

## Message from the United Nations Representative

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*Ricardo Espinosa, Head of the NGO Liaison Office, United Nations Office at Geneva*

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Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen, dear friends,

CIFA has chosen to hold its 9th Congress in this wonderful city of Madrid, located on the European continent but far enough from the Headquarters of the United Nations Office at Geneva that I cannot be here with you today. I regret it, but I am pleased to convey to all of you this short welcome address.

As head of the Liaison Office with non-governmental organizations of the United Nations Office at Geneva, I have double reasons to be disappointed not to be with you. First, because at its congresses, CIFA offers participants a unique opportunity to discuss complex topics in a convivial and friendly but no less professional setting.

I am also disappointed not to be here because one of the dimensions of my job is to encourage, support and promote the activities of non-governmental organizations such as CIFA. This Congress will be rich with lessons for the participants, of course, experts in the fields on the agenda. But the content of your discussions and the conclusions you will reach are also of great interest to the international community. We should not underestimate the scope of the messages (dare we say the demands!) that NGOs can pass on to the United Nations Member States and the general public. The Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations granted to CIFA in 2007, gives it a right to contribute to the work of various UN bodies including ECOSOC and the Council of Human Rights, to which CIFA may share the results of the discussions of this congress.

Finally, I am disappointed not to be here with you because I wanted to tell you personally that I congratulate CIFA for being a relative pioneer (at least in the NGO world) and have discussed already in 2005 during its Third Forum in Geneva the important theme of financial regulation and the dialogue with regulators. During this Forum, a member of the CIFA had said, I quote: "Let's launch a proactive dialogue with the regulators and offer suggestions to improve – rather than increase – the way our profession is regulated." This member (which is certainly in the audience) could not be better advised: the crisis of recent years has certainly offered great opportunities to demonstrate his insight!

I hope that during this Eighth Congress you will be as inspired as you have been in the past, and that the result of your work will help make your profession more efficient. But I especially wish that your quest for performance be in line with the principles of good governance adopted by the United Nations, which have been clearly outlined at major international conferences such as Monterrey and Doha. According to the United Nations, these principles of good governance must include financial management.

I thank you for your attention and wish you every success in your convention.

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