



Round Table 4

“Looking ahead: Increasing international financial and technical cooperation for development”

(10 a.m. - 1 p.m., 1 December 2008, Al Majlis Auditorium)

Provisional Programme

10:00 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.

Panel Discussion

Co-Chairs:

- **H.E. Mr. Laurent Gbagbo**, President of Côte d'Ivoire
- **Mr. Laszlo Varkonyi**, State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Hungary

Moderator: **Mr. Olav Kjørven**, Assistant Secretary-General and Director, Bureau for Development Policy, United Nations Development Programme

Panelists:

- **Mr. Bader Al-Dafa**, Executive Secretary, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
- **Mr. Ahmad Mohamed Ali Al-Madani**, President, Islamic Development Bank
- **Mr. Eckhard Deutscher**, Chair, Development Assistance Committee, Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
- **Ms. Gargee Ghosh**, Senior Program Officer for Development Finance and Policy, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation
- **Mr. Jean Ping**, Chairperson, African Union Commission
- **Mr. Sam Worthington**, President and Chief Executive Officer, InterAction

11:45 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Interactive Debate

Biographical notes

Mr. Bader Al-Dafa is Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA). Mr. Al-Dafa recently served as Ambassador of Qatar to the United States and Permanent Observer to the Organization of American States. Mr. Al-Dafa has enjoyed a long and distinguished career in foreign affairs and non-governmental services, which has included serving as Ambassador of Qatar to the Russian Federation, France, Egypt, and Spain. He also served as the non-resident Ambassador to Finland, Greece, Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia, Switzerland, and Mexico. Mr. Al Dafa also served as Director of the European and American Affairs Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Mr. Ahmad Mohamed Ali Al-Madani is the President of the Islamic Development Bank. Mr. Ali began his career in education and manpower development with his appointment as Director, Scientific and Islamic Institute, Aden, Yemen. Subsequently, he returned to Saudi Arabia and continued in the same path with his appointment as the Acting Rector of King Abdulaziz University from 1967 to 1972. In 1972, he was selected to serve as Deputy Minister of Education. Upon the initiative of the late King Faisal Bin Abdulaziz, when the member countries of the Organization of the Islamic Conference decided to establish the Islamic Development Bank, he was chosen as its first President in 1975. He was later chosen to be the Secretary-General of the Muslim World League (MWL) and was given the task of restructuring the MWL, after which he returned to serve the Bank.

Mr. Eckhard Deutscher took up duty as Chair of the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) on 18 January 2008. He has gained extensive experience in the politics and economics of international aid. He was the German Executive Director to the World Bank from 2002 to 2008 and Dean of its Board of Executive Directors from 2006 to 2008. He has also been the Director of the Centre for Democratic Studies on Latin America, based in Costa Rica, and lectured at universities in Mexico and Peru. He was Director of the German Foundation for International Development (now INWENT) from 1991-2000.

Ms. Gargee Ghosh is the Senior Program Officer for Development Finance and Economic Policy with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. She was recently asked to help build a new team within the Foundation to focus on more effectively partnering with innovative funders to achieve the international development mission of the Gates Foundation. Prior to her current role, Ms. Ghosh managed a portfolio focused on financing the delivery of health care in Sub-Saharan Africa and Asia. Successes in that role include: the launch of a new fund to deliver medicines for AIDS, TB and malaria; piloting a \$4B bond-financing mechanism to fund the purchase of childhood vaccines; and developing the business case for a blended-value private equity fund to invest in health care in Africa.

Mr. Jean Ping is Chairperson of the African Union Commission. He has extensive experience in international and regional diplomacy and has headed Gabon's delegation at numerous sessions of the United Nations General Assembly as well as at international conferences and summits, including those of UNESCO, the World Bank, the Organization of African Unity, the Non-Aligned Movement, the Organization of the Islamic Conference and the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, of which he was President in 1993. He was President of the fifty-ninth session of the General Assembly. Mr. Ping was appointed as Director of the Cabinet of the President of Gabon, a position he held until 1990. Since then, he successively held a number of appointments at the ministerial level.

Mr. Sam Worthington assumed the President and CEO position of InterAction in 2006. InterAction is the nation's largest alliance of relief and development nongovernmental organizations working overseas. Mr. Worthington also served as the Vice Chair of InterAction's Board of Directors. Previously, he served since 1994 as Chief Executive Officer of Plan USA. Plan is a global, 62-country, child-focused development organization. Mr. Worthington also sat on Plan's global executive management team and chaired Plan's national CEO team. He is a Member of the Council on Foreign Relations, serves on the Advisory Committee for Voluntary Foreign Assistance (ACVFA) at USAID and the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) at the United Nations.