

The President of the General Assembly
H.E. Miguel D'Escoto Brockmann

Your Excellency,

We represent Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) that have closely followed the preparations for and participated in the recent UN Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and its impact on Development.

We were heartened that the General Assembly adopted resolution A/63/L.77 which formally established the ad hoc open-ended working group to follow up on the issues contained in the outcome document of the conference.

We are also encouraged by your announcement that you will soon appoint two co-chairs.

We want to let you know of our hopes concerning the composition of the working group.

We recognize that this is part of the intergovernmental process. A strength of the successful process, elaborated by the General Assembly, that led to the Financing for Development (FfD) Conferences in Monterrey and Doha and all the related processes has been its inclusiveness and participation.

During the June conference many speakers stressed these same principles. We see it as vital that the working group will enable participation by the widest range of stakeholders in seeking a way forward.

We NGOs, as part of civil society, have appreciated that we have been given a place at the table from the beginning and throughout the continuing FfD process.

We believe that it is important that NGOs are represented on the working group for the following reasons:

- We represent another constituency whose voice and perspective are essential to a balanced and just reshaping of the financial architecture.
- Members of our organizations are in constant contact with people who are most severely affected by the economic and financial crisis.
- We can gather information from our world-wide networks to support the efforts of the working group and, at the same time, communicate results to our constituents.

We thank you for the lead you have taken in working to address this crisis.

Yours sincerely,

The following member organizations of the NGO Committee on Financing for Development:

Mercy International Association; Sisters of Charity; Passionist International; Sisters of St. Joseph;
Congregation of the Mission.