



Statement

by

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and
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Item 59: Towards global partnerships

***Enhanced cooperation between the United Nations and all
relevant partners, in particular the private sector***

New York
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Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished Delegates,

Over the past few years there has been an increasing realization that all actors of the global community, including civil society, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and the private and business sector need to be mobilized and actively involved in the pursuit of the goals and objectives of the United Nations.

Partnerships have now become an integral part of the UN's work in many areas, reflecting also the desire for more effective implementation of the UN goals and commitments by utilizing every possible and available resource and capacity – nationally and internationally.

Partnerships between the Institutions and private business can open important opportunities for development. Private sector can contribute to key development issues, and share capacities, knowledge, and technology, which are especially lacking in the Least Developed Countries (LDCs), Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs), and Small Island Developing States (SIDS). In addition, private businesses can partner with the UN in supporting the development and expansion of local markets by providing access and bridging gaps. These partnerships are key to achieve sustainable economic development and to eradicate poverty particularly for the weakest segment of our society. In this context, the role of partnerships as they pertain to the implementation of the Programmes of Action of Brussels, Almaty and Mauritius, in favour of the three most vulnerable and disadvantaged groups of countries in the world is of crucial importance. While the international community agreed on these three programmes to address their vulnerabilities and specific development needs, implementation has lagged seriously as a result of low levels of international resource flow.

The implementation of these three programmes, all envisages partnerships with both domestic and international civil society as an integral part of the implementation process. The focus is to maximally involve national, regional and international civil society and the private sector. It is a fact that involvement of domestic civil society and business promotes national ownership of development projects and programmes. Such partnerships also help to mobilize all possible resources – human, financial and material in the achievement of developmental goals.

The Brussels Programme is presented as “A Framework for Partnership” and outlines not only partnerships between the LDC and their development partners, but with other non-government actors as well. It calls for LDCs to implement Programme “with the full involvement of domestic stakeholders and the collaboration of its public and private development partners to implement agreed commitments.” Furthermore, the Programme explicitly recognizes the important role to be played by civil society and the private sector in its implementation and follow-up, inter alia, through stronger public-private partnerships. With the acknowledgement that such partnerships are essential to reach the goal of poverty reduction, guidelines are provided for the LDCs and their partners to follow an integrated approach, a genuine partnership, and country ownership.

Civil society and private sector representatives were intricately involved in the formulation of the Mauritius Strategy, the Almaty and the Brussels programmes. The latest example of this approach occurred during the Mauritius International Meeting in January this year, where participants represented a diverse range of stakeholders. Their views and experiences were given recognition through a number of entry points, including statements to the plenary and inclusion in panel discussions and high-level round tables. The opening session heard a report from the Civil Society Forum, which was held in Mauritius just before the International Meeting. This allowed major groups to organize and consolidate their positions in preparation for the official meeting. But only through joint venture we will be able to achieve the objectives stipulated in Mauritius. The Landlocked Developing Countries are to a large extent dependent on State-to-State partnerships in the implementation of the Almaty Programme, notwithstanding the need to also benefit from State-to-private sector and business partnerships. For the LLDCs it is critical to promote such partnerships, especially with their transit neighbours, and the private sector in their regions in the area of trade facilitation and transport to make their trade and transit more efficient.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, the international community will benefit greatly from increased attention to partnerships between all development partners, including civil society and the private and business sector, which will contribute greatly to the implementation of the three internationally-agreed programmes for the LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS.

Thank you.