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PERMANENT MISSION OF THE FEDERAL  
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF ETHIOPIA  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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Statement

By

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Prime Minister of the Government of  
The Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia

At

The UN General Assembly Meeting

New York,

September 2010

**Mr. President,**  
**Dear Secretary-General,**  
**Excellencies,**  
**Distinguished Delegates,**  
**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

I wish at the outset to express my appreciation to the outgoing President of the General Assembly, Dr. Treki for the good work that he has done and to assure the incoming President of the Assembly, Mr. Joseph Deiss of my country's readiness to contribute to making his term of office a success. It is with great pleasure that I pay tribute to our Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, among other things, for convening this historic High Level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly.

**Mr. President.**

Our Secretary-General could not have been more to the point when he said in his report that "the Millennium Declaration represents the most important collective promise ever made to the world's most vulnerable people" and then added that "the promise is not based on pity or charity, but on solidarity, justice and the recognition that we are increasingly dependent on one another for our shared prosperity and security."

Only five years away from the target date of 2015, it is not clear that we have enough justification for a sense of accomplishment with respect to that most important collective promise. No doubt there has been some progress and some parts of the world are on track to achieve the MDGs. In Africa too, although progress has been uneven, and has been negatively affected by the current economic crisis and unusual levels of climate variability, a number of countries are on a promising trajectory to achieve most if not all the Millennium Development Goals. But the overall picture in the continent in terms of achieving the MDGs is far from reassuring.

It is therefore clear that we need to do more and better than we have had so far if we are to make up for lost opportunities over the years.

There is no doubt in my mind that those of us in the developing world have to do more and better to take charge of our destiny, to design programmes and strategies appropriate to our circumstances and mobilize our own resources as the primary means of achieving the MDGs. I know that this is easier said than implemented all the more so because much of the external assistance we get has in practice been predicated on us towing the line of the donor community rather than charting our own independent course of action. The fact remains, however, there is no possibility of us keeping our promise to our people unless we do more and better to take charge of our destiny and depend on our own resources as the primary means of achieving the MDGs.

**Mr. President,**

It must be clear, however, that much as those that are vulnerable might assume full responsibility for their development and maximize domestic resource mobilization, there are nonetheless structural realities that make it unavoidable for them to rely partly on international solidarity to make progress in development, including in achieving the Millennium Development Goals. This is obviously the rationale behind the Millennium Development Goals. It was clearly understood right from the outset that progress towards achieving the Millennium Goals particularly by the most vulnerable, hinges on effective international solidarity and support.

Our partners in development need to do more and better to deliver on their promises to provide quality support for development and achieve the MDGs as they have clearly been off track on delivery on their promises both in terms of quantity and quality of support promised. They need to go beyond empty words and put their money where their mouth is if we are to have a realistic chance of achieving the MDGs by the target date.

It is for all these reasons that this High Level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly is so vital. This forum should result in a new pact with respect to renewed Commitment to ensure that the collective promises made at the dawn of the new Millennium are kept. What we need are action-oriented recommendations designed to ensure accountability for commitments and promises made. The following five years ought to be used in such a way as to make up for some of the lost opportunities over the past decade.

**Mr. President,**

We in Ethiopia have made substantial progress on all fronts towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals. We have taken full charge of our destiny, devised our own strategy and maximized the mobilization of our domestic resources to achieve the MDGs. We made the best use of the limited available international assistance to supplement our own efforts. We made sure that all our development plans were consistent with achieving all the development goals.

The results so far have been very encouraging. Over the past seven years, the Ethiopian economy has performed well, having achieved 11.6% annual average growth rate. The robust economic growth we have achieved has created the basis for a similarly robust growth in social indicators and hence on progress in achieving the MDGs.

We have now developed our plans for the next five years which are based on the progress we have made so far and are intended to help us achieve all the MDGs by the target date of 2015. We are keenly aware that our goals are ambitious and may not be achieved without significant external assistance. But we are determined to do what we can on our own while seeking support to supplement our own effort. The achievements of the past seven years give us the confidence to move forward with a realistic chance of achieving all the MDGs in time.

**I Thank You.**