

## How to participate in the 2007 Spring Meeting of ECOSOC (New York, 16 April 2007)

NGOs that are already in possession of a valid UN grounds pass do not need to register.

NGOs accredited to ECOSOC or the FfD-process can apply for a temporary pass. Please visit the links below to check the status of your organization.

(I) To browse the list of NGOs in consultative status with ECOSOC, please visit the website of [the UN-NGO Section](#). If your organization is accredited with ECOSOC and you are in need of a pass, please contact the UN NGO Section (tel: (1-212) 963-8652; email: [desangosection@un.org](mailto:desangosection@un.org)).

(II) To browse the list of NGOs accredited to the FfD process please visit the [FfD website](#). FfD-accredited NGOs should send their request on an official letterhead directly to the FfDO at (email: [ffdooffice@un.org](mailto:ffdooffice@un.org); fax 212-963-0443) **no later than 6 April 2007**.



## Secretary-General calls for rebalancing world economic system in favor of poor countries

### Note provides background information and appends points for reflection at the 2007 Spring Meeting of ECOSOC

Under the overall theme of “Coherence, coordination and cooperation in the context of the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus”, the Secretary-General focuses on the four sub-themes that were chosen for the [Special high-level meeting of ECOSOC with BWIs, WTO and UNCTAD \(New York, 16 April 2007\)](#):

- (1) Good governance at all levels;
- (2) Voice and participation of developing countries in international economic decision-making, including the Bretton Woods institutions;
- (3) Realizing the Doha development agenda – effective use of trade and investment policies; and
- (4) Aid effectiveness and innovative financing for development.

(1) According to the document, developing countries need international support for their efforts to strengthen and improve governance. However, it is important that countries have sufficient policy space to determine how much of their limited resources can be expended on the governance agenda. Moreover, governance should be improved at all levels, nationally and globally.

(2) The Secretary-General welcomes recent steps to increase the role of developing countries in international economic decision making, including the Bretton Woods institutions. More efforts in this area are critical at a time where those countries represent 79% percent of the world’s population and contribute to 45% of the world’s GDP (a growing proportion).

(3) The note further states that continued progress in the Doha Round is important to tame protectionist pressures. However, it is essential to maintain development as the objective of the global trade system and “not conclude the Round for the sake of concluding the Round”. The note also calls for assigning more public resources to communications, power, transport and telecommunications, as well as water, education and health. Many poor countries have undermined their medium-term growth prospects through insufficient investment in the pursuit of macroeconomic stability.

(4) The Secretary-General calls for enhancing ownership, governance, effectiveness and predictability of the development aid system. He emphasizes that civil society should play a more visible role in the design of programmes and in monitoring the use of resources.

## NGO-sponsored events for the 2007 Spring Meeting of ECOSOC

### (I) Civil Society Forum on “Financing for Development”

organized by the three major [NGO facilitating groups on FfD](#) (Sunday, 15 April 2007, 11:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., Church Center, 777 UN Plaza). Contact: [philoa@medicalmissionsisters.org](mailto:philoa@medicalmissionsisters.org)

### (II) Panel Discussion on “System-Wide Coherence: Drawing the Implications for the Role of the UN and other Multilateral Institutions in Development”

organized by UN-NGLS in cooperation with the World Federalist Movement, ITUC and the Rethinking Bretton Woods Project of the Center of Concern (Monday, 16 April 2007, 1:15 p.m. – 2:45 p.m., UN Headquarters, Conference Room 7). Contact: [npls@un.org](mailto:npls@un.org)

### (III) Panel Discussion on “Trade and Finance Linkages for Promoting Development”

organized by NGO Committee on Financing for Development in cooperation with the Center of Concern, the German Marshall Fund and the South Centre (Monday, 16 April 2007, 6:00 p.m. – 7:15 p.m., UN Headquarters, Conference Room D). Contact: [aldo@coc.org](mailto:aldo@coc.org)

### (IV) Panel Discussion on “Growth with Responsibility – An Analysis of the G8-Agenda for Heiligendamm, Germany”

organized by Friedrich Ebert Foundation in cooperation with the Initiative for Policy Dialogue (IPD) and UN-DESA (Tuesday, 17 April 2007, 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., UN Headquarters, Conference Room 5). Contact: [fschroeder@fesny.org](mailto:fschroeder@fesny.org)



Alex Trepelkov

## Q&A with Alex Trepelkov

*“Civil society is an integral part of the FfD process”*

**Alex Trepelkov**, Chief, Multi-stakeholder Engagement and Outreach Branch, FfDO, responds to questions from NGOs.

### Q: In your opinion, what is the role of civil society in the FfD process?

**A:** Civil society is an integral part of the FfD process. CSOs participate in all meetings that are held in the follow-up to Monterrey, whether it is a small expert group meeting on a technical topic or a major follow-up event. For high-level intergovernmental events, NGO networks are invited to nominate their representatives to participate in informal roundtable discussions with ministers and other government officials, heads and senior managers of international institutions and the private sector. These roundtable exchanges are highly interactive and give CSOs an opportunity to share their views with other stakeholders on all aspects of the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus.

### Q: What do you see as a likely outcome of the Spring meeting of ECOSOC/BWIs/ WTO/UNCTAD?

**A:** There are really two types of outcomes. At the official level, the meeting will result in a summary by the President of ECOSOC, which will serve as an input to the intergovernmental deliberations on FfD at the substantive session of the Council in July and at the GA High-level Dialogue on FfD in October. At the same time, the meeting will be a unique opportunity for a multi-stakeholder engagement on current

issues of the follow-up to the Monterrey Consensus through an open and highly interactive exchange between ministers and high-level officials in the areas of trade, finance, development cooperation and foreign affairs and civil society and private sector representatives.

### Q: What will be the level of engagement of CSOs at the meeting in Doha in 2008?

**A:** In its resolution 61/191, the GA stressed the importance of the ‘full involvement’ of civil society. In this regard, it is our hope that CSOs will have a strong presence in the process leading up to Doha and the Conference itself. It should be recalled that an important feature of the Monterrey Conference was a high-profile NGO forum.

### Q: What is the relation between the new ECOSOC functions (including the Development Cooperation Forum) and the FfD process?

**A:** Much of the focus of the development Cooperation Forum will be on issues covered in section II.D of the Monterrey Consensus, entitled ‘Increasing international financial and technical cooperation for development’. It is often referred to as the ODA (Official Development Assistance) section. It is therefore expected that the Forum will be attended by many participants of the FfD process, including civil society. In the event, the Forum will be an important milestone on the road to Doha.

### Q: What is your Office doing to engage CSOs in the FfD process?

**A:** CSOs have been energizing the FfD process by providing substantive inputs, offering innovative ideas and forging new partnerships. Pursuant to the multi-stakeholder approach to the FfD process, this Office will continue to facilitate the participation of accredited CSOs in FfD events through logistical and substantive support. Moreover, we are making an effort to engage new organizations, especially those from the South. Our [website](#) and this [newsletter](#), published jointly with UN-NGLS, are two examples of our outreach activities.

### Q: What advice would you give to CSOs to constructively engage in the process leading to Doha?

**A:** [Contact us](#). Our focal point for NGO engagement is Daniel Platz. In addition, it is critical to network with other NGOs that are already involved in the process. A list of such organizations is on our [website](#).

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