

4 December 2007

Issue Note

Special Event for the General Assembly specific meeting focused on development

Thursday, 6 December 2007, 10:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.

ECOSOC Chamber

United Nations Headquarters, New York

Background

By paragraph 56 of resolution 60/265, the General Assembly decided “to dedicate a specific meeting focused on development, including an assessment of progress over the previous year, at each session of the General Assembly during the debate on the follow-up to the Millennium Declaration and the 2005 World Summit Outcome.”

The 62nd session of the Assembly is scheduled to hold the meeting focused on development on 6 December 2007 in the afternoon. This special event, being held just prior to the meeting of the General Assembly, is aimed at informing the General Assembly on the emerging trends and recent phenomena of the world economy that may have impacts on the stability of the world economy and the efforts of countries in implementing the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals.

Objective

The special event is intended to contribute to the deliberations of the Assembly during the specific meeting focused on development, which is scheduled in the afternoon of the same day. The keynote addresses will discuss notable trends and events of the world economy over the past year focusing on their impacts on the realization of the United Nations development agenda, including the Millennium Development Goals. Such issues may include: global imbalances, credit squeeze and implications for macroeconomic stability in developed and developing countries, policy responses from national governments and multilateral institutions, risk of global downturn and impact on development prospects.

More specifically, the keynote speech may like to address the following questions/issues:

1. *What are the key trends and phenomena in the world economy that need serious attention by the General Assembly in its effort to promote development, in particular towards meeting the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals?*

2. *What are the possible consequences of these phenomena if left unattended and what could be done to avoid such consequences?*
3. *Looking ahead, what more the United Nations can do in accelerating the implementation towards meeting the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals?*

Format of the Session

The event will be chaired by the President of the General Assembly, **H.E. Dr. Srgjan Kerim**. The President and the **Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations** will open the morning event. **Mr. Jomo Kwame Sundaram**, Assistant-Secretary-General on Economic Development, will be the lead discussant.

To leave sufficient time for discussion, keynote speakers are asked to limit their presentation to about 20-30 minutes. The event is organized primarily for the delegations in preparation for the formal meeting that will follow in the afternoon, but expected audience will also include representatives of UN funds and programmes, UN agencies and the Bretton Woods institutions.

This event will be preceded by the presentation of the United Nations Development Agenda, which will start at 10:30 a.m. Following is the draft programme for Thursday, 6 December 2007.

Programme for 6th December 2007

ECOSOC Chamber

10:30 a.m. – 10: 40 a.m. **Opening statement:**

President of the 62nd session of the General Assembly,
[H.E. Dr. Srgjan Kerim](#)

Deputy Secretary-General, [Dr. Asha-Rose Migiro](#)

10:40 a.m. – 11: 00 a.m. **Presentation of the United Nations Development Agenda**

Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs,
[Mr. Sha Zukang](#)

Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States
[Mr. Cheick Sidi Diarra](#)

11:00 a.m. – 12: 00 p.m.

Keynote addresses

Chair: President of the 62nd session of the General Assembly, H.E. Dr. Srgjan Kerim

Keynote addresses:

- [Professor Joseph E. Stiglitz](#)
Nobel Laureate in Economics
University Professor, Columbia University;
Co-founder and President of the Initiative for Policy Dialogue
 - Global economic environment and prospects for developing countries
- Professor Jagdish Bhagwati
University Professor, Columbia University;
 - Global economic environment and prospects for developing countries

12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Question and answer / Dialogue on development

Lead discussant: Assistant-Secretary-General on Economic Development, Mr. Jomo Kwame Sundaram

GA specific meeting focused on development: the General Assembly Hall

3:00 p.m. – 3:10 p.m.

Opening of the formal meeting on development:

President of the 62nd session of the General Assembly,
H.E. Dr. Srgjan Kerim

3:10 p.m. – 3: 20 p.m.

Assessment of the current state of implementation and review of major UN events related to development, including the AMR

President of Economic and Social Council, H.E. Mr. Dalius Čekuolis

3:20 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

General debate