



United Nations



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**SECRETARY-GENERAL CALLS FOR GENUINE, ‘ELASTIC MULTILATERALISM’**

**TO TACKLE GLOBAL CHALLENGES SIMULTANEOUSLY**

Genuine inclusiveness was needed in order to tackle simultaneously the great global challenges represented by the world financial crisis, global warming and extreme poverty, Secretary General Ban Ki-moon said this evening at a side event during the Financing for Development Conference in Doha, Qatar.

“As the spokesperson for the world’s most universal body, I am, naturally, an advocate for greater inclusivity in international decision-making,” he said, adding: “But let me be clear -- inclusiveness doesn’t mean we just expand the number after the letter ‘G’.” A new multilateralism should be elastic enough to forge an optimal response to the full range of challenges the world faced. Different issues were particularly relevant for different countries, and different forums would therefore be needed to respond to diverse issues.

He said success could be achieved by balancing the legitimacy that came from universal involvement in decision-making with the efficiency that resulted from delegating deliberations to a few key players. “In some cases, small committees within existing multilateral institutions might help them move more nimbly and decisively. In some cases, we may need to build stronger links between emerging bodies like the G-20 and larger assemblies like the UN.”

The recent G-20 summit of the biggest economies had begun a necessary re-consideration of the world’s financial system and the Doha Conference had brought together developed and developing countries to continue the response to the financial crisis, he said. However, it was crucial that the views of those most affected be considered before important decisions were made. Stronger links must be forged to ensure that all countries had a stake in multilateral processes that were both authoritative and effective.

Also present at the side event were Kemal Dervis, Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Pascal Lamy, Director General of the World Trade Organization, and Angel Gurría, Secretary-General of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). Olav Kjørven, Director of the UNDP’s Bureau of Development, introduced the participants.

Mr. Lamy said coherence between national and international policies was crucial in meeting current challenges. Macroeconomic imbalances, the current financial crisis, the lack of early warning systems, climate change and other challenges must be addressed together, both nationally and internationally, and the voices of all must be heard. However, that did not mean that all countries must be members of one core group on any one particular issue. Innovative ways, including innovative forums, must be found to allow all to contribute to solutions.

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Mr. Dervis agreed with the need for new solutions, stressing that it was crucial for all existing forums operate effectively, in order for all voices to be heard and in order for all problems to be addressed coherently. A massive worldwide Keynesian dose of spending, on the order of trillions of dollars, was needed to deal with the current crisis. Part of the public expenditure could be used to move to a low-carbon economy. Toward 2030, between \$250 billion and \$600 billion would be needed for that adaptation, some of which could be private, but initial public expenditures should give impetus to the transition.

Mr. Gurría underscored the particular importance of political leadership in tackling the three interlinked global crises because those who were always prone to inaction on reducing economic imbalances and climate change now had an excuse because of the financial recession.

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