



**The President
of the
Economic and Social Council**

18 February 2011

Excellency,

I am writing to advise you of the substantive focus and organizational format of the Special high-level meeting of the Economic and Social Council with the Bretton Woods institutions, the World Trade Organization and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, to be held on 10-11 March 2011.

Pursuant to ECOSOC resolutions 2009/30 and 2010/26, the overall theme of the meeting will be "Coherence, coordination and cooperation on Financing for Development". Building on recent experience, the format of the meeting will serve to encourage a truly dynamic and interactive debate and promote an open exchange of views and experiences between government representatives and major institutional stakeholders. Following a short opening plenary with brief statements by the heads of relevant intergovernmental bodies and other senior officials, the meeting will consist of informal thematic debates on the following topics:

- (1) "Follow-up to the 2010 MDG Summit outcome: building the global partnership for development, including in response to new challenges and emerging issues";
- (2) "The role of the UN system in global economic governance";
- (3) "Financial support for development efforts of Least Developed Countries: development finance, including innovative mechanisms, aid for trade and debt relief";
- (4) "Financial support for development efforts of Middle Income Countries: development cooperation, trade, capital flows, policy space and reserve system".

The thematic debates on the above topics will be held consecutively in an informal plenary setting of the whole, in order to facilitate greater engagement of all participants, within the full time available. To this end, I am exploring creative and innovative modalities for the programme, timetable and the conduct of the meeting. By the same token, I intend to observe strict adherence to the meeting schedule and time limits for interventions, in order to stimulate more interactive dialogue among all participants, including representatives of civil society and business sector. No list of speakers will be established in advance of the meeting. All participants will be requested to avoid reading from written statements, although this will not preclude the distribution of full texts.

Closing remarks by the President will conclude the meeting. The full programme and timetable of the event will be circulated at a later date. For further information and regular updates, please consult the Financing for Development website at www.un.org/esa/ffd.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.



Lazarous Kapambwe

To: ECOSOC Members