

In a press conference held on Friday 11 December 2009 in Tunis Mr. Murilo Portugal, Assistant Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) affirmed that despite the international crisis, Tunisia has succeeded in reducing its public debt and non-performing loans, in rising its foreign currency reserves and the volume of foreign direct investment (FDI).

This was expected, he added, in fact the country is bearing fruits of its reform policy and measures undertaken, on time, in order to lessen the effects of the crisis.

He estimated that further challenges are standing for the country, notably with respect to boosting of public finance, reducing non-performing loans and employment of university graduates.

Mr. Portugal noted the similarity in views between the two parties with regard to assessment of the situation in Tunisia.

He pointed out that the IMF appreciates Tunisia proposals with respect to internal reforms within the Fund.

Mr. Taoufik BACAR, Governor of the Central Bank of Tunisia affirmed that these proposals involve notably the flexible financing line proposed to emerging countries, pointing out that this line opens perspectives for the countries that need mainly guarantee to support certain reforms like full convertibility of the dinar.

He expressed Tunisia willingness to boost cooperation with the IMF notably in the area of training of Tunisian skills and their participation in technical cooperation missions in the third world countries.

As for the ADB international conference, in which money lenders from Africa took part, Mr. Portugal added that it helped to raise some 130 million dollars in favour of four African Technical centres created by the IMF.

Through these centres, the Fund provides assistance to sub-Saharan African countries to set up sound macro-economic policy.