

**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

**J**

**INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND**

Press Release No. 30

September 23–24, 2003

Statement by the Hon. **JORGE GIORDANI**,  
Governor of the Bank for la **REPÚBLICA BOLIVARIANA DE VENEZUELA**,  
at the Joint Annual Discussion

**Statement by Jorge Giordani  
Minister of Planning and Development  
of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela**

**Dubai, September 23, 2003**

Development today, to those who are neediest, means empowerment, and underdevelopment cannot be eliminated unless international organizations radically and profoundly alter their thinking.

The world order established following the Second World War, now over fifty years in the making, must be substantially overhauled so that the poorest members of society can benefit from what we call globalization. Recent world summits, including the one just concluded in Cancun, Mexico, demonstrate the need to find other solutions. Contradictory talk of trade liberalization and agricultural subsidies ultimately will get us nowhere, and their proponents must begin—frankly and transparently—to make the adjustments required in order to establish new ties between developed and underdeveloped countries. It is absolutely essential that the latter participate and receive an adequate hearing if we are to forge agreements that are just and beneficial to all.

Underdevelopment and poverty are two sides of the same coin. Underdevelopment results when the productive structure of society cannot adequately resolve the urgent problems of the majority of the population. Poverty is the most humiliating manifestation of the history of mankind, just barely past the dawn of the new millennium.

What will be done for the millions upon millions of human beings who are being pushed aside as technological advances astound even the most distracted observers?

This situation is a challenge to the community of nations, and to this meeting in particular, which we hope will continue to prove meaningful despite the judgments of the skeptics, who repeatedly view summit after summit with astonishment and disbelief. Indeed, we must have the audacity to acknowledge realities that reason and mankind cannot accept, and to confront the relentless waste of countless lives.

The challenges we face must spur us to find new alternatives, and we *will* find them if our quest for justice is sincere: we must recognize the substantive rights of women; acknowledge that human activity threatens to destroy the environment; acknowledge the rights of nation-states in the throes of global crisis; and confront the need to attack the problem of structural unemployment throughout the world. We cannot accept that we are doomed to fail. The World Bank and the International Monetary Fund must therefore take stock of their situation, their shortcomings and their mistakes. The current global structural crisis will never end unless we recognize the need for a major shift in power at the global level. As citizens of a free and sovereign world, we must therefore create room for innovative, creative, and bold solutions. That quest is part of our commitment to life, thought, and action.

New hopes are blossoming now in Latin America and the Caribbean, and they must be very carefully nurtured if the manifest poverty and longstanding frustration of our people are truly to be addressed, and not merely observed. It is time to act. The goals for 2015, 2030, 2045, and for decades beyond, cannot remain mere high ideals. This is also a task the World Bank must

undertake if it is to survive, and the subject must remain permanently on the Development Committee's agenda, and it must be addressed. There is more than one solution, and we must also reject the idea that there is no alternative. The world's people are waging a relentless struggle for dignity, respect, and sovereignty.

A new millennium in the history of mankind has only just begun. It is time for us to act resolutely to create a more equitable and more just world characterized by genuine and effective coexistence. We are convinced that we must devote all our energies and efforts to achieve this goal, and we will be guided by this objective.

Thank you very much.

