



The Road to DOHA

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

The Road to Doha

Drafting sessions on the outcome document for the [Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus](#) (Doha, Qatar, 29 November–2 December 2008) (A/CONF.212/CRP.1) have been held in September – November 2008 at UN Headquarters.

The sessions have been co-chaired by the Co-Facilitators, H.E. Mr. Maged A. Abdelaziz (Egypt) and H.E. Mr. Johan L. Løvvald (Norway). All accredited stakeholders have been invited to attend the drafting sessions; although only representatives of Governments and of the 3 major institutional stakeholders (WB, IMF & WTO) have been permitted to participate in the discussion, following the practice of Monterrey. All stakeholders are welcome to make available in writing any contributions they deem appropriate, which should be addressed to the Co-Facilitators, with a copy to the FfD Office.

Contributions, compilations and Facilitators' proposals are available on the Web site of the Financing for Development Office. For further information, including background materials, please consult that site <http://www.un.org/esa/ffd/>.



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Proposed organization of work of the Doha Review Conference

The General Assembly endorsed the arrangements and organization of work of the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus, as set out in the note by the Secretary-General (A/63/345). The Assembly also recommended for adoption by the Conference the provisional agenda and provisional rules of procedure. These arrangements had been formulated on the basis of GA resolution 62/187, taking into account the experience of the first International Conference on Financing for Development, held in Monterrey, Mexico, in March 2002.

The Review Conference will be held in Doha, Qatar, at the Conference Center, which is an annex to the Sheraton Doha Hotel and Resort, from 29 November to 2 December 2008. The Conference will be organized around eight plenary meetings and six interactive multi-stakeholder round tables. At the plenary meetings, Heads of State or Government, ministers and heads of delegations will be able to make formal statements. The opening plenary meeting will feature statements by the President of the Conference (elected from the Host Country), the President of the General Assembly, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the President of the World Bank, the Managing Director of the IMF and the Director-General of WTO. At the beginning of the second plenary meeting, the President of ECOSOC, the Secretary-General's two Special Envoys for the Conference, the Secretary-General's Special Advisor on Innovative Sources of Financing for Development, the Secretary-General of UNCTAD and the

Administrator of UNDP, as the Chairman of the United Nations Development Group, will be invited to make statements. The meeting will also hear reports from the Civil Society and Business Sector Forums, and from the Parliamentary Hearing, to be held on the eve of the Conference. The draft outcome of the Conference will be considered by the Main Committee, which will meet concurrently with the plenary meetings and round tables. The closing plenary is expected to conclude with the adoption of the outcome document and of the report of the Conference.

The six interactive multi-stakeholder round tables will be held concurrently with the plenary meetings, under the overall theme "Looking ahead: further cooperative actions in Financing for Development" and will address the six major thematic areas of the Monterrey Consensus, as follows: (1) "Mobilizing domestic financial resources for development"; (2) "Mobilizing international resources for development – foreign direct investment and other private flows"; (3) "International trade as an engine for development"; (4) Increasing international financial and technical cooperation for development"; (5) "External debt"; (6) "Addressing systemic issues – enhancing the coherence and consistency of the international monetary, financial and trading systems in support of development" (this round table may also include consideration of cross-cutting new challenges and emerging issues, as well as the subject of "Staying engaged").

(continued on p.4)

Doha Draft Outcome Document draws mixed responses during launch of negotiations*

Member States and relevant stakeholders met on 8 September for the formal launch of the negotiations on the draft outcome document for the Financing for Development Review Conference. During his opening remarks, the President of the General Assembly called on participants to consider the preparations for the Doha Review Conference an important opportunity to foster a universal partnership for development. The President highlighted key initiatives in the draft, which included the call for an international conference to reform the international financial architecture, the creation of an ad hoc commission to identify innovative solutions on debt, as well as the proposal to upgrade the United Nations Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters to an inter-governmental body.

The President of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) expressed his support for issues raised in the speech of the GA President and highlighted the contribution that the Special high-level Meeting of ECOSOC with the Bretton Woods institutions, the World Trade Organization and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (New York, 14 April 2008) has made to preparations of the Doha Review Conference. He further underscored the potential of ECOSOC's Development Cooperation Forum to promote the Financing for Development process.

Mr. Trevor A. Manuel, Special Envoy of the Secretary General of the United Nations on Financing for Development and Minister of Finance of the Republic of South Africa, emphasized that Member States should make clear commitments in the outcome document on how resources be mobilized and by whom. The document should detail the concrete set of actions that were required for the conclusion of the work started in 2002. Doha should move beyond Monterrey, and should do so with the same simplicity, elegance and urgency that was evident at Monterrey.

Ms. Ingrid Hoven, Director-General, Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, delivered the statement by Ms. Heidemarie Wiczorek-Zeul, Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development and Special Envoy of the UN Secretary-General for the International Conference on Financing for Development. The speaker called on donor countries to deliver on their ODA commitments, particularly those for Africa and under-

scored the need for a functioning multilateral trade system. She referred to new challenges such as climate change and the food crisis, which would require international cooperation and additional funding. Moreover, the doha outcome document should promote a global compact to fight tax flight and evasion.

During the consultations, Member States expressed their gratitude towards the two Facilitators of the preparatory process, Ambassador Abdelaziz of Egypt and Ambassador Løvald of Norway. They agreed that the draft outcome document could serve as a basis for negotiations. However, the G77 and China criticized the document for its lack of urgency, its imbalance in assigning greater responsibility to developing than to developed countries and its dearth of significant reform proposals to strengthen the international financial architecture.

The Group called for concrete measures on how the international community could support developing countries in their national development efforts. While the document recognized the rise in private flows, it fell short of referring to the potentially negative and destabilizing effects of portfolio flows and the high costs faced by smaller economies encouraging foreign investment. Due to the failed talks of the WTO, the UN needed to spell out clearly the sequenced, development oriented trade policy framework required to ensure that world trade supports development.

With regard to ODA, the G77 and China expressed their disappointment that the document failed to mention the fact that much of the ODA increase from 2002 to 2005 could be attributed to debt relief, as well as the fact that ODA had decreased from 2006 to 2007. Moreover, issues related to aid effectiveness should not be left to the OECD given the fact that the ECOSOC Development Cooperation Forum was now operational.

While the draft outcome document recognized limited progress within systemic issues, Member States needed to go further in this connection and treat issues such as mandates, governance, credibility and organizational culture of international financial institutions more critically. The group welcomed the proposal for a conference to review the international financial and monetary architecture and global economic governance structures. However, for this conference to be successful it was important to hold it under the aegis of the United Nations and not the Bretton Woods institutions, whose mandates should be subject to reform.

France, speaking on behalf of the European Union, welcomed the draft outcome document as a good basis for negotiations. However, the text was too long and should be more concise and action-oriented, a point which was shared by other Member States, including Canada, Japan, Australia, New Zealand and Liechtenstein. Moreover, the current international context such as the international financial crisis should be taken into account in a revised version of the draft. The group proposed to highlight the complementary role of aid to national development efforts, as well as the importance of aid effectiveness. The special needs of post conflict countries deserved particular attention in that regard.

The EU proposed to place more emphasis on issues that were essential for economic and social development such as the role of women in development, inclusive growth, the potential of innovative sources of finance and environmental protection, particularly with regard to climate change. Finally, the document should highlight recent progress on external debt, particularly the wide-ranging debt relief initiatives from recent years, as well as systemic improvements, such as the governance reforms of the Bretton Woods institutions.

The United States of America criticized the draft for its length and level of detail. While it welcomed the emphasis on domestic resource mobilization, it called for more focus on factors that helped create an environment that was more conducive to foreign direct investment. The trade section needed to be updated to take into account the recent developments in the WTO round of trade negotiations. With regard to ODA, the US proposed to use agreed language and avoid calls for new commitments. The chapter should also highlight key messages from the Accra Agenda for Action, which was adopted at the [Third High-Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness](#) (Accra, Ghana, 2-4 September 2008). The chapters on external debt and systemic issues were not dealt with adequately in the draft outcome document and needed to be revised particularly with regard to the role of the Paris Club and norm and standard setting bodies.

Several other Members States raised further issues. Mexico, speaking on behalf of the Rio Group, highlighted the need to increase the visibility, level of participation and political impact of the follow-up mechanism. Guinea highlighted the importance of the Leading Group on Solidarity Levies to Fund Development for consensus building on innovative sources of finance. Qatar, the host country of the Doha Review Conference, highlighted the importance

of a genuine assessment of the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus and identification of the new challenges and emerging issues in Financing for Development.

The representative of the World Bank highlighted the importance of domestic resource mobilization for more inclusive and sustainable growth, the need for surplus countries to provide more financing for development, the potential of innovative sources of financing for development, additional resources to deal with climate change, as well as the importance of international organizations in providing technical and financial support. The OECD representative took the floor to offer clarification on some of the ODA statistics referred to in the draft outcome document. A representative of the Business Sector Steering Committee suggested that public authorities should acknowledge and promote a leading role for the private sector in implementation of development activities. Civil society organizations provided statements as well. Their views on the draft outcome document are summarized in the guest editorial of the June issue of the “The Road to Doha”. (www.un.org/esa/ffd/newsletter/2008_TheRoadtoDoha_Isue17.pdf)

In accordance with General Assembly resolution 62/187, drafting sessions on the draft outcome document for the Doha Review Conference are currently being convened by the Co-Facilitators, H.E. Mr. Maged A. Abdelaziz (Egypt) and H.E. Mr. Johan L. Løvald (Norway). All accredited stakeholders are invited to attend the drafting sessions, although only representatives of Governments and of the three major institutional stakeholders are permitted to participate in the discussion, following the practice used in the preparatory phase for the Monterrey Conference. In keeping with previous practice, stakeholders are welcome to make available in writing any contributions they deem appropriate, which should be addressed to the Co-Facilitators, with a copy to the Financing for Development Office, indicating their wish to have them posted on the Financing for Development Web site. The schedule of meetings and the draft outcome document are posted on the [Web site of the Financing for Development Office](#).

** This article provides an overview of the general remarks made by Member States during the first round of informal consultations and does not include chapter-specific proposals.*

(continued from p. 1)

Each round table will be co-chaired by two chairpersons selected from among the Heads of State or Government and ministers, drawing from six developing countries and from six developed and transition-economy countries. High-level officials from the major institutional stakeholders (the World Bank, IMF, WTO, UN Secretariat, UNCTAD and UNDP) would be invited to act as moderators in the round tables. Each round table will be open to participation by representatives of all States; 21 representatives of observers, relevant entities of the United Nations system and other accredited intergovernmental organizations; 7 representatives of accredited civil society organizations and 7 representatives of accredited business sector entities. Each representative may be accompanied by one advisor. The list of non-State participants in the round tables will be established on a first-come, first-served basis and will be announced on the website of the Conference (www.un.org/esa/ffd/doha).

Each round table will include an initial panel discussion, comprising four or five high-level panelists and the moderator. The panel discussion will be followed by an interactive debate among all relevant stakeholders. No list of speakers will be established. The debate should focus on proposed actions and initiatives for further implementation of the Monterrey Consensus and the outcome of the Doha Review Conference. The Secretary-General's two Special Envoys for the Conference and his Special Advisor on Innovative Sources of Financing, as well as heads of major regional bodies, will also be invited to participate in the round tables.

Intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and business sector entities are invited to participate in the deliberations of the Conference, as appropriate, in accordance with the rules of procedure of the Conference. Registration is open to: (a) all non-governmental organizations that are in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council; and (b) all relevant intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and business sector entities that were accredited to the 2002 International Conference on Financing for Development or its follow-up process; (c) relevant organizations of the United Nations system. In addition, the General Assembly, at its current session, accredited three intergovernmental organizations and 46 non-governmental organizations accredited to the Review Conference.

The Global Forum of Civil Society on Financing for Development will be held on 26-27 November at the Ramada Plaza Doha Hotel. The International Business Forum on Financing for Development will be held on 28 November at the La Cigale Doha Hotel. Parliamentary Hearing on Financing for Development will be held on 28 November, from 3 to 6 p.m. in Salwa Ballroom at the Sheraton Doha Resort and Convention Hotel. Background information on these events, including programmes of meetings, will be available at www.un.org/esa/ffd/doha. A series of special events, includ-

ing briefings, seminars, workshops and panel discussions on issues related to Financing for Development, will be organized by Member States, organizations of the United Nations system and accredited institutional and non-institutional stakeholders. The calendar of those events will be made available at the Conference site and will also be posted at www.un.org/esa/ffd/doha.

During the Conference, all official documents, as well as press releases on the plenary meetings, round tables and other events will be provided at the document counter and will also be made available electronically at www.un.org/esa/ffd/doha/. The plenary meetings and round tables, as well as press conferences, will be broadcast live into the media area. A programme of special media briefings and press conferences, to be held in Al Rayan Room, will be announced.

The Secretariat will continue providing support to the organization of the Conference, under the guidance of the Executive Secretary of the Conference and in cooperation with the host country authorities. Background information for the Review Conference, including inputs received from all relevant stakeholders, has been posted and updated, on a regular basis, on the website of the Financing for Development Office of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat at www.un.org/esa/ffd/doha. ■

Global Civil Society Forum

The Global Civil Society Forum will be held in Doha, Qatar on 26-27 November 2008 just prior to the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus (Doha, Qatar, 29 November - 2 December 2008). The Forum offers a unique opportunity for civil society organizations to provide substantive input to the Conference. More information is available on the Forum Website (www.ffdngo.org). The list of registered participants for the Forum can be obtained from the FfD website www.un.org/esa/ffd/doha/civilsociety/forum.htm.

Second International Business Forum

The Second International Business Forum will be held in Doha, Qatar, 28 November 2008. The Forum provides a venue for dialogue between high level business and government leaders committed to reaching a positive outcome from the Monterrey Consensus. More information on the Forum is available on the FfD website at www.un.org/esa/ffd/doha/businesssector/forum.htm

UN High-level Event on the Millennium Development Goals

Governments, foundations, businesses and civil society groups have rallied around the call for action to slash poverty, hunger and disease by 2015, by announcing new commitments to meet the Millennium Development Goals, at a [High-level Event](#) at United Nations Headquarters on 25 September 2008. "Today we did something special. We brought together a broad coalition for change," UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said at the end of the day-long event, which he convened with General Assembly President Miguel D'Escoto. The gathering "exceeded our most optimistic expectations," he stated, noting that it generated an estimated \$16 billion, including some \$1.6 billion to bolster food security, more than \$4.5 billion for education and \$3 billion to combat malaria. It also saw strong support for the UN Secretary-General's proposal to host an MDG review summit in 2010.

Moreover, the High-level Event was intended to send a message to the [Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development](#) from the highest political level, re-committing all actors to a robust global partnership for development.

The High-level Event, held alongside the General Assembly's annual general debate, featured three roundtable discussions on Poverty and Hunger, Education and Health, and Environmental Sustainability. They were co-chaired by Heads of State and Government from around the world. The day also included a wide range of parallel events, including the launch of the [Global Malaria Action Plan](#), the launch of the 'In My Name' campaign and 'poverty hearings' with individuals living in poverty. Other events focused on gender equity and the MDGs, climate change and development, and water and sanitation for all, to name a few. For more information on the proceedings and outcomes of the High-level Event, please visit www.un-ngls.org/site/article.php3?id_article=520

Host Country Agreement for the Doha Conference on Financing for Development signed

The Agreement between the United Nations and the Government of Qatar for the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus, to be held in Doha, Qatar on 29 November - 2 December 2008, and a supplementing Memorandum of Understanding for Security Cooperation, were signed on 26 September 2008. The signatories were: on behalf of the Qatari Government, Mohamed Abdullah Al-Rumaihi, Assistant Minister, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and on behalf of the United Nations, Sha Zukang, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, for the Host Country Agreement, and Bruno Henn, Chief, Security and Safety Service, for the Memorandum of Understanding for Security Cooperation. The Agreement was prepared in a joint effort by the Qatari Government and the UN Interdepartmental Task Force consisting of DESA, OLA, DGACM, DPI, DSS and DM, under the supervision of Oscar de Rojas, the Executive-Secretary of the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development.



General Assembly Interactive Panel on the Global Financial Crisis

The General Assembly convened an interactive panel on the global financial crisis on 30 October 2008 at UN Headquarters. The discussion consisted of six panel presentations by prominent economists followed by an interactive exchange of views. Presentations, statements and the programme are available on the website of the President of the General Assembly (www.un.org/ga/president/63/interactive/gfc.shtml).

Panel discussion on "Challenges and emerging issues in external debt restructuring"

This panel discussion, held at UN Headquarters on 10 October 2008, assessed the positive contribution of present approaches to debt restructuring, both official and commercial, while at the same time identifying gaps and suggesting possible ways to move forward. The programme and presentations are available on the FfD website at www.un.org/esa/ffd/events/2008debtpanel.

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