



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

23 January 2009

Dear Ms. Peter,

As you are aware, the outcome document of the Doha Follow-up Conference on Finance for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus, which took place from 29 November to 2 December 2008 in Doha, Qatar, called for a Conference at the highest level on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development. Paragraph 79 of the Doha Declaration further stated that the Conference shall be organized by the President of the General Assembly, and that the modalities will be defined by March 2009 at the latest. The General Assembly adopted resolution 63/239 endorsing the Doha Declaration on 24 December 2008.

As you also know, following the outbreak of the international financial crisis I convened a Thematic Interactive Dialogue on October 30, 2008, and in December 2008 I organized a Commission of Experts on Reform of the International Monetary and Financial System to prepare a comprehensive analysis of the impact of the crisis on developing countries and on the poor everywhere, and to develop actionable recommendations that would assist the United Nations General Assembly in defining its approach to increasing the stability and equity of the global financial system. The Commission will produce a report with recommendations to be considered in the preparatory process leading to the Conference.

I am pleased to report that the Commission of Experts held its first plenary meeting in New York on 5 and 6 January 2009. For your information, I am enclosing a copy of the statement released by the Commission on 6 January, along with a list of its members.

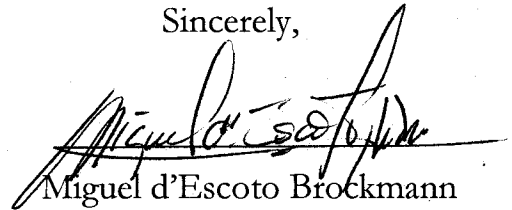
Ms. Elisa Peter
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It would be indispensable and most valuable for the Commission of Experts to have the benefit of the expertise of civil society organizations. Thus, I should be grateful if in your capacity as Coordinator of the United Nations Non-Governmental Liaison Service, you could kindly invite the NGO community to provide technical inputs within their areas of expertise and experience, including background papers on the impact of the current crisis on their area of work, and on the type of action that they envisage as a response to it.

I would really appreciate it if these inputs could be sent to my Office not later than 15 February 2009. I am attaching for easy guidance, the Terms of Reference of the Commission as well as its Draft agenda.

I look forward to hearing from you and I thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Sincerely,



Miguel d'Escoto Brockmann