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Concluding Remarks by **DOMINIQUE STRAUSS-KAHN**,
Chairman of the Executive Board and
Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund,
at the Closing Joint Session

**Closing Remarks by Dominique Strauss-Kahn,
Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund,
at the Joint Annual Discussion
October 13, 2008**

Mr. Chairman, I want to take this opportunity to thank you all, the Governors and the guests, for your work over this long weekend.

This has been an unusual Annual Meetings, held in an atmosphere of real crisis. The eyes of the world have been on us, and the IMF and the World Bank—and you—have risen to the occasion magnificently.

This has been a genuine discussion and exchange of views. We have learned from each other:

- At the IMFC on Saturday, we benefited from Stefan Ingves' experience of the crisis in Sweden at the beginning of the 1990s.
- We heard the advice of Mr. Nakagawa of Japan on the role of the Fund, and the lessons from Japan and from the Asian crisis.
- We heard from Mr. Somavia, the observer from the International Labor Organization, the simple and heartfelt plea that when we make decisions about how to handle the crisis we keep in mind how those decisions will affect working people.

Today, I have been struck by the unity of purpose in speakers' interventions. Governors have had different advice on specific issues.

- I noted well the advice of Dr. Yi Gang, on behalf of the People's Republic of China, that the Fund should "give the surveillance priority to the ongoing financial turmoil, deepen its analysis, learn lessons, and listen to the opinions of member countries".
- I heard too the advice of the Governor from the Philippines, and many other Governors, who urged us not to forget the effects of the food and fuel crisis on the poor in emerging and developing countries.

- And for all the differences in specific advice, I heard a common theme: that we are in this together, and that we must act together. This is the most important message I take from this weekend.

Before we end these meetings, let me say a few words of thanks.

I want to thank the United States Governor and the authorities of the United States and Washington, DC, who have been our hosts.

I would also like to thank the Police Department of the District of Colombia, which has kept us safe, and the people of Washington who have invited us to their city.

I also want to thank you Mr. Chairman, and the Bank and the Fund Secretaries, for your direction of these meetings, and Bob Zoellick for his work with me over the last few days, and over the past year.

I would like to thank the staff of the Fund and Bank, who prepare papers for us, keep us to our schedules, organize outreach, and translate our words.

I would like to thank the staff of the Bank-Fund Conferences Office and Joint Secretariat, and especially Alice Yeo, who arrived only in May and has been successful in organizing her first Annual Meetings.

Next year we will meet in Istanbul, and I know that as soon as these meetings are over, the staff of the Bank-Fund Conferences Office will begin preparing for the next one. Well, I hope they get a few days rest first. They have earned it.

Finally, I would like to thank you, our Governors. You have made this a successful meeting for the IMF and World Bank, a memorable one for me, and I hope a useful one for citizens. Safe journey to all of you.

Thank you very much.