



International Year of Microcredit 2005

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United Nations International Forum to Build Inclusive Financial Sectors

7-8 November 2005, UN Headquarters, New York

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8:00 – 9:00	Registration (open throughout the day)
9:00 – 10:30	Opening Ceremony <i>Chair:</i> His Excellency Mr. Aminu Bashir Wali (Ambassador of Nigeria, Chair of the Second Committee) or his representative <i>Welcoming Remarks:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mr. Kemal Dervis (Administrator, UNDP) <i>Keynote Speaker:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Her Royal Highness Princess Maxima (The Netherlands) <i>Guest Speaker:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mr. Paul Wolfowitz (President, World Bank)
10:30 – 11:30	PANEL I: Financial Sector Indicators and the Blue Book on Building Inclusive Financial Sectors During the past year, researchers associated with the UN International Year of Microcredit focused on two major projects: the lack of good information on access to microfinance, the extent of access, and the terms of access – the Data Project; and what obstacles stand in the way of increased and improved access – the Blue Book Project. Participants in this panel will describe the key questions and the results to date of both projects. With regard to data, the key questions are: what data do governments, the private sector, and multilateral organizations need to make good decisions, and what data do they have? How can we measure who has access to what kinds of services? What data do we have, and what data do we need to evaluate the effects of access to microfinance? The key question in the Blue Book project is what are the hurdles to increased access to microfinance, and what can be done to increase access.

	<p><i>Moderator:</i> Mr. Jose-Antonio Ocampo (Under-Secretary-General, UN)</p> <p><i>Panelists:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Richard Weingarten (Executive Secretary, UNCDF) • Ms. Asli Demirguc-Kunt (Finance Research Manager, World Bank) • Mr. Raghuram Rajan (Economic Counselor and Director of Research, IMF)
11:30 – 13:00	<p>PANEL II: Taking Meaningful Steps to Mitigate Financial Sector Crises in Post-Disaster/Post-Conflict Countries</p> <p>Wars, political turmoil, and natural and other disasters can devastate the livelihoods of individuals and endanger the safety of financial sectors. This panel will address the potential role of microfinance in the mitigation of the impacts of disasters. Participants will discuss methods to plan for crises, the types of services that should be offered to the affected people, and how best to respond to clients' needs and demands in these specific contexts. Questions to be taken up include: What needs to be done to strengthen microfinance systems to help ensure that they can operate post-crisis? What needs to be done in the wake of crises to ensure that microfinance institutions can provide clients with access to financial services in these circumstances? When should relief services be offered in parallel with or instead of microfinance?</p> <p><i>Moderator:</i> Mr. Robert Davies (Chief Executive, International Business Leaders Forum)</p> <p><i>Panelists:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. In Channy, (CEO, ACLEDA Bank) • Mr. James D. Rogers (Governor, Central Bank of Sierra Leone) • Ms. Mammy Fatu (Microentrepreneur, Sierra Leone) • Ms. Shakila Sarajulldin (Microentrepreneur, Afghanistan) • Mr. B.S. Kusmuljono (Board Commissioner, Bank Rakyat Indonesia)
13:00 – 15:00	<p>Networking Luncheon – National Committee Awards</p>
15:00 – 16:30	<p>PANEL III: Will the International Private Sector Transform the Landscape of Microfinance?</p> <p>One of the most important developments in microfinance in the last few years has been the increased participation in the industry by the private sector, which has demonstrated that microfinance is a viable commercial business. A CGAP survey conducted in 2003 identified over 225 commercial banks and other formal financial institutions that are engaged in microfinance. Questions to be discussed in this session include: How will the entry of these new actors transform the microfinance industry? What will be the scope of their involvement? What are the opportunities for partnerships between existing microfinance institutions and the private sector, and what new types of investment vehicles, securitization, and risk management are likely to be introduced by commercial entrants to the industry?</p>

	<p><i>Moderator:</i> Mr. Matthew Bishop (American Business Editor, The Economist)</p> <p><i>Panelists:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Bo Cutter (Managing Director, Warburg Pincus) • Ms. Doris Kohn (First Vice President, KfW) • Mr. Rory Stear (Executive Chairman, Freeplay Energy plc.) • Mr. Khalid Sheikh (Senior Vice President, ABN AMRO Bank) • Mr. Israel Moreno (General Manager, PATRIMONIO HOY, CEMEX)
16:30 – 18:00	<p>PANEL IV: Technology: Expanding the Outreach of Microfinance</p> <p>A wide range of technologies, such as ATMs, personal digital assistants and biometrics, are available to help microfinance providers improve efficiency, monitoring and supervisory capacity, increase transparency, and expand their client bases. Yet many microfinance institutions struggle to obtain access to and select the right technologies. This panel will discuss current trends in technological advances and technology implementation strategies. Key questions for the panel include: Given the wide array of technological services available, what are the latest effective innovations, and how can they be implemented? What impact will these technologies have on bringing new players into the microfinance market and extending the outreach of microfinance on a massive scale? How can they improve critical information flows within and between institutions?</p> <p><i>Moderator:</i> Mr. Matthew Piasecki (Chief Commercial Officer, Visa International)</p> <p><i>Panelists:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Simon Willis (Global Head of eGovernment, Cisco Systems) • Mr. Vikram Akula (CEO, SKS Microfinance) • Mr. Henrik Parl (Managing Director, Eurogiro) • Mr. Nick Hughes (Head of Social Products and Enterprise, Vodafone Group)*
18:30 – 21:00	Reception <i>Hosted by</i> Credit Suisse First Boston

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9:00 – 10:00	Registration (open throughout the day)
10:00 – 11:00	<p>PANEL V: The Future of Access to Finance</p> <p>This panel will discuss the commercialization of microfinance institutions, the diversification of financial services, and the impact of technological advances. It will address the question of whether integrating microfinance into the formal financial sector will expand access to finance for poor and low-income people around the world. Questions include: How will this change the world of microfinance? Who will be the leaders in this endeavor and why? What must be done to help give more poor and low-income people access to the financial sector?</p>

	<p><i>Moderator:</i> Mr. Tom Easton (Senior Finance Writer, The Economist)</p> <p><i>Panelists:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Yi Gang (Assistant Governor, Central Bank of China) • Dr. Stan Fischer (Governor, Bank of Israel) • Dr. Arthur Vayloyan (Head of Private Banking, CSFB Switzerland) • Sir Ronald Cohen (Chairman, Social Investment Taskforce) • His Excellency Mr. Varatthep Ratanakorn (Deputy Minister of Finance, Thailand)*
11:00 – 12:00	<p>PANEL VI: Poor and Low Income Clients: Exploring Their Financial Needs</p> <p>Poor people use a wide range of financial services, including purchasing land or other assets, making home improvements, and addressing life cycle needs such as education or marriage; seasonal events such as those relating to harvest, school fees, or festivals; and emergencies such as illness, theft or natural disasters. This panel will examine the array of products and services that can help poor people make choices, take advantage of opportunities, and smooth incomes, what types of providers are necessary to serve this market, and the costs and risks associated with reaching this segment of the population.</p> <p><i>Moderator:</i> Mr. Jonathan Morduch (Associate Professor of Public Policy and Economics, NYU)</p> <p><i>Panelists:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Robert Townsend (Charles E. Merriam Distinguished Service Professor, University of Chicago) • Ms. Xu Xiao En (Microentrepreneur, China) • Microentrepreneur, Peru • Mr. Fouad Abdelmoumni (Executive Director, Association Al Amana)
12:00 – 13:00	<p>PANEL VII: Africa: Growth and Access to Finance – The Final Frontier</p> <p>There is a notable lack of information about microfinance in Africa and what kinds of financial services people need. This panel will discuss what we know about the extent and distribution of microfinance in Africa, the hurdles to building inclusive financial sectors, and possible ways to improve the reach and effectiveness of microfinance institutions in Africa. Among the questions to be considered are: How can access to microfinance help address Africa's chronic poverty problems? What growth constraints does the microfinance sector face? How can governments, microfinance institutions, and the private sector work together to collect more data on the access and needs of financial services in African countries? What is the role of governments in adapting the legal and supervisory framework to facilitate development of microfinance in Africa?</p>

	<p><i>Moderator:</i> Sir Nicholas Stern (Head of UK Government Economic Service)</p> <p><i>Panelists:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Charles Konan Banny (Governor, BCEAO) • Her Excellency Mrs. Maimouna Sourang Ndir (Minister of Small Business and Microfinance Republic of Senegal) • Mr. Rene Azokli (CEO, PADME) • Microentrepreneur, South Africa • Mr. James Mwangi, (CEO, Equity Bank)
13:00 – 15:00	Networking Luncheon
15:00 – 16:30	<p>PANEL VIII: Migration: The Changing Landscape of Banking</p> <p>In 2000, there were 175 million persons living outside of their country of birth. Massive global population movements can dramatically impact the financial sector, particularly through the desire of migrants to send remittances to their home countries. But migration also makes it difficult for people to establish credit histories. Among the questions to be discussed by this panel are: How can banks and regulators create more efficient, cost-effective means for people to move with their assets, and transfer new assets back home? How can remittances be safely channeled to create more economic opportunities for both senders and receivers? How can immigrants transfer their credit histories from location to location?</p> <p><i>Moderator:</i> Mr. Goanpot Asvinvichit (CEO and President, Government Savings Bank)</p> <p><i>Panelists:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Diana Taylor (Banking Superintendent of New York State) • Dr. Luigi Zingales (Robert C. McCormack Professor of Entrepreneurship and Finance, University of Chicago) • Dr. Dilip Ratha (Senior Economist, World Bank) • Mr. Ajay Banga (Co-head of the Global Consumer Group, Citigroup)
16:30 – 17:30	<p>PANEL IX: Can “Access to Finance” be a Policy Objective: Member State Delegate Statements</p> <p>During this session, Ministers and representatives of Member States will be given the opportunity to discuss the challenges faced, results accomplished, and problems remaining, in the building of more inclusive financial sectors.</p>
17:30 – 18:00	Closing statement: Dr. Stan Fischer (Chair of the Advisors Group to the International Year of Microcredit)
18:30 – 22:45	<p>Evening Gala Awards Dinner</p> <p><i>“Celebrating the Unsung Heroes of Poverty Eradication”</i></p>