



Media Advisory

Who US former President **Bill Clinton**
UN Secretary-General **Ban Ki-moon**
ECOSOC President **Sylvie Lucas**
Head of IKEA Social Initiative, **Ms. Marianne Barner**
President and CEO, Novartis Foundation, **Dr. Klaus Leisinger**, and more than **400 participants** from the corporate, philanthropic, academic and global health partnerships communities

What The UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) will convene a special meeting with the participation of more than 400 participants from the corporate, philanthropic, academic and global health partnerships communities to discuss and explore collaborative opportunities in advancing progress in maternal and girls' health and neglected tropical diseases. The aim is to share best practice and lessons learned, and to build new innovative partnerships and alliances to address neglected and other diseases of the poor. Representatives of corporate and partnerships communities will **announce major contributions in the child health and neglected tropical diseases.**

When **23 February, at 3:00 pm**

Where Trusteeship Council Chamber and ECOSOC Chamber

Press Conference – Room 226 at 12:45 pm, featuring:

Head of IKEA Social Initiative, **Ms. Marianne Barner**

Executive Director, Drugs for Neglected Diseases initiative (DNDi), **Mr. Bernard Pecoul**

Executive Director of Médecins Sans Frontières/Doctors Without Borders (MSF-USA), **Ms. Sophie Delaunay**

Managing Director, Global Network for Neglected Tropical Diseases, Sabin Vaccine Institute, **Ms. Kari Stoever**

Executive Director, UN Office for Partnerships, **Mr. Amir Dossal**

Director, Office for ECOSOC Support and Coordination, UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, **Mr. Nikhil Seth**

Background

Over the last decade, the global philanthropy contribution has become an important phenomenon. Private giving has provided assistance to the world's poor, and billions of dollars have been made available to advance health and social services.

As the global financial crisis deepens, many expect that philanthropic foundations and innovative financing initiatives that rely on income from investments are likely to be hit hard. Against this

backdrop, partnerships will be critical to protecting health and health spending in times of crisis. ECOSOC will convene a special meeting with the participation of more than 400 participants from the corporate, philanthropic, academic and global health partnerships communities to discuss and explore collaborative opportunities in advancing progress in maternal and girls' health and neglected tropical diseases.

At this special meeting, representatives of corporate and partnerships communities will announce major contributions to in the area of child health and neglected tropical diseases.

The Leadership Dialogue, on "*Improving health outcomes for women and girls*" (Trusteeship Council Chamber) will be moderated by **Ms. Betsy Pisik**, Washington Times. Participating on this panel are UNICEF Deputy Executive Director **Saad Houry**; UNFPA Deputy Executive Director **Purnima Mane**; **Ann Starrs**, President, Family Care International and Co-Chair of the Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (PMNCH); **Gary Cohen**, Executive Vice-President, Becton Dickinson; **Julian Lob-Levyt**, Executive Director, GAVI Alliance; and **Jane Nelson**, Director, Senior Fellow and Director of the Corporate Social Responsibility Initiative, Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University.

Matthew Bishop, Chief Business Writer and US Business Editor, The Economist, will moderate the second Leadership Dialogue on "Raising the profile of neglected tropical diseases" (ECOSOC Chamber). Participating on this panel are Dr. Lorenzo Savioli, Director of the Department of the Control of Neglected Tropical Diseases; **Rakesh Nangia**, Director of Operations, Human Development Network, World Bank; **Bernard Pecoul**, Executive Director, Drugs for Neglected Diseases Initiative; **Richard Bagger**, Senior Vice-President, WorldWide Public Affairs and Policy, Pfizer; **Jeffrey Sturchio**, Chairman, United States Corporate Council on Africa and **Professor Anne Mills**, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

Other corporate leaders at the event will include top executives of Bristol-Myers Squibb Foundation, DSM, GUCCI America, IKEA, Merrill Lynch & Co., Inc., Mitsubishi International Corporation, Toyota Motor North America, Inc., and Western Union.

For more information, contact

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