

ECOSOC

ACTION VN / 4/10
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Note to the Secretary-General

Ad hoc ECOSOC meeting on the food crisis ✓

15/04/08

Your leadership in the current food crisis, which has substantial economic, political and security implications, is crucial. Further to yesterday's announcement by the President of ECOSOC of his intention (after consultations with the Bureau of ECOSOC) to hold an ad hoc Council meeting on a global response to the food crisis, I should like to suggest some specific parameters for the organization of such a meeting, particularly with regard to its timing, participation, format and outcome.

Timing: The President of the Council is proposing a two-hour morning meeting, either on 19 or 20 May, at a time most convenient to you. This would position the meeting to take place within three weeks of the Spring session of the Chief Executives Board, where the World Bank and the Rome-based organizations will lead a discussion, at your request, that aims to catalyze the UN system response. It would also follow on the 16th session of the Commission for Sustainable Development (5-16 May), focused on agriculture, rural development, land, drought, desertification and Africa, which you will address, at its high-level segment (14 May). So there is an opportunity for the ECOSOC meeting to build on the immediately preceding inter-agency and inter-governmental events and to add further momentum to the global response.

Participation and format: Expected participation at the meeting would be at the level of Permanent Representatives in New York. The meeting could be a panel discussion chaired by the President of the Council. I suggest that you represent the United Nations system. Invitations may be sent to President Yudhoyono (Indonesia), President Lula (Brazil), President Mutharika (Malawi) and Prime Minister Gordon Brown, who all keep a high profile on the issue of food crisis and hunger, and who may either participate in person or send a video message. In addition, invitations may be extended to the head of OXFAM, former President Jimmy Carter and the head of one of the larger US foundations, such as the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. After presentations by the panelists, the floor would be open to brief statements from the regional groups and countries most affected by the crisis.

Concept paper: In consultation with the Rome-based agencies (WFP, FAO and IFAD), UNHCR, World Bank, UNDP and OCHA, DESA could prepare a short concept note (about four pages), outlining possible actions required immediately and in the short- and medium-terms. The main focus, however, would be on the immediate and short-term measures to alleviate the distress of those suffering the harshest impacts of the food crisis.

Outcome: The outcome of the ad hoc ECOSOC meeting could be a non-negotiated declaration by the President of the Council calling for urgent and coordinated action by the UN system and the international community and appealing to the donor community.

AUG 14 2008

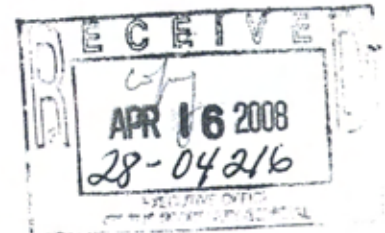


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ECOSOC



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Regretted to Danielle
due to travel on 19 May
2008.
Toni

MAY 21 2008

SG OFFICE

#1064 17 April

Speaking for the UN system at the meeting, you would assert your critical leadership necessary to unite the international community in a swift, coordinated and comprehensive response to the accelerating world food crisis.

In light of the above, I would request an indication of which two-hour slot between 19-20 May is most suitable for you, as well as your recommendations on the suggested format of the meeting.

*pls check
with schuly
office
7/4*

沙祖康

SHA Zukang
15 April 2008

cc: Deputy Secretary-General
Chef de Cabinet

CdC		SG	
For SG's approval	<input type="checkbox"/>	Approved	<input type="checkbox"/>
For SG's attention	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>by</i>	Noted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>ZG</i>
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Date		Date	
Comment (if applicable):			
<i>This will be discussed in Policy Committee etc.</i>			

(28-04216)

by

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*pls check
with schubert
Mie.
7/4*

沙祖康

SHA Zukang
15 April 2008

cc: Deputy Secretary-General
Chef de Cabinet

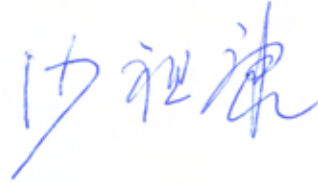
CdC		SG	
For SG's approval	<input type="checkbox"/>	Approved	<input type="checkbox"/>
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