

**Informal interactive hearings of the General Assembly  
with non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations  
and the private sector (23-24 June 2005)**

**Information Note**

**I. Introduction**

1. The General Assembly, by its resolution 59/145 of 17 December 2004, requested the President of the General Assembly, in consultation with representatives of non-governmental organizations, to organize informal interactive hearings in June 2005 in New York with representatives of non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations and the private sector, as an input to the preparatory process of the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly to be held on 14 to 16 September 2005.

2. By its resolution 59/291 of 15 April 2005, the General Assembly decided that the President of the General Assembly shall preside over the informal interactive hearings, which will be held on 23 and 24 June 2005 and organized in accordance with the modalities set forth in annex III of the resolution.

**II. Information for participants**

3. The informal interactive hearings will consist of a brief opening plenary meeting, followed by four sequential informal interactive sessions which will also include a closing of the hearings. The themes for the hearings will be based on the comprehensive report of the Secretary-General of 21 March 2005 (A/59/2005) and the clusters defined therein.

**A. Date and venue**

4. The informal interactive hearings will be held on Thursday and Friday, 23 and 24 June 2005 at United Nations Headquarters.

**B. Participation in the Informal Interactive Hearings**

**Schedules, speakers and documentation**

**Opening plenary meeting**

5. The opening plenary meeting will be held on Thursday, 23 June at 10 a.m. in the General Assembly Hall. The speakers will be the President of the General Assembly, the Secretary-General and one invited representative from among the non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations and the private sector. /...

**Informal interactive sessions**

6. Four informal interactive sessions will be held in the Economic and Social Council Chamber and a parallel segment of one session in the Trusteeship Council Chamber as follows:

**Thursday, 23 June 2005**

- 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Session on “Freedom to live in dignity”
- 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. Session on “Freedom from want” - segment on Millennium Development Goals 1 to 7
- 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. Session on “Freedom from want” - segment on Millennium Development Goal 8 and discussions on issues regarding financing for development (Trusteeship Council Chamber)

**Friday, 24 June 2005**

- 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Session on “Freedom from fear”
- 3 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Session on “The imperative for collective action: strengthening the United Nations”
- 5:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. Closing of the Hearings.

7. Each of the sessions will be chaired by the President of the General Assembly assisted by a moderator and a rapporteur selected from among the non-governmental groups. Participants in each session will include Member States, observers of the General Assembly and about 50 invited representatives of non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations and the private sector. Each invitee will be provided with a colour-coded pass for access to the main floor of the meeting room. The list of the invitees was determined by the President of the General Assembly in consultation with Member States and representatives of the non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, civil society organizations and the private sector.

8. The sessions on “Freedom to live in dignity”, “Freedom from want” and “Strengthening the United Nations” will begin with short presentations by four to six speakers from the non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council and civil society organizations, one or two speakers from the private sector, and brief responses by two discussants from Member States. This will be followed by an interactive dialogue among Member States and invited participants to the respective session.

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9. The session on “Freedom from fear” will consist of two ninety-minute segments on conflict prevention and other issues, respectively. Each segment will include short presentations by four speakers from the non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council and civil society organizations, two speakers from the private sector, and brief responses by two discussants from Member States. *(Time permitting, each segment will be followed by an interactive dialogue among Member States and invited participants to the session).*

10. In accordance with resolution 59/293 of 27 May 2005, the Hearings will also include a discussion on all issues regarding financing for development on Thursday, 23 June 2005 from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., the summary of which will be issued as an input for the High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development to be held on 27 and 28 June 2005.

11. At the closing of the hearings, each of the five rapporteurs will present a summary of their respective session. The President of the General Assembly will make closing remarks.

12. On a first-come, first-served basis and with a valid pass, representatives of non-governmental organizations with consultative status with the Economic and Social Council or with affiliation to the Department of Public Information, representatives of non-governmental organizations and business sector entities that were accredited to the International Conference on Financing for Development, as well as representatives of non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations, and the private sector without consultative status with the Economic and Social Council or affiliation to the Department of Public Information but accredited via members of their own network who have those status and affiliation, may attend the informal interactive sessions as observers at the public gallery of the meeting room. Due to capacity constraint in the public gallery of the meeting room, an overflow room is made available to follow the proceeding of the Hearings (see paragraph 14).

13. Invited participants in the informal interactive sessions may bring copies of their papers/material for distribution outside the meeting room. A copier will be made available in the side office in Conference Room 4. Users of the copier are requested to bring adequate supply of paper.

#### **Overflow room**

14. The proceedings of the plenary meeting and the sessions of the Informal Interactive Hearings may be viewed in the overflow room (Conference Room 4). There will be an additional overflow room for the parallel segment on “Freedom from want” (Conference Room 3).

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Accredited delegates, observers of the General Assembly and representatives of non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations and the private sector will have access to the overflow room upon presentation of a valid pass.

**C. Outcome of the Informal Interactive Hearings**

15. In accordance with resolution 59/291, the President of the General Assembly is requested to prepare a summary of the hearings to be issued as an Assembly document prior to the High-level Plenary Meeting in September 2005.

**D. Media arrangements**

16. The Hearings, including the informal interactive sessions, will be open to the media and will be broadcast in-house by United Nations Television, including to the media working area. A programme of media briefings and press conferences will be arranged. A media advisory and background press release will be prepared in advance of the Hearings, and press releases will be issued summarizing each session. These will be distributed to media on-site and through United Nations Information Centres/Services, and will be made available electronically on the web site for the Hearings, at <http://www.un.org/ga/civilsocietyhearings>.

**E. Security arrangements**  
(To insert)

**F. Side events**

17. A number of side events are being organized by Member States and entities of the United Nations system in collaboration with non-governmental organizations for the participants of the Hearings. The calendar of those events will be made available at the Hearings and will be posted on the web site for the Hearings (<http://www.un.org/ga/civilsocietyhearings>).

**G. List of invited representatives of non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations and the private sector**

18. The list of invited participants is posted on the web site for the Hearings (<http://www.un.org/ga/civilsocietyhearings>).

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