

Letter to Co-Chairs Facilitating Consultations on FfD
Endorsed by 25 Organizations Worldwide
27 June 2007

To: H.E Ambassador Lovald of Norway
H.E. Ambassador Abdelaziz of Egypt

Your Excellencies,

We are writing as a group of civil society and non-governmental organizations that have been engaged in the Financing for Development (FfD) process for many years now, some since the Preparatory Committee process for the Monterrey Conference in 2002. We represent a large number of NGOs in the development, environment, gender and labour fields, including three networks that have focused specifically on FfD: the International Facilitating Group on Financing for Development (IFG on FfD), New Rules for Global Finance Coalition and the NGO Committee on Financing for Development.

We have valued the traditional openness and inclusiveness of this process and its constructive engagement with NGOs, and have hailed it as a model in that regard. We want to express our support for the same tradition of inclusive participation of NGOs in preparations for and at the Monterrey follow-up Conference in Doha, Qatar in the autumn of 2008. We strongly recommend the adoption of modalities that will make specific provision for real and constructive NGO involvement.

We note that a series of High-Level meetings on financing for development will lead up to the 2008 Conference, including the Informal thematic debate in Qatar in June 2007, the GA High-Level Dialogue in October 2007, the 52nd Commission of the Status of Women in March 2008 on Financing Gender Equality, the Spring Meeting of ECOSOC with the BWIs, WTO and UNCTAD in April 2008. We fully support the idea of using these events strategically to advance the policy dialogue on FfD themes.

We are convinced, nonetheless, that the FfD Review Conference needs its own focused preparatory process leading up to a negotiated document such as a Declaration. We propose that such a process should: 1) involve a thorough review of progress in achieving the Monterrey Commitments, 2) take stock of challenges to be addressed and obstacles to be overcome, and 3) explore new issues on financing development that have emerged or become more pressing since the Monterrey Conference, and that merit a detailed review.

We believe that Preparatory Committees (PrepComs) offer the best preparatory modality to engage Member States and relevant stakeholders in a thorough evaluation of progress, and exploration of new issues. It should be clear that such a process should take off from and build on the Monterrey Consensus, and would serve to reinvigorate efforts to meet and surpass its commitments. It would provide the most effective way of engaging NGOs, Civil Society Organizations, and other relevant stakeholders with member states in an open and inclusive process, thereby enriching the agenda-setting and policy dialogue on critical, relevant issues related to financing development. Finally, it would lead to a negotiated Declaration with commitments that will further the creation of an enabling environment at national and international levels for the attainment of internationally-agreed development goals.

We hereby also submit a request for an early meeting between you and representatives of our networks to discuss the matters outlined in this letter, and thank you for your time.

Signatories:

International Facilitating Group on Financing for Development (IFG)
New Rules for Global Finance
Executive Committee of the FFD NGO Committee
Anglican Consultative Council
Association for Women's Rights in Development (AWID)
Bread for all-Switzerland
Center of Concern (CoC)
Coopération Internationale pour le Développement et la Solidarité (CIDSE)
ENLACE
Foreign Policy In Focus
Gender Action
International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC)
LDC Watch
Maria Floro (American University)
Maryknoll Sisters of St. Dominic
Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers
NEF (New Economics Foundation)
North/South Institute
Rural Reconstruction Nepal (RRN)
Social Watch
South Asia Alliance for Poverty Eradication (SAAPE)
Ubuntu Forum Secretariat
Women's Edge Coalition
Women's Environment and Development Organization (WEDO)
World Federalist Movement / Institute of Global Policy

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