upholding high standards of integrity, to monitoring progress, and to ensuring that Vietnamese citizens have good information on progress and issues. There was concern that grand corruption should not eclipse the need to tackle small-scale corruption, which impacts the poor directly.
- Anti-corruption efforts could include a focus on the **next generation**, which is to aim toward the next generation of Vietnamese citizens as the first to live in a corruption-free economy. Though some solutions to corruption are political in nature, there are some clear **technical steps** that could have a direct impact on the space for corrupt behavior. These could include a focus on developing transparent business processes and transactions in sectors and areas where the

corruption diagnostic study already clearly indicates that there are problems. Delegates also emphasized the need to gather good data for diagnosis and monitoring, and agreed that there was a substantial role for the media in promoting accountability in government operations.

5. ODA Harmonisation and Effectiveness

There was praise for progress in implementing the Hanoi Core Statement (HCS). The government reported some quick wins with regards to cost norms and recent legal innovations. Discussion focused on the need to see donor harmonization not as an end in itself, but as a way of **to enhance effectiveness and reduce transaction costs**. In this sense, the harmonization agenda does not imply a narrowing of the range of aid modalities.

- Donors welcomed the introduction of **Decree 131** and offered support to the Government in designing the implementing circulars to ensure that this does not add layers of bureaucracy. Donors voiced concern about the ambiguities arising in the legal framework that links grant agreements and **international treaties**. There were concerns that these recent legal changes would not be sufficient to tackle the problem of poor disbursements, which could ultimately undermine ODA commitments.
- Delegates welcomed the forthcoming **independent monitoring** mission that will give an objective assessment of where government and donors stand in the implementation of the HCS.
- Delegates commended the Government on its leadership in promoting UN reform through the “One UN” initiative in Vietnam. More broadly, there was agreement that the partnership architecture had become overly complex and should be rationalized.

6. Pledging

Pledges this year hit a record level totaling US\$4.4 billion, US\$700 million more than last year. Details of the pledges are attached.

Vietnam: CG Meeting Pledge Summary

Dec 14-15, 2006

US\$ millions

Bilaterals	Pledge for 2007
Australia	63.7
Canada	27.0
Japan	890.3
Korea	110.5
New Zealand	6.0
Norway	10.0
Switzerland	23.4
Thailand	0.3
United States	84.7
EU sub-total	948.2
European Commission	52.7
Belgium	20.7
Czech Republic	2.1
Denmark	82.5
Finland	24.1
France	370.4
Germany	76.1
Hungary	0.7
Ireland	23.0
Italy	55.5
Luxemburg	13.2
Netherlands	59.3
Poland	0.3
Spain	25.0
Sweden	45.2
United Kingdom	97.5
Sub-total bilaterals	2,164.3
Multilaterals	
ADB	1,140.5
UN agencies	70.9
World Bank	890.0
Sub-total multilaterals	2,101.4
International NGOs	180.0
Total	4,445.7

Note: Exchange rate of December 12, 2006.

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Consultative Group Meeting for Vietnam Hanoi, December 14-15, 2006

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DONORS SHOW STRONG SUPPORT FOR VIETNAM'S POVERTY REDUCTION EFFORTS AND THE 2006 – 2010 SOCIO- ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN

HANOI - December 15, 2006 – The two-day Consultative Group (CG) Meeting for Vietnam closed today, with donors expressing their continued support to Vietnam's development and the objectives of the Socio-Economic Development Plan (SEDP) 2006-2010. Donors also congratulated the Government on its successful hosting of the APEC meeting and accession to WTO. The meeting was characterized by an open and frank dialogue on the path ahead, including key challenges to be addressed. While economic growth and poverty reduction are critically important, participants agreed that attention should also be placed on improving the quality of growth. As envisaged in the SEDP, ensuring social inclusion, protecting the environment, and strengthening governance must remain key priorities in the coming years.

The financial commitment to Vietnam's development reached record levels, with pledges reaching more than US\$ 4.4 billion in assistance for the coming year, compared to US\$3.7 billion last year.

For the first time in the history of Vietnamese CG meetings, a Vietnamese Prime Minister participated, accompanied by 5 ministers. In his remarks, **Vietnam's Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung** said that growth this year is expected to reach 8.2%, but importantly there has also been an associated fall in the number of poor households by 3%. Vietnam is firmly on track to reach the middle income status by the end of the SEDP 2006 - 2010. *"This progress has been achieved as a result of sustained reform efforts that started 20 years ago. It is the expectation that GDP per capita will reach US\$1,100 by the end of the SEDP 2006-2010 period, putting Vietnam on the path to become an industrialized country by 2020. Challenges remain, particularly in the area of corruption. The Party and the Government are committed to tackling corruption and we have taken a number of concrete actions to identify and reduce corrupt practices. Ensuring sustainable development is also a challenge, and we would like to thank the international community for its support in addressing this challenge. Our relations are as much about ideas as it is about money, and we look forward to further cooperation, in the spirit of partnership, in the years to come."* Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung told participants at the opening session.

Meeting Vietnam's Social and Economic Targets 2006 - 2010

Donors and the Government discussed Vietnam's social and economic performance. Vietnam's **Minister for Planning and Investment Vo Hong Phuc** said, *"the achievements in ODA implementation are remarkable, and have contributed to reaching socio-economic development and poverty reduction targets in Vietnam. The implementation of the 5-year Socio-Economic Development Plan 2006 - 2010 is a long road that offers many advantages and opportunities while at the same time posing no small difficulties and challenges given Vietnam's accession to the WTO. This further requires the Vietnamese Government and people to make a yet greater effort while putting a big demand for the international community's further assistance to Vietnam"*.

Donors complemented the efforts of the Government in the past months, noting that 2006 has been an extraordinary year for Vietnam with the successful hosting of the annual APEC meeting, accession to the World Trade Organization, and its recent election to the Security Council of the United Nations.

PRESS RELEASE

They underlined that while it has been a year which has seen Vietnam's firm integration into the international community, an integration which will bring with it many advantages, it will also require the country to continually adjust to new realities.

"WTO accession poses challenges as well as opportunities" said **H.E Mr. Norio Hattori, Ambassador of Japan**. *"The accession is expected to bring about significant impact upon Vietnam's economy and society. One of its associated challenges is the need to build up the capacity of local governments including provinces. Japan continues to work together with Vietnam to attract more investment through their Joint Initiative. Japan is also resolved to continue its infrastructure assistance including major transportation projects."* He also welcomed Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung's commitment to fight corruption and expressed high expectations for his leadership.

Donors and Government agreed that the steps taken to reform and open up the economy will benefit the Vietnamese people through the creation of employment, increasing exports and enhanced ability to attract foreign investment. While commending the strong economic progress in the last few years, as well as the prudent macroeconomic management, delegates emphasized the need to accelerate reforms, particularly of State Owned Enterprises (SOEs) and address shortcomings in the financial sector. Donors emphasized that in the future, the Government should move rapidly from being an owner to becoming a regulator of business.

Mr. Lazaros Molho of the IMF stated that *"Vietnam's overall record of economic performance has continued to be impressive over the last year. WTO membership will undoubtedly provide Vietnam with enhanced opportunities for continued rapid economic development but as authorities clearly recognize the outlook is not without risks. To reap the full benefits from increasing global integration, macroeconomic management will need to be increasingly vigilant, reforms of previously-protected industries will need to be stepped up, and financial system regulation and supervision upgraded."*

Delegates emphasized that strengthening the capacity of government employees and institutions is a critical challenge. They noted that a middle-income country has a more complex economy, much more diverse across regions and across sectors, and Vietnam must tackle this to put itself on track to become an industrialized country.

Mr. Ayumi Konishi, the Country Director of the Asian Development Bank noted that, *"As Vietnam is entering into a new phase of development, it has to improve its competitiveness. And for Vietnam to be competitive, it has to enhance efficiency at all levels, the national and firm levels, as well as in effective absorption of the increasing level of assistance."*

As part of the CG process, the Vietnam Business Forum (VBF) was held 13 December 2007 between representatives of the business community and the government. On behalf of the VBF, **Mr. Oliver Massman** congratulated the Government on WTO accession adding that, *"While accession should boost international investment, the subsequent challenge will be for Vietnam to build a strong platform for private sector investment that will ensure healthy levels of FDI and economic growth. This platform will best be supported by three pillars: infrastructure development, education, particularly higher education, and maximizing tourism sector opportunities."*

The VBF acknowledged the Government's openness in consulting with the business sector. Participants especially highlighted the significance of continued consultation in the drafting of laws and regulations, and ensuring their timely issuance.

Social Inclusion and Improving Governance

Donors and the Government agreed on the importance of combating corruption. **H.E. Kari Alanko, the Ambassador of Finland, which holds the Presidency of the European Union** stated that, *"Corruption is a major factor that slows down Vietnam's development efforts. It is also a fact that corruption influences perceptions about development assistance in donor countries."* He also stated that legal and judiciary reforms are critical, noting that *"a strong and independent judiciary system is*

PRESS RELEASE

a precondition for a society based on the rule of law. The EU considers that the rule of law not only safeguards human rights, but is also a crucial precondition for sustainable development.”

Donors noted that development is about more than just economic growth, underscoring that emphasis must also be placed on quality of growth, social inclusion and on the changing nature of the relationship between the state and society. They emphasized the importance of establishing an appropriate legal framework for civil society participation in Vietnam’s development process, and urged Government to present a Law on Association as soon as possible.

The well-being of the country’s most vulnerable citizens must also be prioritized as the economy strengthens, donors said. People living with disabilities, or with HIV/AIDS, and people vulnerable to natural disasters as well as ethnic minorities need the active support of the state to ensure a life in dignity, noted **Mr. John Hendra, United Nations Resident Coordinator**. He further underlined that, *“Efforts to sustain development progress over the long term through the development of transparent, democratic and accountable public institutions and sustainable management of the environment and natural resources should guide ODA in the future.”*

Concern about the persistent poverty of Vietnam’s ethnic minorities was echoed by several other delegations. **The Norwegian Ambassador, H.E. Kjell Storlokken**, speaking on behalf of Canada, New Zealand, Switzerland and Norway recognized the significant efforts made by the Government to improve the lives of disadvantaged groups, welcomed the new measures in the SEDP 2006 – 2010 for socio-economic development of the mountainous and ethnic minority areas, but added that, *“Improvement of the living conditions of poor ethnic minority households and communities goes beyond infrastructure and economic development. It is important to empower the ethnic minorities’ representation within the administrative and political level and enhance the role of ethnic minority communities in the planning and decision-making process.”* The ambassador, drawing from the experience of all four countries underscored that, *“Ethnic minority culture forms a vital component of a country’s cultural heritage and plays an important role in the development of a dynamic and contemporary society.”*

Aid Effectiveness

Donors reaffirmed their commitment to align their assistance to the SEDP 2006 – 2010 as emphasized in the Hanoi Core Statement (HCS) on aid effectiveness, and welcomed the new Decree 131 on Overseas Development Assistance (ODA) utilization and management. They also welcomed the forthcoming independent monitoring mission that will give an objective assessment of the implementation of the HCS.

The group of **Like-Minded Donors**¹ commended the strong leadership of the Government in advancing aid effectiveness through the implementation of the Vietnam Harmonization Action Plan. They emphasized, however, that additional efforts could be made to further the effectiveness of ODA through the harmonization of management cost norms, aiming at a revised cost norm framework, including ceiling and floor rates, both for Government and donors. Furthermore, the group joined other participants in welcoming the One UN initiative, and commended the Government leadership in piloting this important initiative, which will provide a solid basis for enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of the United Nations.

In his closing remarks, **Mr. Klaus Rohland, World Bank Country Director for Vietnam**, underlined that *“the SEDP’s goal of Vietnam becoming a middle income country by 2010 is ambitious but attainable. Given its recent performance Vietnam should aim high. Reaching middle income status is not only about income levels, but also about putting in place complex institutions. It is about making the delivery of services more decentralized; it is about increasing transparency and accountability; it is about building a social protection system reconciling efficiency with support to*

¹ The Like-Minded Donor Group consists of Australia, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, Germany, the Netherlands, Ireland, New Zealand, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

PRESS RELEASE

the vulnerable. Above all, reaching middle-income country status requires a shift in the role of Government from owning and doing to leading and regulating.”

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The Consultative Group for Vietnam meet in Hanoi on December 14-15, 2006, under the co-chairmanship of Mr. Vo Hong Phuc, Minister of Planning and Investment and Mr. Klaus Rohland, World Bank's Country Director for Vietnam. The Vietnamese delegation was led His Excellency, Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung, His Excellency, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Pham Gia Khiem and Mr. Vo Hong Phuc, Minister for Planning and Investment. It also has, and among others: Mr. Vu Van Ninh, Minister of Finance; Mr. Le Duc Thuy, Governor of the State Bank of Vietnam; Mr. Nguyen Thien Nhan, Minister of Education and Training; Mr. Ho Nghia Dung, Minister of Transport, Mr. Nguyen Xuan Phuc, Vice Chairman of the Government's Office, Mr. Cao Viet Sinh, Vice Minister of Planning and Investment, Mr. Nguyen Toan Thang, Vice Chairman of the Communist Party's Central Commission for Economics, Mr. Nguyen Ngoc Tran, Vice Chairman of the National Assembly's Foreign Affairs Committee, Mr. Tran Xuan Ha, Vice Minister of Finance, Mr. Phung Dac Ke, Deputy Governor of the State Bank of Vietnam, Mr. Tran Huu Thang, Vice Minister of Home Affairs, Mr. Hoang The Lien, Vice Minister of Justice; Mr. Hua Duc Nhi, Vice Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development; Mr. Le Danh Vinh, Vice Minister of Trade; Mr. Pham Vu Luan, Vice Minister of Education and Training; Mr. Ho Xuan Hung, Deputy Chairman, National Steering Committee for Enterprise Reform and Development; Mr. Mai Quoc Binh, Deputy General Inspector of the Government's Inspectorate, Mr. Dam Huu Dac, Vice Minister of Labor, Invalids and Social Affairs; Mr. Pham The Minh, Vice Minister of Transport; Mr. Trinh Quan Huan, Vice Minister of Health; Ms Nguyen Thi Hong Minh, Vice Minister of Fisheries, Mr. Hoang Manh Hien, Vice Chairman of Hanoi People's Committee, Mr. Le Van Bang, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Do Huu Hao, Vice Minister of Industry, Mr. Pham Khoi Nguyen, Vice Minister of Natural Resources and Environment, Mr. Vu Tien Loc, VCCI Chairman and representatives from mass organizations, research organizations, and NGOs.

The meeting is also attended by delegations from Austria, Australia, Belgium, Canada, China, Czech, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Korea, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Russia, Singapore, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, United Kingdom, United States and the European Commission,. Also attending Are Asian Development Bank (ADB), International Finance Corporation, International Monetary Fund (IMF), United Nations Development Program (UNDP). Attending as observers are Argentina, Brazil, India, South Africa, Kuwait Fund For Arab Economic Development, ILO, IOM, NORDIC, NGO, UNAIDS, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNHCR, UNIDO, UNODC, and WHO.
