



INFORMAL HEARINGS OF CIVIL SOCIETY ON FINANCING FOR DEVELOPMENT

22 October 2007, Conference Room 2
Provisional Programme

Overall Theme

**Civil Society Perspective on the Status of Implementation
of the Monterrey Consensus and Tasks Ahead**

10:00 – 10:15 a.m.

Opening of the meeting and organization of work

Welcome remarks by the Chairperson of the meeting
H.E. Dr. Srgjan Kerim, President of the 62nd session of the General Assembly

10:15 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.

Panel discussion

Moderator:

Mr. Oscar de Rojas, Director, Financing for Development Office,
Department of Economic and Social Affairs

Panelists:

Ms. Rosario Romero, Program Coordinator for Social Development,
Forum Solidaridad, Perú
“The role of civil society in mobilizing domestic resources for development”

Ms. Celine Tan, Senior Researcher, Third World Network, Malaysia
“The finance and trade nexus: systemic challenges”

Mr. Vitalice Meja, Programme Director, AFRODAD, Zimbabwe
“Challenges of the current aid architecture: Addressing the development needs of Africa”

Mr. Rodney Schmidt, Principal Researcher, North-South Institute, Canada
“Innovative sources of financing for development”

Ms. Hellen Wangusa, Anglican Observer to the United Nations, Uganda
“External debt and financing for development”

12:45 – 1:00 p.m.

Closing remarks by the Chairperson of the meeting

Biographical Notes

Ms. Rosario Romero is the Programme Coordinator for Social Development at Forum Solidaridad Perú, which encourages the participation of institutions, collectives and networks in monitoring the implementation of the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. Ms. Romero promotes the participation of civil society in public policies, particularly in the areas of food security and health services. She received her degree in Sociology from Universidad Nacional Mayor de San Marcos.

Ms. Celine Tan is a Researcher at the Third World Network, an NGO working on issues of social, economic and ecological importance to people in developing countries. She has written and published on issues related to debt and development and operations of the international financial institutions. Ms. Tan has recently completed her PhD at the School of Law, University of Warwick, UK, focusing on the regulatory framework of the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) approach to development financing.

Mr. Vitalice Meja is the Director of the Lobby, Advocacy and Campaign Programme at AFRODAD. His research has focused on the role of civil society in development cooperation, economic development, poverty reduction policies and microfinance. Mr. Meja has extensive policy lobbying experience at the national, regional and international levels on issues pertaining to financing for development, debt relief and official development assistance.

Mr. Rodney Schmidt joined the North-South Institute in Ottawa, Canada, as Principal Researcher in 2002, specializing in macroeconomic development and international finance. Prior to that appointment, he worked for four years at Canada's International Development Research Centre in Hanoi, Vietnam. From 1993 to 1998, Mr. Schmidt was a Researcher and Policy Analyst at the International Finance Division of the Canadian Government's Department of Finance. He received his PhD in Economics from the University of Toronto.

Ms. Hellen Wangusa is the Anglican and Archbishop of Canterbury's Representative at the UN. Prior to this assignment, she coordinated the MDG-Millennium Campaign for Africa and worked for eight years as the Coordinator of the African Women's Economic Policy Network. Ms. Wangusa also served as the Vice-President of the All Africa Conference of Churches, the Chairperson of the International South Group Network and a WEDO Board member. As a recipient of a Fulbright scholarship, she obtained her MA from the University of Tulsa after graduating in literature and education from Makerere University.