

## General Assembly to decide on modalities and preparation of Doha Conference

### Second Committee adopts a draft resolution spelling out preparatory process of the Doha Review Conference on Financing for Development

By the terms of the draft resolution, the General Assembly would decide to hold the Follow-Up International Conference to Review the Implementation of the Outcome of the International Conference on Financing for Development in Doha, Qatar from 29 November to 2 December 2008.

The Conference would be held at the highest possible political level, including participation of Heads of State or Government, ministers, special representatives and other representatives, as appropriate. It would include plenary meetings and six interactive multi-stakeholder round tables on the six major thematic areas of the Monterrey Consensus. It would result in an intergovernmentally agreed outcome, as well as the summaries of the plenary and of the roundtable discussions to be included in the report of the Conference.

The General Assembly would reiterate that the Review Conference would assess progress made, reaffirm goals and commitments and share best practices and lessons learned. It would 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.

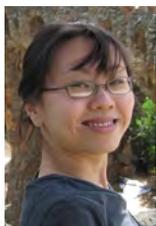
As regards the preparatory process of the Conference, the President of the General Assembly at its sixty-second session would be requested to continue direct intergovernmental consultations of the whole with the participation of all states and the major institutional stakeholders involved in the financing for development process, on all issues related to the Review Conference. These consultations would be scheduled in advance, open, inclusive and transparent. The President of the General Assembly would also be requested to provide a programme of work, including six substantive informal review sessions of the whole on the six thematic areas of the Monterrey Consensus, to be held during the period from January to June 2008. The review sessions would not exceed eleven working days. In addition, one extra working day would be devoted to informal interactive hearings with representatives of civil society and the business sector. These meetings would be followed by informal consultations on the contents of the outcome document of the Conference, with the view to presenting the first draft outcome document by the end of July 2008, followed by informal consultations and drafting sessions during the period from September 2008 until the holding of the Review Conference.

Moreover, the General Assembly would call upon UN regional commissions, with the support of regional development banks and other relevant entities, to hold regional consultations, as appropriate, during the first half of 2008, to serve as inputs to the preparation of the Review Conference.

Non-governmental organizations and business sector entities would be invited to participate in the Review Conference. Registration would be open to all NGOs that are in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council and to all non-governmental organizations and business sector entities accredited to the International Conference on Financing for Development or to its follow-up process. Interested non-governmental organizations and business sector entities that are not in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council or were not accredited to the International Conference on Financing for Development would be welcome to apply to the General Assembly for accreditation following the accreditation procedure established during the International Conference.

*The text of the draft resolution is available on the FfD website at [www.un.org/esa/ffd](http://www.un.org/esa/ffd).*





Guest Editorial

## **Mobilizing Political Will is Essential for Effective FfD Process and Outcome**

*By: Celine Tan, Senior Researcher, Third World Network\**

This year's biennial High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development (FfD), which took place in New York from 23 – 25 October, had particular significance for the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus as discussions were expected to provide substantive direction to the preparatory process of the Follow-Up Conference on the FfD to be held in Doha, Qatar next year.

As an NGO, we welcome the United Nations' continued support for NGO participation at these high-level events and in the FfD process as a whole. The intergovernmental, multi-stakeholder nature of the FfD process provides civil society groups with a forum to present their views on important aspects of the international monetary, trade and financial systems and to respond to the questions, concerns and views of member governments and other stakeholders involved in the process.

We welcome the start of the "Road to Doha" and hope that the process towards the FfD review conference is organised in an open and participatory manner, involving all stakeholders, in the spirit of Monterrey. We hope that the follow-up conference will be able to review the progress of implementation of the Monterrey agenda as well as provide the space for discussion of issues not adequately addressed or which have emerged as major issues since five years ago.

As the President of the General Assembly, H.E. Srgjan Kerim noted in his closing statement, the diversity of ideas and proposals emerging from the Dialogue suggests that there are many challenging areas to address in the run-up to the Doha Conference. We would like to call upon

the member governments to exercise great political will to surmount these challenges to ensure a successful outcome at the Doha Conference.

Financing for development, in our view, remains a major concern for developing countries. Development demands that there be sufficient financial resources, financial stability and the productive channeling of resources to fulfill human needs, cognisant of countries' particular social and economic circumstances and in the context of ecological sustainability.

Addressing the obstacles which hinder countries' capacity to generate and utilise such resources is the key to meeting the goals of the Monterrey Consensus to create a coherent fully inclusive and equitable global economic system in support of the eradication of poverty, achievement of sustained economic growth and promotion of sustainable development.

We need to take urgent steps to realising the six substantive pillars of the Monterrey Consensus and resolve the "unfinished business" of the Monterrey agenda. This includes removing the systemic barriers to the mobilisation of domestic resources and harnessing international financial flows in a stable, sustainable and predictable manner; increasing technical cooperation and official development assistance (ODA) and ensuring that such resources are genuinely poverty reducing and not tied to economic policy conditionalities which conversely hinder social and economic development; and reforming the international financial and trade architecture to promote greater coherence and consistency as well as substantially increasing the voice and participation of developing countries in the institutions of international economic governance. We also need to address the problem of external debt in a more comprehensive manner, including the establishment of mechanisms for an orderly and systematic debt resolution for countries facing financial crises. This framework must enable fair burden sharing between the parties and allow for a standstill on debt repayments so that indebted countries do not have to make the unnecessary trade-

offs between meeting development needs and debt servicing. Plugging the financial leaks from developing countries, including reducing capital flight and regulating the activities of transnational corporations, is also essential for ensuring countries have sufficient revenue for development.

Furthermore, the link between trade and finance must be comprehensively tackled or the progress so far on debt relief would be undermined. In order to ensure countries do not fall into new cycles of indebtedness, we need to address the constraints faced by many developing countries in the area of external trade. In particular, due to the rapid import liberalisation necessitated by multilateral and bilateral free trade agreements coupled with an unfavourable export environment due to unfair barriers to trade, developing countries have continued to experience significant trade imbalances. This has affected their overall financing capacity and led to debt and aid dependency.

Developments in the international financial system since Monterrey necessitate the urgent consideration of new issues in the FfD agenda, particularly the need for international regulation of trans-border capital flows. Financial liberalisation has continued at an accelerated pace since 2002, creating volatility and problems of contagion in global financial markets. This has been compounded by the proliferation of new financial instruments, such as hedge funds and derivatives, and the absence of genuine global cooperation on financial matters. The recent global financial market turbulence illustrates the need for stronger regulatory frameworks and greater transparency in the management of international capital transactions and the operations of new financial instruments. Developing countries and their citizens are vulnerable to the financial policies and practices originating in developed countries, over which they have little or no control. This is compounded in many cases by the loss of policy autonomy due to external pressures (such as loan conditionalities) to implement appropriate measures at the national level to stymie the effects of

volatile capital flows and monetary instability.

Consequently, there is a need for a comprehensive rethinking of the mechanisms of international trade and financial governance if we are to meet not only the explicit goals of Monterrey but also reflect its spirit in considering emerging issues on the FfD agenda. This challenge can only be met if there is concerted political will to reform systemic problems and genuine commitment to poverty eradication and sustainable development. Therefore, we call upon the state parties to the Monterrey Consensus and all stakeholders to demonstrate such will and commitment on the “Road to Doha”.

*\*External contributions are the responsibility of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the United Nations Secretariat.*

## Upcoming events and other announcements

### Cairo High-level Symposium

To ensure a comprehensive consultative process in preparing for the 2008 Development Cooperation Forum, the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs is supporting the organization of several country-led high-level symposiums. As the second in this series, the Cairo symposium, organized in cooperation with the Government of Egypt, will take place on 19-20 January 2008. The overall theme of the Symposium will be “Trends in development cooperation: South-South and triangular cooperation and aid effectiveness”. In particular, the symposium will explore how to promote results-oriented development cooperation in pursuing national priorities. It will aim to provide for an open and interactive dialogue between senior government officials as well as representatives of other stakeholder groups, such as international and regional organizations, UN system, civil society and academia. More information is available at [www.un.org/ecosoc/newfunct/dcfcairo.shtml](http://www.un.org/ecosoc/newfunct/dcfcairo.shtml)

## New FfD Website



A new Financing for Development website has been launched by FfDO/DESA in preparation of the “Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus” (Doha, Qatar, 29 November 2007 – 2 December 2007). The new site is more accessible for visitors and also more compatible with search engines, making the site available to a much wider audience. The new site can be viewed at: [www.un.org/esa/ffd](http://www.un.org/esa/ffd).

### Summary of EGM on Innovative Finance for Sustainable Development



A summary of the Expert Group Meeting on Innovative Finance for Sustainable Development is available online. The meeting was organized jointly by the

Division for Sustainable Development and the Financing for Development Office of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs at UN Headquarters in New York on 18-19 October, 2007. It aimed to address recent developments in the financing of select sectors in developing countries. The meeting brought together the perspectives of academics, development institutions, practitioners in the field, and private sector actors.

### NGLS Focus Page on FfD

NGLS maintains an online “Focus Page” on the Financing for Development process on its website. It has recently been updated with the following reports (click below to view):

- [NGLS Summary of the GA High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development](#)
- [NGLS Summary of the Interactive Hearings with Civil Society on Financing for Development](#)
- [Notes from the NGLS/UNIFEM/Social Watch side event ‘Gender Perspectives on Aid, Development and Trade](#)
- [Summary of GA Second Committee Special Event: “Financing for gender equality within the context of follow-up to the Monterrey Consensus”](#)
- [Summary of GA Second Committee Special Event: “Moving Out of Aid Dependency”](#)

NGLS has also launched an online [Focus Page on UNCTAD XII](#) (Accra, Ghana, 20-25 April 2008).

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