



Consolidation of the GC policy dialogue on “The Role of the Private Sector in Zones of Conflict”

EXPERT WORKSHOP #1 “Conflict-Sensitive Business Practices and Public Policy Responses”

**New York, October 7- 8, 2004
Permanent Mission of Germany to the UN**

Objectives:

- Discuss the key areas where public policy responses are needed in order to harness the positive potential of business in zones of conflict.¹
- Develop policy recommendations regarding how the UN system, Governments and IFIs can further engage the private sector in conflict prevention and peace building.
- Identify gaps in existing practical initiatives aimed at conflict-sensitive business practices and propose ways to scale-up or better implement them.
- Participants will be encouraged to explore ideas involving the creation of new initiatives to address emerging challenges.

Methodology:

Issue areas will be discussed in break-out group sessions throughout the day. Each group will identify a rapporteur and a person to report-back during the subsequent plenary session.

Day 1

8:30-9:00 Registration of Participants

9:00-9:15 Welcoming Remarks and Introduction to the Workshop
Georg Kell, Executive Head, Global Compact Office

¹ Throughout the workshop, we will look at the following three situations: (1) Zones of low governance and the potential of violent conflict, (2) countries/regions of countries experiencing armed conflict, and (3) countries/regions of countries emerging from armed conflict.

9:15-9:30 **Background and Objectives of the Meeting**
Denise O'Brien, Deputy Head, Global Compact Office

9:30-10:15 **Plenary Session: Opening Presentation and Discussion**

Conflict-Sensitive Business Practices: Current Thinking

Speaker: Randall Gossen, Senior Vice President, Nexen Inc.
Opportunities for and Limits to Private Sector Contributions to Conflict Prevention and Peace-Building: A Business-View

10:15-10:30 **Coffee break**

10:30-12:00 **Session I: Creating Enabling Environments for Conflict-Sensitive Business Practice - the Role of Governments**

Break-out Groups:

Break-out groups will focus on the role of home and host country governments in providing an enabling environment for conflict-sensitive commercial activity in zones of conflict. They will explore:

- What are the elements of an “enabling environment”?
- What can and should home and host country governments do to create such conditions and how could they go about it?
(i.e. home governments could assist through their trade policies and official development assistance; host governments could work to strengthen rule of law and securing property rights, promoting good governance, and building functioning finance and labour markets)
- How could host and home country governments demonstrate the progress they have made in creating an “enabling environment”?

Moderator of Group #1: Jonas Moberg, IBLF

Moderator of Group #2: Ambassador Ragnar Ängeby, Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs

12:00-12:45 **Plenary Session – Presentation of Break-out Group Recommendations and Discussion**

Moderator: Luc Zandvliet, Corporate Engagement Project

12:45-14:00 Lunch

14:00-16:00 Session II: Leveraging Responsible Business Practices in Zones of Conflict

Break-out Groups:

Break-out groups will focus on two different issues-areas:

- 1. International and National Financial Institutions: Influencing business behavior in conflict-related situations through project finance and export credit.** The break-out group will explore:
 - What policies or procedures can International and National Financial Institutions put in place that could directly address the role of the private sector in conflict?
 - How can the implementation of such policies be further encouraged?

- 2. The role of international laws, standards and voluntary initiatives in providing guidance to companies operating in zones of low governance (characterized by an absence of the rule-of-law and state authority).** Break-out groups will explore:
 - How existing international laws, standards and voluntary initiatives can be strengthened in order to provide improved guidance to companies operating in zones of low governance.
 - How these initiatives can be leveraged such that they stimulate public policy responses.
 - Is there a need for the creation of new initiatives to address emerging challenges?

i.e. OECD integrity instruments; OECD Guidelines on Multinational Enterprises; International Humanitarian Law; US-UK Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights; Kimberley Process Diamond Certification Scheme; **new initiatives?**

Moderator: Errol Mendes, University of Ottawa

Moderator: Halina Ward, IIED

16:00-16:30 Coffee break

16:30-18:00 Plenary Session – Presentation of Break-out Group Outcomes and Discussion

Moderator: Egbert Imomoh, Senior Corporate Advisor, Shell, Nigeria

Day 2

9:00-11:00 Session III: Creating Enabling Environments for Conflict-Sensitive Business Practice - the Role of the UN

Break-out Groups:

Break-out groups will focus on the role of the UN and explore:

- What UN bodies, departments, agencies, and programmes should do in order to help improve the operational environment for commercial activity in zones of conflict.

i.e. options for the UN system to (a) scale-up the role of the UN in curbing illegal economic activity, specifically focused on trade in commodities used to finance violence; (b) help increase state capacity (i.e. help build a functioning and transparent domestic legal and regulatory system); (c) build-up a systematic awareness of and information on the role of the private sector - increasingly engage business where appropriate in conflict and peace-related matters; (d) ensure respect for international norms and standards.

- How the UN could work to implement these recommendations.

Moderator of Group # 1: Ian Bannon, World Bank, Conflict Prevention and Reconstruction Unit

Moderator of Group #2: Youssef Mahmoud, United Nations, DPA

11:00-11:15 Coffee break

11:15-12:30 Plenary Session – Presentation of Break-out Group Recommendations and Discussion

Moderator: Gay Rosenblum-Kumar, United Nations, DESA

12:30-13:00 Closing Remarks – Summary of the Workshop/Next Steps

13:00 Sandwich Lunch

List of Participants

New York, 7-8 October 2004

Companies

ABN Amro	André Abadie
AngloGold Ashanti	Paul Hollesen
Burson-Marsteller	Bennett Freeman
Control Risks Group	Tim Stanley
Nexen Inc.	Randy Gossen
Mena Food Safety Associates, Libanon	Atef Idriss
Shell Limited International	Helen Sullivan
Shell Limited International, Nigeria	Egbert Imomoh
World Monitors	Juliette Bennett

Business Associations

IBLF	Jonas Moberg
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NGOs

Amnesty International	Salil Tripathi
FAFO	Karen Ballentine
ICRC	Claude Voillat
IIED	Halina Ward
International Alert	Jessica Banfield

Academics

University of Maryland	Virginia Haufler
University of Ottawa	Errol Mendes
SWP - German Institute for International and Security Affairs	Friedemann Müller

Governments

Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), Switzerland	Gerald Pachoud
Foreign Affairs Canada (FAC)	Shawna Christianson
Permanent Mission of Germany to the UN	Albrecht von der Heyden
Permanent Mission of Germany to the UN	Axel Kuechle

Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs
USAID/CMM

Ambassador Ragnar Ängeby
Sharon Morris

UN System

IMF
OHCHR
UNCTAD
UNCTAD
UN/DESA
UN/DPA
UN/DPA
UN/DPA
UN/DPKO
UN Global Compact Office
UN Global Compact Office
UN Global Compact Office
UN Global Compact Office
World Bank/ Conflict Prevention
and Reconstruction Unit

Axel Palmason
Craig Mokhiber
Harris Gleckman
Patricia McCall
Gay Rosenblum-Kumar
Enkhtungalag Ganbold
Modem Lawson-Betum
Youssef Mahmoud
Letizia Rossano
Georg Kell
Denise O'Brien
Melissa Powell
Helen Schulte
Ian Bannon