



Statement of the IDB Governor for the Burkina Faso

The 43rd Annual Meeting of the IDB Board of Governors
Tunis – Republic of Tunisia
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Original Text
(French)

In the name of Allah, the Beneficent, the Merciful

**Excellency, Mr. President of the Board of Governors,
Excellencies, Fellow Governors,
Excellency, Mr. President of the Islamic Development Bank Group,
Distinguished Directors,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

It is with renewed pleasure that I address your august Assembly to deliver the message of the Government of Burkina Faso.

First and foremost, I would like to express my gratitude to the authorities of the Republic of Tunisia who have kindly received us on the occasion of this 43rd Annual Meeting of the Islamic Development Bank Group.

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

**Excellencies, Fellow Governors,
Mister President,
Distinguished Delegates,**

The relevance of the theme of our 43rd meeting is so obvious. It is in line with the Bank's major strategic orientations, its strategies and regional policies specifically intended to operationalize the third component of the IDB President's Five-Year Programme: extending and deepening existing partnerships and seeking new partners.

As is known, the Bank has always pursued its ultimate objective, that is, economic development and social progress in its member countries, relying on Islamic finance which, through innovation, transforms our world by enhancing the value of work and investment.

Innovation should remain a permanent quest, because it fuels growth and economic transformation.

In this regard, we totally agree with Joseph Schumpeter who, theorizing on the principles of the so-called mechanism of 'creative destruction' more than 50 years ago, said that the main feature of the innovation process was to get the economy out of the static state and allow the appearance of new productive combinations.

Constant accumulation of knowledge allows more productive use of factors of production. This process generates long-term growth. Innovations induced by this process can take several forms:

- Lower costs
- Creation of new products and services
- New materials and components

- Quality improvement
- New organization of work, etc.

To each type of innovation corresponds to an adapted endogenous growth model (variety, scale and quality).

That is why, my country included as a priority item in its development programme territorial coverage by building a national backbone to improve its digital infrastructure. No need to say that ICTs have become ubiquitous and necessary today in all areas of economic life.

IDB should therefore support its Member States in their efforts to innovate.

Excellencies, Fellow Governors,

It is true that Islamic finance, which our Bank embodies, has proved its ability to withstand financial crises, because financial tools have always privileged the concepts of participation, risk taking, involvement in production processes and response to the global requirements of the banking profession. Nevertheless, the development challenges faced by our populations are still enormous. We should therefore seek to reconcile our financial interests with our economic interests.

Mr President, I would like to reassure you that Burkina Faso believes in the Institution, which is undoubtedly on the right path to take up this noble challenge.

As a matter of fact, our Bank is healthy:

- IDB has the unwavering support of its member countries;
- On financial markets, it has always enjoyed excellent ratings (it is rated 'AAA' by rating agencies);
- The Basel Committee on Banking Supervision and the Commission of the European Communities have rated IDB as a zero-risk multilateral development bank.

All these performances have been achieved in an environment marked by financial globalization and competition, which is often harsh and not respectful of moral values.

However, the Institution should be careful not to sacrifice what justifies its existence, its essence, and also its good financial health, namely its duty of solidarity, which is expressed through the funds allocated to its Member States, particularly the more destitute.

Indeed, Mr. President, as part of the new reforms (certainly, to preserve these achievements, and even improve them), I note that there are cancellations of loan agreements and a lack of new approvals even though commitments have been made with States.

With respect to my country, Burkina Faso, one of our sensitive projects (Ouahigouya City Water Supply Project) has been cancelled. Those who know the critical situation in terms of lack of drinking water in this area, will certainly grasp the meaning of my remarks. My bitterness is

matched only by the disarray of the victims of this cancellation for a vital project with a strong social impact.

Excellency, Mr. President

Let me remind you that in December 2016, at the Paris Conference for the financing of the National Economic and Social Development Plan (PNDES 2016-2020), IDB promised an amount of USD 1,315 million for Burkina Faso.

To date, less than 40% of this promise has been fulfilled and cancellations and suspensions of approval will hardly improve this situation.

As the saying goes, a promise made is a debt unpaid, but we dare believe that it shall be honoured. The people of Burkina Faso always count on your invaluable support to prop up their socioeconomic development.

Mister President,

This is a cry of the heart that comes, as you may imagine, from the deepest reaches of my beloved country, which is victim of incessant and ignoble terrorist attacks.

Indeed, the security of Burkina Faso has been severely tested in recent years.

We sadly remember those painful dates: January 2016, August 2017, and March 2018.

My country needs security.

My country forcefully expresses its duty of resistance.

To fulfil this duty, our bank, IDB, should contribute to our resilience, not by giving us weapons of war, these are covered by the budget as a sovereign duty, but by supporting our development, namely access to drinking water, food security, opening up the territory, providing quality energy, access to education and health, etc., which are so many challenges for my people.

Nonetheless, I would like to express to you, Mister President, my satisfaction for the quality of our cooperation with IDB.

The current project portfolio amounting to USD 821.74 million includes 22 projects 6 of which are in the start-up phase, 12 are in progress and 4 are in the closing phase. Its performance is quite satisfactory.

For all these efforts, the people of Burkina Faso express their gratitude and wish to receive new project approvals that will consolidate our long and fruitful cooperation that can only get stronger over time.

**Excellency, Mr. President,
Honourable Governors,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

At the end of my remarks, I would like, on behalf of the Burkinabe people, to commend the Islamic Development Bank Group for its invaluable and dynamic support for the socio-economic development of its Member Countries and more particularly my country, Burkina Faso.

I would like to pay a warm tribute to its chief manager, His Excellency, Dr. Bandar Hajjar, for his leadership in the discharge of his mandate.

I wish full success to the work of the 43rd Annual Meeting of the IDB Board of Governors!

Long live cooperation!

Long live the IDB Group!

Wassalamualaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh.