

Legislation on Special High Level Meeting of ECOSOC

General Assembly legislation

1996

Resolution **50/227** (Further measures for the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields). Annex I (Para. 88) states:

“In order to improve communication and cooperation at the intergovernmental level between the Council and the international financial and trade institutions, the Council should schedule periodically a high-level special meeting at a time proximate to the semi-annual meetings of the Bretton Woods institutions.”

1999

Resolution **54/196** (High-level international intergovernmental consideration of financing for development) recognized:

WTO as a key stakeholder in both the preparatory process and in the high-level intergovernmental event.¹

2002

March 2002, the **Monterrey Consensus (para. 69 B)** encouraged “the United Nations, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, with the World Trade Organization, to address issues of coherence, coordination and cooperation, as a follow-up to the Conference, at the spring meeting between the Economic and Social Council and the Bretton Woods institutions.” Consequently, WTO participated in the ECOSOC special high-level meeting for the first time in April 2002.

2003

Resolution **57/270 B** (Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields) states:

“Also invites the Economic and Social Council to include representatives of the Trade and Development Board in the high-level meeting of the Council with the Bretton Woods institutions and the World Trade Organization”.

¹

Resolution **57/250** (High-Level Dialogue on strengthening international economic cooperation for development through partnership) states:

Stressing also the importance of connecting, in ascending order, the spring high-level meeting of the Economic and Social Council with the Bretton Woods institutions and the World Trade Organization, which will address the issue of coherence, coordination and cooperation, and the reconstituted High-Level Dialogue in the General Assembly, which will serve as the focal point for the follow-up to the International Conference on Financing for Development and will include a policy dialogue on the implementation of the results of the Conference, including the theme of coherence and consistency of the international monetary, financial and trading systems in support of development”.

2004

Resolution **58/230** (Follow-up to and implementation of the outcome of the International Conference on Financing for Development) states:

“Invites the World Trade Organization to strengthen its institutional relationship with the United Nations, in particular through its active involvement in the meeting of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council devoted to financing for development, and through its participation in the preparations off the annual report on the implementation of and follow-up to the commitments made and agreements reaches at the International Conference on Financing for Development”.

Recalls paragraph 69 of the Monterrey Consensus and building on the experience of the high-level spring meeting of the Economic and Social Council and the High-level Dialogue of the General Assembly in 2003, in the context of the integrated approach to the follow-up to and implementation of the commitments made and agreements reached at the International Conference on Financing for Development, requests:

(b) The President of the Economic and Social Council, with support from the Vice-Presidents, to enhance the Council’s interactions through regular exchanges with the Bretton Woods institutions, the World Trade Organization and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development on organizational matters related to the follow-up to the International Conference on Financing for Development, within the context of the preparations for the high-level meeting with these institutions, bearing in mind General Assembly resolution 57/270 B and Economic and Social Council resolution 2003/47, and to report thereon to the Council;

(c) The President of the Economic and Social Council, in consultation with all major institutional stakeholders, to focus the annual special high-level meeting on specific issues, within the holistic integrated approach of the Monterrey Consensus, and to report thereon to the Council;

ECOSOC legislation

1996

Resolution **1996/46** (Strengthening collaboration between the United Nations development system and the Bretton Woods institutions) states:

“Recommends the scheduling of a high-level special meeting at a time proximate to the semi-annual meetings of the Bretton Woods institutions with a view to benefiting, to the extent possible, from ministerial participation and from the participation of heads of financial and trade institutions and other relevant organizations, as called for by the General Assembly in paragraph 88 of annex I to its resolution 50/227”.

1999

Decision **1999/204** (Dates of sessions of subsidiary bodies of the Economic and Social Council and of other meetings of the Council in 1999) states:

“The high-level meeting of the Council with representatives of the Bretton Woods institutions should be held at headquarters on 29 April”.

Resolution **1999/51** (Restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields and cooperation between the United Nations and the Bretton Woods institutions) states:

“Welcomes the high-level special meeting of the Council with the Bretton Woods institutions, and decides to maintain such meetings while focusing the agenda, in consultation with the Bretton Woods institutions, on one or two major substantive issues in order to provide sufficient time to share views and explore the relationship with the high-level segment of the Council;”

2000

Decision **2000/206** (Date of the high-level meeting of the Economic and Social Council with representatives of the Bretton Woods institutions) states:

“At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 4 February 2000, the Economic and Social Council decided that the high-level meeting of the Council with representatives of the Bretton Woods institutions would be held at Headquarters on 18 April 2000 from 9.30 a.m. to 1.30 p.m.”

2001

Decision **2001/207**(Date of the high-level meeting of the Economic and Social Council with representatives of the Bretton Woods institutions) states:

“At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 31 January 2001, the Economic and Social Council decided that the high-level meeting of the Council with representatives of the Bretton Woods institutions would be held at Headquarters on 1 May 2001.”

2002

Decision **2002/205** (Date of the high-level meeting of the Economic and Social Council with representatives of the Bretton Woods institutions) states:

“At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 13 February 2002, the Economic and Social Council decided that its high-level meeting with representatives of the Bretton Woods institutions would be held at Headquarters on 22 or 23 April 2002.”

Resolution **2002/34** (International Conference on Financing for Development) states:

“*Taking note* of the summary prepared by the President of the Council of its annual spring meeting with the Bretton Woods institutions and the World Trade Organization, which was held on 22 April 2002,”

“*Affirms* its commitment, in its role of interacting with other institutional stakeholder, to make full use of the dialogue that takes place during its annual spring meeting with the Bretton Woods institutions and the World Trade Organization to address, in addition to general matters of common interest, the issues of coherence, coordination and cooperation related to the follow-up to the International Conference on Financing for Development, and in that regard:

- (a) *Underlines* the need for a well-prepared and focused agenda for a meeting geared to advancing implementation, as well as examining further steps to be taken by each of the stakeholders to move the Monterrey process forward;
- (b) *Recommends* that the agenda reflect the holistic approach to the interconnected national, regional, international and systemic challenges of financing for development;”

2003

Decision **2003/206** (Date of the high-level meeting of the Economic and Social Council with representatives of the Bretton Wood institutions and the World Trade Organization) states:

“At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 28 January 2003, the Economic and Social Council decided that its high-level meeting with representatives of the Bretton Woods institutions and the World Trade Organizations would be held at Headquarters on 14 April 2003.”

Decision **2003/209** (General parameters and theme for the spring 2003 meeting of the Economic and Social Council with the Bretton Woods institutions and the World Trade Organization) states:

“At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 30 January 2003, the Economic and Social Council took note of a memorandum dated 24 January 2003 from the Bureau of the Council to the members of the Council, concerning the general parameters of the spring 2003 meeting of the Council with the Bretton Wood institutions and the World Trade Organization, as well as the theme of the meeting, “Increased coherence, coordination and cooperation for the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development at all levels one year after the Conference”.

Resolution **2003/47** (International Conference on Financing for Development) states:

“Takes note with appreciation of the summary by the President of the Economic and Social Council of the special high-level meeting of the Council with the Bretton Woods institutions and the World Trade Organization, held in New York on 14 April 2003, which constitutes an important input provided by the Council to the high-level dialogue on financing for development, which is to be held by the General Assembly in October 2003;

Expresses its satisfaction with the interactive dialogue of the special high-level meeting of the Council with the Bretton Woods institutions and the World Trade Organization, which constitutes an important and successful step in the follow-up process provided for in paragraph 69 of the Monterrey Consensus;

Decides to build on the experience accumulated during the high-level meeting of the Council in 2003 in convening and organising the next high-level spring meeting to address issues of coherence, coordination and cooperation in the context of the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus, examining further specific steps that could be taken by each of the stakeholders to move the Monterrey process forward;

Decided also to include representatives of the Trade and Development Board of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development in the high-level meeting of the Council with the Bretton Woods institutions and the World Trade Organization;

Theme of the meeting

Until 2002, the meeting and its round tables addressed an overall theme of meeting, which was identified by the Bureau of the Council in consultation with the Bretton Woods institutions. The special high-level meeting held in 2002 had the broad theme “Dialogue on the outcome of the International Conference on Financing for Development and of the meetings of the Development Committee and the IMFC”. (Two round tables were convened addressing the overall theme of the meeting).

Moreover, the Economic and Social Council decided, in its resolution **E/2002/34**, (International Conference on Financing for Development) adopted on July 26, 2002, to:

“...make full use of the dialogue that takes place during its annual spring meeting with the Bretton Woods institutions and the World Trade Organization to address, in addition to general matters of common interest, the issues of coherence, coordination and cooperation related to the follow-up to the International Conference on Financing for Development, and in that regard:

- (c) *Underlines* the need for a well-prepared and focused agenda for a meeting geared to advancing implementation, as well as examining further steps to be taken by each of the stakeholders to move the Monterrey process forward.

ECOSOC Decision **2003/209** (General parameters and theme for the spring 2003 meeting of the Economic and Social Council with the Bretton Woods institutions and the World Trade Organization) stated²:

“At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 30 January 2003, the Economic and Social Council took note of a memorandum dated 24 January 2003 from the Bureau of the Council to the members of the Council, concerning the general parameters of the spring 2003 meeting of the Council with the Bretton Wood institutions and the World Trade Organization, as well as the theme of the meeting, “Increased coherence, coordination and cooperation for the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development at all levels one year after the Conference”.

2

In 2003, the President of the Council circulated a note on “General parameters for the 2003 spring meeting between ECOSOC, the B-W institutions and the WTO” which was considered in several informal consultations of the Council on 27 November 2002, 22 January 2003, and 30 January 2003. While the round tables initially were intended to address the overall theme of the meeting, the President of the Council together with the Co-chairs of the round tables focused the dialogue in each round table on a different theme of the Monterrey Consensus: systemic issues, financial cooperation and debt, policy coherence in the area of trade and investment, and domestic economic and social policies.

Annex 1

Themes of Special High Level Meeting of ECOSOC

1998

- Global financial integration and development and recent issues

1999

- The functioning of international financial markets and stability in financing for development

2000

- Strengthening international financial arrangements and addressing poverty

2001

- Development financing, in particular poverty eradication, ODA and debt
- Movement towards a development-friendly international financial system: public and private responsibility in the prevention of financial crises

Two round tables were convened addressing the two overall themes

2002

- Dialogue on the outcome of the International Conference on Financing for Development and of the meetings of the Development Committee and the IMFC

Two round tables were convened addressing the overall theme

2003

- Increased coherence, coordination and cooperation for the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus at all levels, one year after the Conference

Four round tables were convened addressing a different theme of the Monterrey Consensus:

- Systemic issues
- Financial cooperation and debt,
- Policy coherence in the area of trade and investment
- Domestic economic and social policies

2004

- Coherence, coordination and cooperation in the context of the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus

2005

- Coherence, coordination and cooperation in the context of the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus: Achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration

Six round tables were convened addressing a different theme of the Monterrey Consensus:

- Policies and strategies
- Trade, investment, and private flows
- ODA, innovative sources of financing and debt