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UN General Assembly Letter Regarding the Conference and a Draft Resolution Containing the Proposed Organization

Miguel d'Escoto Brockmann

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THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

28 January 2009

Excellency,

You will kindly recall that the General Assembly, in its resolution 63/239 adopted on 24 December 2008, has endorsed the Doha Declaration, which stated that the United Nations will hold a conference on the world financial and economic crisis and its impact on development. The Declaration further stated that the conference will be organized by the President of the General Assembly and the modalities will be defined by March 2009 at the latest.

In this connection, I have the honour to attach herewith a draft resolution containing the proposed organization of the conference. For your reference and information, also attached is a schedule of related meetings between January and September 2009 that will help in the preparatory process for the conference and its outcome.

It is my intention to hold as early as possible in February an informal consultation of the plenary on the draft resolution to hear your views.

I have asked Mr. Michael Clark, Senior Adviser on my staff, to be available to any group, geographic or political, that desires to have an informational briefing on the proposed modalities.

In view of the worsening world financial situation and its impact on the real economy everywhere, I look forward to working closely with you to give a strong signal on the important role the General Assembly can play to address some of the critical challenges raised by the crisis.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Miguel d'Escoto Brockmann', written over a horizontal line.

Miguel d'Escoto Brockmann

All Permanent Representatives
and Permanent Observers
to the United Nations

Draft resolution
By the President of the General Assembly

A/63/L.XXX

**Organization of the Conference on the Global Financial and Economic Crisis
and Its Impacts on Development**

The General Assembly,

Recalling the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus, held in Doha, Qatar from 29 November to 2 December 2008, and the resulting Doha Declaration of 2 December 2008, as well as its resolution 63/239, through which it endorsed the Doha Declaration, which stated that the United Nations will hold a conference at the highest level on the world financial and economic crisis and its impact on development and that the conference will be organized by the President of the General Assembly with the modalities to be defined by March 2009 at the latest,

Concerned that the Millennium Development Goals and other international commitments adopted at UN international conferences may not be met by their respective target dates, and may be fundamentally compromised, if the current crisis is not overcome through timely and effective action,

1. *Decides* that the Conference on the Global Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impacts on Development:

(a) Will be convened from 26 to 29 May 2009, at the United Nations Headquarters in New York;

(b) Will include participation of Member States of the General Assembly and observers, in accordance with the established practice of the General Assembly,

(c) Will be held at the highest possible political level, including with the participation of Heads of State and Government, ministers, special representatives and other representatives, as appropriate;

(d) Will be chaired by the President of the General Assembly;

(e) Will consist of:

(i) A short opening meeting on 26 May, with statements by the President of the Conference and the Secretary-General;

- (ii) Four interactive multi-stakeholder round tables on 26 and 27 May, based on the major issues relating to the financial and economic crisis and its impacts on development;
 - (iii) A high-level segment on 28 and 29 May, consisting of plenary meetings at the level of Head of State and Head of Government or their designated representatives at ministerial and above level;
 - (iv) Negotiating and drafting sessions at the ministerial or highest possible level on 26 and 27 May and thereafter during the Conference, as necessary;
- (f) Will result in an intergovernmentally agreed outcome document;
- (g) Will also result in summaries of the plenary meetings and of the round-table discussions, to be included in the report of the Conference;
2. *Invites* funds, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations system, as well as non-governmental organizations, civil society and business sector entities accredited to the Doha Conference to participate in the preparatory process, and the Conference at United Nations, in accordance with the rules of procedure of the General Assembly;
 3. *Requests* the President of the General Assembly to provide, in a timely manner, an information note on other organizational matters of the Conference;
 4. *Invites* the Economic and Social Council to schedule at the time of its 27 April 2009 spring meeting with the Bretton Woods institutions, the World Trade Organization and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, a session devoted to comprehensive discussion of the global financial and economic crisis and its impact on development and provide recommendations for consideration in the preparatory process of the Conference;
 5. *Calls upon* the regional commissions, with the support of regional financial institutions and other relevant entities, to hold regional consultations, as early as possible and to provide inputs to the preparations for the Conference;
 6. *Requests* the funds, programs and specialized agencies of the United Nations system, including the Bretton Woods Institutions, to provide technical inputs within their areas of expertise and experience to serve as inputs for the preparatory process of the Conference, as early as possible;
 7. *Invites* the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) to take part in the Conference and its preparatory process, and encourages Member States to include in their national delegations Members of Parliament and welcomes the decision of the

IPU to organize an International Conference of Parliamentarians on the International Financial and Economic Crisis and its Impact on Development to provide inputs for the United Nations Conference;

8. *Welcomes* the initiative of the President of the General Assembly to open a Conference website that allows interested organizations and the public at large to register their opinions and recommendations as part of the preparatory process of the Conference;

9. *Welcomes also* the initiative of the President of the General Assembly to organize a thematic interactive dialogue to be held from 25 to 27 March, 2009, on the global financial and economic crisis and its impact on development;

10. *Requests* the President of the General Assembly to present the first draft outcome document by 6 April 2009, based upon all the preparatory inputs, reports and informal consultations listed above, to be followed by intergovernmental negotiations and drafting sessions starting from 13 April;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide all necessary assistance to the preparatory process and the Conference, including the launching of a global public awareness campaign.

CONFERENCE AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL ON THE WORLD FINANCIAL AND ECONOMIC CRISIS AND ITS IMPACTS ON DEVELOPMENT

Schedule of related meetings, January–September, 2009

January

- 5 and 6 January. First Plenary Meeting of the Commission of Experts of the President of the United Nations General Assembly on Reforms of the International Monetary and Financial System and issues statement
- 28 January, UN headquarters in New York. Distribution of draft resolution on modalities to Member States
- Outreach to UN agencies and programs, UN Regional Commissions and other specialized agencies, including the IBRD, IMF, and WTO
- UN regional commissions will be invited by the PGA to organize consultations with Governments and other interested actors at the regional level, including regional financial institutions, to provide their perspective and contributions to the process

February

- First or second week of February: Informal plenary on modalities
- 9 to 11 February, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Commission holds working group meeting
- February/March (TBC) (Berlin). Commission holds working group meeting. Commission also holds informal meeting with G-20 technical experts
- Facilitator to be appointed for the intergovernmental process of negotiations
- Outreach and consultations to NGOs and other civil society representatives, including private sector

March

- 9 to 11 March, Geneva, Switzerland. Second Plenary Meeting of the Commission of Experts
- 25 to 27 March, UN headquarters in New York. The President of the General Assembly will present the recommendations of the Commission in an interactive thematic dialogue. Participants will include Member States, international financial institutions, UN agencies, civil society and private sector. The PGA will formally request the participants to submit in writing their recommendations, in addition to their oral comments
- 25 to 27 March, UN headquarters in New York. Third Plenary Meeting of the Commission and participation of the Commission in the Interactive Thematic event organized by the PGA

- Special consultations will be also organized with specialized international organizations of the UN system, such as the ILO, UNCTAD, the Bretton Woods institutions, and UN agencies
- Civil society organizations will be able to participate through recommendations in writing posted on the website of the International Conference

April

- 6 April, UN headquarters in New York. The President of the General Assembly will present the draft outcome document
- 13 April, UN headquarters in New York. Intergovernmental negotiations on the Outcome Document will commence
- 27 or 28 April, UN headquarters. ECOSOC sponsored Interactive Dialogue with UNCTAD, the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and the World Trade Organization

May

- Mid May, UN headquarters in New York. Release of Final report of Commission of Experts
- 18 and 19 May, Doha, Qatar. Fourth Plenary Meeting of the Commission to discuss and present recommendations on contentious issues of the Intergovernmental Process of negotiations and to continue working its final report
- 26 to 29 May, UN Headquarters New York. The United Nations Conference at the Highest Level on the World Financial and economic crisis and Its Impacts on Development. A draft Final Document will be submitted by the President of the General Assembly for the consideration of the Heads of State and Government for approval at the final session

June – September

- Follow-up activities and implementation of agreements of the Conference