

INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND

WORLD BANK GROUP

INTERNATIONAL BANK FOR RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT
INTERNATIONAL FINANCE CORPORATION
INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION
INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR SETTLEMENT OF INVESTMENT DISPUTES
MULTILATERAL INVESTMENT GUARANTEE AGENCY

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Statement by the Chairman, the Hon. **JEAN-PIERRE ROTH**,
Governor of the Fund for **SWITZERLAND**,
at the Closing Joint Session

Fellow Governors, Mr. Chairman, Mr. Köhler, Mr. Wolfensohn, Ladies and Gentlemen, on behalf of Switzerland, I wish to thank you for the honor that you have bestowed on my country in choosing it to chair the Boards of Governors for this coming year. It will be difficult to match the skilled manner in which His Excellency Ahmed bin Abdul Nabi Macki has conducted these meetings. We owe him a him a debt of gratitude and we will try our best to follow his example.

This year's meetings were overshadowed by the events of September of last year and a growing concern about the future. The meetings have clearly highlighted the many and difficult challenges which we must face in the months and years ahead. It is imperative that these two great institutions intensify their efforts to promote growth and stability in their drive to bring about sustainable development and a reduction in poverty.

Thereby, they will make a large contribution to peace in the world. They need our support for this important task.

In closing, I want to thank the heads of our institutions, Mr. Köhler and Mr. Wolfensohn, and their staffs for what they have achieved over the past year and to offer them my wholehearted encouragement for the future.

I look forward to seeing you in Dubai next year, and wish all of you a good and safe journey home.

Thank you.