



## THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY ESTABLISHES A TASK FORCE TO REVIEW MAJOR INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC INSTITUTIONS

### Press Release

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Sixty-third General Assembly

In response to the current turmoil in the financial crisis, the President of the United Nations General Assembly, Miguel D'Escoto, announced today to Member States and the international community that he has decided to establish a **High Level Taskforce of Experts** to undertake a comprehensive review of the international financial system, including the major international economic institutions, and to suggest steps to be taken by Member States of the United Nations to secure a more stable global economic order.

The President of the General Assembly has appointed Economics Nobel Laureate Professor Joseph Stiglitz as the Chair of this Taskforce and as the Principal Advisor to the President for coordination of this process. The composition and terms of reference of the Taskforce will be announced soon after the Interactive Panel on the Global Financial Crisis to be held in the United Nations on 30 October 2008. The contributions of Member States to this interactive event will shape the definition of functions and scope of the Taskforce.

At the General Assembly in September, Heads of States already expressed their concern that the global monetary and financial arrangements, established in 1944 at the "United Nations' Monetary and Financial Conference" at Bretton Woods, New Hampshire, need to be fundamentally reformed to better reflect contemporary economic realities in today's interdependent world and to better respond to the new challenges in a sustainable and equitable manner.

There is a growing recognition that the current turmoil in the financial system cannot be solved through piecemeal responses at the national and regional levels but requires a coordinated effort at the global level. Currently, developing countries' voices and interests are not fairly represented in existing global institutions of economic governance. The developing world includes many more powerful economies than in 1944, its role in the trading system has grown significantly and it includes prominent creditor as well as debtor nations. As such, developing countries have an abiding interest in a democratic rules-based financial system, with effective financing mechanisms and impartial institutions able to deliver timely and tailored policy advice.

The President of the General Assembly welcomes the initiatives and declarations of the leading industrial countries – most recently expressed this weekend at Camp David -- and developing countries that are actively expressing their concern regarding the current situation and calling for urgent action. **As the pressure for change builds up, the design of the new architecture must necessarily be inclusive and democratic to be credible and sustainable.** Hence, such an initiative should be convened by the 192 Member States through the General Assembly.

The Organization continues to represent the most legitimate forum where the interests of all countries can be articulated. The Doha Review Conference on Financing for Development in Doha, Qatar, on 29 November-2 December 2008, offers another crucial opportunity to move the reform discussion forward. The President of the General Assembly pledges to step up efforts to ensure a meaningful outcome for this important conference coming at such a crucial time, and to work with others to ensure that the gathering responds fully to the additional challenges posed by the current conjuncture.