

## **Leading Group on Solidarity Levies to fund development**

We have decided to establish a Leading Group on Solidarity Levies to fund development in the framework of the Forum that was launched during the Conference on Innovative financing for development held on 28 February and 1 March 2006 in Paris.

In the framework of the Monterrey consensus, we are convinced that the Millennium Development Goals will not be achieved without substantial and sustainable additional long-term resources to foster economic and social development and that, in this regard, solidarity levies are a necessary supplement to conventional Official Development Assistance (ODA).

We welcome the intention expressed by Brazil, Chile, Congo, Cyprus, Ivory Coast, France, Jordan, Luxemburg, Madagascar, Mauritius, Nicaragua and Norway to introduce a levy of this type in the very near future. The UK has already such a levy and will use it according to the UK-France communiqué of 28 February 2006.

We commit to working together in the Leading Group to:

- Contribute to the emergence and circulation of projects in the field of innovative financing for development;
- Promote the idea of solidarity levies among partners and international forums;
- Develop the international air-ticket solidarity contribution which is being implemented by a first group of countries with a view to extending to other countries according to their capacities. An impact study of this mechanism will be conducted by the end of 2006;
- Review methods of using revenues generated by the international air-ticket solidarity levy for coordinated and long-term action in the health and development sectors;
- Finalise the modalities of implementation of an International Drug Purchase Facility (IDPF) financed by solidarity levies by the UN General Assembly High-Level Meeting on HIV/AIDS on 1 June 2006 if possible or at the latest, before the United Nations General Assembly in September 2006. Some of us have already shown our commitment to participate in this mechanism.

Emphasizing the need to involve all interested stakeholders, we have decided that the Leading Group will be chaired alternatively by a developed country and a developing country for six months, and that the first two chairs will be Brazil and then Norway. France will host the Group's permanent secretariat. The Group will join efforts with interested international and non-governmental organisations.

## **List of the members countries of the Leading Group**

- Algeria
- Austria
- Bangladesh
- Belgium
- Benin
- Burundi
- Brazil
- Cambodia
- Cameroon
- Cape Verde
- Chile
- Congo
- Cyprus
- Djibouti
- Ethiopia
- France
- Gabon
- Germany
- Guinea-Bissau
- Guinea-Conakry
- Haiti
- India
- Ivory Coast
- Jordan
- Lebanon
- Luxemburg
- Madagascar
- Mali
- Mauritania
- Mauritius
- Mexico
- Morocco
- Mozambique
- Namibia
- Nicaragua
- Niger
- Norway
- Spain
- South Africa
- United Kingdom