



Gobierno Dominicano

Private Sector Forum to Explore Linkage between Remittances and Development

8 September 2006

Delegates Dining Area - Room Number 5, United Nations Secretariat, New York

The UNDP forum is focused on private sector companies that are, or could be engaged in innovative projects that link remittances with new commercial products and services that while being profitable would also support development objectives. The forum will bring such companies together with regulators and parties that can support projects, including investment funds, multilateral institutions, foundations and government agencies.

While the Forum will provide an opportunity to share experiences and lessons from the corporate efforts to launch innovative products and services that link remittances and national development, we anticipate the recommendations to assist UN system in enhanced working relationship with the private sector to achieve mutually beneficial outcomes. By sharing the outcome of the Forum and therefore the voice of the private sector with the Secretary General's High Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development from 14-15 December 2006 in New York, we expect the Forum to contribute significantly to creating further opportunities of cooperation between the public and the private sectors.

The format of the meeting is three roundtables of experts in relevant areas who will describe existing projects and experiences that can serve as examples for a successful framework; or show difficulties and barriers that the forum-wide discussion may help to overcome.

The forum is focused on addressing the following three questions:

1. To what degree can transfers from migrants support development and what kind of commercial products and services can the private sector offer to leverage remittances for generating both revenues as well as contributing to the national development priorities?
2. What are the barriers or constraints to the development, introduction and sales of such products and services?
3. How can UNDP work with the private sector including through private/public partnerships and assist in overcoming such barriers; can these partnerships catalyze the

offering of such products and services and what concrete pilot projects could demonstrate such an initiative?

To enable open and productive discussion, participation in the meeting is by invitation only. The roundtables would start with a brief issues based presentation by 2-3 discussants and then be guided by the participants.

DRAFT AGENDA

8.30 am **Coffee & Registration**

9.00 -9:20 am **Welcome**

Amir Dossal

Executive Director, United Nations Fund for International Partnerships
(UNFIP)

Shoji Nishimoto

Assistant Administrator, Bureau for Development Policy, UNDP

9:20-9:30 am **Setting the stage**

Arun Kashyap

Advisor, Private Sector Development, Bureau for Development Policy, UNDP

9:30 -11:00 am

Session I. – Products and Services

Chair: *tbc*

The first roundtable will focus on products and services that combine commercial appeal and deliver development benefits. It will focus on the following three key questions:

- To what degree can transfers from migrants support development?
- What kind of commercial products and services are being/can be offered that leverage remittances to achieve both profitability and human development ?
- What is the market reality for the offering of such products and what are realistic expectations for pricing and benefits?

The following two participants will present their experience to initiate the discussion.

Desired outcome is to identify types of products and services that provide entrepreneurial alternatives to the consumption of remittances only and particularly to those that are at the bottom of the pyramid and how these can be offered profitably.

Presentation 1: *tbc* (8 minutes)

Presentation 2: tbc (8 minutes)

Roundtable discussion.

11.00-11:15 am Coffee Break

11.15 am-13:00pm Session II. – Barriers to Entry and Regulation

Chair: *tbc*

The second roundtable aims to explore what prevents companies to enter the market with new products and services and how the UN and other development players can help to overcome these barriers.

- What market and regulatory barriers exists that make it difficult to offer development-added products and what part of the value chain is most difficult?
- Is government intervention desired and suitable to remove these barriers? How can governments attract private sector engagement and ensure that development benefits are created?

Objective of the session is to identify the most common problems companies experience in offering remittance-related products and to improve the understanding of market realities and policy failures.

Presentation 1: tbc (8 minutes)

Presentation 2: tbc (8 minutes)

Roundtable Discussion

1:00pm-2:30pm Lunch Break

Keynote Speaker: *tbc*

2:30pm-4:00pm Session III. – Private/Public Partnerships

Chair:

The final roundtable will discuss how Private-Public Partnerships can be formed that help to overcome barriers and market failures and promote good business practices.

- Do the objectives and approaches of private and public sector offer common areas of interest. If yes, how can Synergies be used and what resources does each sector bring to the table?
- How can the UN help to facilitate such Partnerships? What does the private sector have to offer to make these products and services a reality?

The aim of this session is to identify areas for productive co-operation between the public and the private sector and ideally to identify concrete opportunities for this that go beyond research towards enabling the actual offering of a new services or products as possible pilot activities.

Presentation 1: tbc (8 minutes)

Presentation 2: tbc (8 minutes)

Roundtable discussion

4:00pm-5:00pm

Next Steps

Chair: *tbc*

Discussion

5:00pm-7:00pm

Reception