

Statement by Harinder Kohli, Chief Executive, Emerging Markets Forum at the Joint Press Conference

10 October 2023, Marrakech

Good morning, Ladies & Gentlemen

Thank you for attending today's press conference

First and foremost, I would like to extend my deepest appreciation to the Executive President, Policy Center for the New South, Mr. Karim El Aynaoui and colleagues at the Center for their invaluable support, hard work, and coordination in hosting the 16th Global Meeting of the Emerging Markets Forum. We are truly impressed with the resilience of the Moroccan people through their commitment and hard work in seeing through important global meetings here in Marrakech at this time despite experiencing a recent devastating earthquake.

We are very excited to be here in Marrakech and very fortunate to be given the opportunity to hold this Forum at this magnificent Dar Al Phosphate, a truly Moroccan architectural marvel.

I would like to highlight the importance of this Global Forum which will focus on "*Improving Governance to Tackle Climate Change, Inequality and Global Fragmentation*". It is being held at a timely moment as we are entering an era of mounting challenges. Broadened by successive crises, from the pandemic to the war in Ukraine, the matrix of risk and uncertainties has become full of downsides: the looming slowdown of the global economy, the increased risk of debt distress in a large number of countries, a persistent energy crisis, food insecurity and, the paramount battle of climate change. While many advanced economies are on the brink of recession, global economic growth could still be sustained by the performance of some emerging economies, particularly in Asia. But this will require much hard work by all concerned, and some luck.

I want to highlight the fact that this is the first time our Global Forum is meeting on the African continent. Its 50 plus countries have the fastest growing population in the world and would be the source of the youngest work force, in addition to its vast natural resources. To take fuller advantage of the opportunities provided by them, the region needs to overcome many structural challenges it faces.

The next three-days will offer a platform to discuss and conceive solution-oriented approaches to address and overcome these many challenges. It will also discuss the key findings and proposals of our latest flagship "*From Here to Denmark: The Importance of Institutions for Good Governance*", which identifies basic enablers to help society improve governance. Among the most important findings are building sufficient human capital both in education and health and permitting effective participation by citizens in having a meaningful say in how they are governed.



Fundamental reforms in the entire multilateral system to make it more “fit for the purpose”, by the G20 Independent Expert Group, climate change and future economic prospects of Africa will be the other major areas of focus of our discussions.

We look forward to having you all join us in this important event.

Thank you.

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