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**Background on the
Special High Level Meeting of ECOSOC with the Bretton Woods Institutions and WTO
26 April 2004**

Introduction

In a continued multilateral effort to further the attainment of development goals, the Economic and Social Council will host a special high-level meeting with the Bretton Woods Institutions, the World Trade Organization and—for the first time—UNCTAD, following its resolution E/2003/47.

The meeting will take place at the United Nations Headquarters in New York on 26 April 2004, the day after the spring meetings in Washington of the International Monetary and Financial Committee and the Development Committee.

The General Assembly, in its resolution 58/230, requested 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.

This year's meeting will build on last year's event by addressing the overall theme of **“Coherence, coordination and cooperation in the context of the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus”**. In addition, the meeting will focus on three specific themes in the roundtable discussions. It is intended to be a freele dis9oBrey Consensus.

and the international financial and trade institutions could mutually support their respective efforts in promoting and coordinating programme activities within their purviews relating to these issues, the Council should schedule periodically 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 high-level ministerial participation and the participation of heads of financial and trade institutions and other relevant organizations.”

Early on in the preparatory process towards the International Conference on Financing for Development the General Assembly, in resolution 54/196 of 1999, recognized WTO as a key stakeholder in both the preparatory process and in the high-level intergovernmental event.

Subsequently, in March 2002, the