Fifth Annual Meeting of Secretaries of Multilateral Development Institutions, 11-12 October 2004, Tunis
Welcoming Statement of the ADB President

WELCOMING STATEMENT OF THE ADB PRESIDENT TO THE DELEGATIONS PARTICIPATING IN THE FIFTH ANNUAL MEETING OF SECRETARIES OF MULTILATERAL DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTIONS

11-12 October 2004

AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK GROUP

Temporary Relocation Agency

Tunis – Tunisia

Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Board of Directors, Management and staff of the African Development Bank and on my own behalf, I welcome you to Tunis, to the Fifth Annual Meeting of Secretaries of Multilateral Development Institutions convened at the Bank’s Temporary Relocation Agency.

I am delighted to host this important meeting which, above all, reflects the fine spirit of cooperation and solidarity existing among our institutions, and also welcome all the Secretaries of the most prestigious development institutions in the world.

Your presence here attests your firm determination to harmonize the practices in our institutions and to determine, on the basis of each other’s experiences, the most efficient methods to attain our objectives.

In so doing, you are following the initiative given by the Presidents of Multilateral Development Institutions who meet each year to consider and debate problems arising in the accomplishment of their common mission of poverty reduction.

The themes of the meeting’s work programme lay special emphasis on the role of the General Secretariat and the optimization of its structures and functions. No doubt they will provide yet another opportunity to assess the challenges confronting you, not only as custodians of the corporate memory of these institutions, but also and above all as the mainstay and managers of their decision-making process. They will further enable you to exchange views on how to adapt, in terms of efficiency and competitiveness, to a changing and even more demanding environment.

The General Secretariats of Multilateral Development Institutions play a key role in relations between Management and the Boards of Directors and as such, from this
standpoint, represent a vector of two-way channel of communication between the two bodies. Management of relations with the stakeholders is another core function of the General Secretariat. Therefore, your teams are expected to work meticulously with particular attention to details and meet deadlines, notably in organizing the deliberations of the Board of Directors.

I encourage you to further reinforce cooperation and coordination making optimum use of modern technological communication resources for real-time communication.

I sincerely wish you enriching, productive and instructive deliberations on ways and means to improve the operation of General Secretariats as vital organs for the enhancement of our institutions. You also have our encouragement and support in pursuit of this initiative for the exchange information and expertise, making it possible, as I have said, to lay a strong basis for a common vision and harmonization of practices toward the common goal of economic development and poverty reduction, for the social advancement of underprivileged populations.

Once again, I wish you every success in your proceedings, as well as a wonderful visit at the African Development Bank.

Thank you very much.