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SOURCE: PCO

DATE: JANUARY 26, 2011

REFERENCE/ RÉFÉRENCE: 2601DOC1

LOCATION/LIEU: GENEVA, SWITZERLAND

TIME/ HEURE: 15:15

LENGTH/DURÉE: 20:47 MINUTES

PRIME MINISTER'S SPEECH AND MEDIA AVAILABILITY WITH
PRESIDENT KIKWETE IN GENEVA

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TR. HON. STEPHEN HARPER (Premier ministre du Canada) : Ils garantiront que nos engagements seront respectés, que l'argent sera dépensé avec sagesse, et que les résultats souhaités seront obtenus. Je suis heureux d'annoncer aujourd'hui que dans le cadre de l'engagement du Canada à l'égard de l'initiative de Muskoka, le gouvernement du Canada soutiendra de nouveaux projets de développement au Bangladesh, en Éthiopie et au Mozambique. Administrés par l'intermédiaire de l'Agence canadienne de développement international, ces programmes contribueront directement à sauver des vies et à améliorer la santé des mères et des enfants de ces pays. C'est toute l'humanité qui réclame que tous les pays s'unissent dans leur détermination à réaliser de vastes améliorations à ce chapitre. Nous examineront les progrès réalisés lors de notre prochaine réunion avant l'Assemblée mondiale de la santé à la mi-mai.

Once again, good afternoon President Kikwete, delegates. Our work today has taken us an important step forward in implementing the Muskoka Initiative on maternal, newborn and child health. The initiative was endorsed in 2010 by world leaders through a process which was begun by Canada. It aims to greatly diminish the number of preventable deaths among vulnerable women, infants and children in developing countries. Today's agreements on oversight and accountability are the essential foundation for continued action. They will ensure pledges are honoured, money is spent wisely, and that the desired results are achieved. Today I'm happy to announce that as part of Canada's Muskoka Initiative commitment, our government will support new developing projects in Bangladesh, Ethiopia and Mozambique. Administered through the Canadian International Development Agency, these

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programs will directly contribute to saving lives and to improving the health of mothers and children in these countries. Common humanity demands that the nations of the world be united in their determination to make vast improvements in this area. We look forward to reviewing progress when we reassemble before the World Health Assembly in mid-May. President Kikwete?

JAKAYA KIKWETE (President of Tanzania): Well, I thank you, Prime Minister. Well, as the Prime Minister has said, we have successfully concluded the first meeting of the Commission on Information and Accountability for Women's and Children's Health. I feel greatly honoured and privileged to be part of a great team entrusted with these...with the responsibility of dealing with a very important matter of saving the lives of women and children who die of causes which can be prevented or can be treated. We have the Prime Minister as the co-chair. We have two co-chairs, Dr. Margaret Chan, Dr. Hamadoun Touré, and we have a great team of distinguished world citizens who have great experience and knowledge on many issues, including the one of saving the lives of women and children.

As you all know, the work of the commission is part of a global initiative to accelerate efforts and scale up resources to meet the 2015 targets on health related MDGS, particularly MG four and five. At the MDG summit held in September in New York, it became evident that reducing maternal and child mortalities by 2015 lagged far behind. It was concluded, therefore, that serious interventions, serious actions, in a concerted manner were required. A global strategy on women's and children's health was launched at that summit. Subsequently, this commission was set up with accountability. The commission had its first meeting today. We received the

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reports from the working groups, working groups who have done a tremendous job, highly professional. There are two working groups, one on accountability for results and another one on accountability for resources. Very useful proposals came from the commissioners. Very thorough discussions took place. Very pertinent proposals were made. The working groups are going to sit again, look at these proposals. And we also agreed on initiating an outreach program. We reach out to everybody in the world who has interest, come up with the proposals, which at the end of the day will amount to saving the lives of children and mothers. I'm happy that the commission has been set up. I consider it to be a step in the right direction. Ensuring that resources are available has been one of the major issues of concern in the developing world, who are bearing the bulk of the death of mothers and children. In the commission, we agreed on the accountability on the part of those that promise that commitments, those who made commitments must be accountable, and this has been said very clearly and very emphatically. But also we emphasized the accountability on the part of the recipients, the governments, the NGOs, the civil society, and everybody else who receives these monies, to ensure that this money is spent for the purpose that has been intended. So it's great work. We've started well, started successfully. We'll continue to work, and in May we'll conclude our work. So probably what we can say is what we have done...this is what we have done today, but we have started working a lot more, and by May, we'll conclude our work. Thank you.

MODERATOR: The Prime Minister now will have time for some questions. We'll start with Terry Milewski from CBC Television.

REPORTER: Thank you. My question is for Prime Minister Harper, and we'd all appreciate it if you'd answer in both languages,

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sir, if you don't mind. It concerns your trip later today and tomorrow to Morocco. You'll be visiting a dynastic Arab monarch who's family's been in power since the 17th century at an interesting time, not least because four people have set themselves on fire in Morocco in recent days, obviously in imitation of the events in Tunisia. We see similar troubles in Algeria, most significantly in Egypt. What can you say to people across the region who are crying for democracy? Are you with them, or does stability still trump democracy?

RT. HON. STEPHEN HARPER: Well, I think as you know, Terry, our government has been very consistent in our support for fundamental values of freedom, democracy, human rights and the rule of law. Obviously I'm in Morocco specifically for a couple of reasons. First of all, Canada has important economic interests in that country, and we see a lot of potential for further Canadian economic relations with that country. We also have an important Morocco-Canadian community, both Muslim and Jewish, particularly in the province of Quebec, that makes a great contribution to our society, and I'm joined by several members of that community in my trip there. And I anticipate that we'll have a range of interesting discussions on the subjects I just raised as well as some of the issues you've just raised in your question.

Pour le répéter, comme j'ai dit à plusieurs reprises, nos valeurs, la liberté, la démocratie, les droits de la personne et la primauté du droit, ils sont des valeurs canadiennes fondamentales. Je serai au Maroc pour deux raisons principales. Nous avons des relations économiques importantes là et à notre avis, un potentiel important pour une relation économique. Il y a plusieurs secteurs de l'économie canadienne qui s'intéressent beaucoup au

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potentiel de ce pays. Nous avons une communauté du Maroc au Canada, une communauté juive et une communauté musulmane, et je suis...je serai là avec des représentants de cette communauté pour mieux développer nos relations culturelles. Vous avez soulevé beaucoup de développements politiques dans cette région, et moi, j'attends...je m'attends à des discussions très intéressantes sur ces question.

REPORTER: But you didn't say if you were with
(inaudible)...

MODÉRATEUR : On continue avec Marc Godbout,
Radio-Canada.

JOURNALISTE : Monsieur Harper, à la suite de cette première rencontre aujourd'hui, dans un contexte où la crise économique n'est pas tout à fait terminée – dans certaines régions du monde, on est loin d'être sorti du bois, comme on dit. Dans un contexte où les gouvernements sont aux prises avec d'importants déficits, comment ça s'est passé à la table? C'est-à-dire quel est le climat à la table? Est-ce qu'il y a des craintes? Est-ce qu'il existe des tensions en ce moment?

TR. HON. STEPHEN HARPER : Franchement, j'ai mentionné cette réalité aujourd'hui quand nous parlions des défis. On sait très bien que dans beaucoup de pays donateurs, il y a des problèmes fiscaux très importants. Quand-même, les pays du G8 surtout, et des autres, ont vraiment promis des fonds pour cette initiative, malgré ces défis fiscaux, parce que l'amélioration de l'humanité reste dans tous nos intérêts. Et c'est un objectif partagé. Mais en même temps je pense que ces réalités expliquent pourquoi c'est essentiel pour nous d'assurer l'imputabilité, d'assurer la responsabilisation des l'usage des fonds, et c'est la raison pour laquelle nous

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avons une telle commission pour définir ce programme et pour assurer la responsabilisation pour les donateurs, mais aussi pour l'usage des ressources. C'est essentiel pour garder l'appui politique pour notre initiative si importante.

So, repeat it. I've mentioned myself today, we're all aware that in many donor countries there are very serious fiscal problems. In spite of those fiscal problems, it's been in the last year that the countries of the G8 and others have come forward to make commitments to deal with this issue of child and maternal health, because it is important to all of us, and it is important to the world as a whole that we improve the lot of the poorest people and the most vulnerable people on the face of the Earth. I think that's a goal we all share. At the same time, as I said when I discussed this today, we're all aware of these fiscal problems, and that's why as we put together this initiative, as we move forward and you know, put the flesh on the bones, more and more details, why we have this commission and so much emphasis on accountability, accountability to donors for the commitments they make, accountability for the use of the resources, because it is essential in order to maintain support for this important initiative that we're accountable, that the monies promised be spent, but they be spent wisely and they show real results, and that's why we're putting this emphasis here.

MODERATOR: And we'll finish with Mark Kennedy from Post Media.

REPORTER: Prime Minister, on that same vein, it seems the challenge is to ensure that the money is delivered and that it's spent well, but for those countries that for one reason or another don't cough up the dough, what are the consequences? What can you do to force them to do it, and secondly, for those countries where perhaps the money is misappropriated,

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where it doesn't deliver, it doesn't end up where it should, what does that do to your ability to maintain confidence back in Canada where taxpayers might be seeing or perceiving their money going to places where it ought not to go? And if you could answer that in French as well.

RT. HON. STEPHEN HARPER: Well, as I say, this is why, as we put together this initiative, we have this particular commission to deal precisely with those problems upfront so the systems are in place to ensure answers to both of those questions. In terms of donors, as you know, Canada already took some proactive steps at the last G8 for the first time, and you know, not without some push-back. We published an accountability report on how the members of the G8 are actually living up to the commitments they make. And I can assure you that in discussions with other governments, putting these kinds of things in black and white creates very real pressures on those who have made commitments to fulfil their commitments. In terms of accountability on the other end, obviously it's a far more complex question, which is why we're looking so carefully at the things... First of all, the things we need to do – let's leave aside the question of misuse – the things we need to do to make sure funds can be used properly: we need proper data sets, we need to identify the methods that work, we need to identify the partners who are capable. These are...you know, we need to identify what are the real priorities as opposed to what are the secondary issues. That's what this is all about, getting into the detail on those kinds of issues. But when there is...when there is misuse of funds, there are actions that can be taken. As you know recently there have been reports on some misuse of funds in the country and the global funds, and so what's happened? What's happen is there's been audits. The audits have exposed this. Those who are responsible have been pursued.

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They've been forced to step down or charges are being pursued against them. So you know, we do...putting in place the same thing we would in our own country if there were problems like that, making sure there are systems of detection and appropriate response.

Je peux répondre encore en français. Encore, ces questions de la responsabilisation sont complexes. C'est la raison pour laquelle nous avons cette commission. Pour les donateurs, le Canada a pris une initiative à Muskoka pour publier un rapport afin de faire la pression sur ceux qui n'ont pas rempli leurs promesses, et je peux vous assurer il y a une résistance de ça, mais je peux vous assurer qu'une telle méthode est efficace à forcer des réactions de ceux qui ont échoué. Et nous espérons et nous attendons que nos amis le Français vont faire la même chose pour les réunions de cette année. Pour les pays qui reçoivent les fonds, évidemment la question est plus complexe. D'abord on doit établir un système qui peut fonctionner. On doit identifier les vraies priorités, les vraies méthodes, les données qui sont nécessaires, la technologie qui va fonctionner, les partenaires qui sont efficaces, et des systèmes, évidemment, de vérification. Nous avons récemment, on a lu une situation où on a mal approprié des fonds dans un fonds international et quels sont les résultats? Il y avait une vérification qui a exposé cette situation, et le gouvernement en question a pris des mesures contre ceux qui étaient responsables, juste comme dans notre pays. C'est essentiel d'avoir des systèmes de vérification et de punition, et c'est comme j'ai dit, c'est la raison pour laquelle nous faisons cet exercice pour vraiment assurer que tous les systèmes, que toutes les priorités sont établies et tous les systèmes sont en place, sont en vigueur pour assurer le succès de notre programme. Nous avons plus de 7 milliards \$ ici, et une vraie possibilité de

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vraiment changer la vie des mères et des enfants dans des pays en développement, et tout le monde, les pays en développement, les pays développés, nous voulons assurer le succès de notre mission.

And let me just repeat that last bit. We have over \$7 billion here, \$7.5 billion of brand new money on the table. Everybody involved, developing countries, donor countries, our private foundations who are also significant contributors, we all want to take the steps to ensure that this program is successful. We have an unprecedented opportunity to make a real difference in the lives of people and a real difference in the world, as a consequence, and nobody wants to blow it. That's why we're taking the time to get these things right.

REPORTER: President Kikwete, can you further elaborate on the issues of accountability of resources, from the perspective of the developing countries, please?

JAKAYA KIKWETE: Well, I think the Prime Minister has said it all, and I mentioned it in the beginning that we are asking the developed countries to honour their commitments. But we have also made it quite clear that the recipient countries, the governments, NGOs in our countries, civil society who receive those monies must use them for the purposes that have been intended. And that is why one of the important work of our commission is really to propose framework of follow-up, of monetary, so to assure that this money is spent well. It is spent for the purposes that have been conceived. Because there is no use. If you get money for immunization, for vaccines and you eat that money, the children will not be vaccinated. The children will die. So definitely this is one of the major preoccupations of the work of the commission, of course on how we're going institute global

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systems, global frameworks of monetary, so that when somebody gets the money for this purpose, it is easy to follow up and identify if there is any wrongdoing in that particular country or organization.

MODERATOR: Thank you very much, everyone. Merci beaucoup, tout le monde.

JAKAYA KIKWETE: Ah, thank you.

RT. HON. STEPHEN HARPER: Great job.

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