International Aid & Trade Europe 2004 Conference

Wednesday 28 – Thursday 29 January 2004, Geneva Palexpo Conference and Exhibition Centre

~ Integrated Aid and Development Solutions: The Role of the Private Sector ~

- Day One - Wednesday January 28th 2003

Registration: 07:30 - 08:40
Opening Ceremony: 09:00

Morning Session

09:30 - 10:30
Opening Conference Debate (Room D)

Private Sector Involvement in Aid & Development

An opening debate will assess the nature of private sector involvement in the provision of emergency and development aid. This initial forum will include analysis of key donors’ policies on the power of the private sector to effect change, its role in aid and development and emphasise the need for greater engagement with commercial concerns by the major implementing aid agencies (UN, Red Cross and NGOs).

It will include promotion of cooperation and partnerships, incorporation of the ‘Global Compact’ principles into business strategies (in support of UN and Millennium Development goals) and genuine corporate social responsibility (CSR), identifying the mutual benefits of cooperation between aid agencies and the business community.

10:30 - 10:50 Tea & Coffee Break

11:00 - 12:00
Conference Debate (Room D)

Private Sector Resources and Responsibility

The debate continues to examine the significant role of the private sector, in supplying solutions for aid operations, in trade and investment and the considerable resources business can bring to bear on problems affecting developing countries; not only financial and material assets but also technical know-how. It will look at coordination of aid and development agencies’ activities to better facilitate private sector involvement in realising infrastructure services, such as schools and hospitals.

The responsibilities of business in conflict zones, in upholding human rights and supporting good working practices, in dealing with HIV/AIDS in the workplace, in eliminating enforced and child labour, and consideration of the environment in production practices, will also be addressed.

12:00 - 14:00 Two Hour (Lunch) Break
Afternoon Session
14.00 - 15.30
Round Table Workshops (Rooms D, E, F, G and I)

Supply Solutions Cooperation for Improved Aid Delivery

Five individual workshops convene to allow an exchange of views between senior representatives from the private sector, aid agencies and governments, responsible for implementing strategy and policy, managing aid and development programmes and fulfilling procurement requirements. Starting with the procurement requirement, these workshops will explore how the private sector can tailor innovative solutions with input from aid agencies, to improve the means of delivering humanitarian aid, and then move onto the role of business post-emergency, towards development. Agency representatives will also outline procurement procedures and requirements, providing information on how to obtain details of specific supply opportunities. Participants will consider various procurement issues, current criteria, future supply requirements and technological innovation, whilst exploring interaction between aid agencies and the private sector beyond the procurement relationship.

Workshop One (Room D)
Developing Supply Solutions: Food Supply and Agricultural Production

Workshop Two (Room E)
Developing Supply Solutions: Water & Sanitation

Workshop Three (Room F)
Developing Supply Solutions: Shelter and Security

Workshop Four (Room G)
Developing Supply Solutions: Medical Aid and Healthcare

Workshop Five (Room I)
Developing Supply Solutions: Telecommunications, Transport & Logistics

15:30 - 16:00 Half-Hour Break

16.00 - 17.30
Workshops Continue (Rooms D, E, F, G and I)

The Role of the Private Sector in Building Integrated Solutions

The workshops reconvene and continue analysing the scope of industry involvement in providing aid and development solutions. Senior government and aid agency representatives will discuss various issues regarding their relationship with senior business executives to better harness the strengths of the private sector for the benefit of aid and development programmes. Each workshop will explore the private sector's contribution to realising more salient, (cost) efficient and innovative solutions for humanitarian aid and development, beyond the procurement requirement.
Day Two - Thursday January 29th 2003

Morning Session

09:00 - 10:30
Conference Debate/Workshops Update (Room D)

Partnerships with the Private Sector

Rapporteurs provide Conference with an update on the workshops and raise issues and ideas that may merit similar discussion within the parallel workshops. New approaches to integration of relief activities, poverty alleviation and investment into long term sustainable development, will be raised, assessing progress through partnerships with the private sector, and highlighting initiatives that have successfully harnessed some of the strengths business has to offer. It will also consider the potential for alternative frameworks through which the desire for coordination and partnerships between public, private and (voluntary) aid agencies, can be met.

10:30 - 10:50 Tea & Coffee Break

11:00 - 12:00
Workshops Continue (Rooms D, E, F, G and I)

Private Sector's Role in Post-Conflict Rehabilitation and Development

The workshops resume to consider ways to ensure more effective collaboration with the private sector by governments and aid agencies post-conflict, particularly as economic recovery aids stability yet economic activity first requires a certain level of security (Catch-22). Included in the discussions will be issues regarding ameliorating risks to enable early involvement by business, such as the need for some political stability, legal frameworks and financial infrastructure, and mitigating some of the risks faced by businesses, agencies and their personnel.
Workshop One (Room D)
**Integrated Solutions and the Private Sector:** Food Supply and Agricultural Production

Workshop Two (Room E)
**Integrated Solutions and the Private Sector:** Water & Sanitation (sustainable water supply and management systems)

Workshop Three (Room F)
**Integrated Solutions and the Private Sector:** Security and Shelter (inc. CIMIC & mine action)

Workshop Four (Room G)
**Integrated Solutions and the Private Sector:** Medical Aid and Healthcare

Workshop Five (Room I)
**Integrated Solutions and the Private Sector:** Telecommunications, Transport & Logistics

12:00 - 14:00 *Two Hour (Lunch) Break*

**Afternoon Session**
14:00 - 15:00
Workshops Continue (Rooms D, E, F, G and I)

**Cooperation with the Private Sector at the Local Level**

Discussions will address concerns of local suppliers in developing countries, including the feeling that they can be excluded through not understanding and complying correctly with procurement procedures. Efforts to decentralise and build local capacity, initiatives to promote public private partnerships towards sustainable development in developing countries, encouraging involvement of local stakeholders will be raised, as will promoting aid funded infrastructure projects as a way to improve private investment in new markets; especially in countries recovering from crisis. Also looking at how business can help with empowerment of low-income communities and the experience of the local economic development agencies (economic recovery and decent employment).

Workshop One (Room D)
**Integrated Solutions and the Private Sector:** Food Supply and Agricultural Production

Workshop Two (Room E)
**Integrated Solutions and the Private Sector:** Water & Sanitation (sustainable water supply and management systems)

Workshop Three (Room F)
**Integrated Solutions and the Private Sector:** Security and Shelter (inc. CIMIC & mine action)

Workshop Four (Room G)
**Integrated Solutions and the Private Sector:** Medical Aid and Healthcare

Workshop Five (Room I)
**Integrated Solutions and the Private Sector:** Telecommunications, Transport & Logistics

15:00 - 15:30 *Half-Hour Break*
16:00 - 17:00

Workshop Summary Session: Conference Conclusion (Room D)

Defining Priorities for Facilitating Private Sector Involvement in Integrated Solutions

The closing debate will allow the Rapporteurs of the various workshops to encapsulate conclusions drawn and consider identified integrated solutions for ‘the way forward’. Following these summaries, the Conference delegates may comment on some of the issues raised and their implications for future overarching strategy and policy, vis-à-vis increased effectiveness in cooperation and coordination between aid agencies, governments and the private sector. Finally, the Conference Chairman will identify areas where various actors involved in relief and development can accommodate some of the aims of others, without compromising their individual objectives, towards the MDGs.

The principle aim of this Conference is to enable representatives from aid agencies, governments, civil society, academia, international labour/business associations and the private sector, to define solutions that better utilise the strengths of the business community, to ultimately improve the quality of immediate and long term aid and development. We hope that all actors involved can realise the mutual benefits of working together in this field.

N.B. - This document provides an outline of content and structure for the event International Aid & Trade Europe 2004, Conference and Exhibition, Geneva Palexpo, 28 - 29 January 2004. Themes and speakers are to be announced or confirmed in due course and therefore its content is subject to change.