

Informal Hearings of the Business Sector on Financing for Development

11 October 2007, Conference Room 2 Provisional Programme

Overall Theme

Business Sector Perspective on the Status of Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus and Tasks Ahead

10:00 - 10:15 a.m.

Opening of the meeting and organization of work

Welcome remarks by the Chairperson of the meeting

H.E. Mr. Maged A. Abdelaziz, Permanent Representative of Egypt
to the United Nations

Vice-President of the 62nd session of the General Assembly

10:15 a.m. - 12:45 p.m.

Panel discussion

Moderator:

Mr. Oscar de Rojas, Director, Financing for Development Office, Department of Economic and Social Affairs

Panelists:

Mr. Parag Saxena, Co-founder and CEO, Vedanta Capital "Venture Capital investment to promote entrepreneurship in developing countries"

Mr. Aram Zamgochian, Project Director, Middle East and Africa Affairs, US Chamber of Commerce

"International Investment Criteria in Emerging Markets"

Mr. John Sullivan, Executive Director, Center for International Private Enterprise "Designing a reform agenda for developing democratic governance and market institutions"

Mr. Raul Calvet, President, Calvet & Associates "Changing Government and Private Sector Relations"

12:45 - 1:00 p.m.

Closing remarks by the Chairperson of the meeting

Biographical notes

Parag Saxena is Co-founder and CEO of Vedanta Capital. He has been involved in more than 300 private transactions and has served on the Partnership Advisory Boards of Accel, Gryphon, Domain Partners, Essex Woodlands, Kiwi I Ventures, Salix Venture Partners and Skyline Venture Partners, as well as on the boards of several private and public companies. Mr. Saxena co-founded the private capital group at Citicorp Investment Management and INVESCO Private Capital. Previously, he worked in the Technology Management Services Group at Booz, Allen and Hamilton. Mr. Saxena received MBA from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania in 1982 and MS in Chemical Engineering from West Virginia College of Graduate Studies in 1978.

Aram B. Zamgochian is Project Director, Middle East and Africa Affairs, United States Chamber of Commerce. His project management experience covers various donor-funded and private sector technical assistance as well as policy initiatives in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Thailand, Singapore, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, with a focus on: energy trade favoring clean fuels; energy sector liberalization; energy sector planning and policy analysis; developing competitive markets for industry and energy; strengthening the local private sector to advocate for investment-friendly market reforms; regional cooperation in energy efficiency (standards and labeling); increasing the private sector role in reform and energy efficiency; and executive-level peer exchanges to promote transfer of private industry best practices in developing energy markets.

John Sullivan is Executive Director of the Center for International Private Enterprise (CIPE), an affiliate of the US Chamber of Commerce. As Associate Director of the Democracy Program, Mr. Sullivan helped to establish both CIPE and the National Endowment for Democracy in 1983. After serving as program director, he became Executive Director in 1991. Under his leadership CIPE developed a number of innovative approaches that link democratic development to market reforms, such as combating corruption, promoting corporate governance, building business associations, supporting the informal sector, and programs to assist women and youth entrepreneurs.

Raul F. Calvet is founder and Senior Partner of Calvet & Associates based in Managua, Nicaragua. He is a well recognized public figure in Nicaragua's tourism industry. He has been directly involved in many national development projects of international significance, such as the Canadian charter program into Barceló Beach Resort, the Cruise ships program arriving into the Pacific ports, as well as the first large European and US tour operators packages covering Costa Rica and Nicaragua. His other accomplishments include: the establishment of the Nicaragua Conventions Bureau, the National Marketing Committee and the new Government's Tourism Marketing Strategy, as well as the creation of several tourism businesses in the areas of lodging, ground operations and conventions organization.