[Charity] is a word that we do not like. Islam has a very clear message about the different forms of generosity. There is that with regard to the poor, which takes the form of gifts. But the recipient remains poor. There exists a second form of generosity that contributes to growing the independence of the person. This concept, in which the goal is to make the person the master of their destiny, is the most beneficial in the eyes of Allah. [3]

The [AKDN] recognises the critical need for long-term growth and employment: we believe it is best met by private individuals investing their own resources in these endeavours. The genius of the Third World is in its peoples.... In their diversity, vitality, creativity and resilience, they represent the hope for the future and the greatest of the many resources available. [2]

There are those ... who enter the world in such poverty that they are deprived of both the means and the motivation to improve their lot. Unless these unfortunates can be touched with the spark which ignites the spirit of individual enterprise and determination, they will only sink back into renewed apathy, degradation and despair. It is for us, who are more fortunate, to provide that spark. [5] Our Development Network pursues that objective in many places in many ways ... [6]

But I would end, as I began, by suggesting that an Enabling Environment can only do so much. In the final analysis, it can create a framework in which individuals can make the best possible use of their own personal gifts. An Ayat in the Holy Qur’an says: "Verily, God does not change a people's condition unless they change that which is in themselves." In the end, it is the will and the resourcefulness of the individual human being that, with Allah's blessings and guidance, will determine our future.... [I]t is to that end that each of us must continually be re-dedicated. [4]

[A factor often ignored] is individual enterprise, the determination of ordinary people to improve their own circumstances by whatever means possible. The Executive Director of the Commission has referred to the "inherent ingenuity and capacity for survival" of the poor, and he is right. God has given even the least privileged among us the blessing of his spirit and that is a more important resource than any other available to man. [1]