

General Assembly to hold informal debate on financing development on 17-18 June 2007 in Doha, Qatar

General Assembly will convene consultation of the whole on 8 June 2007

At the request of the President of the 61st session of the General Assembly, the Permanent Representatives of Egypt and Norway to the United Nations will hold informal consultations of the whole on all issues related to the preparation of 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.

The first round of these consultations will take place on Friday, 8 June 2007, at 3 p.m. in the ECOSOC Chamber, and will address, inter alia, the issue of specific dates during the fourth quarter of 2007 of the General Assembly's High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development as an important intergovernmental event on the lead up to the Doha Review Conference.



Informal thematic debate on “Financing Development to achieve the Millennium Development Goals” marks important step in preparation for 2008 Review Conference on Financing for Development

The meeting is a follow-up event to the first informal thematic debate of the General Assembly, which was held on 27 November 2006 under the title “Partnerships towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals: Taking Stock, Moving Forward”. The debate helped identify practical measures to help Member States develop and implement their national development strategies through partnerships involving all stakeholders, including the UN system, civil society and the private sector.

The follow-up meeting will be held in an informal setting at the ministerial level. The event has special significance as 2007 marks the mid-point for the commitment of the international community to implement the MDGs by 2015.

Regional and international NGOs and foundations have been encouraged by the President of the General Assembly and the Government of Qatar to participate in the meeting. Invited organizations include the Arab NGO Network for Development, ActionAid UK and the Carter Center.

According to the draft programme circulated by the organizers, the event will start on the morning of 17 June with an opening session followed by a panel discussion on financing challenges. The discussion in the morning will focus on the implementation of G8 commitments on aid volumes and predictability, the role of the World Bank in multilateral development aid, domestic resource mobilization and private philanthropic efforts. In the afternoon of 17 June, the debate will center on successful examples of scaling up aid for the MDGs in the area of agriculture, primary education, water and sanitation and the Millennium Villages Project.

On 18 June, participants will continue to discuss practical proposals for scaling up of resources. Topics will include the proposal for an African Green Revolution, measures to control malaria, the elimination of school fees and water and sanitation initiatives.

To be clear, this second informal thematic debate is not the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus. It is a meeting occurring outside of the formal process. The formal Review Conference will be held in Doha in the second half of 2008. A concrete date is yet to be determined by the General Assembly in consultation with the host country. More information is available at www.un.org/esa/ffd.

Latest Documents, Publications and Reports on Financing for Development

Meeting reports and background papers on current activities can be easily accessed by selecting entries of interest in the [FfD calendar of events](#).

Most recent additions include:

(I) [Summary by the President of the Economic and Social Council of the special high-level meeting of the Council with the Bretton Woods institutions, the World Trade Organization and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development \(New York, 16 April 2007\)](#)

The summary is available as an advance unedited version. The final version will be made available in all six official UN languages

(II) [Financing basic utilities for all](#)

The meeting report is based on a regional multi-stakeholder consultation in Lusaka, Zambia, 22-23 April 2007.

All official documents on Financing for Development, including General Assembly and ECOSOC resolutions can be retrieved at:

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

Online Discussion: “Financing for gender equality and the empowerment of women”

Organized by the [UN Division for the Advancement of Women](#), the discussion will run for four weeks from 18 June to 15 July 2007. The online discussion is part of the preparatory process of the 52nd session of the [Commission on the Status of Women \(CSW\)](#) to be held from 25 February to 7 March 2008. The Commission will consider “Financing for gender equality and the empowerment of women” as its priority theme. For more information and to register, [click here](#).

Report on “Financing basic utilities for all” highlights need to extend utilities to the poor

The [report](#) is based on multi-stakeholder consultations on “Financing basic utilities for all” on 23-25 April 2007 in Lusaka, Zambia, organized by the Friedrich Ebert Foundation in cooperation with FfDO. The event brought together African experts from governments, municipalities, utility providers, regulators, civil society and the private sector.

The consultation addressed long-term financing mechanisms and cost recovery strategies for providing water and electricity to the poor with a focus on Africa. Participants discussed challenges faced by Zambia's largest power utility ZESCO in extending basic utilities to poor rural areas, the experience of the African Development Bank in devising and offering long-term financing mechanisms for water investment, efficiency improvements at the National Water and Sewerage Corporation of Uganda, as well as strategies to increase government revenue through taxation.

The debate also highlighted macroeconomic challenges to be taken into account in the African context, such as ensuring absorptive capacity to deal with inflows of development aid and maintaining sufficient policy space for appropriate fiscal and monetary interventions.

The Road to Doha

Building on the commitments made in the [Monterrey Consensus](#), the United Nations General Assembly 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 meetings on financing for development will lead up to the Conference:

- (1) Informal thematic debate on “Implementation of the MDGs and Financing for Development” (Doha, Qatar, 17-18 June 2007)
- (2) ECOSOC Development Cooperation Forum (Geneva, July 2007)
- (3) GA High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development (New York, October 2007)
- (4) Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) on theme “Financing for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women” (New York, March 2008)
- (5) Spring Meeting of ECOSOC with BWIs, WTO and UNCTAD (New York, April 2008)
- (6) Launch of ECOSOC Development Cooperation Forum (New York, 5 July 2008)
- (7) Follow-up Conference on FFD (Doha, Qatar, second half of 2008) *(all dates and locations are subject to confirmation by Member States)*

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