

**PARTNERSHIPS FOR HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT: WHAT ROLE FOR DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION, INCLUDING SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION, CITY-CITY COOPERATION, PRIVATE SECTOR AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS?**

**ECOSOC High-Level Segment 2002**

**Ministerial High-Level Roundtable on “Partnerships for Human Resources Development: What role for development cooperation, including south-south cooperation, city-city cooperation, private sector and non-governmental organizations?”**

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There is an increased recognition of the mutual benefits to be gained in being responsible “global citizens”. Participation and local responsibility are at the very heart of active citizenship and good governance. As the Secretary-General has said, “Peace and prosperity cannot be achieved without partnerships involving governments, international organizations, the business community and civil society. In today’s world, we depend on each other”. The United Nations 2002 International Year of the Volunteer raised the visibility of volunteering.

As part of the UN partnerships with civil society, corporate and foundation partners and with non-governmental organizations, a continuing challenge is how best to capture the talents of citizens and link expertise with the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals.

In the area of human resources development, partnerships can be instrumental in strengthening south-south cooperation to promote advocacy and capacity building in developing countries. One example of such partnerships is the UN ICT Task Force working group on Human Resource Development and Capacity Building. The Working Group is working closely with relevant United Nations agencies and other partners from the private and public sectors, together with educators and researchers in both developed and developing countries, to promote the use of ICT for capacity-building and human resource development. A key priority of the Group is to harness ICT for education, with particular attention to overcoming existing disparities in educational and training opportunities and achievements between males and females. Another example is the joint UN ICT Task Force, UNIFEM, UNFIP and Digital Partners effort to bring together prominent individuals from the Africa Diaspora, as well as leaders from technology corporations, foundations, and non-profits interested in advancing Africa, in order to develop a network that harnesses the knowledge, experiences and resources of the group in service to Africa.

In addition, Internet based networks can facilitate cooperation, mutual support and information exchange among participants, be they institutions, international organizations, NGOs or corporations.

Volunteering is another element that might be built upon. Volunteers from both the public and private sector can provide a much-needed input to human resources development (such as the case of the UNV led UNITEs).

A successful example of partnership in this area is the Cisco Networking Academy Program, which has been established in more than half of the world’s LDCs to train students for the Internet economy. Seventy academies have been established at universities, secondary and technical schools. In Africa, women comprise 23% of the enrolment. The goal is to give students the same quality training in information technology (IT) as in advanced countries. The partners include Cisco Systems, UNDP, the

United Nations Volunteer Programme (UNV) and the United States Agency for International Development.

Some key questions in regard to partnerships:

Building Sustainable Partnerships

What makes partnerships work? What undermines them? And what is needed to establish and sustain effective partnerships?

How to best bring together efforts of UN entities (UNU, UN Staff College, ILO, UNRISD, UN-OHRM and others) with work of Academia, private sector and NGOs.

How to best support the development of an “international open university” linking universities across the globe to create a dialogue for the purpose of human development and peace?

Hopeful Outcome

Framework for Partnerships for human resources development at country level;

Encouragement of Corporate Social Responsibility in the area of human resources development;

Support for initiatives such as ‘Global Universities Network’, NetAid and Cisco’s Networking Academies.