



**Ad-hoc expert group meeting on “Financing access to basic utilities for all”
organized by the Friedrich Ebert Foundation in cooperation with the Financing for
Development Office
(New York, 26-27 June, 2006)**

In its resolution [60/188](#) of 22 December 2005, the General Assembly requested the Financing for Development Office to continue the organization of workshops and multi-stakeholder consultations to examine issues related to the mobilization of resources for financing development and poverty eradication. In response to this mandate, the Friedrich Ebert Foundation in cooperation with the Financing for Development Office will organize a series of multi stakeholder consultations on “Financing access to basic utilities for all.”

More than one billion people in the world today live without access to clean drinking water, about two and a half billion do not have access to basic sanitation and nearly two billion lack access to electricity. It is estimated that the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in water and sanitation will require considerable resources to fill a funding gap of about US \$10 to 25 billion per annum. Likewise, almost US \$700 billion of investment will be required to bring electricity to an additional 1.4 billion people. If the MDGs are to be reached, increased focus should be put on determining effective financing mechanisms for all levels of utility service provision. In particular, the financing of water, sanitation and electricity require special attention as these utilities are the most relevant to poor households.

A first ad-hoc expert group meeting on financing access to basic utilities for all will take place at United Nations Headquarters in New York City on 26 and 27 June, 2006. A closed expert group discussion is scheduled for the first day of the event (26 June, 2006). During this closed session, participants are encouraged to structure their debate around a flexible working agenda (see Attachment I). Each agenda heading of the working agenda will be introduced by a lead discussant with a short presentation of topical issues, followed by an interactive dialogue among the full group of participants. On the second day (27 June 2006), the participants will brief UN delegates in an open plenary session on the findings and outcomes of the discussions held during the previous day and encourage feedback from member states and other relevant stakeholders.

The ad-hoc expert group meeting on “Financing access to basic utilities for all” is envisioned to be an agenda setting meeting for a series of regional multi-stakeholder consultations to be organized by the Friedrich Ebert Foundation in cooperation with the Financing for Development Office. The first of these consultations is envisioned to take place in Latin America in November 2006.

**Program for the first Expert Meeting in New York
June 26-27, 2006**

26 June, 2006

Venue: Conference Room of the Friedrich Ebert Foundation, 823 UN Plaza, Suite 711
(entrance on 46th Street and 1st Avenue)

9.00 a.m. Breakfast

Session I: Setting the agenda for the 2006-2007 multi-stakeholder consultations

9.30 a.m. -10.00 a.m.

Mr. Oscar de Rojas, Director, Financing for Development Office

Mr. Frank Schroeder, Senior Economist, New York Office, Friedrich Ebert Foundation

Presentation of background paper

Ms. Tania Cernuschi, Associate Expert, Financing for Development Office

Mr. Daniel Platz, Economic Affairs Officer, Financing for Development Office

Session II: Mobilizing finance: Stable and predictable financing mechanisms for utility providers at all levels

10.00 a.m. -11.30 a.m.

Facilitator:

Mr. David Boys, Public Services International (PSI)

Lead discussant:

Ms. Meera Mehta, Water and Sanitation Program, World Bank

Session III: Paying off the debt: ensuring the sustainability of access to utilities for all

11.30 a.m. -1.00 p.m.

Facilitator:

Mr. Terry McKinley, United Nations Development Programme

Lead discussant:

Mr. Girish Sant, PRAYAS, India

Lunch Break

Session IV: Macroeconomic factors to be taken into account in the design and use of financing mechanisms

2.30-4.00 p.m.

Facilitator:

Mr. Jomo Kwame Sundaram, Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs

Lead Discussant:

Ms. Nyedja Marinho, Program for the Modernization of the Sanitation Sector, National Secretariat for the Environment (SNSA), Ministry of the Cities, Brazil

Session V: The next steps- Refining the project proposal

4.00 p.m. -5.30 p.m.

Facilitator:

Mr. Oscar de Rojas, Director, Financing for Development Office

7.30 p.m.

Dinner for all conference participants

SICHUAN PALACE restaurant

310 East 44th Street between 1st and 2nd Avenues

Tel: 212 972-7277

27 June, 2006

Venue: United Nations, Conference Room 1

Public Session: The 2006-2007 multi-stakeholder consultations on financing access to basic utilities for all

11.30 a.m. -1.00 p.m.

Introduction:

Mr. Jomo Kwame Sundaram, Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs

Speakers:

Mr. Prem Govender, Director, Contract Management Unit, City of Johannesburg, South Africa (tbc.)

Mr. Marcos Helano Montenegro, Director, Department for Development and Technical Cooperation, National Secretariat for the Environment (SNSA), Ministry of the Cities, Brazil

Mr. Marcelo Suarez Salvia, First Secretary, Permanent Mission of Argentina to the United Nations

List of participants, New York meeting

UN

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