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LEF

United Nations Economic and Social Council
Special High-level meeting on Coherence, coordination and cooperation
in the context of the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus,
including new challenges and emerging issues

14 April 2008

Roundtable on New initiatives on financing for development

About the World Savings Banks Institute (WSBI)

The World Savings Banks Institute (WSBI) is the global voice of savings and retail banking and brings together 109 savings h

em to provide regional outreach, and they adopt a socially responsible approach to business and to society in general.

WSBI represents the interests of its member banks with national, regional and international financial institutions and stakeholders, on a broad range of bank related issues. It also provides technical assistance and training services, facilitates their international cooperation across borders, and helps the development of their market positions. One of its top policy priorities is to enlarge the access to financial services for the widest part of the population and for entrepreneurs, worldwide.

WSBI, a key platform for the development of business partnerships between North and South member banks

Building partnerships between developed and developing countries, with a view to introduce innovative ways of raising finance for development, seems indeed a promising route. We understand t







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creating or expanding a small business. The pr



Suggestion to move forward and improve the current situation

Encourage linkages between banks and microfinance institutions

Closer linkages between banks and microfinance institutions (MFIs) would be mutually beneficial. MFIs rely on banks for a variety of services, including deposit facilities, liquidity management services, and in some cases, emergency credit lines to cover cash shortfalls. For banks, the benefits would be the opportunity to expand their client base through MFIs, and their operations through the network of MFIs (including in the rural sector).

The linkages between MFIs and banks would also help to broadly tie up the activities in the formal and informal sectors of the economy and provide opportunities for small entrepreneurs to graduate from micro credit to conventional bank loans. Therefore, the conditions to support such partnerships should be explored, in particular with regard to the possibility of acquisition of a stake in microfinance institutions or the sub-contracting of retail operations (deposit-taking services, money transfer services, last mile solutions for remittances). Value propositions could consist in technical support (provision o