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## **Financing for Development High-Level Dialogue Civil Society Forum**

**13:00 – 18:00, 6 December, 2011**

**United Nations Headquarters, Conference Room C**

### **Overview**

The vision of financing for development endorsed at Monterrey almost 10 years ago is still a long way from becoming reality. At Monterrey, governments committed themselves to take the steps needed to create a fully inclusive and equitable global economic system. Recent events—from the global financial crisis of 2008-9 to the ongoing democratic uprisings in the Arab World, anti-austerity demonstrations in Europe and Israel, and the Occupy movement's protests against rising inequality—show that the current international economic system is dysfunctional. Furthermore, the financial interests behind the 2008-09 financial crisis have not been held accountable for the wider social costs that their excess-profit and risk taking has caused those outside the financial sector. The consequences for development aid, fighting poverty and pursuing sustainable growth have been serious.

In response, UBUNTU, the NGO Committee on Financing for Development and the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung are organizing a civil society forum on December 6<sup>th</sup>, in preparation for the Financing for Development High-Level Dialogues, December 7-8. We invite governmental and civil society participation to discuss 1) the state of the Financing for Development process that emerged from the 2002 Monterrey Consensus, 2) the impact of rising global inequality on development and economic stability, and 3) how to more effectively link the global and local agendas focusing on innovative financing for development, domestic resource mobilization—including tax reform to curb tax avoidance and evasion and to produce a more equitable tax system—and holding the financial sector more accountable.

### **3:00–4:30 p.m. CSO Forum Session 1 – UNHQ, Conference Room C**

*"Unfinished Business of Monterrey: Rising Inequality and Its Impact on Development"*

This session will explore the impact that rising global inequality is having on development and economic stability. A debate about the current state of the FfD process and the reform of the international monetary and financial system in the context of inadequate global economic governance will also be at stake.

For more information on the Forum, please contact Kevin Dance [kvndance@yahoo.com.au](mailto:kvndance@yahoo.com.au), Chairman NGO Committee on Financing for Development or Sara Burke [sburke@fesny.org](mailto:sburke@fesny.org), Senior Policy Analyst, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung New York Office

Moderator: **John Langmore**, Academic Council of the UN System (ACUNS); former Director, Division for Social Policy and Development, UN-DESA (1997-2002); former UN Representative, International Labour Organization

Speakers:

**Ambassador Anwarul Chowdhury**, Senior Special Advisor to the President of the UN General Assembly; former UN-Under Secretary General for Least Developed Countries and Small Islands

**Shari Spiegel**, Senior Economic Affairs Officer, UN-DESA; on team producing DESA's "World Economic and Social Survey 2011"

**Roberto Bissio**, Coordinator, Social Watch

**Amin Husain**, Organizer, Facilitation Working Group, Occupy Wall Street; Lawyer; Current Participant, Whitney Independent Study Program

**Mayra Moro Coco**, Policy and Advocacy Manager, Association for Women's Rights in Development

#### **4:30–6:00 p.m. CSO Forum Session 2 – UNHQ, Conference Room C**

"Innovative Financing for Development: Linking the Global and Local Agendas"

Taking into account the direct link between FfD and the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, specially the MDG's, this session will explore the state of mechanisms for innovative financing during an ongoing financial downturn, including financial & currency transactions taxes as a key element of progressive taxation, international tax cooperation and with a special focus to nurture development. The role to be played by the UN system and its implications in the issues of economic governance will also be explored.

Moderator: **Manuel Manonelles**, Director UBUNTU Forum

Speakers:

**Jesse Drucker** Reporter, Bloomberg Business Week; Expert in national and international tax evasion and avoidance

**Peter Bakvis**, Director, Washington Office, International Trade Union Confederation

**James Parrott**, Deputy Director and Chief Economist, Fiscal Policy Institute

**Kelley Wolcott**, NYC Public School Teacher; Organizer/Facilitator for Occupy Wall Street Labor Outreach Group

**Representative**, Leading Group on Innovative Finance; Government of France (TBD)

**Or**

**Representative**, National Nurses United (TBD)