

In his opening speech at the development assistance round table summit at the United Nations on Wednesday, the President, Mr. Toomas Hendrik Ilves, emphasised that regardless of the economic crisis all the assistance package participants must stick to their earlier promises and deliver, as scheduled, the support programmes and loans that were devised for development purposes to the developing countries.

According to the Estonian Head of State, the success of assistance packages depends on solving two central tasks.

“First of all, developing countries must fight the setbacks that have been caused by the global economic crisis and improve their administrative capacities, promoting co-operation between the state and entrepreneurs. Secondly, the assisting countries must go on with fulfilling their commitments, supporting the implementation of all the programmes, and ensuring the delivery of assistance as earlier agreed,” said the President of the Republic in the opening speech of the round table discussion.

In 2000, the United Nations agreed upon the Millennium Development Goals, which are to be delivered by means of six framework programmes. Their aim is to improve the quality of life in poorer countries by 2015. Intermediate reviews are made in New York of the achievements of these framework programmes since their launching.

“Estonia was given the task of chairing one of the six high-level round tables. One of the reasons why Estonia was given this honour is its credibility in the fulfilment of its commitments, including the promises made in the sphere of development assistance,” President Ilves said.

The Estonian Head of State will participate at the opening session of the United Nations General Assembly and will meet with the presidents of Namibia and the Cape Verde Islands before attending a reception organised by the President of the United States, Mr. Barack Obama.

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