



United Nations

General Assembly
Sixty-second session

Preparations for the Follow-up International Conference on

Financing for Development

to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus

United Nations Headquarters
New York

Preparations for the Doha Review Conference

Legislative Mandate

The Monterrey Consensus of the 2002 International Conference on Financing for Development called for a follow-up international conference to review the implementation of the Consensus (para. 73). In its resolution 62/187 of 19 December 2007, the General Assembly decided that the Follow-up International Conference to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus will be held in Doha, Qatar, from 29 November to 2 December 2008, at the highest possible political level, including with the participation of Heads of State or Government, ministers and special representatives, as appropriate. The Conference will include plenary meetings and six interactive multi-stakeholder round tables on the six major thematic areas of the Monterrey Consensus. It will result in an intergovernmentally agreed outcome and summaries of the plenary meetings and of the roundtable discussions.

Objective

The Review Conference and the preparatory process leading up to it will assess progress made, reaffirm goals and commitments and share best practices and lessons learned. It will also identify obstacles and constraints encountered, actions and initiatives to overcome them, important measures for further implementation, as well as new challenges and emerging issues.

Preparatory Process

In a letter of 10 January 2008 addressed to all States, the President of the General Assembly, Dr. Srgjan Kerim, emphasized the importance of a successful outcome to the Review Conference and proposed a work programme for the preparatory process. The programme (see opposite page) includes review sessions on the thematic areas of the Monterrey Consensus and interactive hearings with representatives of civil society and the business sector, to be held at UN Headquarters in New York during the period from February to June 2008. In addition, UN regional commissions, with the support of regional development banks and other relevant entities, will hold regional consultations during the first half of 2008. All relevant stakeholders are invited to actively contribute to the preparatory process leading up to the Review Conference.

Modalities

A subsequent letter dated 25 January 2008 from the two Facilitators of the preparatory process, Ambassador Maged A. Abdelaziz of Egypt and Ambassador Johan L. Løvald of Norway, outlined the modalities of the review sessions. Each session will include an initial panel discussion, organized in cooperation with the Financing for Development Office, comprising four or five panelists from developed and developing countries and relevant stakeholders. The panelists should introduce the topics under discussion and assess progress made, share best practices and lessons learned and identify obstacles and constraints encountered. It will be followed by a debate among Member States, with the participation of relevant accredited stakeholders. The debate should focus on proposed actions and initiatives for further implementation of the Monterrey Consensus, as well as on new challenges and emerging issues.

Participants

All preparatory meetings are open to participation by all Member States, as well as non-Member States, entities and intergovernmental organizations having received a standing invitation to participate as observers in the work of the General Assembly. Relevant organizations of the UN system as well as intergovernmental organizations accredited to the financing for development process are also invited to participate in the preparatory meetings. In addition, these events are open to all non-governmental organizations that are in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council and to all non-governmental organizations and business sector entities accredited to the Monterrey Conference or to its follow-up process.

Outcome

The President of the General Assembly will issue informal summaries of the review sessions as inputs to the preparations for the Review Conference. By the end of July, the President of the General Assembly will circulate a draft outcome document of the Review Conference. Informal consultations and drafting sessions on the outcome document will be held during the period from September 2008 until the holding of the Review Conference.

Roadmap to Doha: Calendar of Events

The following United Nations events have been scheduled to be held during the preparatory process of the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus.

11 – 12 February 2008	Thematic debate of the General Assembly on “Addressing Climate Change: The United Nations and the World at Work”
14 February 2008	Review session on Chapter I of the Monterrey Consensus, “Mobilizing domestic financial resources for development”
15 February 2008	Review session on Chapter II, “Mobilizing international resources for development: foreign direct investment and other private flows”
25 February – 7 March 2008	Fifty-second session of the Commission on the Status of Women on the theme “Financing for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women”
10 – 11 (morning) March 2008	Review session on Chapter V, “External Debt”
11 (afternoon) – 12 March 2008	Review session on Chapter VI, “Addressing systemic issues: enhancing the coherence and consistency of the international monetary, financial and trading systems in support of development”
1 – 2 April 2008	Thematic debate of the General Assembly on “Recognizing the achievements, addressing the challenges and getting back on track to achieve the Millennium Development Goals by 2015”
14 April 2008	Special high-level meeting of the Economic and Social Council with the Bretton Woods institutions, the World Trade Organization and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
15 – 16 April 2008	Review session on Chapter IV, “Increasing international financial and technical cooperation for development”
20 – 25 April 2008	UNCTAD XII on the theme “Addressing Opportunities and Challenges of Globalization for Development”
19 – 20 May 2008	Review session on Chapter III, “International trade as an engine for development”
18 June 2008	Hearings with representatives of civil society and the business sector on financing for development
30 June – 25 July 2008	Substantive session of the Economic and Social Council, including the Annual Ministerial Review and the Development Cooperation Forum
July 2008 (second week)	Release of the report of the Secretary-General on the latest developments related to the review process on financing for development (advance version)
July 2008 (last week)	Presentation by the President of the General Assembly of the draft outcome document of the Review Conference
September – November 2008	Informal consultations and drafting sessions on the outcome document of the Review Conference

For further details and updates, please visit the website of the Review Conference at www.un.org/esa/ffd/doha

FINANCING FOR DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 57/273 of 20 December 2002, the Financing for Development Office (FfDO) was established to promote and support sustained follow-up to the agreements and commitments reached at the 2002 International Conference on Financing for Development, as contained in the Monterrey Consensus, as well as financing for development-related aspects of the outcomes of major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields, including the development goals set out in the United Nations Millennium Declaration and the 2005 World Summit Outcome.

FfDO serves as the focal point in the UN Secretariat for overall follow-up to the implementation, at the national, regional and global levels, of the outcome of the 2002 International Conference on Financing for Development and the preparation of the 2008 Review Conference. In this context, the Office works towards intensifying collaboration and interaction with the secretariats of the major institutional stakeholders (World Bank, IMF, WTO, UNCTAD and UNDP), the regional commissions and development banks, as well as civil society and the business sector, with a view to promoting coherence and an integrated approach within the United Nations system and beyond to the major thematic areas of the Monterrey Consensus on financing for development.

FfDO provides substantive secretariat support, including the preparation of annual multi-stakeholder reports and other inputs, to the intergovernmental process entrusted with the follow-up to the Monterrey Conference, in particular the biennial High-level Dialogue of the General Assembly on Financing for Development and the annual Special High-level Meeting of the Economic and Social Council with the Bretton Woods institutions, WTO and UNCTAD. In addition, the Office is mandated to organize, in collaboration with experts from the public and private sectors, academia and civil society, multi-stakeholder events and other activities aimed at better enabling Member States to implement their commitments as agreed upon in the Monterrey Consensus and related outcomes.

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