

## DNG Doha NGO Group on Financing for Development

ANND, NGO Committee on FfD, CIDSE , New Rules for Global Finance Coalition, EURODAD, AFRODAD, Third World Network, Social Watch - Third World Institute, LATINODAD, UBUNTU Forum, ITUC, Women's Working Group on Financing for Development, AWEAPON, INTERACTION

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**Civil Society Forum on Financing for Development- Doha, Qatar**

### **CRISIS THE FOCUS AS CIVIL SOCIETY GATHER FOR TWO DAY DEBATE**

“Is the United States a ‘failed state’? Its financial mismanagement has triggered a world wide crisis.” Thus, Social Watch coordinator Roberto Bissio challenged some 300 civil society delegates, who meet today at the Ramada Plaza Hotel. The Civil Society Forum leading to the Financing for Development Review Conference is addressing the international crises that threaten our climate, development and social justice, developing recommendations for change to carry into the official Conference..

The Draft Declaration to be considered by the Forum states: *“the world is consumed by an urgent triple crisis of energy, food and finance that not only threatens the realization of the MDGs, but also the stability of the world’s economies.*

*The Northern governments and financial system are responsible for the current financial crisis, but the costs and the impacts are paid for by the entire world and by the poorest countries in particular. Moreover, climate change is threatening the lives and livelihoods of hundreds of millions of people, in the North and the South.”*

The draft declaration, accompanied by an extensive folio of key recommendations, constructively addresses the six point agenda of the official conference in detail.

Barbara Adams, a former UN official and Senior Fellow with the Global Policy Forum introduced delegates to the state of the negotiations, which continue in New York and will be finalized in Doha before December 2<sup>nd</sup>. The final agreement must address decent work, growing inequality and continuing imbalances in the global economy and polity, she noted. Perhaps the most significant major issue remaining is the nature and organizing body for a “Bretton Woods II” international conference for a new global economic architecture, she pointed out. Many civil society delegates stress that such a follow-up event should be organized by the universally-based United Nations and not by the existing Bretton Woods Institutions.

The Forum is the penultimate step leading to the UN Financing for Development follow-up Conference convening at the Sheraton Hotel November 29. The Forum was opened by H. E Mohammed Abdullah Mutib Al Rumaihi, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs for Qatar and Dr. Ali Ben Samiekh El Marri, General Secretary of the National Human Rights Committee of Qatar. Also addressing the opening session was Daniel Platz of the UN FFD secretariat and Elisa Peter of the UN Non-Governmental Liaison Service.

Assessing the negotiations on the outcome which continue in New York, CSO observer Eva Hanfstaengl (Germany) noted: *“We are deeply concerned that most EU countries, the U.S. and Canada are not sending their heads of government. Instead of engaging in a high level comprehensive debate on a new financial architecture, they re-iterate positions put forward at the Washington G 20 meeting. The 170 non G-20 UN member states want a more inclusive and democratic process of reform, as the recession affects all.”*

The Civil Society Forum continues through Thursday, November 27, when a final declaration for delivery to the official Conference will be agreed.

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