

Broader Middle East & North Africa Initiative: Forum for the Future / Democracy Assistance Dialogue

Commitment

“Establish with willing partners in the region a Democracy Assistance Dialogue that will, under the auspices of the Forum for the Future, bring together in a collaborative and transparent environment willing governments, civil society groups and other organizations from the G-8, EU and others, and countries in the region to:

- Coordinate and share information and lessons learned on democracy programs in the region, taking into account the importance of local ownership and each country’s particular circumstances;
- Work to enhance existing democracy programs or initiate new programs;
- Provide opportunities for participants to develop joint activities, including twinning projects;
- Promote and strengthen democratic institutions and processes, as well as capacity-building;
- Foster exchanges with civil society groups and other organizations working on programs in the region.”

G8 Plan of Support for Reform²

Background

The Greater Middle East Initiative, unveiled by the United States at the 2004 Sea Island Summit in June, was motivated by the U.S led desire to stem the threats of political instability, economic stagnation and terrorism in the Greater Middle East. The plan is based upon earlier initiatives aimed at democratization in the region, including the Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI), a program that has been heavily funded by the US since 2002 and the Barcelona Process initiated by the EU. The MEPI aims to promote entrepreneurship, political change, educational reform and women’s rights in the Middle East. The Forum for the Future was set out by the G8 and states of the Broader Middle East and North Africa Region (BMENA) during the Sea Island Summit in June 2004 as the centrepiece initiative of the “Partnership for Progress and Common Future with the Region of the Broader Middle East and North Africa.” The purpose of the Forum is to promote and develop political, economic, and social reform in the BMENA. The Forum members, including not only the G8 and the states of the BMENA, but civil society and business stakeholders as well, seek to promote, through an open and transparent dialogue, a common agenda that “advances the universal values of human dignity, democracy, economic opportunity, and social justice.”³ Among the component initiatives of the Forum for the Future is the Democracy Assistance Dialogue (DAD). The DAD focuses primarily on providing electoral assistance, improving the role of women, and advancing relations between the region’s governments and civil society through programs supporting democratization and public participation. A round of preparatory meetings for the Forum for the Future took place in New

² *G8 Plan of Support for Reform*, 2004 Sea Island Summit Official Website (Sea Island) 10 June 2004. Date of Access: 3 January 2005 [www.g8usa.gov/d_060904b.htm].

³ *Middle East: Documents and Texts from the Washington File*, Embassy of the United States London U.K. Website (London) 1 December 2004. Date of Access: 5 January 2005 [www.usembassy.org.uk/midest567.html].

York on September 23-24, and in Washington, DC on October 1, 2004. They were attended by over twenty G8 and BMENA foreign and finance ministers and various civil society groups. The first official Forum for the Future was convened on December 11, 2004, in Rabat, Morocco. It was attended by almost all of the countries of the BMENA, the Arab League, the European Commission, and the G8.⁴ In Rabat, significant progress was made with respect to the DAD, which included an agreement to a future meeting devoted exclusively to the DAD in 2005.

Assessment

Country	Non- Compliance -1	Work in Progress 0	Full Compliance +1
Canada			+1
France			+1
Germany			+1
Italy			+1
Japan			+1
Russia			+1
United Kingdom			+1
United States			+1
European Union			+1
Overall: +1.00			

Individual Country Compliance Breakdown

1. Canada: +1

Canada has demonstrated full compliance with its Democracy Assistance Dialogue (DAD) commitment. Canada was represented at the Preparatory Meetings for the Forum of the Future in New York on September 24, 2004 at which Foreign Ministers and Representatives of 24 governments ‘recalled and reaffirmed the commitments made by the G-8 countries at Sea Island which build on the G-8 countries’ already strong bilateral and collective engagement with the [BMENA] region’.⁵ Canada also attended the G8/BNENA Finance Ministers’ Meeting in Washington, D.C., on October 1, 2004, and the inaugural Forum for the Future in Rabat, Morocco.⁶

At the inaugural meeting of the Forum for the Future in Rabat, Canada endorsed the Chairs’ Summary including the proposal “put forward by Turkey, Yemen, and Italy for a Democracy Assistance Dialogue.”⁷ The Canadian delegation along with its G8 counterparts applauded Egypt’s offer to host a meeting between G8 Foreign Ministers and their counterparts in the

⁴ *Fact Sheet: Forum for the Future*, Embassy of the United States London U.K. Website (London) 1 December 2004. Date of Access: 5 January 2005 [www.usembassy.org.uk/midest567.html].

⁵ *Chair’s Summary*, G8 Information Centre Website (Toronto) 11 December 2004. Date of Access: 15 January 2005 [www.g8.utoronto.ca/meetings-official/forumforfuture_041211.htm]

⁶ *G8/Broader Middle East and North Africa Finance Ministers’ Meeting, Summary of Meeting*, Canada’s G8 Website (Ottawa) 1 October 2004. Date of Access: 29 December 2004 [www.g8.gc.ca/meet_tres_sec_snow-en.asp].

⁷ *Chair’s Summary*, G8 Information Centre Website (Toronto) 11 December 2004. Date of Access: 15 January 2005 [www.g8.utoronto.ca/meetings-official/forumforfuture_041211.htm]

League of Arab States in Cairo on 3 and 4 March 2005.⁸ However, due to tensions between the United States and Egypt over the arrest of Egyptian opposition party leaders, this meeting has been postponed.⁹

Canada also attended a meeting between G7 finance ministers and BMENA representatives in Washington on April 15, 2005¹⁰ and has been invited to the May 23rd meeting of Arab education ministers.¹¹ The next meeting for the Forum for the Future has been scheduled for November 2005 in Manama, Bahrain.¹²

In addition to participating in all of the DAD meetings to date, Canada has also taken on its own democracy assistance initiatives, most notably the Middle East Good Governance Fund (MEGGF): "...[The MEGGF responds] to needs related to democratic development and good governance in the region. The MEGGF will follow a knowledge-based approach to development which aims to: create knowledge around good governance issues in the Middle East (analysis of what works, what does not and why); share the knowledge and multiply it (share experiences and perspectives, develop joint agendas and create networks); and, develop capacity to generate knowledge that can inform policy-makers and engage them in processes of evidence-based decision-making on policy-formulation and development."¹³ Pierre Pettigrew, Canada's Minister of Foreign Affairs, stated during his address at the Sharm el-Sheikh Ministerial Meeting on Iraq on November 23, 2004 that Canada would allocate \$5 million dollars for the MEGGF.¹⁴

2. France: +1

France has participated in and endorsed the results of all of the meetings associated with the Democracy Assistance Dialogue (DAD) to date, thereby demonstrating full compliance with this commitment. At the September 24, 2004, Preparatory Meetings for the Forum of the Future in New York, the French Foreign Minister, Michel Barnier, "recalled and reaffirmed the

⁸ *Chair's Summary*, G8 Information Centre Website (Toronto) 11 December 2004. Date of Access: 15 January 2005 [www.g8.utoronto.ca/meetings-official/forumforfuture_041211.htm]

⁹ "Egypt Delays Mideast Reform Conference Indefinitely," *The Daily Star* (Beirut) 21 February 2005. Date of Access: 1 May 2005 [www.dailystar.com.lb/article.asp?edition_ID=10&article_ID=12831&categ_id=2] & *US Ambassador to Egypt, David Welch, Remarks of March 3, 2005*, US Embassy in Egypt Website (Cairo) 3 March 2005. Date of Access: 1 May 2005

[cairo.usembassy.gov/ambassador/sp030305.htm]

¹⁰ *Prepared Statement following the Meeting of the G7 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors*, G8 Information Centre Website (Toronto) 16 April 2005. Date of Access: 1 May 2005

[www.g8.utoronto.ca/finance/fm050416_snow.htm] & *Secretary Snow G8/BMENA Statement*, 17 April 2005. Date of Access: 1 May 2005 [www.treas.gov/press/releases/js2386.htm]

¹¹ *Arab, G-8 Education Ministers to Convene in Amman*, Jordan Embassy US Website (Washington) 5 May 2005. Date of Access: 2 May 2005 [www.jordanembassyus.org/05052005001.htm]

¹² *Upcoming Ministerials*, Government of Canada Website (Ottawa). Date of Access: 1 May 2005

[www.g8.gc.ca/ministerials-en.asp] & *Chair's Summary*, G8 Information Centre Website (Toronto) 11 December 2004. Date of Access: January 15, 2005 [www.g8.utoronto.ca/meetings-official/forumforfuture_041211.htm]

¹³ *Iraq Projects*, Canadian International Development Agency Website (Ottawa) 3 December 2004. Date of Access: 29 December 2004 [www.acdi-cida.gc.ca/CIDAWEB/webcountry.nsf/VLUDocEn/Iraq-Projects]

¹⁴ *Statement by the Hon. Pierre Pettigrew Minister of Foreign Affairs Canada at the Sharm El-sheikh Ministerial Meeting On Iraq*, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (Ottawa) 12 September 2004. Date of Access: 15 December 2004 [www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/middle_east/iraq_sharm-el-sheikh-en.asp].

commitments made by the G-8 countries at Sea Island which build on the G-8 countries' already strong bilateral and collective engagement with the region".¹⁵ At this meeting it was decided that the first Forum for the Future would be held in the Kingdom of Morocco in December and that Egypt would "host a meeting of the Foreign Ministers of G-8 member states and members of the League of Arab States in January 2005".¹⁶ France also attended the G8/BMENA Finance Ministers' Meeting in Washington, D.C., on October 1, 2004. At this meeting, which focused on international trade and funding, the G8 and BMENA finance and economics ministers agreed to participate in the Forum for the Future in Rabat, Morocco.¹⁷

France was represented at the inaugural meeting of the Forum for the Future in Rabat, Morocco by Foreign Minister Barnier and endorsed the Chairs' Summary including "the proposal put forward by Turkey, Yemen, and Italy for a Democracy Assistance Dialogue."¹⁸ The attending ministers agreed to meet at the Forum for the Future in Bahrain in 2005 and welcomed the offer by Egypt to host a meeting of Foreign Ministers of G8 member states and members of the League of Arab States in Cairo on 3 and 4 March 2005.¹⁹ This G8/Arab League meeting has been postponed, however, due to friction between the US and Egypt over the arrest of leaders of the Egyptian opposition party Al-Ghad.²⁰ France attended the meeting between G7 finance ministers, the Russian finance minister and BMENA representatives in Washington on April 15, 2005²¹ and has been invited to the May 23rd meeting of Arab education ministers.²²

3. Germany: +1

Germany has complied with its commitment to establishing the Democracy Assistance Dialogue (DAD). This has been achieved through Germany's participation in the preparatory meetings for the Forum for the Future held in New York on September 23-24, 2004 and Washington, D.C. on

¹⁵ *Chair's Summary*, G8 Information Centre Website (Toronto) 11 December 2004. Date of Access: 15 January 2005 [www.g8.utoronto.ca/meetings-official/forumforfuture_041211.htm]

¹⁶ *Chair's Summary*, G8 Information Centre Website (Toronto) 11 December 2004. Date of Access: 15 January 2005 [www.g8.utoronto.ca/meetings-official/forumforfuture_041211.htm]

¹⁷ *G8/Broader Middle East and North Africa Finance Ministers' Meeting, Summary of Meeting*, Canada's G8 Website (Ottawa) 1 October 2004. Date of Access: 29 December 2004 [www.g8.gc.ca/meet_tres_sec_snow-en.asp].

¹⁸ *Chair's Summary*, G8 Information Centre Website (Toronto) 11 December 2004. Date of Access: 15 January 2005 [www.g8.utoronto.ca/meetings-official/forumforfuture_041211.htm]

¹⁹ *Chair's Summary*, G8 Information Centre Website (Toronto) 11 December 2004. Date of Access: 15 January 2005 [www.g8.utoronto.ca/meetings-official/forumforfuture_041211.htm]

²⁰ "Egypt Delays Mideast Reform Conference Indefinitely," *The Daily Star* (Beirut) 21 February 2005. Date of Access: 1 May 2005 [www.dailystar.com.lb/article.asp?edition_ID=10&article_ID=12831&categ_id=2] & *US Ambassador to Egypt, David Welch, Remarks of March 3, 2005*, US Embassy in Egypt Website (Cairo) 3 March 2005. Date of Access: 1 May 2005 [cairo.usembassy.gov/ambassador/sp030305.htm]

²¹ *Prepared Statement following the Meeting of the G7 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors*, G8 Information Centre Website (Toronto) 16 April 2005. Date of Access: 1 May 2005 [www.g8.utoronto.ca/finance/fm050416_snow.htm] & *Secretary Snow G8/BMENA Statement*, Department of the Treasury Website (Washington) 17 April 2005. Date of Access: 1 May 2005 [www.treas.gov/press/releases/js2386.htm]

²² *Arab, G-8 Education Ministers to Convene in Amman*, Jordan Embassy US Website (Washington) 5 May 2005. Date of Access: 2 May 2005 [www.jordanembassyus.org/05052005001.htm]

October 1, 2004, and its participation in the Forum for the Future proper held in Rabat, Morocco on December 11, 2004.

At the inaugural meeting of the Forum for the Future in Rabat, Germany endorsed the Chairs' Summary including the proposal "put forward by Turkey, Yemen, and Italy for a Democracy Assistance Dialogue."²³ The German delegation along with its G8 counterparts applauded Egypt's offer to host a meeting between G8 Foreign Ministers and their counterparts in the League of Arab States in Cairo on 3 and 4 March 2005.²⁴ However, due to tensions between the United States and Egypt over the arrest of Egyptian opposition party leaders, this meeting has been postponed.²⁵

Germany has also attended a meeting between G7/ finance ministers and BMENA representatives in Washington on April 15, 2005 at which a dialogue on job creation, private investment, and economic prosperity in the region took place.²⁶ Germany has also been invited to the May 23rd meeting of Arab education.²⁷ This meeting will "...focus on factors of success in the educational process, building partnerships, empowering women and deploying IT in special education."²⁸ The next meeting for the Forum for the Future has been scheduled for November 2005 in Manama, Bahrain.²⁹

4. Italy: +1

Italy has demonstrated full compliance with regard to the Democracy Assistance Dialogue (DAD), a component of the Forum for the Future. This has been achieved through Italy's participation in the Preparatory Meetings for the Forum of the Future in New York on September 24, 2004, Italy's co-leadership of the DAD with Yemen and Turkey, its the G8/BNENA Finance

²³ *Chair's Summary*, G8 Information Centre Website (Toronto) 11 December 2004. Date of Access: 15 January 2005 [www.g8.utoronto.ca/meetings-official/forumforfuture_041211.htm]

²⁴ *Chair's Summary*, G8 Information Centre Website (Toronto) 11 December 2004. Date of Access: 15 January 2005 [www.g8.utoronto.ca/meetings-official/forumforfuture_041211.htm]

²⁵ *Egypt Delays Mideast Reform Conference Indefinitely*, The Daily Star (Lebanon) 21 February 2005. Date of Access: 1 May 2005 [www.dailystar.com.lb/article.asp?edition_ID=10&article_ID=12831&categ_id=2] & *US Ambassador to Egypt, David Welch, Remarks of March 3, 2005*, US Embassy in Egypt Website (Cairo) 3 March 2005. Date of Access: 1 May 2005 [cairo.usembassy.gov/ambassador/sp030305.htm]

²⁶ *Prepared Statement following the Meeting of the G7 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors*, G8 Information Centre Website (Toronto) 16 April 2005. Date of Access: 1 May 2005 [www.g8.utoronto.ca/finance/fm050416_snow.htm] & *Secretary Snow G8/BMENA Statement*, Department of the Treasury Website (Washington) 17 April 2005. Date of Access: 1 May 2005 [www.treas.gov/press/releases/js2386.htm]

²⁷ *Arab, G-8 Education Ministers to Convene in Amman*, Jordan Embassy US Website (Washington) 5 May 2005. Date of Access: 2 May 2005 [www.jordanembassyus.org/05052005001.htm]

²⁸ *Arab, G-8 Education Ministers to Convene in Amman*, Jordan Embassy US Website (Washington) 5 May 2005. Date of Access: 2 May 2005 [www.jordanembassyus.org/05052005001.htm]

²⁹ *Upcoming Ministerials*, Government of Canada. Date of Access: 1 May 2005 [www.g8.gc.ca/ministerials-en.asp] & *Chair's Summary*, G8 Information Centre Website (Toronto) 11 December 2004. Date of Access: 15 January 2005 [www.g8.utoronto.ca/meetings-official/forumforfuture_041211.htm]

Ministers' Meeting in Washington, D.C., on October 1, 2004, and the inaugural Forum for the Future in Morocco.³⁰

After the Preparatory Meetings in September 2004, the foreign ministers of Italy, Yemen, and Turkey met and produced a working document entitled "*Organisers' Conclusions*."³¹ This document set the tone and basic trajectory for the DAD. It established priority areas such as government and civil society relations, participation of women in political life, and the implementation of efficient and transparent electoral procedures.³²

At the inaugural meeting of the Forum for the Future in Rabat, Italy endorsed the Chairs' Summary, which included its proposal for the DAD.³³ The Italian delegation along with its G8 counterparts supported Egypt's offer to host a meeting between G8 Foreign Ministers and their counterparts in the League of Arab States in Cairo on 3 and 4 March 2005.³⁴ However, due to tensions between the United States and Egypt over the arrest of Egyptian opposition party leaders and electoral reform, this meeting has been postponed for the time being.³⁵

Italy also attended a meeting between G7 finance ministers and BMENA representatives in Washington on April 15, 2005³⁶ and has been invited to the May 23rd meeting of Arab education ministers.³⁷ The next meeting for the Forum for the Future has been scheduled for November 2005 in Manama, Bahrain.³⁸

³⁰ *G8/Broader Middle East and North Africa Finance Ministers' Meeting, Summary of Meeting*, Canada's G8 Website (Ottawa) 1 October 2004. Date of Access: 29 December 2004 [www.g8.gc.ca/meet_tres_sec_snow-en.asp]

³¹ *Information Paper*, Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs Website (Rome) 25 November 2004. Date of Access: 1 January 2005

www.esteri.it/eng/6_38_90_01.asp?id=1504&mod=1&min=1

³² *Information Paper*, Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs Website (Rome) 25 November 2004. Date of Access: 1 January 2005

www.esteri.it/eng/6_38_90_01.asp?id=1504&mod=1&min=1

³³ *Chair's Summary*, G8 Information Centre Website (Toronto) 11 December 2004. Date of Access: 15 January 2005 [www.g8.utoronto.ca/meetings-official/forumforfuture_041211.htm]

³⁴ *Chair's Summary*, G8 Information Centre Website (Toronto) 11 December 2004. Date of Access: 15 January 2005 [www.g8.utoronto.ca/meetings-official/forumforfuture_041211.htm]

³⁵ *Egypt Delays Mideast Reform Conference Indefinitely*, The Daily Star (Lebanon) 21 February 2005. Date of Access: 1 May 2005 [www.dailystar.com.lb/article.asp?edition_ID=10&article_ID=12831&categ_id=2] & *US Ambassador to Egypt, David Welch, Remarks of March 3, 2005*, US Embassy in Egypt Website (Cairo) 3 March 2005. Date of Access: 1 May 2005

[cairo.usembassy.gov/ambassador/sp030305.htm]

³⁶ *Prepared Statement following the Meeting of the G7 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors*, G8 Information Centre Website (Toronto) 16 April 2005. Date of Access: 1 May 2005

[www.g8.utoronto.ca/finance/fm050416_snow.htm] & *Secretary Snow G8/BMENA Statement*, Department of the Treasury Website (Washington) 17 April 2005. Date of Access: 1 May 2005

[www.treas.gov/press/releases/js2386.htm]

³⁷ *Arab, G-8 Education Ministers to Convene in Amman*, Jordan Embassy US Website (Washington) 5 May 2005. Date of Access: 2 May 2005 [www.jordanembassyus.org/05052005001.htm]

³⁸ *Upcoming Ministerials*, Government of Canada. Date of Access: 1 May 2005 [www.g8.gc.ca/ministerials-en.asp] & *Chair's Summary*, G8 Information Centre Website (Toronto) 11 December 2004. Date of Access: 15 January 2005 [www.g8.utoronto.ca/meetings-official/forumforfuture_041211.htm]

5. Japan: +1

Japan has complied with its commitment to establishing the Democracy Assistance Dialogue (DAD). This has been achieved mainly through Japan's participation in the preparatory meetings for the Forum for the Future held in New York on September 23-24, 2004 and Washington, D.C. on October 1, 2004, and its participation in the Forum for the Future proper held in Rabat, Morocco on December 11, 2004.

At the inaugural meeting of the Forum for the Future in Rabat, Japan endorsed the Chairs' Summary including the proposal "put forward by Turkey, Yemen, and Italy for a Democracy Assistance Dialogue."³⁹ In the Chair's Summary, Japan was commended for its efforts in promoting the spirit of the Forum through its bilateral relations, e.g. the Japan-Arab Dialogue with countries in the BMENA.⁴⁰ The Japan-Arab Dialogue which convened in March 2004 focused on "Cultural Dialogue, Socio-Economic Development in the Arab World, and how to help with the Reconstruction of Iraq."⁴¹ Japan convened another Japan-Arab Dialogue hosted by Saudi Arabia in January 2005 at which discussions "under the headings of political, economic, and cultural matters" took place. This Dialogue focused on major issues such as reconstruction efforts in Iraq, Iraqi debt reduction, supporting democracy initiatives in Palestine, private sector investment, economic reform, technology transfer through training and investment, and academic exchanges. Japan plans to convene another Japan-Arab Dialogue in Tokyo.

The Japanese delegation along with its G8 counterparts at the Rabat Forum also supported Egypt's offer to host a meeting between G8 Foreign Ministers and their counterparts in the League of Arab States in Cairo on 3 and 4 March 2005.⁴² However, due to tensions between the United States and Egypt over the arrest of Egyptian opposition party leaders, this meeting has been postponed.⁴³ Japan also attended a meeting between G7 finance ministers and BMENA representatives in Washington on April 15, 2005⁴⁴ and has been invited to the May 23rd meeting

³⁹ *Chair's Summary*, G8 Information Centre Website (Toronto) 11 December 2004. Date of Access: 15 January 2005 [www.g8.utoronto.ca/meetings-official/forumforfuture_041211.htm]

⁴⁰ *Chair's Summary*, G8 Information Centre Website (Toronto) 11 December 2004. Date of Access: 15 January 2005 [www.g8.utoronto.ca/meetings-official/forumforfuture_041211.htm]

⁴¹ *Japan-Arab Dialogue Second Session: 3-4 March 2004 Alexandria, Egypt*, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Website (Tokyo) 4 March 2004. Date of Access: 5 January 2005 [www.mofa.go.jp/region/middle_e/forum/meet0403.html]

⁴² *Chair's Summary*, G8 Information Centre Website (Toronto) 11 December 2004. Date of Access: 15 January 2005 [www.g8.utoronto.ca/meetings-official/forumforfuture_041211.htm]

⁴³ *Egypt Delays Mideast Reform Conference Indefinitely*, The Daily Star (Lebanon) 21 February 2005. Date of Access: 1 May 2005 [www.dailystar.com.lb/article.asp?edition_ID=10&article_ID=12831&categ_id=2] & *US Ambassador to Egypt, David Welch, Remarks of March 3, 2005*, US Embassy in Egypt Website (Cairo) 3 March 2005. Date of Access: 1 May 2005

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⁴⁴ *Prepared Statement following the Meeting of the G7 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors*, G8 Information Centre Website (Toronto) 16 April 2005. Date of Access: 1 May 2005 [www.g8.utoronto.ca/finance/fm050416_snow.htm] & *Secretary Snow G8/BMENA Statement*, Department of the Treasury Website (Washington) 17 April 2005. Date of Access: 1 May 2005 [www.treas.gov/press/releases/js2386.htm]

of Arab education ministers.⁴⁵ The next meeting for the Forum for the Future has been scheduled for November 2005 in Manama, Bahrain.⁴⁶

6. Russia: +1

The Russian Federation has demonstrated full compliance with respect to establishing the Democracy Assistance Dialogue. Russia was represented at the Preparatory Meetings for the Forum of the Future in New York on September 24, 2004 at which Foreign Ministers and Representatives of 24 governments ‘recalled and reaffirmed the commitments made by the G-8 countries at Sea Island which build on the G-8 countries’ already strong bilateral and collective engagement with the [BMENA] region’.⁴⁷ Russia also attended the G8/BNENA Finance Ministers’ Meeting in Washington, D.C., on October 1, 2004. At this meeting, which focused on international trade and funding, the G8 and BMENA finance and economics ministers agreed to participate in the Forum for the Future in Rabat, Morocco.⁴⁸

The Russian Federation was represented at the inaugural meeting of the Forum for the Future in Rabat, Morocco by Deputy Foreign Minister Alexander Saltanov and Finance Minister Alexei Kudrin⁴⁹ who endorsed the Chairs’ Summary including the proposal “put forward by Turkey, Yemen, and Italy for a Democracy Assistance Dialogue.”⁵⁰ The attending ministers welcomed the offer by Egypt to host a meeting of Foreign Ministers of G8 member states and members of the League of Arab States in Cairo on 3 and 4 March 2005.⁵¹ This meeting unfortunately has been postponed due to friction between the US and Egypt over the arrest of leaders of the Egyptian opposition party Al-Ghad.⁵²

⁴⁵ *Arab, G-8 Education Ministers to Convene in Amman*, Jordan Embassy US Website (Washington) 5 May 2005. Date of Access: 2 May 2005 [www.jordanembassyus.org/05052005001.htm]

⁴⁶ *Upcoming Ministerials*, Government of Canada. Date of Access: 1 May 2005 [www.g8.gc.ca/ministerials-en.asp] & *Chair’s Summary*, G8 Information Centre Website (Toronto) 11 December 2004. Date of Access: 15 January 2005 [www.g8.utoronto.ca/meetings-official/forumforfuture_041211.htm]

⁴⁷ *Chair’s Summary*, G8 Information Centre Website (Toronto) 11 December 2004. Date of Access: 15 January 2005 [www.g8.utoronto.ca/meetings-official/forumforfuture_041211.htm]

⁴⁸ *G8/Broader Middle East and North Africa Finance Ministers’ Meeting, Summary of Meeting*, Canada’s G8 Website (Ottawa) 1 October 2004. Date of Access: 29 December 2004. [www.g8.gc.ca/meet_tres_sec_snow-en.asp]

⁴⁹ *Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, Press Release, Broader Middle East and North Africa Forum for the Future To Be Held*, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Website (Moscow) 7 December 2004. Date of Access: April 25, 2005

[www.ln.mid.ru/brp_4.nsf/e78a48070f128a7b43256999005bcbb3/b53c166e477b2427c3256f6300416f02?OpenDocument]

⁵⁰ *Chair’s Summary*, G8 Information Centre Website (Toronto) 11 December 2004. Date of Access: 15 January 2005 [www.g8.utoronto.ca/meetings-official/forumforfuture_041211.htm]

⁵¹ *Chair’s Summary*, G8 Information Centre Website (Toronto) 11 December 2004. Date of Access: 15 January 2005 [www.g8.utoronto.ca/meetings-official/forumforfuture_041211.htm]

⁵² *Egypt Delays Mideast Reform Conference Indefinitely*, The Daily Star (Lebanon) 21 February 2005. Date of Access: 1 May 2005 [www.dailystar.com.lb/article.asp?edition_ID=10&article_ID=12831&categ_id=2] & *US Ambassador to Egypt, David Welch, Remarks of March 3, 2005*, US Embassy in Egypt Website (Cairo) 3 March 2005. Date of Access: 1 May 2005

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Russia attended the meeting between G7/ finance ministers and BMENA representatives in Washington on April 15, 2005⁵³ and has been invited to the May 23rd meeting of Arab education.⁵⁴ The next meeting for the Forum for the Future is scheduled for November 2005 in Manama, Bahrain.⁵⁵

7. United Kingdom: +1

The United Kingdom has demonstrated full compliance with its Democracy Assistance Dialogue (DAD) commitment. The UK was represented at the Preparatory Meetings for the Forum of the Future in New York on September 24, 2004 at which Foreign Ministers and Representatives of 24 governments ‘recalled and reaffirmed the commitments made by the G-8 countries at Sea Island which build on the G-8 countries’ already strong bilateral and collective engagement with the [BMENA] region’.⁵⁶ The UK also attended the G8/BNENA Finance Ministers’ Meeting in Washington, D.C., on October 1, 2004, and the inaugural Forum for the Future in Rabat, Morocco.⁵⁷

At the inaugural meeting of the Forum for the Future in Rabat, the UK endorsed the Chairs’ Summary including the proposal “put forward by Turkey, Yemen, and Italy for a Democracy Assistance Dialogue.”⁵⁸ The UK along with its G8 counterparts applauded Egypt’s offer to host a meeting between G8 Foreign Ministers and their counterparts in the League of Arab States in Cairo on 3 and 4 March 2005.⁵⁹ However, due to tensions between the United States and Egypt over the arrest of Egyptian opposition party leaders, this meeting has been postponed.⁶⁰ The UK also attended a meeting between G7/ finance ministers and BMENA representatives in

⁵³ *Prepared Statement following the Meeting of the G7 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors*, G8 Information Centre Website (Toronto) 16 April 2005. Date of Access: 1 May 2005 [www.g8.utoronto.ca/finance/fm050416_snow.htm] & *Secretary Snow G8/BMENA Statement*, Department of the Treasury Website (Washington) 17 April 2005. Date of Access: 1 May 2005 [www.treas.gov/press/releases/js2386.htm]

⁵⁴ *Arab, G-8 Education Ministers to Convene in Amman*, Jordan Embassy US Website (Washington) 5 May 2005. Date of Access: 2 May 2005 [www.jordanembassyus.org/05052005001.htm]

⁵⁵ *Upcoming Ministerials*, Government of Canada. Date of Access: May 1, 2005. *Upcoming Ministerials*, Government of Canada. Date of Access: 1 May 2005 [www.g8.gc.ca/ministerials-en.asp] & *Chair’s Summary*, G8 Information Centre Website (Toronto) 11 December 2004. Date of Access: 15 January 2005 [www.g8.utoronto.ca/meetings-official/forumforfuture_041211.htm]

⁵⁶ *Chair’s Summary*, G8 Information Centre Website (Toronto) 11 December 2004. Date of Access: 15 January 2005 [www.g8.utoronto.ca/meetings-official/forumforfuture_041211.htm]

⁵⁷ *G8/Broader Middle East and North Africa Finance Ministers’ Meeting, Summary of Meeting*, Canada’s G8 Website (Toronto) 1 October 2004. Date of Access: 29 December 2004 [www.g8.gc.ca/meet_tres_sec_snow-en.asp]

⁵⁸ *Chair’s Summary*, G8 Information Centre Website (Toronto) 11 December 2004. Date of Access: 15 January 2005 [www.g8.utoronto.ca/meetings-official/forumforfuture_041211.htm]

⁵⁹ *Chair’s Summary*, G8 Information Centre Website (Toronto) 11 December 2004. Date of Access: 15 January 2005 [www.g8.utoronto.ca/meetings-official/forumforfuture_041211.htm]

⁶⁰ *Egypt Delays Mideast Reform Conference Indefinitely*, The Daily Star (Lebanon) 21 February 2005. Date of Access: 1 May 2005 [www.dailystar.com.lb/article.asp?edition_ID=10&article_ID=12831&categ_id=2] & *US Ambassador to Egypt, David Welch, Remarks of March 3, 2005*, US Embassy in Egypt Website (Cairo) 3 March 2005. Date of Access: 1 May 2005 [cairo.usembassy.gov/ambassador/sp030305.htm]

Washington on April 15, 2005⁶¹ and has been invited to the May 23rd meeting of Arab education ministers.⁶² The next meeting for the Forum for the Future has been scheduled for November 2005 in Manama, Bahrain.⁶³

In anticipation of Britain's chairmanship of the G8 in 2005, Prime Minister Tony Blair has stated his commitment to the advancement of democracy in the region: "Our 2005 presidency will build on the progress made during the last year by continuing implementation of the plan of support-assisting countries to address the underlying barriers to economic growth and human development, including issues of governance, the rule of law, education, the position of women and attracting domestic and foreign investment."⁶⁴ As well, Middle East Reform appears as one of the Summit topics on the 2005 Gleneagles website, however, few pre-Summit Ministerials have dealt with the subject.⁶⁵

8. United States: +1

The United States has registered full compliance with respect to its commitment to the Democracy Assistance Dialogue (DAD). This has been achieved primarily through the leadership role it has played in establishing and organizing the DAD, participating in the preparatory meetings for the Forum for the Future and the inaugural meeting of the Forum in Rabat.

On 24 September 2004 Secretary of State Colin Powell met with foreign ministers from the Middle East, North Africa and G8 member states for the preparatory meeting of the Forum for the Future in New York. At this meeting, Italy, Yemen, and Turkey were charged with drafting a proposal for the DAD and its implementation. The United States also hosted the G8 and BMENA Finance Ministers' meeting on October 1, 2004 to further prepare for the inaugural meeting of the Forum for the Future.⁶⁶ The meeting, chaired by US Secretary of the Treasury John Snow, stressed economic freedom and prosperity through market-orientated economic

⁶¹ *Prepared Statement following the Meeting of the G7 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors*, G8 Information Centre Website (Toronto) 16 April 2005. Date of Access: 1 May 2005 [www.g8.utoronto.ca/finance/fm050416_snow.htm] & *Secretary Snow G8/BMENA Statement*, Department of the Treasury Website (Washington) 17 April 2005. Date of Access: 1 May 2005 [www.treas.gov/press/releases/js2386.htm]

⁶² *Arab, G-8 Education Ministers to Convene in Amman*, Jordan Embassy US Website (Washington) 5 May 2005. Date of Access: 2 May 2005 [www.jordanembassyus.org/05052005001.htm]

⁶³ *Upcoming Ministerials*, Government of Canada. Date of Access: May 1, 2005. *Upcoming Ministerials*, Government of Canada. Date of Access: 1 May 2005 [www.g8.gc.ca/ministerials-en.asp] & *Chair's Summary*, G8 Information Centre Website (Toronto) 11 December 2004. Date of Access: 15 January 2005 [www.g8.utoronto.ca/meetings-official/forumforfuture_041211.htm]

⁶⁴ *Policy Issues: Other Issues: Supporting Reform in the Middle East*, G8 Gleneagles Summit Website (London) 2005. Date of Access: 4 June 2005 [www.g8.gov.uk/servlet/Front?pagename=OpenMarket/Xcelerate/ShowPage&c=Page&cid=1097073730729]

⁶⁵ *Policy Issues: Other Issues: Supporting Reform in the Middle East*, G8 Gleneagles Summit Website (London) 2005. Date of Access: 4 June 2005 [www.g8.gov.uk/servlet/Front?pagename=OpenMarket/Xcelerate/ShowPage&c=Page&cid=1097073730729]

⁶⁶ *G8/Broader Middle East and North Africa Finance Ministers' Meeting U.S. Treasury Secretary John Snow*, Canada's G8 Website (Ottawa) 1 October 2004. Date of Access: 3 January 2005 [www.g8.gc.ca/meet_tres_sec_snow-en.asp]

reforms based on local ownership and peace and security for private sector investment led growth.

On 11 December 2004, the United States and Morocco chaired the first ever Forum for the Future in Rabat, Morocco. Secretary Powell in his opening remarks stressed the need political and economic reform: “We also see that countries with active political participation by all people tend to enjoy greater investment, economic growth and educational excellence.”⁶⁷ The US along with its G8 counterparts, states of the BMENA, and civil society groups agreed to a meeting devoted to the DAD later in 2005. The attending ministers also agreed to meet at the Forum for the Future in Bahrain in 2005 and welcomed the offer by Egypt to host a meeting of Foreign Ministers of G8 member states and members of the League of Arab States in Cairo on 3 and 4 March 2005.⁶⁸ This G8/Arab League meeting has been postponed, however, due to friction between the US and Egypt over the arrest of leaders of the Egyptian opposition party Al-Ghad.⁶⁹ Though this may seem as a bane rather than a boon, the US Administration seems to be open to getting things back on track between the G8 and the Arab states.⁷⁰

The United States also attended a meeting between G7 finance ministers and BMENA representatives in Washington on April 15, 2005⁷¹ and has been invited to the May 23rd meeting of Arab education ministers.⁷² The next meeting for the Forum for the Future has been scheduled for November 2005 in Manama, Bahrain.⁷³

9. European Union: +1

The European Union (EU) has demonstrated an acceptable level of compliance with regard to the Democracy Assistance Dialogue (DAD), a component of the Forum for the Future initiative presented at the Sea Island Summit in June 2004. Specifically, the EU has demonstrated compliance through its participation in the Forum for the Future, held on December 11, 2004 in

⁶⁷ *Intervention at the Opening Plenary of the Forum For the Future*, U.S. Department of State Website (Washington) 11 December 2004. Date of Access: 9 January 2005 [www.state.gov/secretary/rm/39675.htm]

⁶⁸ *Chair's Summary*, G8 Information Centre Website (Toronto) 11 December 2004. Date of Access: 15 January 2005 [www.g8.utoronto.ca/meetings-official/forumforfuture_041211.htm]

⁶⁹ “Egypt Delays Mideast Reform Conference Indefinitely,” *The Daily Star* (Beirut) 21 February 2005. Date of Access: 1 May 2005 [www.dailystar.com.lb/article.asp?edition_ID=10&article_ID=12831&categ_id=2] & *US Ambassador to Egypt, David Welch, Remarks of March 3, 2005*, US Embassy in Egypt Website (Cairo) 3 March 2005. Date of Access: 1 May 2005 [cairo.usembassy.gov/ambassador/sp030305.htm]

⁷⁰ *US Ambassador to Egypt, David Welch, Remarks of March 3, 2005*, US Embassy in Egypt Website (Cairo) 3 March 2005. Date of Access: 1 May 2005 [cairo.usembassy.gov/ambassador/sp030305.htm]

⁷¹ *Prepared Statement following the Meeting of the G7 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors*, G8 Information Centre Website (Toronto) 16 April 2005. Date of Access: 1 May 2005 [www.g8.utoronto.ca/finance/fm050416_snow.htm] & *Secretary Snow G8/BMENA Statement*, Department of the Treasury Website (Washington) 17 April 2005. Date of Access: 1 May 2005 [www.treas.gov/press/releases/js2386.htm]

⁷² *Arab, G-8 Education Ministers to Convene in Amman*, Jordan Embassy US Website (Washington) 5 May 2005. Date of Access: 2 May 2005 [www.jordanembassyus.org/05052005001.htm]

⁷³ *Upcoming Ministerials*, Government of Canada. Date of Access: 1 May 2005 [www.g8.gc.ca/ministerials-en.asp] & *Chair's Summary*, G8 Information Centre Website (Toronto) 11 December 2004. Date of Access: 15 January 2005 [www.g8.utoronto.ca/meetings-official/forumforfuture_041211.htm]

Rabat, Morocco and its use of the DAD to better adapt its own instruments of partnership and cooperation with the region, e.g. the Strategic Partnership, the Barcelona Process and the European Neighbourhood Policy.⁷⁴

The EU's desire to use the DAD as a base for its own programs is evidenced by the recently unveiled 5-year work program aimed at reinforcing the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership.⁷⁵ The program put forth concrete proposals for progress in three areas critical for the future of the region: education, sustainable economic growth; and human rights and democracy. In addition, the work program also covers social reforms, environment, migration, weapons of mass destruction and counter-terrorism. Commissioner for External Relations and European Neighbourhood Policy, Benita Ferrero-Waldner, said "The Work Program proposed...has all the ingredients to reinvigorate the Euro-Med partnership as it enters its second decade."⁷⁶

Finally, the EU has established a timeline for these initiatives that outlines the goals of the program in 2005, 2006, 2007 and 2010.⁷⁷ Most relevant to the progress of the DAD is the commitment to hold, by 2006, "A Euro-Mediterranean Conference on gender equality with the participation of government representatives and civil society and social partners should take place. The Conference should concentrate on the comparison of best practices within the region to raise the role of women in society and their contribution to human development," and to create a "Democracy facility" by 2007.⁷⁸

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⁷⁴ *Forum for the Future*, EuropaWorld Website (Cowbridge), 10 December 2004. Date of Access: 4 January 2005 [www.europaworld.org/week204/forum101204.htm]

⁷⁵ *Euro-Mediterranean Partnership / Barcelona Process*, EuropaWorld Website (Cowbridge), 12 April 2005. Date of Access 11 May 2005 [europa.eu.int/comm/external_relations/euromed/]

⁷⁶ *Euro-Mediterranean Partnership / Barcelona Process*, EuropaWorld Website (Cowbridge), 12 April 2005. Date of Access 11 May 2005. [europa.eu.int/comm/external_relations/euromed/]

⁷⁷ *Euro-Mediterranean Partnership / Barcelona Process*, EuropaWorld Website (Cowbridge), 12 April 2005. Date of Access 11 May 2005 [europa.eu.int/comm/external_relations/euromed/]

⁷⁸ *Euro-Mediterranean Partnership / Barcelona Process*, EuropaWorld Website (Cowbridge), 12 April 2005. Date of Access 11 May 2005. [europa.eu.int/comm/external_relations/euromed/]