

The Road to Doha

Building on the commitments made in the [Monterrey Consensus](#), the United Nations General Assembly decided to hold a Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development (FfD) in Doha, Qatar, in the second half of 2008.

A series of High-level Meetings on financing for development will lead up to the conference:

- (1) Spring Meeting of ECOSOC with BWIs, WTO and UNCTAD (New York, 16 April 2007)
- (2) ECOSOC Development Cooperation Forum (Geneva, July 2007)
- (3) GA High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development (New York, fourth quarter of 2007)
- (4) Spring Meeting of ECOSOC with BWIs, WTO and UNCTAD (New York, April 2008)
- (5) ECOSOC Development Cooperation Forum (New York, July 2008)
- (6) Follow-up Conference on FFD (Doha, Qatar, second half of 2008)
(all dates and locations are subject to confirmation by Member States)



2007 ECOSOC Spring Meeting has Special Significance, President Says

A first intergovernmental event on the road to Doha

The Special High-level Meeting of ECOSOC with the Bretton Woods Institutions (BWIs), the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) (New York, 16 April 2007) has special significance this year according to the President of ECOSOC, Ambassador Dalius Cekuolis (Lithuania).

In an informal note to ECOSOC, the President pointed out that the meeting takes place at the beginning of preparations for the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development, to be held in Doha, Qatar, in the second half of 2008.

ECOSOC will hold its meeting the day following the spring meetings in Washington of the International Monetary and Financial Committee (IMFC) and the Development Committee. Under the overall theme of “**Coherence, coordination and cooperation for the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus – on the road to the Review Conference in Doha**”, it is proposed that the discussions focus on the following four sub-themes:

(I) Good governance at all levels;

(II) Voice and participation of developing countries in global decision-making;

(III) Effective use of trade and investment policies to fight poverty –realizing the Doha development agenda;

(IV) Aid architecture and aid effectiveness; Innovative sources of finance.

The format of the ministerial-level meeting will include a short opening plenary session with brief statements by the heads of the relevant intergovernmental bodies, followed by four simultaneous multi-stakeholder roundtable discussions with civil society participation. After the lunch break, a 3 to 6 pm afternoon session will feature reports back to the plenary by the roundtable chairs, followed by informal dialogues on each topic. Closing comments by the President of the Council will conclude the meeting. Updated information will be made available at www.un.org/esa/ffd.



Civil Society Forum to be held in preparation of the Spring Meeting

The FfD Civil Society Forum for the 2007 Special High-Level Meeting of ECOSOC with the BWIs, WTO and UNCTAD will take place on Sunday, 15 April 2007 in the Church Center, 777 UN Plaza, New York from 11.30 to 4 p.m. All are most welcome. For more information, please contact any of the [existing NGO networks](#) that have already been active in facilitating civil society participation in past meetings.

Conferences and Workshops on Financing for Development

The Government of Spain, in cooperation with the Financing for Development Office (FfDO), is holding a [Special conference on development cooperation with middle-income countries](#) in Madrid, Spain from 1 to 2 March 2007. The conference deals with questions related to the development agenda of middle-income countries. The event is structured around four working sessions: (1) the role of donors and international organizations; (2) financial stability; (3) commercial integration and comparative advantage; and (4) social cohesion and democratic governance.

The FfDO, in cooperation with the Commonwealth Secretariat, is organizing a workshop on [Debt, finance and emerging issues in financial integration](#) to be held in London, UK from 6 to 7 March 2007, with active participation of civil society organizations.



Multi-stakeholder Consultations on Financing for Development

The Financing for Development Office has organized workshops, multi-stakeholder consultations, panel discussions and other activities aimed at better enabling UN Member States to implement their commitments as agreed in the Monterrey Consensus. All of these projects have been undertaken in close collaboration with experts from the public and private sectors, academia and civil society.

Current focus areas include:

- (I) Rethinking the role of national development banks
- (II) Financing basic utilities for all
- (III) Strengthening the business sector and entrepreneurship in developing countries: the potential of diasporas

A detailed description of all multi-stakeholder consultations, organized by the FfDO and its partners, is available at:

<http://www.un.org/esa/ffd/indexMulti-StakeholderConsultations.htm>

Latest Documents, Publications and Reports on Financing for Development

Meeting reports and background papers on current activities can be easily accessed by selecting entries of interest in the [FfD calendar](#) of events.

Most recent additions include:

- (I) [Development cooperation with middle-income countries](#).

The background paper is available in English, French and Spanish.

- (II) [Rethinking the role of national development banks in Africa](#).

The draft meeting report is based on a regional multi-stakeholder consultation in Johannesburg, South Africa, 22-23 November 2006.

All official documents on Financing for Development, including General Assembly and ECOSOC resolutions can be retrieved at:

<http://www.un.org/esa/ffd/indexDocuments.htm>

The Road to Doha: Issue 2, March 2007. The aim of this monthly newsletter is to help keep interested members of civil society informed of the latest developments and events on the road leading to the Doha Conference. Future issues will include contributions from government and UN officials. It is our hope that you will find this to be a relevant and useful publication. If you wish to subscribe, or to send comments, please write to us at ncls@un.org or ffdoffice@un.org.

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