



THE GLOBAL
COMPACT



**GLOBAL COMPACT
POLICY DIALOGUE:
Promoting Stability and Growth in Central Asia
Through Expanded Business Opportunities**

DRAFT AGENDA

13-14 November 2003

Almaty, Kazakhstan

Conference Hall, UNDP Outreach Centre, UN Almaty



DAY 1

09:30 – 09:45 Opening Remarks

PLENARY SESSION 1

The Importance of Central Asia as a Zone of Democracy and Growth

Chair: Kalman Mizsei

09:45 – 10:15 The Strategic Importance of Central Asia to the World

10:15 – 10:45 A Vision of Central Asia for the Year 2015

10:45 – 11:00 Coffee Break

11:00 – 12:30 **Panel Discussions** (to run simultaneously)

Panel 1: Unlocking the potential of Central Asia. Prevailing patterns of economic, political and social change in the region. Challenges for the next generation of reforms.

Key Issues:

- *Energy security: where do Central Asia and the Caspian Basin fit in?*
- *Geopolitical considerations*
- *Social and cultural factors*
- *Status of transition: advancing market and democratic reforms*
- Private Sector perspectives
- Government perspectives: Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan

Panel 2: The importance of broad-based economic growth for the Central Asian states and the significance of regional and global integration.

Key Issues:

- *The prudent management of oil revenues and revenue-sharing regimes*
- *Strengthening regional cooperation through trade (toward improving the investment climate and attracting foreign investors to the region)*
- *WTO accession*
- View of Governments
- View of private companies

12:30 – 13:00 Reporting to Plenary and Summary

13:00 – 14:30 LUNCH BREAK

PLEANRY SESSION 2

The Role of Business in a Democratic Central Asian Market Economy

**14:30 – 15:45 Panel Discussion
 Setting the Stage for Business-led Growth in Central Asia**

Key Issues:

- *Private sector development through industrial expansion and economic diversification*
- *An assessment of the current business climate in Central Asia - policy and regulatory frameworks for private sector development*
- *Legislation and incentives for investment promotion*
- *How to broaden Small and Medium Business participation*
 - View from the Private Sector
 - View from Government
 - View from the International Community
 - View from a Non-Governmental Organization

15:45 – 16:00 Coffee Break

16:00 – 17:30 Panel Discussions (to run simultaneously)

Panel 3: Challenges for attracting foreign investment and trade partners – the importance of a rule-of-law based business environment, sound institutions, transparency and good governance.

Key Issues:

- *The role of foreign companies in strengthening standards of governance in transition economies*
- *How to enhance the investment image of the region and the business environment by reducing corruption and strengthening accountability and transparency*
- View from the private sector
- View from civil society organizations

- View of Governments: Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan

Panel 4: Defining the boundaries of business engagement – what business should do and can do. Challenges to ensuring positive economic, social and environmental impacts of investments.

Key Issues:

- *The business case for the private sector to engage in social and development issues*
 - *Key areas for business engagement*
 - *Business solutions for national development: aligning capacities, resources and competencies*
- Views from the private sector
 - Views from civil society organizations
 - View from Governments: Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan

17:30 – 18:00 Reporting to Plenary and Summary

DAY 2

PLENARY SESSION

Partnerships between Business, Government, Civil Society and the International Community for a Democratic and Dynamic Central Asia

09:30 – 10:40 Areas of Potential Partnership in Central Asia. Working together to achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

Key Issues:

- *Informative presentation on the “Norms on the Responsibilities of Transnational Corporations and other Business Enterprises with Regard to Human Rights”*
- *UNDP sub-regional strategy for Central Asia*
- *Business and the Millennium Development Goals – a framework for action.*

Moderator: Business Representative

- A Business Perspective
- A Government Perspective
- A Civil Society Perspective
- An International Perspective

10:40 – 11:00 Coffee Break

11:00 – 12:00 **Panel Discussions** (to run simultaneously)

Panel 5: Partnerships toward ensuring a stable path to a democratic market economy in Central Asia

Key Issues:

- *Partnerships -Benefits and lessons learned*
 - *The role of international organisations in facilitating public-private sector dialogue and partnerships*
 - *Enterprise support and development*
 - *Sustainable management of resources and environmental challenges*
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- A Business Perspective
 - A Government Perspective
 - A Civil Society Perspective
 - An International Perspective

Panel 6: Conflict Impact Assessment and Risk Management

The Global Compact Business Guide on Conflict Impact will be presented and discussed. The goal of the Guide is two-fold, to aid companies as they assess the potential impact of investing in areas of conflict; and to provide guidance in developing strategies to minimize the negative effects and maximize the positive effects of such investments.

- A Business Perspective
- A Government Perspective
 - A Civil Society Perspective
 - An International Perspective

12:00 – 12:30 Summary and Closing Statement – Next Steps