



General Assembly President Presents Draft Outcome Document for June Conference

Civil Society Registration for UN Conference

NGLS has launched the registration process for civil society participation in the UN Conference. All civil organizations previously accredited to the Financing for Development process or in consultative status with ECOSOC are allowed to attend.

The registration deadline is 13 May 2009.

The form can be found at:

<http://www.un-ngls.org/juneconference>

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NGLS Bulletin

The purpose of this newsletter is to help keep interested stakeholders informed on the latest developments and events leading to the UN Conference in June. It will be issued on a weekly basis up to the Conference.

For more information, please refer to the NGLS website:

<http://www.un-ngls.org>

On 8 May 2009 the President of the United Nations General Assembly (GA), H.E. Ambassador Miguel d'Escoto Brockmann of Nicaragua, presented the draft outcome document for the UN Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and its Impact on Development (1-3 June 2009, New York).

In his statement, the President said that the final outcome of the June Conference "must reflect the call of many nations for new paradigms for building a sustainable economic life, one that integrates the values and the ethical imperatives that should guide our development. It must reflect the call for greater justice and inclusiveness in our global economic life, and it must reflect the passionate call for promoting the common good over the obsessive impulse to consume more and more, and to dominate others at any cost."

The text presented by the President differed from one originally prepared by the two Co-facilitators of the process, the Ambassadors of the Netherlands and St. Vincent and the Grenadines. The President explained his rationale for submitting his own draft - instead of the one prepared by the Co-facilitators - by saying that while their work was 'invaluable' and that he had taken their proposed structure and 'almost all of their substantive points on board', he felt the need to use different language in order for the Conference to be taken 'seriously' by world leaders and reformers alike. His draft now contained language that seeks to send a clear signal that the Conference is truly dedicated to understanding and responding to the perspective of the many "excluded nations".

"Because I have dedicated my entire adult life to overcoming the exclusions of nations and peoples from their rightful participation in our common global life, I have felt responsible for doing all



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that I can to give expression to these views – which, of course, are also my own views,” the President said.

Following the President’s presentation of the draft, one of the Co-facilitators, Ambassador Frank Majoor of the Netherlands, protested “considerable” changes to the document in both length and substance, saying neither of the Co-facilitators had been consulted on the new text circulated. Indeed, the day’s events were forcing him to “reconsider” his role as a facilitator. Having worked “in a cooperative manner with Member States [...] towards an inclusive, transparent and Member States-led process”, the facilitators had developed a draft outcome document based on numerous verbal and written inputs from groups of Member States and individual countries.

The ensuing discussion saw several Member States question the process in which the President’s text had been prepared and distributed. Many asked for the Co-Facilitators text to be circulated. Others sought to begin negotiations on the basis of the President’s text as soon as possible.

Several speakers also agreed with the position of Ghana -- supported by Estonia and Chile -- whose representative said that prolonging the debate would not help bridge the differences. Ghana proposed that the President meet with the negotiating blocs and facilitators to resolve the differences that had arisen.

The GA also adopted, by consensus, a decision

on the arrangements and organization for the Conference (A/63/L.71).

GA President Statement: <http://www.un.org/ga/president/63/statements/onpreconference80509.shtml>

Webcast of Meeting (starts at about 14:47): <http://webcast.un.org/ramgen/ondemand/ga/63/2009/ga090508am.rm>

GA President’s Draft Outcome Document: http://www.un-ngls.org/IMG/pdf_090805_outcomedoc.pdf

Note on the Organization of Work for the Conference: http://www.un-ngls.org/IMG/pdf_Organizational_Note.pdf

Summary of ECOSOC High-level Meeting

The Special high-level meeting of the Economic and Social Council with the Bretton Woods institutions, the World Trade Organization and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) – a key event in the lead-up to the June Conference - was held in New York on 27 April 2009. The official summary of the meeting, prepared by the President of ECOSOC, H.E. Ms. Sylvie Lucas, Permanent Representative of Luxembourg to the United Nations, is now available (click here to view).

The overall theme of the meeting was “Coherence, coordination and cooperation in the context of the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus and the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development.” The two sub-themes that had been selected to serve as the focus of substantive discussions in two consecutive plenary debates, were: (a) Addressing the impact of the global financial and economic crisis on development, including issues related to the international financial and monetary architecture and global governance structures; and (b) Strengthening of the intergovernmental inclusive process to



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carry out the financing for development follow-up. The meeting had before it a note by the Secretary-General (E/2009/48) which provided background information and suggested possible questions on the two sub-themes.

The 2009 meeting was preceded by three informal briefings chaired by the President of the Economic and Social Council, which brought the perspectives on the global financial crisis and its impact on development on the part of institutional and other stakeholders, including civil society, to the attention of Member States.

The Summary is a part of the official documentation that will inform the June Conference and was taken into consideration by the Co-facilitators during their preparations of the draft outcome document.

To read the summary, click [here](#)

Reports and statements from the UN System and Civil Society

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP): *Global Green New Deal – A Policy Brief*

The "Global Green New Deal" presented by UNEP in this policy brief has three broad objectives. It should: make a major contribution to reviving the world economy, saving and creating jobs, and protecting vulnerable groups; promote sustainable and inclusive growth and the achievement of the MDGs, especially ending extreme poverty by 2015; and, it must reduce carbon dependency and ecosystem degradation.

Civil Society Letter: *'Urge leaders to attend UN crisis summit'*

In order to encourage Heads of State or Government to attend the June Conference, a network of civil society organizations has prepared a letter for individuals and groups to adapt and send to their respective government leaders. They are asking that letters be sent by 15 May 2009. The letter is available in English, Spanish and French.

ActionAid: *Where Does it Hurt? The Impact of the Financial Crisis on Developing Countries*

This report looks at the very different ways that countries have integrated into the global economy, and how this leads to very different outcomes in the current crisis. The report finds that those countries that most heavily pursued policies of financial liberalisation, and that were big enough to attract significant amounts of capital from rich countries, will be most affected by the financial crisis. The report that developing countries should be involved in the redesign of the global financial system.

CIDSE: *From Collapse to Opportunity: Development Perspectives on the Global Financial Crisis*

Most developing countries are facing the consequences of a food, climate and financial crisis in whose making they played no part. CIDSE analyses these problems and sets out proposals drawing on the principles of the just distribution of wealth and power, the dignity of each person and particular attention being paid to the poorest.

NGO Position Paper: *Ensuring Development in the face of the financial crisis*

This position paper has been endorsed by Eurostep, Social Watch, the Arab NGO Network for Development (ANND), Asociación Latinoamericana de Organizaciones de Promoción (ALOP), South Asia Alliance for Poverty Eradication (SAAPE) and Least Developed Countries (LDC) Watch. It notes that the 'United Nations is the only existing legitimate forum through which the financial crisis can be resolved' and offers several specific policy proposals.

International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN): *Roots of the meltdown and lessons for our future*

In this article IUCN President Ashok Khosla argues that the need to re-start the economy should not be used to restore 'wasteful and damaging habits that are no longer viable.' Rather, societies should invest in restoring the health of the natural resource base and in creating sustainable livelihoods and jobs through redesign of technologies, market systems, and financial institutions. Also, Khosla notes, 'we need to spend a great deal of time, effort and resource to create a different and common understanding of what constitutes a good life.'

United Nations Non-Governmental Liaison Service (NGLS)

The United Nations' Non-Governmental Liaison Service (NGLS) promotes constructive relations between the United Nations system, governments and a growing range of non-state actors, in particular civil society organizations.

By providing strategic information, analysis and support, NGLS is part of the United Nations' efforts to build coherence around cross-cutting and emerging issues on the UN's agenda; to strengthen multistakeholder policy dialogue and civil society's engagement in UN processes.

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