

## **Informal Summary**

### **“Poverty Eradication – making it happen”**

The roundtable was chaired by Dr. Romulo L. Neri, Secretary of Socio-Economic Planning, Director-General, National Economic and Development Authority, The Philippines, and moderated by Juan Somavia, Director-General, ILO. Panelists were Mrs. Carmen Alcoreza, Deputy Minister of Public Investment and Financing, Bolivia; Mr. Jean Gabriel Randrianarison, Secretary General, Ministry of Economy, Planning, Private Sector and Commerce, Madagascar; Mr. Juan Pablo de Laiglesia, Secretary General, Spanish Agency for International Cooperation; Sir Mark Moody-Stuart, Chairman, Anglo American plc; Mrs. Jane Nelson, Director, Corporate Social Responsibility Initiative, Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University. Mr. Kwesi Botchwey, Professor of Practice of Development Economics, The Fletcher School, Tufts University and Member of the Committee for Development Policy was the lead discussant.

The roundtable, which was co-organized by the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, ILO, UNCTAD, UNDP, UNIDO and UN-Habitat, provided for an exchange of view on ways of strengthening national capacities for eradicating poverty and hunger through partnerships.

The interventions made provided a unique mix of views on successful strategies for poverty eradication with a common denominator: the need to work with others as partners to reach the ambitious goals set at the national and international level. The individual presentations by panelists (Government officials, high level officials of international organizations, private sector representatives and academics) are briefly presented below.

Panelists emphasized the importance of Official Development Assistance to help countries reach international development goals. Such assistance should be based on national development priorities, as stated in the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness, and geared towards building capacities of the recipient countries. Improving the living conditions of the working poor and of other disadvantaged peoples, such as indigenous peoples, was considered an important target for development actors in their efforts towards poverty reduction.

Several speakers stressed the importance of strategic alliances with the private sector as a condition for poverty reduction in a sustainable manner. A major contribution of business to capacity building was through the training of employees, particularly in the field of new technologies. Co-investments in infrastructures were also stressed as an important field for joint efforts.

It was noticeable that the share of private sector funds in resource flows to developing countries had much increased over the years and exceeded ODA contributions in many countries. However, it was stressed that ODA and FDI were not separate forces and that only complementarities and joint action between the two would enable to create synergies and tangible impact on the ground.

Speakers noted that partnerships should also be developed with non governmental organizations as their knowledge of the social fabric helped in implementing well focused poverty reduction strategies.

It was noted that partnerships had proved particularly efficient for rural development, for example in supporting associations of local producers, funding productive investments and providing support to local public institutions which in turn provide services to farmers.

Focus of individual presentations:

Mr. Juan Somavia, Director-General, International Labor Organization, focused on the important dimension of employment and decent work in poverty reduction processes and presented progress made within the UN system to ensure that this dimension is reflected across the spectrum of development policies.

Mrs. Carmen Alcoreza, Deputy Minister of Public Investment and Financing of Bolivia, presented the poverty reduction policy currently implemented in her country and highlighted both its strategic components and the mechanisms put in place to involve the population from all regions.

Mr. Juan Pablo de Laiglesia, Secretary General, Spanish Agency for International Cooperation, presented the evolution of Spain's development cooperation policy, characterized by the search for participation of all actors, the focus on poverty eradication and the willingness to improve quality of aid, including through increased policy coherence.

Mr. Jean Gabriel Randrianarison, Secretary General, Ministry of Economy, Planning, Private Sector and Commerce, Madagascar, analyzed the relevance of public-private partnerships for rural development, taking the examples of operational partnerships in his country.

Sir Mark Moody-Stuart, Chairman, Anglo American plc, stressed the important contribution that the private sector can make to development, particularly in terms of training of the manpower and co-financing of infrastructures, and highlighted the necessary coordination between private companies, civil society and labor organizations.

Mrs. Jane Nelson, Director, Corporate Social Responsibility Initiative, Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, analyzed the role of business in supporting development goals and made recommendations on areas of action for leaders in business and the public sector to consider, such as scaling-up positive contributions, mitigating negative impacts and externalities arising from corporate activities, and contributing to the broader enabling environment for development.

Mr. Wilfried Luetkenhorst, Chief of Cabinet and Director of the Bureau for Organizational Strategy and Learning, United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), also examined the critical role of the private sector in sustainable poverty reduction and addressed the importance of development cooperation agencies and private businesses to engage in strategic alliances and partnerships.

Mr. Kwesi Botchwey, Professor of Practice of Development Economics, The Fletcher School, Tufts University and Member of the UN Committee for Development Policy, underscored the need for ownership of development strategies by African countries. Beyond official development assistance, he stressed the importance for the State to create the appropriate economic framework to maximize resource mobilization and enable access of economic actors to credit.