



and international efforts in development cooperation

Permanent Representatives of Egypt and Norway to lead consultations on preparations of Doha Conference

In her [statement](#) at the special high-level meeting of ECOSOC, the President of the United Nations General Assembly, Sheikha Haya Rashed Al Khalifa, announced that Ambassador Maged A. Abdelaziz Adbelaziz, Permanent Representative of Egypt, and Ambassador Johan Ludvik Løvald, Permanent Representative of Norway, will lead the consultation process to prepare a “Follow-up Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus” in the second half of 2008.

According to the [Press Release](#) of the 506th meeting of ECOSOC, the two ambassadors will conduct “an open-ended consultation with all interested

Special high-level meeting of ECOSOC with BWIs, WTO and UNCTAD convened first major intergovernmental event on road to Doha

Under the overall theme of “Coherence, coordination and cooperation in the context of the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus”, [the meeting](#) (New York, 16 April 2007) focused on four sub-themes:

- (1) Good governance at all levels;
- (2) Voice and participation of developing countries in international economic decision-making, including the Bretton Woods institutions;
- (3) Realizing the Doha development agenda – effective use of trade and investment policies; and
- (4) Aid effectiveness and innovative financing for development.

(1) Participants highlighted many dimensions of good governance, both nationally and internationally. Discussions focused on concrete steps that could be taken to further encourage and assist strengthening governance capacities at all levels. Several participants stressed the importance that national Governments maintain a clear leadership role in designing and prioritizing their governance programmes.

(2) There was wide agreement among speakers that the task of ensuring suitable participation of developing

countries and countries with economies in transition in the Bretton Woods institutions and other international financial forums must remain on the agenda.

(3) Many speakers pointed to the possibility that the Doha Round might continue to lag or ultimately fail. Achieving the Doha Development Agenda was widely seen as a political rather than a technical challenge. Participants also discussed ways in which foreign direct investment policies could be more successfully integrated with policies on trade, domestic investment and other government policies to achieve development objectives.

(4) The debate on aid effectiveness highlighted the complexity of issues involved in improving the aid architecture. Further progress was needed in a crucial number of areas such as genuine ownership, predictability of flows, coordination and harmonization, alignment with national development strategies and efficient budget support. Recent pilot projects in promoting innovative sources of finance were welcomed such as air ticket fees, UNITAID and the International Finance Facility on immunization.

More information on the proceedings of the meeting will be available when the Chair’s Summary is released. A DPI summary of the event is also available [online now](#).

Special events on Financing for Development held during April 2007

(I) Multi-stakeholder consultation on ‘Financing access to basic utilities for all’ (Lusaka, Zambia, 23-25 April)

The [second regional multi-stakeholder consultation on “Financing access to basic utilities for all”](#), was organized by the Friedrich Ebert Foundation in collaboration with FFDO/DESA and the International Poverty Center of UNDP. The meeting addressed long-term financing mechanisms and cost recovery strategies for extending access to water and electricity to the poor with a focus on the challenges of low-income countries. Jomo Kwame Sundaram, Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development, DESA delivered opening remarks and moderated one of the panels.

(I) Panel discussion on ‘Regulation of microfinance’ (New York, 10 April)

On 10 April 2007, the FFDO/DESA and UNCDF jointly organized a panel discussion on Regulation of Microfinance at United Nations Headquarters in New York. The Panel highlighted the work done during the International year of Microcredit (2005), jointly coordinated by UN-DESA and UNCDF, including the publication of the “Blue Book” on Building Inclusive Financial Sectors for Development. A [summary](#) of the event is available.

The Road to Doha

Building on the commitments made in the [Monterrey Consensus](#), the United Nations General Assembly decided to hold a Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development (FfD) in Doha, Qatar, in the second half of 2008. A series of High-level Meetings on financing for development will lead up to the conference:

- (1) Informal thematic debate on “Implementation of the MDGs and Financing for Development” (Doha, Qatar, 17-18 June 2007)
 - (2) ECOSOC Development Cooperation Forum (Geneva, July 2007)
 - (3) GA High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development (New York, October 2007)
 - (4) Spring Meeting of ECOSOC with BWIs, WTO and UNCTA5t (
- (2) ECOSOC Development Cooperation F