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Brazil FM Amorim urges G20 members to link financial crisis recovery, climate control

~ Aid to developing nations also expected to be topic at summit ~

BRUSSELS (March 21, 2009) – Brazilian Minister of External Relations Celso Amorim said today that G20 members must address the global financial crisis at its upcoming summit while also looking ahead to climate change goals that are expected to be discussed in Copenhagen later this year.

“Many of the aspects [of climate change] depend on finance,” Amorim told participants today at Brussels Forum. “How can they take obligations if they don’t have the financial means to deal with them?”

Amorim and other international leaders, including World Bank President Robert Zoellick and Lord Mark Malloch Brown, U.K. Minister for Africa, Asia and the UN, said the G20 and other regulatory groups must link repair of the world financial system with climate change. Zoellick said the World Bank has already moved to link aid with climate change goals, and said that he hopes other regulatory bodies will also “cut across categories.”

The panelists were part of the fourth-annual Brussels Forum, a high-level meeting of influential worldwide leaders to discuss pressing transatlantic issues. Brussels Forum is organized by the German Marshall Fund of the United States (GMF) with the Federal Authorities of Belgium & the Egmont Institute, Daimler, and the government of the Czech Republic.

Brown reiterated a plea to the international community to not get too wrapped up on banking regulatory changes, but to remember that there are developing countries that are desperate for relief from a crisis that has blindsided them.

“The poorest countries in the world thought this was someone else’s crisis,” Brown said. “It was a banking sector crisis ... now they find out that it is an exports and trade and commodities crisis, and it is hitting



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them very hard. So they are very anxious to see special arrangements between some of the top countries and the poor countries.”

Amorim said that the G20 won't be able to solve the financial crisis, climate control, and world poverty without analyzing them together. “It is a crucial moment if we want to improve world governance,” he said.

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Brussels Forum is an annual high-level meeting of the most influential political, corporate, and intellectual leaders worldwide to address pressing challenges facing both sides of the Atlantic. Participants include heads of state, senior officials from the European Union institutions and member states, U.S. officials, Congressional representatives, Parliamentarians, think tank leaders, academics, corporate executives, and media.

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