

ECOSOC President calls for increased national and international efforts in development cooperation

Permanent Representatives of Egypt and Norway to lead consultations on preparations of Doha Conference

In her [statement](#) at the special high-level meeting of ECOSOC, the President of the United Nations General Assembly, Sheikha Haya Rashed Al Khalifa, announced that Ambassador Maged A. Abdelaziz Adbelaziz, Permanent Representative of Egypt, and Ambassador Johan Ludvik Løvald, Permanent Representative of Norway, will lead the consultation process to prepare a “Follow-up Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus” in the second half of 2008.

According to the President the two ambassadors will conduct “an open and inclusive process on all issues relating to the review conference, including with all major institutional stakeholders.”



Special high-level meeting of ECOSOC with BWIs, WTO and UNCTAD convened first major intergovernmental event on road the to Doha

Under the overall theme of “Coherence, coordination and cooperation in the context of the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus”, [the meeting](#) (New York, 16 April 2007) focused on four sub-themes:

- (1) Good governance at all levels;
- (2) Voice and participation of developing countries in international economic decision-making, including the Bretton Woods institutions;
- (3) Realizing the Doha development agenda – effective use of trade and investment policies; and
- (4) Aid effectiveness and innovative financing for development.

(1) Participants highlighted many dimensions of good governance, both nationally and internationally. Discussions focused on concrete steps that could be taken to further encourage and assist strengthening governance capacities at all levels. Several participants stressed the importance that national Governments maintain a clear leadership role in designing and prioritizing their governance programmes.

(2) There was wide agreement among speakers that the task of ensuring suitable participation of developing

countries and countries with economies in transition in the Bretton Woods institutions and other international financial forums must remain on the agenda.

(3) Many speakers pointed to the possibility that the Doha Round might continue to lag or ultimately fail. Achieving the Doha Development Agenda was widely seen as a political rather than a technical challenge. Participants also discussed ways in which foreign direct investment policies could be more successfully integrated with policies on trade, domestic investment and other government policies to achieve development objectives.

(4) The debate on aid effectiveness highlighted the complexity of issues involved in improving the aid architecture. Further progress was needed in a crucial number of areas such as genuine ownership, predictability of flows, coordination and harmonization, alignment with national development strategies and efficient budget support. Recent pilot projects in promoting innovative sources of finance were welcomed such as air ticket fees, UNITAID and the International Finance Facility on immunization.

More information on the proceedings of the meeting will be available when the Chair’s Summary is released. A DPI summary of the event is also available [online now](#).

Upcoming events on Financing for Development

ECE-DESA EGM on 'Financing for innovative development' (Geneva, 3-4 May)

The FFDO/DESA in collaboration with the UN-ECE is organizing two panel discussions on "Microfinance for innovative enterprises" and on "Rethinking the role of national and regional development banks in transition economies". The panel discussions will be held within the context of the Meeting of Experts on "Financing for innovative development", which will take place at the Palais des Nations in Geneva on 3-4 May 2007.

The discussion on "Microfinance for innovative enterprises" will elaborate on serious constraints faced by micro-enterprises in accessing external financing and on the importance of microfinance for strengthening micro-entrepreneurship and innovation. The discussion on "Rethinking the role of national and regional development banks in transition economies" will focus on how to enhance the role of development finance institutions in addressing key development challenges.

Both panels will focus on Eastern European and CIS countries. A total of 35-40 experts from the official and private sectors, including government agencies, international organizations, industrial associations, financial institutions, academia and civil society, will attend this multi-stakeholder meeting.



Special events on Financing for Development held during April 2007

(I) Multi-stakeholder consultation on 'Financing access to basic utilities for all' (Lusaka, Zambia, 23-25 April)

The [second regional multi-stakeholder consultation on "Financing access to basic utilities for all"](#), was organized by the Friedrich Ebert Foundation in collaboration with FFDO/DESA and the International Poverty Center of UNDP. The meeting addressed long-term financing mechanisms and cost recovery strategies for extending access to water and electricity to the poor with a focus on the challenges of low-income countries. Jomo Kwame Sundaram, Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development, DESA delivered opening remarks and moderated one of the panels.

(I) Panel discussion on 'Regulation of microfinance' (New York, 10 April)

On 10 April 2007, the FFDO/DESA and UNCDF jointly organized a panel discussion on Regulation of Microfinance at United Nations Headquarters in New York. The Panel highlighted the work done during the International year of Microcredit (2005), jointly coordinated by UN-DESA and UNCDF, including the publication of the "Blue Book" on Building Inclusive Financial Sectors for Development. A [summary](#) of the event is available.

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) Informal thematic debate on "Implementation of the MDGs and Financing for Development" (Doha, Qatar, 17-18 June 2007)
 - (2) ECOSOC Development Cooperation Forum (Geneva, July 2007)
 - (3) GA High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development (New York, October 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)*

Side Events during Special high-level meeting of ECOSOC with BWIs, WTO and UNCTAD

Several side events took place around the meeting. One event, co-organized by NGLS, discussed the outcomes of the High-level Panel's report on UN System-wide Coherence in relation to development and cooperation with the BWIs. For a report of the event, contact NGLS. Information and contact points for all of the events that took place are available by consulting the schedule of side events on the [FFD website](#).

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