



The General Assembly endorsed the arrangements and organization of work of the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus, as set out in the note by the Secretary-General (A/63/345). The Assembly also recommended for adoption by the Conference the provisional agenda and provisional rules of procedure. These arrangements had been formulated on the basis of GA resolution 62/187, taking into account the experience of the first International Conference on Financing for Development, held in Monterrey, Mexico, in March 2002.

The Review Conference will be held in Doha, Qatar, at the Conference Center, which is an annex to the Sheraton Doha Hotel and Resort, from 29 November to 2 December 2008. The Conference will be organized around eight plenary meetings and six interactive multi-stakeholder round tables. At the plenary meetings, Heads of State or Government, ministers and heads of delegations will be able to make formal statements. The opening plenary meeting will feature statements by the President of the Conference (elected from the Host Country), the President of the General Assembly, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the

Doha Draft Outcome Document draws mixed responses during launch of negotiations*

Member States and relevant stakeholders met on 8 September for the formal launch of the negotiations on the draft outcome document for the Financing for Development Review Conference. During his opening remarks, the President of the General Assembly called on participants to consider the preparations for the Doha Review Conference an important opportunity to foster a universal partnership for development. The President highlighted key initiatives in the draft, which included the call for an international conference to reform the international financial architecture, the creation of an ad hoc commission to identify innovative solutions on debt, as well as the proposal to upgrade the United Nations Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters to an inter-governmental body.

The President of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) expressed his support for issues raised in the speech of the GA President and highlighted the contribution that the Special high-level Meeting of ECOSOC with the Bretton Woods institutions, the World Trade Organization and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (New York, 14 April 2008) has made to preparations of the Doha Review Conference. He further underscored the potential of ECOSOC's Development Cooperation Forum to promote the Financing for Development process.

Mr. Trevor A. Manuel, Special Envoy of the Secretary General of the United Nations on Financing for Development and Minister of Finance of the Republic of South Africa, emphasized that Member States should make clear commitments in the outcome document on how resources be mobilized and by whom. The document should detail the concrete set of actions that were required for the conclusion of the work started in 2002. Doha should move beyond Monterrey, and should do so with the same simplicity, elegance and urgency that was evident at Monterrey.

Ms. Ingrid Hoven, Director-General, Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, delivered the statement by Ms. Heidemarie Wiczorek-Zeul, Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development and Special Envoy of the UN Secretary-General for the International Conference on Financing for Development. The speaker called on donor countries to deliver on their ODA commitments, particularly those for Africa and under-

scored the need for a functioning multilateral trade system. She referred to new challenges such as climate change and the food crisis, which would require international cooperation and additional funding. Moreover, the doha outcome document should promote a global compact to fight tax flight and evasion.

During the consultations, Member States expressed their gratitude towards the two Facilitators of the preparatory process, Ambassador Abdelaziz of Egypt and Ambassador Løvald of Norway. They agreed that the draft outcome document could serve as a basis for negotiations. However, the G77 and China criticized the document for its lack of urgency, its imbalance in assigning greater responsibility to developing than to developed countries and its dearth of significant reform proposals to strengthen the international financial architecture.

The Group called for concrete measures on how the international community could support developing countries in their national development efforts. While the document recognized the rise in private flows, it fell short of referring to the potentially negative and destabilizing effects of portfolio flows and the high costs faced by smaller economies encouraging foreign investment. Due to the failed talks of the WTO, the UN needed to spell out clearly the sequenced, development oriented trade policy framework required to ensure that world trade supports development.

With regard to ODA, the G77 and China expressed their disappointment that the document failed to mention the fact that much of the ODA increase from 2002 to 2005 could be attributed to debt relief, as well as the fact that ODA had decreased from 2006 to 2007. Moreover, issues related to aid effectiveness should not be left to the OECD given the fact that the ECOSOC Development Cooperation Forum was now operational.

While the draft outcome document recognized limited progress within systemic issues, Member States needed to go further in this connection and treat issues such as mandates, governance, credibility and organizational culture of international financial institutions more critically. The group welcomed the proposal for a conference to review the international financial and monetary architecture and global economic governance structures. However, for this conference to be successful it was important to hold it under the aegis of the United Nations and not the Bretton Woods institutions, whose mandates should be subject to reform.

France, speaking on behalf of the European Union, welcomed the draft outcome document as a good basis for negotiations. However, the text was too long and should be more concise and action-oriented, a point which was shared by other Member States, including Canada, Japan, Australia, New Zealand and Liechtenstein. Moreover, the current international context such as the international financial crisis should be taken into account in a revised version of the draft. The group proposed to highlight the complementary role of aid to national development efforts, as well as the importance of aid effectiveness. The special needs of post conflict countries deserved particular attention in that regard.

The EU proposed to place more emphasis on issues that were essential for economic and social development such as the role of women in development, inclusive growth, the potential of innovative sources of finance and environmental protection, particularly with regard to climate change. Finally, the document should highlight recent progress on external debt, particularly the wide-ranging debt relief initiatives from recent years, as well as systemic improvements, such as the governance reforms of the Bretton Woods institutions.

The United States of America criticized the draft for its length and level of detail. While it welcomed the emphasis on domestic resource mobilization, it called for more focus on factors that helped create an environment that was more conducive to foreign direct investment. The trade section needed to be updated to take into account the recent developments in the WTO round of trade negotiations. With regard to ODA, the US proposed to use agreed language and avoid calls for new commitments. The chapter should also highlight key messages from the Accra Agenda for Action, which was adopted at the [Third High-Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness](#) (Accra, Ghana, 2-4 September 2008). The chapters on external debt and systemic issues were not dealt with adequately in the draft outcome document and needed to be revised particularly with regard to the role of the Paris Club and norm and standard setting bodies.

Several other Members States raised further issues. Mex-

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Each round table will be co-chaired by two chairpersons selected from among the Heads of State or Government and ministers, drawing from six developing countries and from six developed and transition-economy countries. High-level officials from the major institutional stakeholders (the World Bank, IMF, WTO, UN Secretariat, UNCTAD and UNDP) would be invited to act as moderators in the round tables.

Each round table will be open to participation by representatives of all States; 21 representatives of observers, relevant entities of the United Nations system and other accredited intergovernmental organizations; 7 representatives of accredited civil society organizations and 7 representatives of accredited business sector entities. Each representative may be accompanied by one advisor. The list of non-State participants in the round tables will be established on a first-come, first-served basis and will be announced on the website of the Conference (www.un.org/esa/ffd/doha).

Each round table will include an initial panel discussion,

