14 May 2010

Dear Colleague,

You will recall that we have had four substantive meetings of the Ad Hoc Open Ended Working Group to follow up on the Conference last June on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and its Impact on Development. You will further recall that we laid out plans for another two meetings in our letter dated 24 March. We would like to offer some questions for discussion at these two meetings, which will take place on the following dates:

26 May 1500-1800: Reform of the international financial and economic system, including voice and participation of developing countries in the Bretton Woods institutions

- To what extent has the recent governance reform in the World Bank contributed to a fair and equitable representation of developing countries? To what extent have the recent operational reforms enhanced the World Bank’s transparency and responsiveness?
- What should be the principles underlying quota and voice reforms in the IMF?
- How have the BWIs and the regional development banks helped developing countries weather the crisis? Do regional approaches need further attention?

This meeting will be based, in particular, on paragraphs 43-50 of the Outcome of the Conference last June.

2 June 1500-1800: Strengthening the role of the UN in Global Economic Governance

- What does global economic governance mean? Which international economic challenges need a regional response and which economic problems require global solutions? As a case in point, what is the impact on development of the European debt crisis and on which arenas could this impact be addressed?
- What has the economic crisis revealed about the role of the UN in global economic governance, including in relation to emerging informal multilateral structures as well as with regard to fulfilling its development mandate?

This meeting will be based, in particular, on paragraphs 1, 2, 5, 6, 11, 16, 32, 42 and 52 of the Outcome.

As in the previous meetings we will invite panellists to introduce the topics. Names, bios and presentations of panellists will be posted on UN DESA’s website for the working group (http://www.un.org/esa/ffd/events/2010GAWGFC/index.htm). The location of the meetings will be announced in the Journal.
We remain available if you have further input or comments. We are looking forward to continuing to work with you on these important issues. Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of our highest consideration.

Morten Wetland  
Permanent Representative of  
Norway to the United Nations

Lazarous Kapambwe  
Permanent Representative of  
Zambia to the United Nations

All Permanent Representatives and  
Permanent Observers to the  
United Nations