



International Chamber of Commerce

The world business organisation

**COMMITTEE ON WORLD FOOD SECURITY 40TH SESSION
9 OCTOBER 2013**

**ICC REMARKS TO INTERACTIVE PANEL: MULTI-STAKEHOLDER MODELS THAT
PROMOTE FOOD SECURITY, NUTRITION AND SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE;
TOWARDS THE POST 2015 DEVELOPMENT AGENDA**

**DELIVERED BY
LOUISE KANTROW
ICC PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

Mr. Chairman, United Nations Partners and Distinguished guests, it gives me great pleasure to join this panel today in my capacity as the Permanent Representative of the International Chamber of Commerce to the United Nations.

Established in 1919 by private sector representatives in five countries, today ICC is the largest, most representative business organization, encompassing 6.5 million businesses in our global network, with national committees and direct members in 130 countries, as well as, active presence in over 230 countries through ICC's World Chambers Federation. Private sector leaders and experts drawn from ICC's networks establish the business stance on broad issues of trade and investment policy as well as on vital technical, sectoral and regional subjects. Granted consultative status in 1946 through ECOSOC, the core of ICC's mission is to promote economic growth and development via trade and investment while dealing with the challenges and opportunities of globalization in economic, environmental and social areas.

Colleagues, we are currently embarking on a United Nations system wide exercise to develop a global Post 2015 Development Agenda to succeed the MDGs. Less than two weeks ago the inaugural session of the High Level Political Forum took place during the opening of the 68th Session of the General Assembly. Thirteen years ago the Millennium Summit launched the United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) which have served as a useful framework for global action and cooperation on development. When the 2015 targets of the MDGs were set in 2000, the business contribution to meeting these targets was not well-understood. Today, UN Member States recognize the role of the private sector as an engine of growth and development and the benefits that business can bring: job creation, economic expansion, and technological progress and innovation. Within the right framework, the private sector can be an integral partner to development, and can accelerate the achievement of core development objectives. Conversely, it is also the case that development will proceed much more slowly if the private sector is not mobilized in

this direction. Thus, the task for 2015 is to identify those conditions under which private sector growth and development objectives may coincide and thus form the basis for inclusive sustainable growth.

Over the last decades, ICC has had extensive involvement in the many UN meetings and conferences that have identified the crucial components of a global partnership for development and its interlinked priorities. ICC has consistently emphasized the importance of mobilizing domestic resources and encouraging local entrepreneurship, foreign direct investment and other private capital flows, overseas development assistance and integrating the informal economy into the formal economy. Creating an environment conducive to enterprises of all sizes and in all sectors to develop, create jobs and pursue technological innovation and cooperation – coupled with sound governance and policies to enable inclusive growth and equitable distribution, while reducing barriers to international trade and foreign direct investment – is the best model for promoting sustainable development.

MDGs mobilized minds, catalyzed action to combat poverty, and highlighted urgent priorities for the neediest and most vulnerable. The MDGs have provided a valuable learning process and this experience needs to be built on as we devise the Post 2015 Development Agenda and a set of Sustainable Development Goals as an integral part of the post-2015 development framework.

The MDGs placed poverty and hunger at the top of the list. As we discuss the Post 2015 agenda, we must not forget the primacy of those goals. They are not met and most would agree that part of that is due to the failure to focus adequately on agriculture and rural development.

Quite simply, agriculture is the primary driver to abate hunger and reduce poverty. Throughout history, agricultural prosperity has led to successful economies. And food security has a direct impact on national and political security. It also addresses inequalities. For instance, we know rural women lag behind urban women and all men in achieving the Millennium Development Goals. Rural development and farming is a key mechanism to address this devastating gap.

We applaud the zero-hunger challenge and the focus on nutrition as well as food security. To achieve these ambitious goals we must encourage increased agricultural productivity by all, by ensuring that food flows freely across borders and around the globe to places where it is needed, and by ensuring that economic development supports both local production and the purchase of imports.

There is no “one-size-fits-all” solution in agriculture, and we would like to emphasize that the Post 2015 process must reflect a **broad diversity** of farming systems: from livestock to crop; horticulture to agro-forestry; modern to traditional; co-operatives to businesses; smallholders to large.

Three overarching messages are critical:

1. **First, agriculture is central to addressing hunger and poverty.** Supportive policies are needed to encourage investments in local agriculture and innovation that lead to food security, economic development, stability and national security. Returning agriculture and rural development to at least 10% of overseas development assistance is equally as important as countries meeting their national commitments under programs like CAADP.
2. **Second, sustainable agriculture is knowledge-based and requires a holistic view.** Just as people-centred approaches are at the core of the development aspirations of the UN, agriculture programs are needed that are ‘farmer-centred and knowledge-based’ so that the full potential of farmers, both men and women, including small-holder and commercial farmers, can be harnessed in making food security and sustainable development a reality. Farmers need access to land, water, knowledge, inputs, and credit to grow a crop and functioning markets to sell their products. Rural infrastructure needs to be in place including a revitalisation of extension services.
3. **Third, achieving zero hunger means a focus on food and nutrition.** The intersection of food security with development is not only an immediate measure of hungry mouths, but also the long term implications on a country’s well being. If children are stunted in their first 1000 days the challenges remain for their health and education for their life time. The new agenda must include nourishment as well as hunger in its agenda.

The new international development agenda will have to address not only national but also local issues. The process of developing the SDGs should work closely with the Post-2015 Development Agenda, engaging all countries, while providing enough space for each country to develop its own approach. The experience of the MDGs has taught us quite clearly that processes of top-down and bottom-up have to meet for future SDGs to be successful. We see strong potential for the SDGs to be more than the sum of their parts and the convergence of the MDGs and SDGs into a single coherent post 2015 development framework to be an important and desirable outcome.

The measures required to assess progress in implementing the SDGs must be thought out now and the means to monitor and report on results must be devised. There is a widely recognized need for accurate, detailed, disaggregated statistics which do not look at the overall national numbers but take into account the reality on the ground. Indicators and data collection are required at the local and sub-national levels if real impact and process are to be achieved.

The development of the SDGs should consider how to mobilize and channel resources most cost-effectively – for business, stepping up investment in and deployment of financial and technological resources, innovation and knowhow will be one of the most critical success factors for SDGs that are not unmet promises. It will be indispensable to reflect economic circumstances, opportunities and risks in designing the goals and targets as well as their necessary “support structure.”

The SDGs are an opportunity to bring “sustainability” and “development” together in a mutually reinforcing and measurable way, and 1) animate global cooperation and 2) draw on and mobilize the resources of non-governmental constituencies including farmers and business representatives. We now need to work on ensuring proper reflection of the consultations at the key decision making levels, ensuring this process is open and transparent and identifying key actors that are needed to make a difference.

In an effort to make effective, coordinated, concrete and long-term contributions to the Post-2015 development agenda, representatives from the private sector are in the initial stages of establishing the Global Business Alliance for Post-2015. The Alliance will be a global business platform composed of major international private sector organizations, representing business from every region of the globe ranging from global, regional, national and sectoral business organizations and associations, as well as, companies from multinational corporations (MNCs) to small-medium enterprises (SMEs) covering a wide variety of sectors. ICC will coordinate the work of the Alliance.

The private sector cannot succeed in a society that fails. It is equally true that society cannot achieve sustainability without business as a committed solutions provider.

Business cannot succeed without a strong partnership with governments at every level, who have the responsibility to provide the supporting policy frameworks that make it possible for business to deliver solutions for a sustainable economy. At the same time our partnerships with civil society are also essential to create trust, and to support the substantial transformations of the pathway to sustainability. In short, we are all in this together.