

## **Round Table # 2: Voice and Participation of Developing Countries in International Economic Decision-Making, including the Bretton Woods Institutions**

**Talking Points  
16 April 2007**

**The multiple international commitments expressed in the Monterrey Consensus (# 7,43,57,62,63,64) and their less than complete implementation noted in the Secretary-General's report (# 10,11,12,13,19) are cause for grave concern within the international community, particularly among the developing countries, the NGO community and those people made even more poor by the lack of implementation of these international commitments.**

**The global economic environment has changed dramatically since the creation of the current international economic architecture, while international economic institutions have adapted slowly, if at all. Sustainable development in an increasingly interdependent economic environment requires the kind of universal cooperation that is a direct result of widespread participation in the decision-making that shapes that environment. The issue of voice and participation lies at the heart of the credibility and legitimacy of the international institutions overseeing sustainable growth of the global economy.**

**Therefore, we recommend:**

- 1. Implement the already agreed upon international mandates addressing the need for voice and participation of developing countries in international economic decision-making, including the Bretton Woods institutions.**
- 2. Reform the mandates, means and, in particular, the allocation of votes used by the Bretton Woods institutions regarding full voice and participation of developing countries in economic decision-making.**
- 3. Fully include developing countries in the reevaluation of political processes that would be most effective toward increased voice and participation of developing and transition countries on global economic decision-making and create appropriate alternatives reflective of the reevaluation.**
- 4. Promote the role of regional commissions and the regional development banks in supporting policy dialogue among countries at the regional level on macroeconomic, financial, trade and development issues and take seriously the input they offer.**
- 5. Change the relationship language between developed and developing countries to reflect partnership and reciprocity rather than donor-receiver hierarchies.**

- 6. Invite the creation of new power-balanced structural models for the multi-lateral financial institutions with special attention to inclusion and participation by all.**
- 7. Voice and participation are not substitutes for a “seat at the table” regarding decision-making. Thus, the modalities for inclusion must relate to the decision-making processes used by the IFIs.**
- 8. Increase the basic vote within the current quota system with votes proportional to country population, perhaps to the square root of the population.**
- 9. Decision-making policies should be congruent with democratic principles, representative for all member countries, employ avoidance of domination by one country or country grouping, and maintain as appropriate balance between “creditor and borrowing” countries.**
- 10. Implement inclusive processes that allow for full voice and participation at the local level through the national level to the international level.**
- 11. Implement at the state level processes that have proven most effective at the local levels that include transparent and full participation of those most impacted by economic policies and decisions.**
- 12. Full, democratic and inclusive representation in all the IFIs would result in recognition of the specific needs of developing countries and also a more just and widely accepted universal regulation that would contribute to a more stable financial system with welfare-enhancing effects for all.**

**NGO Committee on Financing for Development  
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