



## NGO Committee on Financing for Development

### ANNUAL REPORT, September 2007 – June 2008

The Committee met monthly for ten months from September through June. A new Executive Committee was voted in at the October meeting, Margaret Blamberg (United Church of Christ) as Chair, Carol Brandt (Sisters of Notre Dame) as Vice Chair, Germaine Price (Daughters of Charity) as Treasurer, Jennifer Kuhlman (UNANIMA) as Secretary, with Steve O’Neill (Marianists International) and Michael Neuroth (United Church of Christ) as members-at-large. Ms. Kuhlman and Mr. Neuroth left in the spring and were replaced by Daniel LeBlanc (Vivat International) as Secretary and Faith Colligan (Daughters of Charity) as member-at-large.

The primary focus of the Committee’s work was preparation for the International Follow-up Summit on Financing for Development (Doha Conference), to take place at the end of November 2008. At each monthly meeting, Daniel Platz of the UN’s FfD Office briefed the Committee on planning. Our Committee allied with eleven other worldwide networks of NGOs to form the Doha Negotiating Group (DNG), which is taking leadership in organizing presentation of Civil Society’s agenda. Philo Morris and Carol Brandt speak for our Committee on the DNG.

Our Committee engaged in the following activities, among others, during the year:

- 1) Submitted papers on Chapters 1, 2, 5 and 6 of the Monterrey Consensus during the GA Review Sessions.
- 2) Organized a side-event in conjunction with the Review Session on Mobilizing Domestic Sources of Financing.
- 3) Organized a Civil Society Forum in April, to coincide with the annual Bretton Woods Institutions conference at the UN.
- 4) Played a key role in organizing the Civil Society Forum in June, as well as providing speakers from our NGO.
- 5) Contributed to a Benchmark Document, designed to offer a blueprint for country delegates in drafting the Doha Outcome Document.

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- 6) Had presentations at our monthly meetings from representatives of a European debt network, the Tax Justice Initiative and the Women’s Financing for Development Working Group.
- 7) Members also prepared papers and made individual speeches, interventions and roundtable presentations in conjunction with Doha process.
- 8) Members made speeches at UNCTAD’s Conference in Accra, Ghana, the UN’s Institute of Development Research in Helsinki, Finland and the Annual Ministerial Review here in New York.

The Committee received grants from two donors to further the work of Civil Society in the Doha process totaling \$6000, as well as another \$800 payment-in-kind from other sources.

The Committee has 30 dues-paying members (at \$25 per annum) with voting rights, plus 75 associate (information only) members.

During the fall semester, the Committee mentored five graduate students in international relations from the New School University. These students developed theses on three of the Monterrey Consensus chapters. A similar cohort of six students researched the other three chapters in the spring. Their work served as background information for the Committee’s Doha lobbying effort.

Also during the spring semester and the summer, the Committee hosted law student interns from St. Thomas University who were recommended by Pax Romana and Oscar de Rojas, Director of the UN’s FfD Office. This is part of an ongoing relationship among our institutions. The students researched and drafted documents, as well as reported on UN meetings.

It was a busy year, with important activity undertaken in preparation of the Doha conference. I am pleased to report that the members of the Committee were actively engaged in the process, many of whom stepped forward to give speeches and interventions, write documents and network/organize behind the scenes.

The current year has already begun with a ratcheting up of the effort to make Doha a success for the sake of poor countries and poor people in all countries.

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Respectfully submitted,

*Margaret O. Blamberg*

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