

## Commission of Experts of the President of the UN General Assembly on Reforms of the International Monetary and Financial System

### Chronology (*updated 19-01-2009*)

**16 Oct** Invitation to an *Interactive Panel on the Global Financial Crisis*

**24 Oct** Appointment of **Prof. Joseph Stiglitz (USA)** as the Chair of a *High-Level Task Force of Experts* to undertake a comprehensive review of the international financial system and to suggest steps to be taken by Member States of the United Nations to secure a more just and stable global economic order

**30 Oct** **Interactive Panel on the Global Financial Crisis**  
Trusteeship Council Chamber at the UN Headquarters in New York, 9am-6pm

#### Panellists:

- (1) **Mr. Joseph Stiglitz (USA)** (Chair). Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences (2001). Former Senior Vice President and Chief Economist of the World Bank.
- (2) **Mr. Prabhat Patnaik (India)**. Professor at the Centre for Economic Studies and Planning in the School of Social Sciences at Jawaharlal Nehru University in New Delhi.
- (3) **Ms. Sakiko Fukuda-Parr (Japan)**. Professor of International Affairs at the New School University. Former Director of the Human Development Report Office at UNDP.
- (4) **Mr. Pedro Páez (Ecuador)**. Minister for Economic Coordination, Ecuador.
- (5) **Mr. Calestous Juma (Kenya)**. Professor of the Practice of International Development and Director of the Science, Technology and Globalization Project at Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government.
- (6) **Mr. François Houtart (Belgium)**. Advisor to CETRI. Former Editor of the International Journal of Sociology of Religion "Social Compass".

#### Main results:

- (1) The financial crisis reflects the inadequacies of the current financial architecture to prevent crisis and to deal with it in an efficient and equitable way when they occur. There is a need for deep changes in the governance of international financial institutions, particularly in the decision-making process to make the system more inclusive and equitable.
- (2) The UN must play a central role in the search for solutions and the implementation of decisions. Only the UN can credibly ensure that the creation of new mechanisms and policy decisions will reflect input by all 192 Member States which will help credibility and restore legitimacy to the international financial system.
- (3) To deal with the financial crisis requires considering not only the financial realm, but also the crises surrounding food, energy and climate change.

Further information on: <http://www.un.org/ga/president/63/interactive/gfc.shtml>

**14 Nov** The *High-Level Task Force of Experts* gets its official name: *Commission of Experts of the President of the UN General Assembly on Reforms of the International Monetary and Financial System*. The first 10 members are announced.

**28 Nov** Draft proposal for the **terms of reference of the Commission**, its scope of work, its timeline and its composition (<http://www.un.org/ga/president/63/letters/doha281108.pdf>)

Scope of work:

- (1) The Commission will seek to identify the broad principles underlying needed institutional reforms required to ensure sustained global economic progress and stability which will be of benefit to all countries, developed and less developed.
- (2) The Commission will suggest a range of credible and feasible proposals for reforming the International monetary and financial system in the best interest of the international community, identify the merits and limitations of alternatives, and will evaluate in particular those that are at the centre of current global discussions.

Timeline:

- (1) The Commission will hold at least **three formal meetings** to discuss the issues and to begin drafting the report. The report will be published and distributed to member states, other involved parties and the wider public as part of a larger United Nations General Assembly initiative to achieve the needed reforms.
- (2) The **first plenary meeting** will be held in **New York 4-6 January 2009** and the **second session** in **Geneva 8-10 March 2009**, for two day long sessions. The **third and final meeting** will be held at the UN headquarters in **New York** to discuss the draft of the report in spring. The President of the General Assembly plans to distribute the **final report** to Member States in **April**, at which point it will also be launched publicly at press conferences in a number of locations worldwide.

Composition:

<http://www.un.org/ga/president/63/commission/members.shtml>

- (1) **Mr. Joseph Stiglitz** (USA) (*Chair*). Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences (2001). Former Senior Vice President and Chief Economist of the World Bank.
- (2) **Mr. Andrei Bougrov** (Russia). Managing Director and member of the Board of Directors of the Interros Company. Former Principal Resident Representative of Russia, Executive Director and member of the Board of Directors of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development.
- (3) **Mr. Yousef Boutros-Ghali** (Egypt). Minister of Finance. Chair of the International Monetary and Financial Committee of the Board of Governors of the International Monetary Fund.
- (4) **Mr. Jean-Paul Fitoussi** (France). Professor of Economics at the Institut d'Etudes Politiques de Paris since 1982. Currently President of the Scientific Council of the Institut d'Etudes Politiques de Paris and President of the Observatoire Français des Conjonctures Economiques.
- (5) **Mr. Charles A. E. Goodhart** (UK). Norman Sosnow Professor of Banking and Finance, London School of Economics. Former Chief Advisor to the Bank of England and member of its Monetary Policy Committee.
- (6) **Mr. Robert Johnson** (USA). Former Chief Economist of the US Senate Banking Committee and former Senior Economist of the U.S. Senate Budget Committee. Former managing director at Soros Fund Management. Member of the Board of Directors of the Economic Policy Institute and the Institute for America's Future.
- (7) **Mr. Jomo Kwame Sundaram** (United Nations). Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development, United Nations Department of Economics and Social Affairs.
- (8) **Mr. Benno Ndulo** (Tanzania). Governor of the Bank of Tanzania.

- (9) **Mr. José Antonio Ocampo** (Colombia). Former UN Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs and Finance Minister, Colombia. Currently Professor, School of International and Public Affairs, Columbia University.
- (10) **Mr. Pedro Páez** (Ecuador). Minister for Economic Coordination, Ecuador.
- (11) **Mr. Avinash Persaud** (Barbados). Chairman of Intelligence Capital Limited. Member of council, London School of Economics. Founding director of the Global Association of Risk Professionals.
- (12) **Mr. Yaga Venugopal Reddy** (India). Former Governor of the Reserve Bank of India.
- (13) **Mr. Rubens Ricupero** (Brazil). Former Secretary-General of UNTACD. Former Minister of Finance of Brazil.
- (14) **Mr. Eisuke Sakakibara** (Japan). Former Vice Minister of Finance for International Affairs. Currently Professor at Waseda University, Tokyo.
- (15) **Mr. Chukwuma Soludo** (Nigeria). Governor, Central Bank of Nigeria.
- (16) **Ms. Heidemarie Wieczorek-Zeul** (Germany). Federal Minister of Cooperation and Development, Germany.
- (17) **Mr. Yu Yongding** (China). Director, Institute of World Economics and Politics, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences. Former Member of Monetary Policy Committee, People's Bank of China.
- (18) **Ms. Zeti Akhtar Aziz** (Malaysia). Governor and Chairman, Central Bank of Malaysia.

Rapporteur: **Mr. Jan Kregel** (US). Former UNDESA staff; now University of Kansas and the Levy Economics Institute of Bard College.

Special Representatives of the President of the General Assembly:

- (1) **Mr. François Houtart** (Belgium).
- (2) **Mr. Ali Boukrami** (Algeria).
- (3) **Mr. Oswaldo Martinez** (Cuba).

**2 Dec**

**Doha Declaration on Financing for Development (A/CONF.212/L.1/Rev.1\*)**

<http://daccess-ods.un.org/TMP/3856119.html>

*"79. The **United Nations** will hold a **conference at the highest level on the world financial and economic crisis and its impact on development**. The conference will be organized by the President of the General Assembly and the modalities will be defined by March 2009 at the latest."*

The **High-Level-Conference** as mandated by the Doha Declaration will take place in New York, most likely at the **beginning of June** according to the daily press briefing of the Spokesperson of the President of the General Assembly of 6 January (<http://www.un.org/News/briefings/docs/2009/db090106.doc.htm>). The final report of the Commission of Experts to be published in April shall provide the substantive basis of the conference.

**4-6 Jan**

**First Meeting** of the *Commission of Experts of the President of the UN General Assembly on Reforms of the International Monetary and Financial System*  
Desmond Tutu Center in New York

Three process goals:

<http://www.un.org/ga/president/63/statements/commissionofexperts10509.shtml>

- (1) To prepare a report that will provide a basis for deliberation among the Member states and guidelines for action by the heads of state or government. [...] The report should

define broad principles to guide the transformation of the global financial architecture as well [as] specific recommendations for restructuring institutions, establishing more adequate relations between the United Nations organs and the specialized agencies, and defining appropriate policy frameworks.

- (2) To engage and coordinate with other entities undertaking parallel initiatives to make recommendations for re-forming our global financial architecture. [...] The goal is to provide the coordinating guidelines for a comprehensive approach, and to define the ultimate pathway to legitimacy for any proposal.
- (3) To engage the representatives of civil society through the non-governmental organizations accredited before the United Nations.

Recommendations for immediate action (main points):

<http://www.un.org/ga/president/63/commission/firstmeeting.pdf>

- It is imperative that all the developed countries take strong and effective actions to stimulate their economies.
- It is imperative that developing countries be provided with funds to enable them to undertake comparable policies, to stimulate their economies, to provide social protection, and to ensure a flow of liquidity to their firms, including maintenance of trade credits. [...] This is a time to **expand assistance**, probably by an order of magnitude of **at least twenty per cent**.
- In the short run the creation of a **new credit facility**, perhaps within the IMF, the World Bank, or regional or sub-regional development banks, should be considered. The new facilities should have their own governance, be more reflective of democratic principles, with stronger representation for developing countries.
- It is imperative that **more funds** be provided, and that they be provided **without the usual conditionalities**.
- Additional funding could be provided by a large issuance of **Special Drawing Rights**.
- To make significant and meaningful changes, it may be necessary to draw lessons from countries in the developed and developing world that have avoided instability.
- Developing countries should have expanded scope for establishing policies and institutions appropriate for their conditions. This includes developing frameworks that help insulate themselves from regulatory and macro-economic failures in systemically significant countries.
- The Commission urged **greater transparency** on the part of all parties in responding to the crisis.
- Certain actions [within the Doha trade round] could be implemented immediately, namely the **opening of markets in advanced economies to least developed countries' exports**.

Final Working Groups:

<http://www.un.org/ga/president/63/commission/wgroups.shtml>

<b>Working Group I:</b>	<b>Regulation</b> <i>Chair:</i> Mr. Avinash Persaud
<b>Working Group II:</b>	<b>Macro measures</b> <i>Chair:</i> Mr. Jean-Paul Fitoussi
<b>Working Group III:</b>	<b>International Institutions</b> <i>Chair:</i> Mr. Jomo Kwame Sundaram
<b>Working Group IV:</b>	<b>Global Financial Architecture</b> <i>Chair:</i> Mr. Chukwuma Soludo

Reference Documents by the Chairman of the Commission:

- Introductory Remarks  
[http://www.un.org/ga/president/63/commission/i\\_remarks.pdf](http://www.un.org/ga/president/63/commission/i_remarks.pdf)
- 30 Key Perspectives  
[http://www.un.org/ga/president/63/commission/key\\_perspectives.pdf](http://www.un.org/ga/president/63/commission/key_perspectives.pdf)
- Memo to the Commission on Liquidity Support and Financial Market Restructurings  
[http://www.un.org/ga/president/63/commission/memo\\_liquidity\\_support.pdf](http://www.un.org/ga/president/63/commission/memo_liquidity_support.pdf)
- Memo to the Commission on Central Bank Policies  
[http://www.un.org/ga/president/63/commission/memo\\_central\\_bank\\_policies.pdf](http://www.un.org/ga/president/63/commission/memo_central_bank_policies.pdf)
- Memo to the Commission on the Design of Stimuli  
[http://www.un.org/ga/president/63/commission/memo\\_stimuli.pdf](http://www.un.org/ga/president/63/commission/memo_stimuli.pdf)
- Memo to the Commission on Foreclosures  
[http://www.un.org/ga/president/63/commission/memo\\_foreclosure.pdf](http://www.un.org/ga/president/63/commission/memo_foreclosure.pdf)
- Principles for Addressing the Current Global Financial Crisis and Beyond  
[http://www.un.org/ga/president/63/commission/principles\\_current\\_global\\_fcrcrisis.pdf](http://www.un.org/ga/president/63/commission/principles_current_global_fcrcrisis.pdf)
- Principles for a New Financial Architecture  
<http://www.un.org/ga/president/63/commission/newfinancialarchitecture.pdf>

**OUTLOOK**

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| <b>8-10 March</b>       | <b>Second Meeting</b> of the <i>Commission of Experts of the President of the UN General Assembly on Reforms of the International Monetary and Financial System</i>                   |
| <b>April (tbc)</b>      | <b>Third Meeting</b> of the <i>Commission of Experts of the President of the UN General Assembly on Reforms of the International Monetary and Financial System</i>                    |
| <b>April (tbc)</b>      | <b>Presentation of the final report</b> of the <i>Commission of Experts of the President of the UN General Assembly on Reforms of the International Monetary and Financial System</i> |
| <b>Early June (tbc)</b> | <b>UN high-level conference</b> on the world financial and economic crisis and its impact on development  |

Further information can be found on the homepage of the President of the General Assembly:  
<http://www.un.org/ga/president/63/>

Christian Rebhan, 19 January 2009