



THE GLOBAL
COMPACT



UNITED NATIONS
SYSTEM STAFF COLLEGE

United Nations System Private Sector Focal Points Meeting

**A meeting to share experiences and learn how to work more effectively with
business and foundation partners to achieve UN goals**

Agenda

**Palais des Nations
Room VII
Geneva
26-27 May, 2005**

co-hosted by
**UN Global Compact
UN System Staff College**

*Peace and prosperity cannot be achieved without partnerships
involving governments, international organizations, the
business community and civil society.*

Kofi Annan
UN Secretary General



Overall Meeting Objective

As a follow up to the ‘Roundtable – Achieving the Millennium Development Goals: UN Partnerships with the Private Sector and Foundations’ 24-25 October 2002, participants will review progress, discuss institutional challenges and assess innovative strategies to enhance business and philanthropy for development.

Specific Objectives

1. To offer UN private sector focal points an opportunity to network and share recent experiences, assess the key lessons learned and determine follow up.
2. To identify and analyze innovative UN partnership approaches for development.
3. To provide input to the 2005 Secretary-General’s report on ‘The UN and Partnerships: Taking Stock and Sketching a Way Forward’.
4. To explore and assess the core partnership competencies and learning needs of UN staff in order to facilitate partnership capacity building and mainstreaming within the UN system.
5. To identify and discuss common UN system-wide priority issues that could lead to a more strategic UN approach and greater cooperation between the UN System, businesses, foundations and philanthropists.

United Nations System Private Sector Focal Points Meeting

DAY 1: Thursday 26 May, 2005

9:00 - 9:30 Registration
(Registration will take place at Room VII in the Palais des Nations)

Meeting Facilitator: Jane Nelson, Director, Corporate Responsibility Initiative, Harvard University, and International Business Leaders Forum

9:30 -10:30 1. Opening Plenary Session and Discussion: Reviewing UN-Business Relationships

Global Corporate Citizenship and the UN: Perspectives and Prospects
Georg Kell, Executive Head, United Nations Global Compact

Learning and Capacity Building for UN-Business Partnerships
Timothy Cartwright, Director, United Nations System Staff College

Partnerships and the UN: Key Lessons and Future Opportunities
Angel Silva, Director of Administration/Acting Head of Programme
United Nations Fund for International Partnerships

Opportunities and Challenges in UN-Business Partnerships
Jan Martin Witte, Associate Director, Global Public Policy Institute

10:30-11:00 2. Plenary Brainstorming Session

Participants will have the opportunity to reflect upon the following key questions throughout the course of the meeting:

- 1) What are the big issues and challenges you are facing?
- 2) Do you have any notable examples to share?
- 3) What are your ideas for better UN collaboration and concrete next steps?

11:00-11:30 *Coffee Break (Delegates' Lounge – Room VI)*

11:30-13:00 3. Working Groups Session

Participants will choose to participate in one of four simultaneous working group sessions. The aim of this session is to provide an interactive platform for participants to discuss and learn from each other on the topics of most relevance to their work.

The four working groups to select from include:

- A. Accountability Mechanisms; B. Learning and Capacity Building;
- C. Country Level Partnerships; D. Resource Mobilization: New Strategies and Trends

A. Accountability Mechanisms

“Accountability” is one of the most recent international buzzwords. Many critics decry the lack of accountability of partnerships between the UN and business, and see the reputation of the UN at risk. However, the term accountability usually remains either underspecified or misunderstood. Calls for partnership accountability usually ignore the great diversity of UN-business initiatives that take place in the real world, and the costs and trade-offs involved in putting accountability mechanisms in place. This working group will aim to move beyond politics towards a constructive discussion on what kind of accountability challenges the UN confronts, and how UN staff may be able to constructively deal with them.

Lead Discussants:

Julia Steets, Global Public Policy Institute

Cornis van der Lugt, United Nations Environment Programme

B. Learning and Capacity Building

The need to enhance UN system-wide capacity to develop partnerships with the private sector and other non-state actors is rising up the UN’s organizational learning agenda. For example, the Panel of Eminent Persons on UN-Civil Society Relations concluded that the UN needed “to become a more outward-looking organization in response to the changing nature of multilateralism; to embrace a plurality of constituencies and establish new partnerships to tackle global challenges.”¹ There is growing recognition of the importance of integrating partnership skills and tools into internal UN human resource processes to strengthen UN staff competencies to identify and build effective cross-sector partnerships. This working group will explore the needs, opportunities and challenges in this area.

Lead Discussants:

David Murphy, United Nations System Staff College

Christophe Nuttall, United Nations Institute for Training and Research

¹ In a related vein, the new Report of the Secretary-General ‘In Larger Freedom: Towards Development, Security and Human Rights For All’ notes that the UN’s “strength must be drawn from the breadth of its partnerships and from its ability to bring those partners into effective coalitions for change across the whole spectrum of issues on which action is required.”

C. Country Level Partnerships

A focus on country-level/local partnerships is crucial as this is where sustainable and innovative partnership growth is occurring. Impetus for enhanced partnership initiatives at the local level is emerging from various directions. For example, 'Investing in Development: A Practical Plan to Achieve the Millennium Development Goals' suggests that developing country governments should work closely with civil society organisations, the domestic private sector and international partners to "craft and implement MDG-based poverty reduction strategies"; and with private sector firms and organizations to "contribute actively to policy design, transparency initiatives and...public-private partnerships." This working group will identify and analyze innovative UN partnership approaches for development at the local level.

Lead Discussants:

Kai Bethke, United Nations Industrial Development Organization

Arun Kashyap, United Nations Development Programme

D. Resource Mobilization: New Strategies and Trends

Against a backdrop of declining official development assistance (ODA), the UN and its development partners are facing increasing challenges to identify new and additional financial and in-kind resources to support the achievement of the MDGs globally. Developing country governments are competing with each other for their share of a shrinking ODA pie. This working group will review successful UN resource mobilization experiences to date and explore new strategies and trends in securing funding and in-kind support from corporations, foundations, wealthy individuals and other non-ODA sources, and in promoting private investment (domestic and foreign) in developing countries to mobilize resources for development and the attainment of the MDGs.

Lead Discussants:

Aysen Tanyeri-Abur, Food and Agriculture Organization

David Carter, United Nations Foundation

13:00-14:00 *Lunch (Main Cafeteria – Ground floor)*
Participants are required to cover own expenses

14:00-15:00 4. Plenary Session: Working Group Report-Backs

One representative from each of the four working groups will report-back to the plenary and highlight the main conclusions of the discussion.

15:00-15:30 *Coffee/tea break (Delegates' Lounge – Room VI)*

15:30-16:30 5. Plenary Session: Policies and Procedures for Effective Partnerships

Partnerships can only succeed if useful tools and procedures are in place. Do we have them? Are they appropriate? This session will provide participants with the opportunity to explore such policies and tools that might help improve UN partnerships with the private sector.

Lead Discussant:

Georg Kell, United Nations Global Compact

Speakers:

United Nations Environment Programme's Business Guidelines
Cornis van der Lugt, United Nations Environment Programme

United Nations Children's Fund's Business Guidelines
Anne Marie Grey, United Nations Children's Fund

Experiences with the Calvert Corporate Information System
David Del Vecchio, United Nations Population Fund

16:30-18:00 6. Plenary Session: Perspectives from Business and Civil Society Partners

This session will provide business partners with an opportunity to offer a candid critique of their partnership relations with the UN. It will also highlight the insights of civil society representatives, based on their organizations' relationships with business. The objective of this session is to provide lessons learned that could enable the UN to improve relationships with business.

Lead Discussants:

**Philipp Müller-Wirth and Birgitte Moller,
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization**

Speakers:

Andreas Bluethner, BASF Aktiengesellschaft

Tim Garmager, Deloitte & Touche LLP

Gilles Carbonnier, International Committee of the Red Cross

Jean-Paul Jeanrenaud, WWF International

*Cocktail Reception: 18:30-20:00 (Restaurant – 8th floor)
sponsored by BASF Aktiengesellschaft*

DAY 2: Friday 27 May, 2005

9:00 -10:15 7. Plenary Session: Engaging Business at the Country Level: Perspectives from the Field

This session will provide the opportunity to exchange lessons learned in working with business at the country-level. What works well and what does not? How can innovative initiatives be scaled-up to achieve even greater impact (i.e. performance indicators)? It will explore three areas of business engagement with the UN: (1) Philanthropy (2) Business partnerships for development/entrepreneurial development (3) Responsible Business Practices

Lead Discussant:

Jeya Wilson, Division for Business Partnerships, United Nations Development Programme

Speakers:

Søren Petersen, Nordic Office, United Nations Development Programme

Kai Bethke, SME Branch, United Nations Industrial Development Organization

Karolina Mzyk, Bratislava Regional Centre, Europe and the CIS, United Nations Development Programme

Linda Merieau, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

10:15-10:45 Coffee/tea break (Delegates' Lounge – Room VI)

10:45 -12:00 8. Plenary Session: Business Responses to the Tsunami Disaster: Lessons for Future Emergencies

This session will explore the massive private sector response to the Tsunami Crisis and the challenges in managing it. It will also examine ways in which we could strengthen UN capacity to enable more predictable public/private sector cooperation in support of natural disaster response.

Lead Discussant:

Christelle Loupforest, Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

Speakers:

Salvano Briceno, International Strategy for Disaster Reduction

Marcel Fortier, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Tetsuo Kondo, UNDP Regional Centre for Asia and the Pacific, Bangkok

Daniella Ballou-Aares, Dalberg

12:00 -13:00 9. Concluding Plenary Session: Common Priorities and Next Steps

This session will explore common UN system priorities including financing mechanisms, staff development, guidelines and others that could lead to a more strategic UN approach. In which areas should we work toward greater cooperation and how?

Key questions to guide the concluding discussion:

- ❑ How can the UN and its private sector partners demonstrate partnership accountability?
 - ❑ What are the core competencies, capacities and learning needs of UN staff?
 - ❑ How can partnership approaches be effectively mainstreamed within the UN system?
 - ❑ How can the UN private sector focal points network be further strengthened?
 - ❑ What are the common priorities and next steps?
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