



Office of the  
New York City Comptroller



**“Responsible Investment in Weak or Conflict-Prone States”:  
An Informal Consultation with the Institutional Investor and Business Communities**

**FINAL AGENDA**

**17 January, 2007  
United Nations Headquarters, New York  
Conference Room 8**

**9:30am - 10:00am Registration** (lobby of United Nations HQ, 46<sup>th</sup> St and 1<sup>st</sup> Ave, New York)

**10:00am - 10:30am Introduction to the issues and challenges**

Companies operate in conflict-prone countries and weak states around the world. Their decisions, on investment and employment, on relations with local communities, on protection for local environments and on their security arrangements—can help a country turn its back on conflict, or exacerbate the tensions that fuelled conflict in the first place.

As owners of capital, institutional investors have an important role to play, both individually and collectively, to positively influence the conduct of companies operating in, or with ties to, weak/conflict-prone countries in order to advance sustainable economic and societal development and the protection of human rights. Failure to act could hold serious negative implications for the protection and enhancement of their investments over the long-term.

**Speakers:**

- **Mr. Georg Kell, Executive Director, UN Global Compact Office**
- **Hon. William C. Thompson, Jr., Comptroller, City of New York**
- **Mr. Gavin Power, Board Member, PRI; Head of Financial Markets, UN Global Compact**

**10:30am – 11:15am Experiences Gained and Lessons Learned**

- Corporate representatives will make brief presentations of their experiences drawn from a variety of countries around the world. What constitutes “responsible business practices” or “positive engagement” when operating in conflict-prone or weak governance zones?

**Moderator: Mr. Gavin Power, Board Member, PRI; Head of Financial Markets, UN Global Compact**

**Speakers:**

*- A Framework for Operating in Zones of Weak Governance*

**Mr. Nick Welch, International Relations Manager, Shell Oil Company**

*- Role of Telecommunications in Socio-Economic Development and Humanitarian Contexts*

**Mr. Glenn Sapadin, Head of Investor Relations, Ericsson North America**

*- Experiences Drawn from Operating in Myanmar*

**Mr. Jean-François Lassalle, E&P Vice President Public Affairs, Total**

*- Experiences and Lessons Learned in Colombia*

**Mr. Afzaal Malik, Director, Communication Operations, The Coca-Cola Company**

**11:15am – 11:30 am *Coffee Break (Sponsored by Shell Oil Company)***

**11:30am-12:15pm Experiences Gained and Lessons Learned**

- Investors and Experts will make brief presentations of relevant past and present initiatives.

**Moderator: Mr. Gavin Power, Board Member, PRI; Head of Financial Markets, UN Global Compact**

**Speakers:**

*- The Act to End Atrocities and Terrorism in the Sudan, and its Effects on the Illinois State Board of Investment*

**Mr. William Atwood, Executive Director, Illinois State Board of Investment**

*- The Shareholder as Responsible Owner - Enlightened Self-Interest as a Basis for Corporate Engagement*

**Mr. Colin Melvin, CEO, Hermes Equity Ownership Services**

- *Corporate Responsibility in Weak or Conflict-Prone States*

**Mr. Bennett Freeman, Senior Vice President for Social Research & Policy, Calvert / Former U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy, Human Rights & Labor**

- *The Financial Implications of Doing Business in Zones of Conflict*

**Ms. Julie Gorte, Director, Calvert**

**12:15pm – 12:45pm Question and Answer/Discussion Session**

**Moderator: Mr. Gavin Power, Board Member, PRI; Head of Financial Markets, UN Global Compact**

Questions participants may wish to address include:

- Is there a conflict between asset managers' fiduciary duty to provide the best possible return for their clients and attempts to advance collective action for sustainable economic and societal development in challenged states?
- Can investors make a positive contribution to conflict-prevention and peace-building efforts?
- What can and should investors do to ensure corporations make responsible decisions? What can investors learn from past experiences?

**12:45pm – 1:15pm Views of Experts from Academia and Civil Society**

**Moderator: Mr. Gavin Power, Board Member, PRI; Head of Financial Markets, UN Global Compact**

**Speakers:**

- *The Scope of U.S. Multinational Contribution to Conflict Societies*

**Mr. J. Daniel O'Flaherty, Vice President, National Foreign Trade Council**

- *Targeted Divestment: A Unique Response to an Unprecedented Crisis*

**Mr. Adam Sterling, Executive Director, Sudan Divestment Task Force**

- *A Universal Owner Perspective on Responsible Investment in Weak or Conflict-Prone States*

**Professor James P. Hawley, Co-Director, Center for the Study of Fiduciary Capitalism**

**1:15pm – 2:30pm *Lunch Break (Sponsored by Shell Oil Company)***

**2:30pm – 3:45pm**    **Proposals for Action/ Next Steps**

**Moderator: Mr. Colin Melvin, CEO, Hermes Equity Ownership Services**

**Speaker:**

- *Steps toward a Common Framework on ‘Good Governance in Sensitive Countries’*

**Professor Alan Miller, Expert Adviser to the Business Leaders Initiative on Human Rights (BLIHR)**

- What can investors do to encourage companies to implement conflict-sensitive business practices?
- Would it be useful for companies and investors to embark on a process that would develop guidance for companies operating in weak states?

**3:45pm – 4:00pm**    **Closing Session**

**Speakers:**

- **Ms. Anne Stausboll, Assistant Executive Officer, CalPERS and Member of the Board, PRI**

- **Mr. Georg Kell, Executive Director, UN Global Compact Office**