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ISLAMIC DEVELOPMENT BANK GROUP

Statement of the IDB Governor for the Burkina Faso

The 42nd Annual Meeting of the IDB Board of Governors
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Original Text
(French)

In the name of Allah, the Beneficent, the Merciful

**Your Excellency, Chairman of the Board of Governors,
Governors,
President of the Islamic Development Bank Group,
Directors,
Distinguished delegates, of all ranks, levels and capacities
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

It is with renewed pleasure that I take the floor before this august gathering, to deliver to you the message of the Government of Burkina Faso.

At the onset, I would like to express my deep appreciation to His Majesty, the King of Saudi Arabia for kindly agreeing to receive us on the occasion of this 42nd annual assembly of the Islamic Development Bank Group.

I would also like to commend all the organizers for the efforts and sacrifices made to make this event a reality and a success

**Honourable Governors
Distinguished Delegates,**

Allow me, on behalf of the Burkinabe People, to pay a vibrant tribute to the Islamic Development Bank Group for its invaluable and strong support for the socio-economic development of its Member States and, more particularly, of my country, Burkina Faso.

Since its creation, the IDB has played a vital role in the implementation of many development projects and programmes in various areas and fully in line with the priorities and aspirations of its Member States, ranging from the coverage of basic social needs to transformational investments.

Indeed, we do not need to be reminded that IDB has been tackling poverty issues for years, since it considers poverty as an evil which our moral duty compels all of us to fight by all means. It is indeed, a collective duty as important as that of protecting human life and dignity.

Also, since the start of its activities in 1975, the Bank has not spared any effort to promote, through its action, the improvement of the situation of the poor, by financing initiatives that seek to contribute to the development of sectors like agriculture, animal breeding, education, health, water and sanitation, road infrastructure and energy.

The Bank is also involved in programmes for the structural transformation of the economies by promoting and developing the private sector, which as you know, is the real catalyst for economic growth and job creation.

I would nevertheless like to urge the Bank to further strengthen our capacities through institutional support for the effective implementation of projects, with a view to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

**Mr. Chairman,
Honourable Governors
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

As at 31 December 2016, IDB's cumulative commitments in Burkina Faso, reached 1.721 million US dollars, for 153 operations. My country is therefore the second partner of the IDB Group in Sub-Saharan Africa, in terms of cumulative commitments. The IDB, moreover, showed solidarity with Burkina Faso in its economic recovery efforts following the difficulties experienced between 2014 and 2015. For all these efforts, the Burkinabe people would like to express its appreciation to the Bank.

In addition, the IDB recently took the resolution to assist my country in its efforts to build a better future. If further proof were needed, I could mention the expressed support for the implementation of the new development standards of Burkina Faso, namely, the National Economic and Social Development Plan (PNDES) which targets a structural transformation of the Burkinabe economy, for a strong, sustainable, resilient, inclusive growth, creating decent jobs for all and generating an improved social wellbeing.

The institution announced at the conference of Burkina Faso partners in Paris, and reiterated on various occasions, its intention to provide my country with support of about 1,915 billion USD, to be mobilized through various traditional and innovative financial instruments

For the future, I hope that these commitments will materialize through the implementation of structuring projects in favour of the Burkinabe populations whose expectations are high and pressing.

Allow me, Mr. President, to take advantage of this forum, to express my satisfaction for this long and fruitful co-operation and the quality of our partnership, which, thanks to the PNDES, is set to be strengthened and diversified.

I look forward to the increased interventions of other institutions of the IDB Group, in particular the Islamic Trade and Finance Corporation (ITFC) and the Islamic Corporation for the Development of the Private Sector (ICD) whose actions are vital for the expansion of trade and the development of the Burkinabe private sector.

**Mr. Chairman,
Honourable Governors
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

I would like to applaud the Bank's decision to focus this year's meeting on the theme 'Youth empowerment within our Member States'.

Indeed, it is a major issue in the current regional and post-crisis context in some Member States. The youth-related challenges are huge, and concern development efforts in the field of education, vocational training, employability, health and all human development sub-sectors.

For us in Burkina Faso, the youth are spearheading our strategy for the development and

construction of a strong, solid and prosperous nation in view of the importance of this segment of the population.

Indeed, 47% of the population are under 15 years old. Those under 25 represent 67% of the population, while 33,2% of the youth are in the 15 to 35 age bracket. This high proportion of youth constitutes an asset, a production force, an inexhaustible pool of talents, energy and creative genius which we must release, as well as a partner for peace and democracy. To illustrate this, we will cast an eye back at the recent history of my country, marked as you know by the upheavals of 2014 attributed to this segment of the population who have been neglected or abandoned for long time, it all depends.

You were therefore absolutely right, Mr. President, to have chosen this theme because it is essential to broaden, develop and release the youth potential to ensure that they play their part in the development of our nations.

After all, for us, the youth constitute a promise for the future.

I therefore hope that these proceedings will provide us with the opportunity to have fruitful discussions and exchange best practices on youth involvement in the development process.

**Mr. Chairman,
Honourable Governors
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

To conclude, I would like, on the one hand, to pay a vibrant tribute to His Excellency Dr. Ahmad Mohamed Ali, for the quality of his governance and the excellent results he was able to achieve for our bank and, on the other hand, to wish every success to His Excellency Dr. Bandar M. H. Hajjar whose leadership during this first year of his term, will undoubtedly give a fresh burst of dynamism to the IDB Group.

I wish every success to the proceedings of the 42nd annual meeting of the IDB Board of Governors!

Long live co-operation!

Long live the IDB Group!

Wassalamualaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh.