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42nd ANNUAL MEETING
ISLAMIC DEVELOPMENT BANK GROUP

Statement of the IDB Governor for the Republic of Niger

The 42nd Annual Meeting of the IDB Board of Governors
Jeddah – Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
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Original Text
(English)

Bismillahir Rahman-nir Rahim

**Excellency the Chairman of the Board of Governors,
Excellencies the Governors,
Excellency the President of the Islamic Development Bank Group,
Excellencies, the Executive Directors of the IDB,
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and gentlemen,**

Assalamualaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh.

I would like, first of all, to give thanks to Allah, the Merciful who has allowed us to gather in Saudi Arabia, the Holy Land of Islam, more precisely in this beautiful city of Jeddah, for the holding of the 42nd Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors of the Islamic Development Bank Group.

On behalf of my delegation and myself, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the Saudi Arabian authorities and to the officials of the IDB for the excellent arrangements, the perfect organization of our meeting, the hospitality and the special attention we have been given since arriving in this magnificent city of Jeddah.

**Mr. Chairman of the Board of Governors,
Distinguished Governors,**

The work of the 42nd Session of the Board of Governors takes place in a particular context marked by slight economic recovery in developed countries, a slowdown in emerging countries, a decline in the price of raw materials, and the effects of climate change, which are affecting developing countries. The situation is also marked by many conflicts and acts of terrorism in several parts of the world.

Nonetheless, I would like to express satisfaction at the fact that this year our bank has been once again granted triple A credit rating by internationally renowned credit rating agencies in spite of the difficult economic context.

This good performance of our institution reflects the excellent performance of the IDB Group under the leadership of Dr. Bandar M. H. Hajjar, who was elected just one year ago as President of the Islamic Development Bank.

Under the leadership of President, Dr. Bandar, co-operation between Niger and the IDB, which was already outstanding, has been further strengthened. This consolidation is undoubtedly the result of the visit of the President of the Republic to the IDB headquarters and the exchanges he had with the President of the IDB and his most senior aides. This visit made it possible to define the orientations and the main lines of the partnership between the two parties. On the basis of the agreed guidelines, the two parties have drawn up an annual program of operations to be approved in 2017 and a three-year investment program for the period 2018-2020 for the implementation of structural projects.

As part of the mobilization of resources for the implementation of this important program, the IDB will work with the coordinating members of the Arab funds to ensure the concessionality of the various funding operations so that we can fulfill our commitments with the International Monetary Fund. I would like to welcome the choice of this strategy and to thank the members of the Coordinating Group, in particular the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa (BADEA), the Saudi Development Fund, the Kuwaiti Development Fund, and the OPEC Fund for their valuable support.

**Mr. Chairman of the Board of Governors,
Ladies and Gentlemen, Governors,**

We warmly welcome Dr. Bandar's vision for the IDB Group for the forthcoming years, which he presented in his opening remarks at the inaugural ceremony of our proceedings. It is a clear vision with precise objectives that fit perfectly with the objectives of our long-term vision Niger 2035. We affirm our support and cooperation for this Vision.

I would like to pay a heartfelt tribute to H.E. President Ahmad Mohamed Ali for the great wisdom and clear-sighted vision with which he managed to preside over the destinies of the Islamic Development Bank. Under the personal leadership of Dr. Ahmed Mohammed Ali, the Islamic Development Bank Group offered a significant support whose effects are still felt to this day. I would like to testify to the spontaneous support he offered for the equipment of a girls' training center, which has been operating for 15 years and allows about 100 young girls every year to receive training on computer and office automation. These girls reaffirm their recognition and have decided to bestow his name on this training center.

**Mr. Chairman of the Board of Governors,
Distinguished Governors,**

I shall not conclude my remarks without reiterating our gratitude to the Saudi Arabian authorities for the excellent arrangements for the success of our meeting.

Finally, we would like to launch a call for the duty of solidarity with our brothers and sisters who facing the consequences of disasters, conflict and other acts of terrorism. We pray Allah Almighty, the Most-Merciful to bless us with peace and security, which are indispensable for the flourishing of our populations.

On this note of hope, I wish you full success.