



The Road to DOHA

A newsletter for civil society in the lead up to the 2008 FfD conference

The Road to Doha

A series of High-level Meetings on financing for development will complement the preparatory process of the Doha Review Conference.

- (1) Thematic debate of the General Assembly on "Addressing Climate Change: The United Nations and the World at Work" (New York, 11 -12 February 2008)
- (2) Fifty-first session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) on the theme "Financing for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women" (New York, 25 February - 7 March 2008)
- (3) 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." (New York, 1-2 April 2008)
- (4) Spring Meeting of ECOSOC with BWIs, WTO and UNCTAD (New York, 14 April 2008)
- (5) UNCTAD XII on the theme "Addressing opportunities and challenges of globalization for development" (Accra, Ghana, 20-25 April 2008)
- (6) ECOSOC annual session, including Development Cooperation Forum and Annual Ministerial Review (New York, 30 June-25 July 2008)



United Nations Non-Governmental Liaison Service

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President of the General Assembly launches preparatory process for Doha Review Conference

President outlines a detailed work programme leading up to the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus to be held in Doha, Qatar, from 29 November to 2 December 2008

In his letter of 10 January 2008 addressed to all States, the President of the General Assembly emphasized the importance of the Review of the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus. In accordance with paragraphs 8 and 9 of General Assembly resolution 62/187 of 19 December 2007, the President circulated the proposed work programme for the preparatory process of the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development. The programme contains the following preparatory events, to be held at UN Headquarters in New York.

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"
10 March 2008 - 11 March 2008 (morning)	Review session on Chapter V, "External Debt"
11 March 2008 (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"
15-16 April 2008	Review session on Chapter IV, "Increasing international financial and technical cooperation for development"
19-20 May 2008	Review Session on Chapter III, "International trade as an engine for development"
18 June 2008	Hearings of Civil Society and the Business Sector

In the second week of July 2008, the Secretary-General will issue a report on the latest developments related to the review process on financing for development and the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus. By the end of July, the President of the General Assembly will circulate a draft outcome document based on the outcome of the preparatory events. 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.

In accordance with General Assembly resolutions 61/191 and 62/187, the review conference should assess progress made, reaffirm goals and commitments, share best practices and lessons learned. The conference should 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.

For more information visit: <http://www.un.org/esa/ffd/doha/>

Our joint responsibility for long-standing challenges: economics for social provisioning

By: Marina Durano*

UNIFEM

With the end of 2007, we are already past the halfway mark to the 2015 target deadline for the reduction of poverty and we are still far from achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The World Bank (WB) released estimates for 146 countries just before the holiday season in 2007, showing that the share of developing economies of global GDP has decreased to 7 per cent from previous estimates. The GDP of high-income countries, where only 17 per cent of the world population reside, account for about 61 per cent of global GDP. GDP per capita of the richest countries are about 5-7 times more than the world average while the GDP per capita of the poorest countries are about 3-6 percent of the world average. These figures fuel concerns of increasing concentration of income and wealth and of the magnitude of the inequality, raising questions on the responsiveness of poverty reduction to economic growth.

Development financing will take center stage this year with the Follow-Up International Conference now scheduled for 29 November to 2 December 2008 in Doha, Qatar. The Monterrey Consensus in paragraph 8 recognized the need to have “a holistic approach to the interconnected, national, international and systemic challenges of financing for development,” going further by specifying that development should be sustainable, gender-sensitive and people-centred. The inadequacies of current policy approaches are laid bare by the Bank’s new figures and are compelling reasons to search for “holistic approaches” and “grand narratives” that explain the problems and provide solutions. And there is no lack of offers¹. Proposals and suggestions from these works should find their way into the debates towards the Follow-Up Conference.

While gender equality is acknowledged as essential to human development and the achievement of the MDGs, much more needs to be done to ensure that all aspects of development financing, whether domestic or international, fully recognize women’s economic contributions, and support their economic rights and integration. Gender-oriented development economists are actively engaged in these debates and have contributed to the design of alternatives that directly address challenges resulting from the interactions of gender inequality with poverty reduction policies. Lourdes Beneria’s *Gender, Globalisation and Development: Economics as if People*

Mattered, Naila Kabeer’s *Gender Mainstreaming in Poverty Eradication and the Millenium Development Goals*, and Diane Elson’s *What’s Behind the Budget?: Politics, Rights and Accountability* (with Andy Norton) are part of a body of rigorous work that redefine economics as social provisioning rather than efficient allocation.

This approach to economics recognizes the significant economic contribution made by socially reproductive activities, which encompasses how a society provides care to its members through the combined work of states, markets and households, and the fact that while all sectors benefit from these, the responsibilities are not equally shared. This approach would mean that notions of inclusion or exclusion go beyond whether groups of people are significant or marginalized; rather, it is the realm of the economy that is expanded or diminished. The marginalization of groups of people is inevitable if you assume a “small economic realm”.

The implications of a gender analysis on development financing policies are clear. There would be a focus on employment generation rather than just on inflation-targeting. Countercyclical policies and social security would be implemented as complementary policies. Incentives for desegregation of occupations, education, and skills training by sex will be devised. Foreign and other investments would be regulated and channeled towards decent work and higher tax contributions. Trade measures would enhance domestic productive capacity and go beyond export expansion. There will be a move towards progressive tax regimes and away from flat taxes. Broadening social insurance and protection will be assured. Debt payment obligations would not compete with investment in socially reproductive activities, including public investments.

Development practitioners and gender equality advocates have traveled on parallel roads too long. The multiple dimensions of inequality (gender, race, ethnicity, among others) that exacerbate the experience of poverty demand that we take collective responsibility for these long-standing challenges of development.

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

¹ Paul Collier’s *The Bottom Billion*, William Easterly’s *The White Man’s Burden*, Dani Rodrik’s *One Economics, Many Recipes*, and Ha-Joon Chang’s *Bad Samaritans* are among those available in the market.



Multi-stakeholder consultation on Financing for Development in the Asia-Pacific Region

The Financing for Development Office (FfDO), in cooperation with the Association of Development Financing Institutions in Asia and the Pacific (ADFIAP), held a multi-stakeholder consultation on Financing for Development in the Asia-Pacific Region on 17 December 2007 in Bangkok, Thailand.

The consultation consisted of two panel discussions on: (1) "National and Regional Development Banks: Potential and Sustainability" and (2) "Responsible Infrastructure Investment: Financing Access to Basic Utilities". Mr. Jomo K.S., Assistant Secretary-General, UN-DESA, delivered a keynote address. The meeting was held as one of several regional events in response to the General Assembly mandate given to the FfDO to organize, with the participation of experts from the official and private sectors, multi-stakeholder consultations on Financing for Development. The outcome of these consultations will provide substantive inputs to the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development (Doha, Qatar, 29 November - 2 December 2008).

The meeting was a special event within a broader context of ADFIAP's International CEO Forum IV on the theme: "Development Banks & Sustainable SMEs: Opportunities for Growth", hosted by SME Development Bank of Thailand on 17-19 December 2007. The Forum brought together CEOs of ADFIAP's 83 member-institutions from 37 countries, as well as several partner institutions and special guests from around the world, to address financing sustainability issues of SMEs in the service and resource-based industries in the region.

More information is available on the Financing for Development Website: http://www.un.org/esa/ffd/civilsociety/mssc/utilities_bangkok/CEOFForum_programme.pdf

Upcoming events and other announcements

Registration for Doha Review Sessions

Non-governmental organizations that wish to attend the Review Session on Chapter I of the Monterrey Consensus (14 February 2008) or the Review Session on Chapter II (15 February 2008) should contact the FfDO Office or NGLS by the 7th of February 2008.

Registration will be open to all non-governmental organizations that are in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council and to all non-governmental organizations accredited to the International Conference on Financing for Development or to its follow-up process.

Cairo High-level Symposium

The Cairo High-level Symposium, organized by DESA in cooperation with the Government of Egypt, took place on 19-20 January 2008. The symposium explored how to promote results-oriented development cooperation in pursuing national priorities. Its outcome will serve as an important input to the first Development Cooperation Forum to be held in New York as part of the High-level Segment of ECOSOC in July 2008.

Focusing on recent examples of how countries partner up to ensure an impact of development cooperation based on national priorities, the one-and-a-half day symposium included three sessions with country-based case studies, panel discussions and interactive dialogue, addressing the following topics: (i) the future of conditionality, including recent experiences with outcome-based conditionality, (ii) examples of successful South-South and triangular development cooperation, and (iii) the possibility of rethinking the current framework for assessing aid quality, including aid effectiveness, based on principles such as national leadership and mutual accountability.

The symposium provided 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.

For more information, including the agenda and aide memoire:

<http://www.un.org/ecosoc/newfunc/dfcairo.shtml>

Deadline for Participation at UNCTAD XII Fast Approaching

UNCTAD XII and its accompanying Civil Society Forum in Accra is scheduled to take place on 20-25 April 2008. The deadline for non-accredited organisations to apply for accreditation is 31 January 2008. Civil society organizations that do not have observer status but wish to participate and to contribute to the Conference and its preparatory process are encouraged to indicate to UNCTAD their interest in being accredited at UNCTAD XII. In order to be accredited, NGOs/CSOs which do not have observer status with UNCTAD are kindly requested to:

- read the [Accreditation Procedures](#) and
- complete the online [Accreditation Questionnaire](#)

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