



58th Annual DPI/NGO Conference

Our Challenge: Voices for Peace, Partnerships and Renewal

United Nations, New York
7-9 September 2005

Story Idea 4

Voices for Partnerships: United Nations and Private Sector

“It is the absence of broad-based business activity, not its presence that condemns much of humanity to suffering. Indeed, what is utopian is the notion that poverty can be overcome without the active engagement of business.” Kofi Annan

Cooperation of the United Nations with governments, civil society, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and the private sector plays an important role on the road towards achieving the Millennium development Goals (MDGs). In July 2000, the Secretary-General had already asked business leaders to join an international initiative – Global Compact – that would bring companies together with United Nations agencies and civil society. This direct initiative by the Secretary-General is a network involving The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), International Labour Organization (ILO), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) as well as governments, companies and civil society organizations.

Under the framework of the Global Compact international development experts, policy makers and business leaders met in London in July 2005 to discuss how the private sector can forge valuable partnerships with governments and civil society and mobilize resources to support the achievement of the MDGs in Africa. There was broad consensus among participants that the private sector participation was crucial for successfully achieving the MDGs on the African continent.

UNDP sets an example on how partnerships between United Nations, governments and the private sector can make international programmes more effective. Over the last few years, UNDP developed more than 30 partnerships with the private sector working to advance the MDGs. UNDP is engaged in 166 countries helping develop national capacities to achieve the MDGs. The so-called Capacity 2015 works through a series of partnerships in five regions of the world: Africa, the Arab States, Asia, Latin-America, Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent

States. These partnerships and networks are specifically tailored to better fit the regional requirements and provide a conducive environment for higher effectiveness

In 2000, UNDP established the Bureau for Resources and Strategic Partnerships with the aim of developing and better coordinating its relationship with Member States, international financial institutions, regional development banks, other United Nations offices and international organizations, the civil society and the private sector.

Other examples of successful partnerships with the private sector include HSBC and CitiGroup funding global environment projects as well as the partnership between the BP Foundation and UNDP to help raise living standards in East Timor by providing financial resources and input into finding ways to reduce poverty. UNDP also teamed up with PKN ORLEN, Poland's largest oil company, the city of Plock and other local partners concerned with promoting corporate social responsibility and sustainable development.

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During the 58th DPI/NGO Conference, the following speakers will share their experiences, expertise and views on effective partnerships for development:

Jan Egeland, United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator

Kemal Dervis, Administrator, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Anwarul Chowdhury, United Nations High Representative for Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States

Salil Shetty, Director, United Nations Millennium Development Goals Campaign, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Diana Medman, Chairperson, Russian Women's Microfinance Network; Director, AO Bioprocess, Russia

Paul van Tongeren, Executive Director, European Centre for Conflict Prevention

Anne O'Mahony, Regional Director, Concern Worldwide

Georg Kell, Director, Global Compact Office

Ann Veneman, Executive Director, United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

Sylvan Barnet, Representative to the United Nations, Rotary International

Teclaire Ntomb, President, Groupe d'Initiative Commune des Paysannes de Bogso (GICPAB), Cameroon

Owen Robert Otu, President, African Youth Movement, Nigeria

Hanifa Mezoui, Chief, NGO Section, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs

Bill Pace, Executive Director, World Federalist Movement (WFM)

Alejandra Scampini, Uruguay Director, Red de Educación Popular entre Mujeres (REPEM); Representative, Feminist Task Force, Global Call to Action against Poverty (GCAP)

Paul Tennessee, United Nations Representative, World Confederation of Labour

Juan Somavia, Director-General, International Labour Organisation (ILO)

Renate Bloem, President, Conference of NGOs in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations (CONGO)

During the three days, a number of midday interactive workshops organized by NGOs will also look at the private sector partnerships with the United Nations. Some of the speakers include:

Ghida Fakhry, New York Bureau Chief, *Asharq Al Awsat*; Host, *Al Arabiya*; Commentator,

CNN International

Steven Chandler Hall, European Baha'i Business Forum; Founder, New York City Baha'i Business Forum

Paula Ivey, President, CSR Group; Professor, University of Texas at Austin; Member, Academic Advisory Committee, United Nations Global Compact

Gulab Kothari, Chairman of JMPCT, Owner, Editor and Managing Director of Hindi Daily Rajasthan Patrika, India

Raymundo Magliano Filho, President, BOVESPA (São Paulo Stock Exchange), Brazil (invited)

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Useful Links:

58th DPI/NGO Conference www.unngodpconference.org

In Larger Freedom www.un.org/largerfreedom

Millennium Campaign www.millenniumcampaign.org

The 2005 World Summit: An Overview www.un.org/ga/documents/overview2005summit.pdf

High-Level Plenary Meeting of the GA – Draft Outcome Document www.un.org/ga/59/hlpm_rev.2.pdf

The Cardoso Report – Report of the Panel of Eminent Persons on the United Nations Civil-Society Relations <http://www.un.org/reform/panel.htm> or <http://www.un.org/dpi/ngosection/N0437641.pdf>

Secretary-General's Response to the Report <http://www.un.org/reform/panel.htm>

General Assembly Informal Hearings Outcome Document www.un-ngls.org/GA-hearing-advance-unedited-summary-21july.doc

We Will Spare No Effort www.ngocongo.org/ngomeet/millplusfive/M+5reportfull.pdf

UNHCR www.unhcr.ch

UNEP www.unep.org

ILO www.ilo.org

UNDP www.undp.org

UNIDO www.unido.org

UNODC www.unodc.org

Global Compact <http://www.unglobalcompact.org>