

**The UN Private Sector Forum:  
The Millennium Development Goals and Food Sustainability  
24 September 2008  
UNHQ New York, 12:00pm-3:30pm**

*Co-organized by the UN Global Compact Office, the UN Development Programme, the Office of the Coordinator for Humanitarian Affairs (in its role as coordinator of the High-level Task Force on the Global Food Security Crisis), the UN Department for Economic and Social Affairs, and the UN Office for Partnerships.*

This first-ever UN Private Sector Forum, to be opened by the UN Secretary-General, will bring together approximately 100 chief executives, Heads of State and Government, civil society leaders, heads of foundations and heads of UN Agencies, Funds and Programmes to identify and discuss action needed to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), particularly in the context of the longer-term response to the global food crisis.

This event will provide a platform for business to highlight innovative practices, commit to new actions in support of the MDGs, and to contribute to the High-Level Event on the MDGs on 25 September. The Forum will further demonstrate the UN's commitment to exploring new ways of working with the private sector.

**Expected Outcomes:**

1. Launch of a concise UN framework to more effectively mobilize private sector engagement in contributing to the MDGs – particularly in the areas of greater public-private synergy, coordination, scale and impact.
2. Launch of the *Business Call to Action Platform* as one significant way that companies can contribute to the MDGs through their core business activities. The partnership consortium of the *Business Call to Action Platform* will be presented and discussed and new commitments will be made by companies.
3. Launch of *Food Sustainability and the Role of the Private Sector*, a guide showing how companies from a broad range of industry sectors can have an impact on long-term food sustainability through their operations and activities.

*(Key outcomes of the UN Private Sector Forum will be taken forward in the three official roundtable sessions during the High-Level Event on 25 September.)*

**Format and Themes:**

Several interactive roundtable discussions will focus on approaches to addressing long-term development challenges associated with the food crisis and the MDGs. Themes to be explored include:

- Water access and management (lead organizer: UN Global Compact Office)
- Agricultural inputs and infrastructure (lead organizers: FAO/IFAD)

- Financial mechanisms and risk management instruments (lead organizer: World Bank)
- Food safety and nutrition (lead organizer: WFP)
- Energy and biofuels (lead organizers: UNEP/UNOP)
- The role of technological innovations (lead organizer: UN DESA GAID)
- Job creation for low-income populations (lead organizers: UNDP/ILO/UNIDO)

**Media Accessibility:**

The roundtable discussions are not open to the media, but opening and/or closing sessions may be opened for pool coverage. A press conference is envisaged for 24 September, and further details will be announced shortly.

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