



Address by Ambassador Zina Andrianarivelo-Razafy, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Madagascar to the United Nations, at the preparatory meeting for the Annual Ministerial Review Innovation Fair

United Nations, New York, 2 May 2007

Madam Chair, Ms. Shamina De Gonzaga, distinguished delegates and friends,

I would like to congratulate the co-organizers for inviting me to this Annual ministerial review Innovation Fair on the success stories and best practices from the global NGO community. I take this opportunity to share some of Madagascar's experiences of promoting partnership with the NGO community which is an important development partner in our country.

Madam Chair,

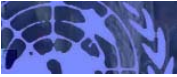
The United Nations have already reached the mid-point of the 2015 Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). A number of developing countries, including Madagascar, are striving further to advance towards achieving the MDGs. Progress so far recorded has been uneven among regions and within various regions. It is evident that **promotion of global partnerships** has become vital to accomplish the commitments made by world leaders at the 2000 and 2005 UN World Summits. In this regard, the 2005 Summit has called to enhance the contribution of non-governmental organizations, civil society, private sector and other stakeholders in national development efforts as well as in the promotion of global partnership for development.

My brief presentation will focus on Madagascar's experience in the promotion of public-private partnerships in the fight against poverty and hunger.

Dynamic rural development and poverty alleviation are at the core of Madagascar Government's endeavors. Indeed, more than 70 per cent of the population lives in poverty, 85 per cent of them in rural areas. Thus, the eradication of poverty and hunger from rural areas is critical to the realization of the internationally agreed MDGs. Madagascar has recently launched a 5 year roadmap called Madagascar Action Plan (MAP) in which rural development receives a top priority.

To accomplish this, the country is - amongst other key measures- encouraging partnerships for rural development. As you are aware, Madagascar is the first pilot country of the UN Public-Private Alliance for Rural Development approved by the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) in 2004. This ECOSOC initiative emanated from the 2003 Ministerial Declaration of the Council that called on global partners in promoting partnerships for rural development. The Government of Madagascar works closely with the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN/DESA) for the implementation of this ECOSOC initiative – the UNPPA.

At the national level, the Government of Madagascar established the Alliance Madagascar with participation of representatives from Government Ministries, UN system, NGO community and the private sector. Indeed, the Government firmly believes in the innovative role of partnership between the public and the private sectors, including the NGOs. They have made significant contributions to programs in



rural development in areas such as for poverty eradication, agriculture development, micro-finance, ICT, education.

Let me share with you a few successful partnerships that assisted rural development in Madagascar:

Association Ankohonana Sahiran Arenina (ASA) is an initiative of *Franciscan International* linked to the UN Public-Private Alliance for Rural Development (UNPPA). This project seeks to provide support to the rural development in the Province of Antananarivo in Madagascar. The partners of this project included various NGOs, private sector organizations and national governments working together to deliver services to the local population. The project aims to assist families with basic needs: shelter, water, food, health services education and employment; to provide the poor with the capacity to become entrepreneurs and generate income; and to integrate the poor into the local economy. Initiatives include job creation programmes and training to family-run businesses and micro-enterprises, as well as education for youth, job training sessions and public health awareness. ASA also seeks to provide access to shelter and clean water, and assistance in obtaining official government identification and other documents.

Each year, the initiative assists 140 landless families in setting up housing and obtaining government identification documents. Until last year, 10 villages of formerly homeless people were created. The initiative also resulted in the construction of a hospital and healthcare facilities, schools for over 1000 children and youth. In addition, the project has seen investment in building and infrastructure in the community, including ICT and telecommunications, trucks, tractors and all-terrain vehicles; and administrative building.

Another partner from the private sector, the Land *O'Lakes, Inc.* assisted the Ministry of Agriculture to draft a Master Plan for Rural Development. The new approach through this Master Plan which began in April 2004 is to maximize the market-oriented business focus, critical for the quick and sustainable advancement of rural development.

The Land O'Lakes Inc. five year plan is expected to achieve two significant results: (i) 700,000 rural households (3.5 million people) should move out from under poverty and into a more food-secure environment; and (ii) 350,000 households (1.75 million people) should engage in more formal, market-based food systems, thereby increasing their household revenue by 100 per cent (incomes doubled). The Master Plan is to be funded by the World Bank Programme of Support for Rural Development (PSDR).

The Alliance has also established partnership with *Columbia University* following the visit to Madagascar of Professor Joseph Stiglitz of Columbia University in 2005. This partnership was for conducting lead studies on rural insurance, export of handicraft products, rural micro-finance and the potential socio-economic and environmental impacts expected from the implementation of a mining exploration company

Also a team from Columbia University, School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA), worked as a consulting team with key players in the country's handicrafts industry and explore the different ways in which the industry might increase export sales. The report discussed possible export markets that Malagasy producers should attempt to target, given the results of a consumer survey distributed to individuals

who would be interested in purchasing handicrafts. The Columbia University School of Business and the School of International Public Affairs also prepared two other reports: (i) Platinum Works Sapphire Mining Project, Social-Economic Impact Study, Part I: Guideline and (ii) Gemstone Mining in Madagascar: Public and Private Sector Development and Poverty Reduction.

The Alliance Madagascar also established a partnership between the World Wildlife Federation (WWF) in Madagascar and the rural community of Sambaina-Manjakandriana for the production of honey and fruit, and bee-keeping and orchard-growing. The funds used mainly come from contributions of New York patrons. The New York and Madagascar teams made arrangements for a partnership between the IBM Corporation, the WWF and the Mayor's Office in Sambaina for a mini project for environment protection and income-generation at village level.

Madam Chair,

I would also like to share with you another successful partnership in the area of ICT. The ICT Model Village in Sambaina in Madagascar brought many partners such as the University of Oklahoma (USA), an Italian NGO "Observatory for Cultural and Audiovisual Communication in the Mediterranean and in the World (OCCAM)", Non Profit Computing, a New York based NGO, the Rotary Clubs of New York etc. And from the public side, the Mission of Madagascar which I represent, the Province of Antananarivo in Madagascar, and the Community members of Sambaina were all involved. The ICT Model Village which aims at creating a model of sustainable development that fights poverty at the community level through appropriate use of ICTs and new technologies is also an excellent illustration of public-private partnerships.

As of today, the ICT project has generated a number of activities such as:

(i) A digital classroom where more than 600 students aged 11 to 15 are regularly trained in order to accelerate the digital literacy of the community and create new jobs. The President of Madagascar, H.E Marc RAVALOMANANA, a strong supporter of the ICT Village project, inaugurated the digital classroom on November 2005.

(ii) A new community resource accessible to all: In 2005, the Sambaina community built a cyber-room in the town hall, with support from the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Telecommunications and the Ministry of Health. Now students, farmers, job seekers, and virtually all members of the community can come and learn basic digital literacy. The Centre also encourages the villagers to broaden their perspectives through the use of technologies such as e-commerce.

(iii) A health presidium was added to improve the health infrastructure in two areas – the Basic Health Centre of Sambaina and the Basic Health Center of neighboring Ankadimanga – computer facilities were provided. And a refurbished health presidium was equipped for pregnant women and newborn children.

(iv) telemedicine has been introduced. Those remote areas can now have access to shared and distant medical expertise. The services delivered include diagnosis, prescriptions, special services for pregnant women, newborn and disabled people.

(v) From an administrative point of view, computerization has helped the health centres to achieve savings or gains through increased productivity.

In 2006, the UN Alliance and OCCAM were yet able to secure a new partnership with an European satellite provider Skylogic Eutelsat Communications that offered to donate one year of free satellite connection to the ICT Village. Connectivity is crucial for activities such as internet, e-commerce, distance learning, telemedicine etc.

In June 2006, the Village of Sambaina was designated to be the first Madagascar Millennium Village project in the country. The promoters, UN Millennium Project and the Earth Institute at Columbia University, will support this project in collaboration with UNDP. It is a "bottom up" approach to lift villages out of poverty. I must particularly mention the financial contribution of the Government of South Korea to implement the Millennium Village at Sambaina.

I hope that these few examples of successful public-private partnerships with tangible results will convince the NGO, the civil society and the private sectors on the importance of their role in the development field.

Madam Chair,

Madagascar has undertaken political and economic reforms and these changes provided further opportunity to enhance partnerships in diverse areas. Furthermore, the implementation of the Madagascar Action Plan MAP which was inspired from the UN MDGs calls for partnerships with all stakeholders who will significantly bolster the national efforts in the eradication of poverty and hunger.

Let me say that the NGO/civil society organizations have excellent opportunities to contribute to partnership projects in Madagascar. This Innovation Fair provides a window to explore the possibilities of connecting to global partners. I encourage you to contact us at the Madagascar Mission here in New York or the focal point on UN Public-Private Alliance for Rural Development (UNPPA) in DESA for partnership projects. Madagascar welcomes partnerships in the following areas: eradication of poverty and hunger, food security, education, health, microfinance, entrepreneurship development, marketing of products, environment, safe water, sanitation, infrastructure development and other related areas.

Let us join hands together to keep the momentum to achieve the MDG targets by 2015 in Madagascar.

Thank you for your attention.

Source: Permanent Mission of Madagascar to the United Nations, New York and UN-DESA/OESC