



The United States Mission to the United Nations
799 United Nations Plaza, New York, NY 10017

May 4, 2011

By Email: ffdoffice@un.org

Department of Economic and Social Affairs
Financing for Development Office
Two United Nations Plaza
Room DC2-2170
New York, NY 10017

To Whom It May Concern:

Please allow me to convey to you in the attached document the submission of the United States of America in response to DESA-11/0021, dated 20 January 2011, which requests Member States views on global economic governance and development.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Frederick D. Barton".

Ambassador Frederick D. Barton
U.S. Representative to ECOSOC

Attachment: U.S. Submission on Global Economic Governance and Development (2 pages)

**SUBMISSION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS SECRETARIAT
ON GLOBAL ECONOMIC GOVERNANCE AND DEVELOPMENT**

April 29, 2011

At the outset, the United States wishes to note that this is not the first time that the General Assembly has considered issues related to the UN's role in global economic governance. Delegations should recall that the Secretary General's 20 November 2006 report on system-wide coherence discussed this issue at length and made a number of recommendations, including those related to the mandates of various institutions and how they are governed. In the subsequent five years of intergovernmental negotiations and recent agreements, consensus was reached on these proposals. The consensus that has prevailed recognizes the importance of continuing to respect the existing mandates and governance structures established by member states upon which we have built several remarkable decades of unprecedented economic growth, development and poverty alleviation.

As the challenges of global governance and economic development change, the United Nations development system needs to ensure that it remains relevant and plays a complementary and collaborative role to broader efforts. Its development mandate, experience, capacity, broad membership and world-wide presence place it in a unique position to assist member states in their development as they adjust to these rapidly evolving global realities, including through its roles as convener, policy advisor, and capacity builder.

In this regard, the United Nations continues to have an active voice in global economic governance through the regular intergovernmental resolutions and decisions of its Member States in the General Assembly, ECOSOC and other bodies; through the reports of the Secretariat, Funds and Programs and Specialized Agencies; and through the participation of its staff in various fora.

We must bear in mind that in the new dynamism of globalization, legitimacy is not granted but earned. The future role of the UN in global economic governance and development will be determined less by an intergovernmental negotiation or vote, and more by the UN's ability to embrace the challenges and opportunities of the new global economic and development paradigm.

This includes collaborating with important new and growing influences on development such as private sector investment and philanthropy, international organizations and foundations, civil society, trade and remittances. It also includes embracing new technology and innovation and building upon ongoing reforms aimed at making the UN more effective, coherent and better performing.

The recent System Wide Coherence, ECOSOC and Financing for Development reform processes have achieved important progress with the creation of UN Women, greater harmonization of and improved business practices, alignment of budgets, implementation of results based budgeting and management, piloting the Delivering as One project, and overall efforts towards greater policy coordination and coherence throughout the UN development system.

But the UN development system cannot afford to rest on its laurels. It must continue to drive a reform and effectiveness agenda towards a more modernized UN that can stand shoulder-to-shoulder with other development actors. The future role and impact of the UN development system in global economic governance and development rests with its ability to collaborate more effectively within the new and evolving global economic and development paradigm.