



## **Strengthening Conflict-Sensitive Business Practices in Vulnerable and Conflict-Affected States**

### **Symposium**

Co-Sponsored by the Government of Germany, the UN Global Compact and the Friedrich Ebert Foundation

Date: December 14, 2004

Time: 9:00 a.m. – 1:15 p.m.

Location: The United Nations (ECOSOC Chamber)

### **Final Agenda**

#### **Objectives of the Meeting:**

1. To build upon recent policy initiatives at the UN, including the April 2004 Security Council debate on “Business in Conflict” and the work of the UN Global Compact’s three-year Policy Dialogue on “The Role of the Private Sector in Zones of Conflict,” to develop more effective strategies for the promotion of conflict-sensitive business practices.
2. To explore ways to scale-up cooperation in support of business, NGO, Government and UN efforts aimed at promoting conflict-sensitive business practices in vulnerable and conflict-affected countries.

#### **Specific Themes and Topics Include (inter alia):**

1. Contributing to the clarification of the respective roles of the private sector, home and host governments, the UN, and NGOs in ensuring that business operations in conflict-related situations avoid negative impact on the socio-political dynamics and contribute to conflict prevention and peace building. What are the comparative advantages of each of these actors? How can each of them best contribute? Through which mechanisms?
2. Showcasing promising multistakeholder initiatives that have had a bearing on the promotion of conflict-sensitive business practices and identifying ways to scale them up (Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative, Kimberley Process).
3. Seeking more effective engagement of NGOs, governments, companies, trade unions and other stakeholders in developing countries, particularly in war-torn and post-conflict states.

## Final Agenda

- 9:00-9:15 **Welcome and Opening Remarks**  
Speaker: H.E. Mr. Wolfgang F. H. Trautwein, Deputy Permanent Representative of Germany to the United Nations
- 9:15-9:30 **Keynote Speech**  
Speaker: Mr. Jannik Lindbaek, Chairman of the Board of Directors, Statoil ASA
- 9:30-9:45 **The Private Sector as a Partner in Conflict Prevention and Peace-Building: Ongoing Efforts of the UN and the Global Compact Office**  
Speaker: Mr. Otto Lampe, Head, Taskforce on Global Issues, German Foreign Office
- 9:45- 11:15 **Panel 1: Promoting Conflict-Sensitive Business Practices: The View from Conflict-Affected Countries**
- Chair:** H.E. Mr. Aminu Bashir Wali, Permanent Representative of Nigeria to the United Nations
- Afghanistan: Engaging Private Sector Actors in Post-Conflict Reconstruction  
Speaker: Ms. Mariam Nawabi, Commercial and Trade Counsel, Embassy of Afghanistan to the US
- Colombia: Business in Zones of Conflict – A Labour Perspective  
Speaker: Mr. Ivan Toro, Member of the Executive Committee of the Colombian Workers Confederation (CTC)
- Sierra Leone: Restoring Peace and Prosperity to the Diamond Economy  
Speaker: Mr. Lansana Gberie, Senior Research Fellow, Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre
- Democratic Republic of Congo: Dismantling the War Economy: The Private Sector and the Imperative of Good Governance  
Speaker: Mr. Baudouin Hamuli Kabarhuza, Executive Director, Centre National d'Appui à la Participation Populaire (CENADEP)
- Discussion**
- 11:15-11:30 Coffee Break

11:30-1:00

**Panel 2: Promoting Conflict-Sensitive Business Practices: Exploring the Role of Governments and the UN Community**

**Chair:** Mr. Danilo Turk, UN Assistant Secretary General for Political Affairs; Head of the Interagency Working Group on the Political Economy of Armed Conflict

A Business Perspective: Conducting Sustainable Business in Conflict-Related Situations: Recommendations for Public Policy Responses

Speaker #1: Mr. Bernd Stecher, Corporate Vice President, Siemens

Speaker #2: Mr. Rubén Darío Lizarralde, Chief Executive Officer, Indupalma, Colombia

A Government Perspective: The Role of Governments in Promoting Policy Processes in Support of Conflict-Sensitive Business Practices

Speaker #1: Mr. Ameen Jan, Team Leader, Countries at Risk of Instability Project, Prime Minister's Strategy Unit, UK

Government

Speaker #2: H.E. Mr. Peter Maurer, Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the UN

**Discussion**

1:00-1:15

**Concluding Remarks**

H.E. Mr. Joël W. Adechi, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Benin to the United Nations