

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, Ghana
- 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 AG

Speaker #2: Speaker: 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