

There is little point in seeking to ascribe blame for these realities. For, in fact, all countries, African and donor countries alike, have been affected. What has happened is that the international economic environment has altered. And what is abundantly evident is that no one country or group of countries can control all the factors at play.

Nevertheless, the Secretary General's report should not be cause for despair. We are, it is true, in a more difficult situation than last year. The crisis has deepened. The social and political risks and costs are higher. But, steps have been taken both in Africa and in the world community that merit recognition and commendation.

In Africa, some twenty-eight countries have undertaken significant and effective structural adjustment programmes. These countries have made great and far reaching sacrifices in the hope of improving their prospects for long term benefits and success. They have taken tangible action to introduce meaningful policy reforms and to adjust the ways their economies function. The Secretary General's report has given us many examples.

Some positive results are very slowly - and painfully - becoming evident. However limited these may seem in the light of current circumstances, it is from them that we must take heart. We must here recognize that the courage, energy and determination demonstrated by those African governments are making a difference - and deserve our full, unrelenting, support.

On the part of the international community, there has also been some movement. A number of multilateral initiatives are now at various stages of development:

- In the IMF, Mr. Camdessus has proposed a tripling of the Structural Adjustment Facility.
- In the Paris Club, special arrangements have been made, and others are under consideration, for the poorest debtors.
- In the World Bank, ideas generated in UNICEF on the need for adjustment with a human face, have been taken on board.
- The IDA VIII replenishment now will go forward as agreed.
- There is, finally, consensus on the need to negotiate a General Capital Increase for the World Bank.