

Registration for Civil Society Hearings

FfDO and NGLS have opened the registration process for the Hearings of Civil Society on Financing for Development (18 June 2008). Registrants also have the option of nominating a representative of civil society to serve as a panelist at the event. The registration form can be retrieved online at <http://www.un-ngls.org/ffd>.

The Road to Doha

The "[Roadmap to Doha](#)", which is available on the FfD website, lists all meetings to be held in preparation of the Doha Review Conference. Key events at UN Headquarters in New York include:

- (1) Review Session on Chapter III, "International trade as an engine for development" (19 - 20 May 2008)
- (2) Hearings with representatives of civil society and the business sector on financing for development (18 June 2008)



General Assembly discusses role of development aid and aid effectiveness

Review Session on Chapter IV of the Monterrey Consensus, "Increasing international financial and technical cooperation for development"

The fifth informal General Assembly review session was held on 15 and 16 April 2008 at UN Headquarters. Five [panel presentations](#) were followed by an interactive dialogue among all stakeholders. The session focused on ODA trends, emerging issues, aid effectiveness and ways to enhance international financial and technical cooperation for development.

ODA trends

During the session, it was noted that ODA trends since Monterrey showed an increase between 2002 and 2005 followed by two consecutive years of decline in 2006 and 2007. The rate of increase in ODA needed to more than double in order to meet the Gleneagles target of reaching \$130 billion in 2010. Moreover, increasing food and energy prices were complicating the achievement of international development goals. Some participants emphasized the importance of major donor coun-

tries setting strict deadlines to fulfill ODA obligations and the establishment of an intergovernmental monitoring mechanism to keep track of aid quantity, quality and effectiveness. A number of speakers expressed the view that the Doha Conference should seek to give greater predictability for donor countries meeting their agreed ODA commitments.

Many participants mentioned that South-South cooperation, including

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Many delegates emphasized their commitment to the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness. They welcomed the Accra High-level Forum on Aid Effectiveness, to be held in September 2008, as a crucial political opportunity to come to an agreement on decisive action needed to meet the Paris Declaration targets. Some speakers underscored the need for early coordination and information sharing between the Accra Forum and the Doha Conference.

A number of participants stressed that good governance should be exercised over the use of development resources. It was noted that aid effectiveness should focus on such issues as human resource development, gender equality and environmental protection.

Some participants also expressed concern about the limited role of recipient countries in the Paris Declaration, which was seen as an OECD and donor-driven process. As

UNCTAD XII reinforces international efforts to extend globalization gains to the poor

UNCTAD XII ended on 25 April 2008 with the adoption of comprehensive conclusions aimed at reinforcing international efforts to extend gains from globalization to the poor.

The Accra Accord and Declaration were adopted by consensus by UNCTAD's 193 member states. The conference conclusions address pressing economic, trade and development issues and set UNCTAD's four-year work programme.

from dependence on one or two commodities, building the capacity to produce a wide range of goods, ensuring access to basic services and strengthening legal and regulatory frameworks and institutions. The Accord also states that the policies should be tailored to the needs of individual countries, while at the same time respecting international law, declaring that "there is no one precise model for improved, growth-enhancing governance and institutions". At the same time, the conference stressed the immense potential created by growing trade and investment links within the developing world, spurred by the emergence of dynamic developing economies, such as China, India and Brazil.

While welcoming the strong economic growth rates that global trade and investment flows have brought to many in the developing world, UNCTAD XII cautioned that these advances have not been shared by all and have been accompanied by new difficulties, most notably the current crises in food prices and financial markets, as well as growing income inequalities.

At the opening session, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki Moon announced he was establishing a high-powered task force to address both the immediate emergency needs and longer-term structural problems at the root of the current food crisis, in which UNCTAD will be heavily involved. In this regard, the Accra Accord gave UNCTAD a stronger mandate on commodities, which UNCTAD Secretary-General Supachai Panitchpakdi said he would use especially to bolster agricultural sectors in developing countries, highlighting market distortions and backing policies that lead to higher incomes for small producers.

UNCTAD's role was also strengthened to address the trade and development aspects of such key emerging issues as climate change, energy security and international migration. In addition, UNCTAD was given a mandate to work with the ILO on the objective of "full and productive employment" especially by examining the impact of trade on jobs.

The Accra Accord emphasized the urgency of meeting the needs of the least developed countries, many of which are in Africa, the host continent of UNCTAD XII. To this end, UNCTAD XII underscored the importance of diversifying economies away

