

First Issue of 'The Road to Doha'

This is the first issue of 'The Road to Doha' a monthly publication jointly produced by the DESA Financing for Development Office (FFDO) and the United Nations Non-governmental Liaison Service (NGLS) in the run-up to the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus to be held in Doha, Qatar in the second half of 2008 (A/RES/61/191).

The aim of this monthly newsletter is to help keep interested members of civil society informed on the latest developments and events on the road leading to the Doha Conference. Future issues will include contributions from members of civil society as well as government and UN officials. It is our hope that you will find this to be a relevant and useful publication. If you wish to subscribe, please write to us at npls@un.org or ffdoffice@un.org.



Financing for Development Events to be Held in Lead-up to Doha

Active Participation of Civil Society Called For

The Monterrey Consensus, which was adopted at the International Conference on Financing for Development in Mexico in 2002, called for a global alliance for development. All stakeholders in the Monterrey process, including civil society, reaffirmed their commitment to staying fully engaged – nationally, regionally and internationally – and to ensuring proper follow-up to the implementation of agreements and commitments reached at the Conference.

Building on that commitment, the UN General Assembly has 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 intergovernmental events on Financing for Development will lead up to the Conference:

- (1) Spring Meeting of ECOSOC with BWIs, WTO and UNCTAD (NY, 16 April 2007)
- (2) First ECOSOC Development Cooperation Forum (Geneva, July 2007)

- (3) GA High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development (New York, fourth quarter of 2007)
- (4) Spring Meeting of ECOSOC with BWIs, WTO and UNCTAD (New York, April 2008)
- (5) Second ECOSOC Development Cooperation Forum (New York, July 2008)

(all dates and locations are subject to confirmation by Member States)

Member States have called for the active participation of civil society organizations in all of these meetings. More details on the exact modalities will be posted on the FfD website at www.un.org/esa/ffd as soon as they become available.



Doha, Qatar

Multi-stakeholder Consultations on Financing for Development

The Financing for Development Office (FFDO) has organized a series of workshops, multi-stakeholder consultations, panel discussions and other activities aimed at better enabling UN member states to implement their commitments as agreed in the Monterrey Consensus. All of these projects are undertaken in close consultation with experts from the public and private sectors, academia and civil society.

Current focus areas include:

(I) Rethinking the role of National Development Banks

(II) Financing basic utilities for all

(III) Strengthening the business sector and entrepreneurship in developing countries: the potential of diasporas

A detailed description of all multi-stakeholder consultations organized by the FFDO and its partners is available at:

<http://www.un.org/esa/ffd/indexMulti-StakeholderConsultations.htm>



Background Information for Civil Society

Useful background information on the FfD process is available at the FFDO website (<http://www.un.org/esa/ffd>) and the NGLS website by reading issues 83 and 91 of the NGLS publication 'Roundup' (www.un-ngls.org).

Latest Documents, Reports and Publications on FfD

Official documents on Financing for Development, including General Assembly and ECOSOC resolutions, can be found at:

<http://www.un.org/esa/ffd/indexDocuments.htm>

Meeting reports and background papers on current activities can be easily accessed by selecting entries of interest in the FfD calendar of events at:

<http://www.un.org/esa/ffd/indexEvents.htm>

Most recent additions include:

(I) [Financing access to basic utilities for all – Lessons learned from the Latin American experience](#)

Report of the multi-stakeholder consultation held in Brasilia, Brazil (11-13 December 2006).

(II) [Rethinking the role of National Development Banks in Africa](#)

General Conclusions, Policy Recommendations and Action-oriented Proposals of the multi-stakeholder consultation held in Johannesburg, South Africa (22-23 November 2006).

Civil Society Engagement in FfD Process

Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) have been involved from the outset in the Financing for Development process by providing important inputs, expertise and proposals to the International Conference on Financing for Development. Moreover, with their diverse voices and priorities, they are instrumental in the follow-up process to Monterrey. This view has been endorsed at the highest level in the Monterrey Consensus itself, which in paragraph 69 calls for civil society to stay involved and actively engaged in the process. The FfD website contains a separate section on civil society engagement in the FfD process:

<http://www.un.org/esa/ffd/indexCivilSoc&BussSec.htm>



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