

Public-private partnership: a post-conflict framework of shared opportunities and responsibilities

A one-day forum on public-private partnerships in post-conflict societies was held in Khartoum, Sudan, on May 17, 2006 with a broad range of stakeholders.

Among those attending were a representative of the Sudanese government, leading businessmen, United Nations officials, members of civil society, representatives of multinational companies operating in Sudan, and NGOs working in the country. More than 40 people took part in the forum, organized by the United Nations Development Programme and Ahfad University for Women in Khartoum.

Speeches and discussions by Sudanese and international contributors focused on ways of supporting Sudan and its people, as the country emerges from conflict. Issues included the ways in which public-private partnerships can function, the need for strong governance, human rights issues, business practices in Sudan and other parts of Africa. The history and principles of the United Nations Global Compact were also outlined.

Participants recognized that Sudan faces particular challenges in terms of its development and peace process, as it emerges from conflict.

At the conclusion of the forum, participants decided:

- To set up working group – made up representatives of the meeting in Khartoum - to oversee the introduction of a local network of the UN Global Compact in Sudan.
- The working group will reach out to other potential stakeholders as planning continues, and sample projects will be examined for suitability.
- A representative of the UNDP in Sudan acts as a convenor to the working group. The group will report on progress after six months, and follow-up action will then be determined.