Helsinki/ Espoo, 3-4 April 2014

Co-Creating New Partnerships for Financing Sustainable Development

Outreach event of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing

Organized by

Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland

Hosted by

Aalto University

The present document is a summary of the outreach event for the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing entitled “Co-Creating New Partnerships for Financing Sustainable Development”, organized by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland in co-operation with Aalto Global Impact of Aalto University. The meeting was held at the Design Factory, Aalto University, in Espoo, Finland, from 3 to 4 April 2014. The event was an informal and equal dialogue among a wide range of multi-stakeholders, and this summary does not necessarily reflect any official views of the countries and organizations present.

Additional background documents and material from meeting are available at:
https://sites.google.com/site/icesdfhelsinki/.

For more information on the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing, please consult:
http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/index.php?menu=1558.

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Context and objectives of the meeting

In UN General Assembly (UNGA) Decision 67/559 of 21 July 2013, the UNGA formally established an intergovernmental committee of experts on sustainable development financing (ICESDF), as called for in the outcome of the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20, paragraphs 255 to 257). The membership of the Committee comprises 30 experts nominated by regional groups.

As mentioned in the Rio+20 outcome document, the mandate of the Committee is to prepare "a report proposing options on an effective sustainable development financing strategy to facilitate the mobilization of resources and their effective use in achieving sustainable development objectives." The Committee is also tasked "to assess financing needs, consider the effectiveness, consistency and synergies of existing instruments and frameworks and evaluate additional initiatives" and to draw on "technical support from the UN system and in open and broad consultation with relevant international and regional financial institutions and other relevant stakeholders".

The Committee meets regularly in New York and will deliver its report to the UN General Assembly in August 2014. Together with the report from the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals and other processes, the report of the Committee will be a critical input to the forthcoming intergovernmental negotiations on a post-2015 development agenda.

Observing its mandate to conduct its work in open and broad consultations with stakeholders, since its inception the Committee has conducted a range of communication, consultation and outreach activities. Each of the official Committee sessions in New York has had dedicated periods reserved for interaction with UN Member States and other stakeholders. In addition, the Co-chairs of the Committee have organized and attended many outreach events in different regions, including events organized by the UN Regional Economic Commissions. The aim of such outreach events is to collect a wide range of inputs and feedback from Governments and non-State actors to inform the Committee's work.

The objective of this ICESDF multi-stakeholder outreach event, held on 3-4 April 2014, was to discuss the role of private sector in financing sustainable development and the opportunities in creating new kinds of creative and mutually beneficial partnerships among stakeholders.

The event, organized in co-operation with the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland and Aalto Global Impact of Aalto University, brought together over a hundred experts on sustainable development and on financing from four continents, representing the public and private sectors as well as civil society. The list of participants is included in Annex 1.

Specifically, the meeting was focused on the following issues: (i) The role of private sector and enabling environment in financing sustainable development: State of play; (ii) Innovative initiatives and best practices; (iii) The role of private sector partnerships beyond 2015 - How to materialize universality in sustainable development financing. The first two plenary sessions on 3 April were designed to set the stage and prepare for small group workshops later that day, which focused on the elaboration of concrete proposals for creating new partnerships between governments and the private sector for sustainable development financing. The second morning was a multi-stakeholder session. The agenda of the meeting is included in Annex 2.

The following describes the main issues raised during the meeting. Because some subjects were mentioned in various sessions, we chose to mention issues only once, and therefore the summary here does not necessarily reflect the exact content of each session.

Co-chair's key messages from the meeting

The following key transformative messages were prepared by the Co-chair of the Committee for the consideration of the ICESDF.

TOWARD A PARADIGM CHANGE

Sustainable development needs to be mainstreamed into financing, domestic budgets and the world economic agenda – all human economic activities, whether public or private, should be based on sustainable development objectives and criteria.

Official Development Assistance remains a critical financing source for extreme poverty eradication, especially in LDCs and countries in special situations.

Private financial flows represent the largest stream of funding available for investment. Even a small change in the size and orientation of these flows as regards sustainable development objectives would have a significant quantitative and qualitative impact. Costs of inaction are high, but action in the wrong direction could be even more costly. Therefore, investment and partnerships should be targeted to the sectors of the Sustainable Development Goals to maximize their impact on sustainable development.

Capital markets need to be better understood and the whole capital supply chains must be considered when promoting sustainable development –there is a need to align incentives in a structural manner in these chains, above and beyond devising smart incentives at the project or program levels.

There is an opportunity for a paradigm shift in sustainable development financing. The current commitments of business are inspiring and encouraging. These include commitments to UN principles on human rights, labor, environment and anti-corruption, to the Busan partnership and, in the case of private investors, to the Principles for Responsible Investment. These moral commitments need to be turned into concrete action, and they pave the way for sustainable development and poverty reduction, which need to be shared objectives of the private sector as well. Experience proves that commercial viability and economic feasibility can materialize at the same time.

The paradigm shift can be facilitated by:

- making sustainable development an essential element in company strategies and a core competence of companies – making use of instruments that use sustainable development objectives as a positive label (like fair trade)
- making better use of synergies, complementarities and interplay between public/private financing
- creating new innovative partnerships within a more systematic and holistic framework, leading to stronger country-led investments and wider participation of all stakeholders and avoiding excessive proliferation of partnerships. This could be done by
    - enabling stronger national level coordination and oversight as well as effective monitoring and evaluation for accountability
    - focusing on quality of the investments and partner ships instead of their quantity
    - finding the right platforms for engagement with all relevant actors and recognizing the existing differences of interests among stakeholders, to enhance understanding of and trust in partnerships establishing appropriate standards, codes and guidelines for partnerships.

FRAMEWORK FOR PARTNERSHIPS

The framework for thinking about new partnerships has to embrace a challenge – the aim needs to be systemic change, while strongly focusing on the national and local level economic, social and environmental impacts.

The discourse about partnerships should not be only about large companies – SMEs and the informal sector are key components of the private sector, and partnerships have to be relevant to them as well.

There is an important role for national development policies and investment strategies in contributing to channel investment in priority sectors consistent with national development strategies. Investment promotion strategies need to be reframed to target SDG sectors, addressing critical capacity gaps in the way.

National and local impacts and outcomes should guide the type of development partnerships that are promoted. Partnership projects need to be devised to develop local productive capacity and income generation capacity. Approaches exist that can help reconcile global development goals with local realities, such as fair trade and the use of public procurement to promote domestic economic development.

It is important to recognize the existing differences of interests among stakeholders, to enhance understanding of and trust in partnerships, and be clear about what is expected from each partner in specific partnerships - partnerships are a means to an end, not an end in itself.

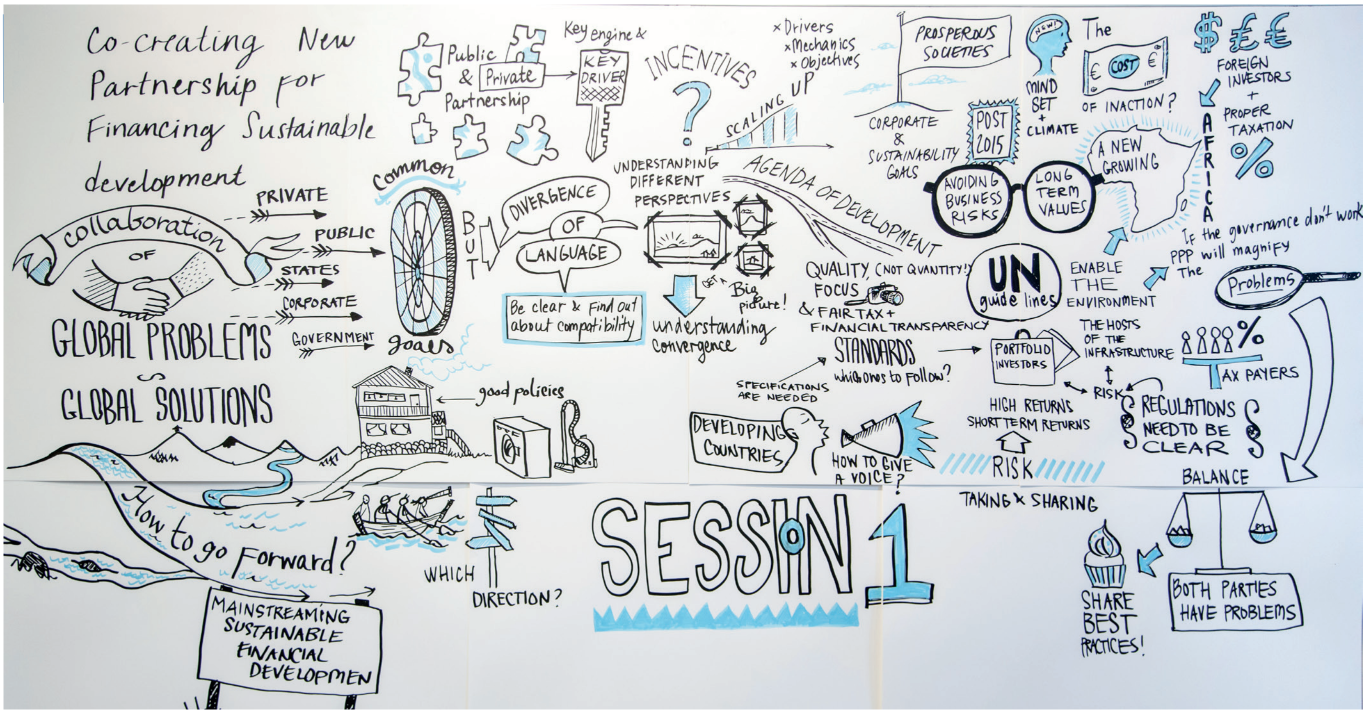
Institutional investors such as pension funds, insurance companies and sovereign wealth funds could provide opportunities for attracting long-term finance to cover e.g. SMEs and social sectors. Experiences are already available, upon which new partnerships could be based. Green and social bonds have already made breakthroughs, mainly on a commercial basis. All these experiences should be further studied (WB, other IFIs) and contribute lessons for a more systemic and strategic approach for sustainable development financing.

The provision of blended financing, risk mitigation and other incentives to alter the risk-return profile of private investment should be carefully assessed for their potential to deliver additional sustainable development and poverty reduction outcomes; the objective should be to close the gap between private and social returns while avoiding to crowd out local businesses and transactions that would take place at market terms.

Risk transfers between the public and private sectors implied by partnerships, and associated potential liabilities for the public sector, have to be fair and transparent. Democratic oversight, robust national accounting of partnerships and regular audits are important in this regard.

ADDITIONAL ENABLING CONDITIONS

States need policy space in order to secure positive sustainable development and poverty reduction gains. Policy and regulation have to carefully maintain a proper



balance so as to prioritize national sustainable development objectives while enhancing the capacity of the policy environment to attract investments.

There is a need for improvements and reform towards a new framework for international investments. The current international investment regime is composed of several thousands of bilateral investment agreements and other trade agreements covering investment issues. Its weaknesses are generally known and recognized. The situation creates special difficulties in mainstreaming the sustainable development perspective in the investment regime.

There is a strong call for strengthening the role of state in financial regulation, its enforcement, and in overall financial resource management. From the point of view of sustainable development, this is also essential in order to manage financing packages composed of many financing sources and instruments, and ensuring accountability for the feasibility, transparency, good governance and legality of partnerships.

Thursday, 3 April

Opening remarks

The meeting was opened by Under-Secretary of State Ms. Anne Sipiläinen from the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland. In her opening remarks Ms. Sipiläinen underlined the huge opportunities private sector provides for cooperation for sustainable development. She also noted with encouragement the commitment of over 8000 companies to UN Secretary General's Global Compact and a similar move by private investors for the Principles for Responsible Investment.
However, a lot more should be done, the Under-Secretary continued. "Implementation is the only meaningful measure to any strategy. Global problems call for global solutions. For this reason we also approach this issue from a multi-stakeholder platform uniting public and private sectors with a wider civil society from all parts of the world." The big question to be raised is how to go forward in order to have a wider on all private financing flows to become economically, socially and environmentally sustainable? What kind of new partnerships may be required?
Ms.Sipiläinen further emphasized that there is no in-built incompatibility between the private and public interests and objectives. The fact that commercial and economic rate of returns can be positive at the same time is proven every day in a multitude of activities. So it should be possible that the sustainable development criteria and poverty reduction impact would be taken into account in all human economic activities, whether private or public. This would be a huge and economically very productive transformative change.
Finally, the Under-Secretary appealed to ICESDF to pay serious attention to negative economic implications of growing inequalities, and to promote strongly mainstreaming sustainable development. Inequalities do not only cause serious social implications, it has been shown that they also play against sustainable and inclusive economic growth. A stronger effort should be taken to mainstream sustainable development in the national agendas and priorities – "and even farther do we stay from having mainstreamed the sustainable development financing in the national budgets and the world economic agenda."

Session 1: The role of private sector and enabling environment in financing sustainable development: State of play

The overall topic of the session was "de-coding partnerships: overview of current partnerships, including prospects and areas in need of improvement".

Ambassador Pertti Majanen, Co-chair of the ICESDF, presented the work of the Committee and introduced the theme and objectives of the meeting. Mr. San Bilal, ECDPM, provided an overview of the background paper prepared for the meeting. Short presentations were delivered by Jaime Garcia Alba, United Nations Global Compact, Jesse Griffiths, EURODAD, and Margaret Kigozi, Crown Beverages Ltd Uganda.

Mr. Majanen outlined the role of the Committee's work in the political process leading to the post-2015 development agenda, the mandate of the Committee and the principles on which it has based its work.

The ICESDF has based its work on four fundamentals: 1) the Millennium Declaration with its universal values and common global interests and objectives as an entry into the universality, 2) the Monterrey Consensus on financing for development, with its comprehensive approach covering all domestic and international, public and private financial flows and their interplay, 3) Rio+20 and the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development as cross-cutting elements, and 4) a multi-stakeholder approach based on a wide and inclusive participation and influence of the public, private and civil society sectors.

Mr. Majanen presented the goal of the meeting as helping to articulate a paradigm shift where the private sector fully contributes to delivering sustainable development, in particular by incorporating sustainable development criteria in all its activities. This implies to mainstream sustainable development in national budgets and strategies, to critically analyse existing partnerships, and to propose new forms of partnerships.

Jaime Garcia Alba pointed to a growing trend in business towards thinking of financing sustainable development as a way to deliver long-term business value. In the attempt to align long-term objectives of business with sustainable development objectives, one of the key challenges is to increase transparency and accountability in order to reward positive behaviour from companies and screen out “free riders”. Incorporating sustainability factors as risks to be measured and addressed by companies and investors (e.g. PRI) was presented as an interesting way forward, as were practices pioneered by leading businesses, such as impact investment. He offered that a new mindset for private sustainability finance has been developing, accompanied by innovations in private finance. However, there is a need to clarify the framework in which private sector is supposed to contribute to sustainable development, and define specific objectives from which the relevant type of finance and the expected impacts of private projects can be determined.

Jesse Griffiths underlined the growing importance of domestic private investment in developing countries, which is often greater than all external flows. He argued that international private finance should be approached in terms of quality, rather than focusing exclusively on quantity. He pointed to the scarcity of evidence on development additionality of blended finance, which could be seen as a diversion of scarce public resources that could be better spent elsewhere. Instead of adopting an exclusive focus on leveraging private investment, he called for also considering financial transparency, investment standards, corporate standards, and fair taxation systems, including country-by-country reporting and public registries of beneficial ownership.

Margaret Kigozi emphasized the critical and growing role of FDI in Africa. She highlighted Africa's potential as destination for international investment, including in oil, gas and minerals, infrastructure and services. She mentioned that private sector investments in health are growing. She pointed to key requirements for an enabling domestic environment to attract private investment, including liberalisation, security and democracy, infrastructure, justice and law, an educated and skilled labour force, access to land and access to finance.

The interactive discussion focused on the following points. First, it was mentioned that the language commonly used to describe public-private partnerships may not be understood in the same way by the different actors, and this has the potential to engender confusion about the direction and objectives of partnerships. It is important to clarify these issues as the idea of harnessing the private sector to deliver internationally agreed goals moves from being an afterthought to a full-fledged piece of the overall strategy post 2015.

There was a discussion on whether systemic changes could ever be achieved by relying on voluntary principles for investment or corporate reporting, with several participants pointing to the need to go beyond voluntary approaches.

Compared to other sources of finance, PPPs can have high cost of capital, which comes from the imperative for private investors to meet expected levels of return. Unfortunately, this is often achieved by shifting risk to taxpayers and consumers in the host country. Therefore, when to use PPPs should be carefully assessed based inter alia on the availability of less expensive sources of capital. It was mentioned that PPPs need clear regulations to be efficient, and this is not always well done at the moment.

Participants said that partnerships should respect human rights, following the UN guidelines in this regard. Other criteria for evaluating public-private partnerships should include transparency and accountability, equality, fairness and inclusiveness. The international community has to address the issues of compliance costs and measurement challenges. As someone put it, this is

reminiscent of the discussions on ODA twenty years ago, when the contribution of the private sector to development tended to be overlooked from intergovernmental agreements. It is thus normal, and healthy, that we are now considering the same set of issues regarding private investment. We can use the experience of the aid debates; but certainly much work remains to be done.

Governance effects of PPPs also have to be taken into account. The proliferation of PPPs can lead to isolated solutions and work in silos, making it a challenge to link them to broader public sector initiatives. The tendency towards "elite" models of governance at the international level could potentially create accountability deficits in relation to international partnerships, which points to the need for rules of democracy and accountability for such partnerships.

It was also mentioned that the whole discussion on "enabling environment" would need to be refocused from attracting (any) investment to creating investment that serves domestic development objectives. In this conversation, the domestic private sector should be front and center.

The role of Governments was recognized as being critical, in particular enable the development of financial intermediation, to provide a sustainable development framework which can be linked to investment priorities, and to put in place the necessary governance mechanisms.

Session 2: Innovative initiatives and best practices

The session aimed at exploring practices set by leaders in sustainable development, current constraints to their broader application, lessons learned and possible ways forward. The session was chaired by Ambassador Dragan Zupanjevac (Serbia), Member of the ICESDF.

Introductory statements were provided by Steve Waygood, Aviva Investors; Gargee Ghosh, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation; Michael Reddy, The Furniture Technology Centre Trust, South Africa; and Jennifer Narcisa Del Rosario, IBON International.

In his presentation, Steve Waygood showed how, if the objective is to achieve systemic change, it is important to consider the whole capital supply chains and the incentives of its actors: individual investors, investment consultants, asset managers, stock exchanges and others, down to the companies that invest on the ground. He offered that capital markets as a system are not well addressed by the UN system, where the focus is rather on finance. For example, the current focus on foreign direct investment does not address who the ultimate investors are and where they get the capital from. He discussed how regulation, standards and engagement by regulators and asset owners can deliver change. Integrated reporting by companies is one of the key entry points in this area. Report should be available to all society and not just to clients – transparency of the whole system is important.

Gargee Ghosh presented the approach of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to partnerships. She pointed to the need to focus not only on the "downstream" part of partnerships (delivering services on the ground), but also on the "upstream" aspect (new methodologies, products and services). She emphasized that partnerships are a means to an end, not an end in itself. In devising partnerships, it is important to be as clear as possible on what is expected from a specific partnership, and what each partner is supposed to bring to the table. She called for the Committee to aim high and think about grand coalitions. Success factors for such coalitions seem to be finding specific alignment of interests where all partners share priorities, and the ability to put all the relevant stakeholders and actors around the table. Financial resources, expertise to deliver and the influence to shape policy are other necessary ingredients. Specific, measurable goals can be used to motivate partnerships.

Michael Reddy presented a concrete example of a business incubator in South Africa. Speaking as a recipient of public and private funds, he highlighted key difficulties. In terms of public sector funding, grants are used mainly for infrastructure and facilities. Once this is done, the funding is often cut quite dramatically. The private sector in South Africa is generally reluctant to invest on "development" activities. The role of the State to make this happen is thus critical. But this generates quite volatile funding from the private sector, which can be keen to follow changing government-set priorities. In trying to build sustainable ventures, one has to deal with conflicting interests. Governments tend to focus on social objectives. The private sector is concerned with return on investment. Donors have visibility concerns. Different compliance requirements from all these actors are difficult to meet. In the case of the Furniture Technology Centre Trust, these obstacles were overcome by adopting clear principles not to let donors or the government determine the strategy of the trust, at the risk of forgoing funding. In the future, there is a need for a change of mindset from all actors to move from seeing problems (e.g. HIV) to seeing opportunities (national and local economic development).

Jennifer Del Rosario warned the audience that while there is sense in thinking big, it is also critical to consider national and local impacts and outcomes of partnerships and private investment decisions. Experience on what works and doesn't work at the local level should guide the type of development partnerships that are promoted. Partnerships should be scrutinized on how they respect basic human rights and dignity and promote economic opportunity, including fair wages. Approaches exist that can help reconcile global development goals with local realities, such as fair trade and the use of public procurement to promote pro-poor domestic economic development, for example by encouraging the use of local contractors. She reminded the audience that in many countries, individuals and institutions seeking to promote pro-poor development were at risk – a far cry from an "enabling environment". Policy and legal changes would be important to enable a shift to sustainability. For example, the possibilities of public procurement in this regard are still rarely used, as it is easier to deal with large, established contractors. It is important to use financial inclusion as a tool to promote equity and sustainable practices. Rural women, who grow a large part of the region's food, can help transform agriculture into a more sustainable sector; however, they face particular challenges and should be a primary target for such pro-poor policies in relation with partnerships.

The interactive discussion raised a number of points. Many participants felt that the private sector was an important part of the equation, in particular due to their innovative approaches. Promoting existing best practices was mentioned as important. Some perceived partnerships as a way to create sustained access to supply chains. A better understanding of what kind of private capital is needed to achieve specific objectives in the poorest countries is required.

At the same time, many emphasized that partnerships should serve national sustainable development priorities and prioritize the needs of poor communities. They underlined the importance of domestic policy and domestic investment objectives. As one participant put it, the cost of inaction may be high, but the cost of action in the wrong direction can be even higher.

The challenge is to "change the system while acknowledging local reality"; or, to put it another way, to achieve systemic change while focusing on local level impacts. In this context, there is a need for investment rules to leave space for sustainable development policies at the national level, for example to uphold human right standards.

Finding relevant and innovative financing models is necessary for example for connection to basic services when upfront costs are too high for customers, or when collective solutions are needed such as for wastewater collection and treatment. Output-based financing was mentioned as an option, as were social performance bonds. It was felt that performance-based contracts with bidding offered the advantage of letting the private sector compete and deliver the best value for money.

There was a concern that two separate questions, how to mobilize resources for national development objectives and what standards should apply to the private sector, were now artificially treated as the same in the development discourse.

How to promote accountability of partnerships and address conflicts of interest were recurring threads in the discussion. Public-private partnerships should be assessed based on whether they bring additional benefits to the public, and on whether these benefits outweigh the risks. Large corporations have to be held accountable for their behaviour. In that regard, it was proposed that the key was to move from corporate responsibility to finding sound ways to combine interests. Examples of incentives that can work included gender-based wages used as incentives by DFIs.

The time dimension of sustainable development is important and has to be fed into the monitoring and evaluation loops; which have to involve local stakeholders. At the policy level, enabling participation and opportunities to adjust projects as they develop is important.

The distinction between domestic and international finance is not always clear-cut. Local banks can be listed internationally and receive capital from international funds. Banks are also listed companies, and as such it is important to understand who owns them and what motivates them. As owners, we elect the directors of those companies to promote our interests, we should check that they meet certain standards. We also need civil society to come to investors with more visible benchmarks for investment. A speaker mentioned the “Access to medicine index”, which ranks pharmaceutical companies’ efforts to improve access to medicine in developing countries, as an example of tools that can nudge companies to do more under pressure from investors and the public. The call for a binding instrument on CSR before Rio+20 did not materialize, but efforts in this direction are ongoing.

With regards to public procurement related to partnerships, many contracts are usually in multimillion dollars, and it is easier to giving the contracts to those who already have the capacity, technology, know-how and track record. This system crowds out the possibility of giving projects to smaller firms who could provide the services as well. Many contracts end up in the hands of large corporations that are from the countries where the money came from. Procurement systems, including those of international financing institutions, should be reviewed to correct this.

One of the speakers mentioned that the Equator Principles were designed at a time when banks used to be the key providers of project finance. The Equator principles now cover about 80% of bank investment. However, recently insurance companies and other institutional investors have stepped into project finance (for example, infrastructure projects funded by pension funds), but are not subject to the same standards. The Equator Principles would need to be reconfigured to adapt to this new landscape.

Lastly, the discussion touched on the qualities of innovative finance. One participant proposed that criteria for qualifying as innovative financing should include additionality, national and local ownership, as well as having the potential to trigger change at the systemic level.

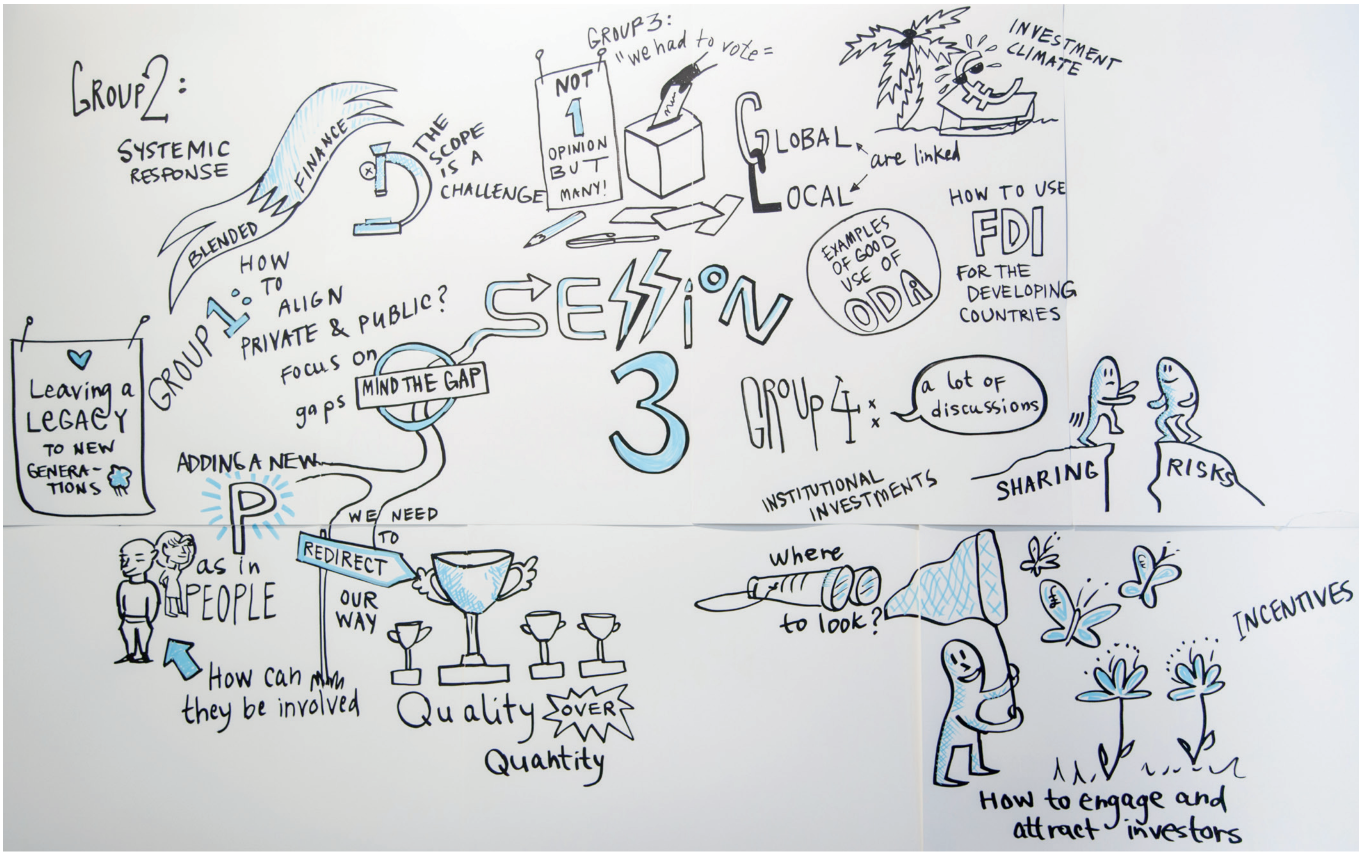
Brown bag luncheon

During the lunch hour, three keynotes speeches were delivered by Monique Barbut, Executive Secretary of United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification; Olav Kjørven, Special Advisor to the United Nations Development Programme Administrator on the Post-2015 Development Agenda; and Pirita Mikkanen, Executive Vice President, Green Stream Network.

Ms. Barbut focused on land-related issues. In coming decades, we will witness increasing demand for and scarcity of natural resources. By 2050, the global population will reach 9 billion people, 80% of whom will be “global consumers” demanding many products and services that come from land. Land has been an underperforming asset and it makes sense to invest in ecosystems that land provides. Policy making concerning land often ignores reality; for business this is poor strategy. The goal should be to create an environment where the private sector can produce sustainably and productively. Sustainable land management practices exist and are relatively “cheap”, in the sense that they do not necessarily imply large investment by large corporations. Policies for enabling such practices to develop include: making the valuation and business case more systematic; address issues of land ownership and land rights, especially with respect to women; and provide multiple instruments to support interventions, diversity and choice.

Mr. Kjørven addressed the topic of financing a global transformation to sustainable development while eradicating poverty. ODA is still significant resource for poor countries. Other public financing and philanthropy flows to developing countries are growing. Domestic revenue is growing fast in many developing countries. Overall, there are huge differences between countries, with substantial amounts of financial resources sitting idle or being wasted in subsidies, illicit flows, extreme wealth and military expenditures. There is a need to make sustainable development a guiding principle for the public sector and promote capital markets that integrate sustainable development, in particular addressing the chronic short-termness of markets. Governments should find ways to incentivize long term investment in agriculture and infrastructure. Market transparency is crucial for development. Subsidies that work against sustainable development prove that lack of funds is not the main issue. Coordinated and specific regulation could free up huge amounts of resources. Nudging markets to the right direction is also necessary. Regarding aid, the current architecture would need to be reformed to support the transition, as it is currently too fragmented.

Ms. Mikkanen´s presentation covered a bottom-up approach to PPPs and sustainable business solutions, viewed from the private sector perspective. Her company worked on a protocol of technology transfer from developed to less-developed and developing countries in 10 years: e.g. changing from oil to more sustainable energy resources. She described challenges in planning, implementation, and collaboration, as well as benefits from the approach. Identified risks were the length of approval of the project and the uncertainty in ROI.



Session 3: Interactive Session on creating new partnerships

This session was organized as a small-group workshop on ideas and opportunities for creating new partnerships between governments and the private sector on sustainable development financing. Participants could choose among four topics, and work in small groups under the guidance of external motivators. The discussion was organized in small groups to facilitate discussions, with a report back to the plenary at the end of the session.

Group 1: The Role of public sector and enabling environment in sustainable development financing - from moral commitments to action

The first phase of the conversation was to redefine the question. Many in the group were perturbed that attracting private finance was the silver bullet coming from international sources. The group eventually decided to answer this question: how to design an enabling environment (national/international) to function so that private investment flows create sustainable development?

The perception that more is better was challenged, the group felt this was the wrong focus – more FDI, PPPs, leveraging/blending was a misguided and potentially dangerous agenda. Not all PPPs are working and this needs to be considered in more detail to understand what modalities work in what sector. The feeling was that it is quality not quantity that matters, and that the words 'for sustainable development' must feature in the question. This is very important when discussing the enabling environment so that national and international policies, legislation, norms, etc., are based on that premise rather than just pushing for more private financial flows in whatever form. It also serves to combat the idea that governments should be grateful recipients rather than equal partners.

The group identified four clusters of issues:

National enabling environment. Domestic resource mobilization was perceived as the key. National Governments must identify national strategies and then create the enabling environment with sustainable development at the core. This includes: directing investment to sectors that they wish to promote, e.g. agriculture; promote SME policies; stimulate national policies and practice so that the informal sector and the SMEs in the sectors that drive positive changes to those in poverty (agriculture, garments, etc.) receive/access finance and finance the infrastructure that these sectors need; national systems to create locally desirable norms, e.g. living wage, human rights; strong legal system – supported by international actors; progressive tax regimes; and tackling illicit financial flows.

Financial infrastructure. This included regulations of local banks; finance for the informal sector; and bank reform.

Accountability. This included: transparency on deals – FDI. PPPs, trade agreements, etc.; statutory public accounts for MNCs; enforcement; public sector focus of ODA; and laws on money-laundering and public registers of beneficial ownership.

Global governance. This included the global capacity of institutions; global arbitration mechanisms; enhance and promote international institutions which have mandatory requirements (e.g. UN Global Compact) and develop mechanisms that are fit for purpose; mandatory mechanisms for corporate responsibility; due diligence and the establishment of mandatory standards on human rights; and international support for change, e.g. on illicit financial flows and money laundering.

Group 2: How to improve sustainable development impact at private investments – combining financial feasibility with economic viability.

The following recommendations were put forward:

1. Think systemically: embed sustainable development in financial reform and regulation; investigate new blended financial models that integrate sustainable development as a fundamental purpose.
2. Shift the risk/reward ratio: close the gap between private and social return - by dealing with misaligned incentives, externalities, short-termism, lack of disclosure, etc.
3. Ensure national ownership of PPPs and alignment with national development strategies, development additionality off PPPs (e.g. national parliaments to examine and approve PPPs based on participatory assessments).
4. Government should "remain in the driving seat"; create national clearinghouses to avoid proliferation of PPPs and improve coordination.
5. Ensure soundness of financial terms of PPPs and fair risk sharing by incorporating contingent liabilities of PPPs in national accounts and conducting regular audits.
6. Improve accountability and transparency by mandating enhanced monitoring & evaluation, creating grievance and redress mechanisms; and mandating donor reporting.
7. Stimulate continuous improvement through accountability and benchmarking sustainable development impacts of investment at sector, issue and country levels.
8. Target new initiatives: understand complementarity with existing partnerships: focus on additionality and gaps; ensure good governance (including multi-stakeholder participation; transparency; conflict resolution); build in impact measurement from the start; ensure that incentives are aligned from design stage.

Group 3: Foreign Direct Investment from the sustainable development perspective

The discussion focused on the following issues.

1. Working towards an investment climate. This included good governance and rule of law, transparency and accountability.
2. Regulation of FDI. There was a debate on how FDI should be regulated on a local, national, and global level. This included: regulating global financial markets, bilateral investment treaties, PPP regulations; environmental regulation at the national level; performance requirements; incentives for sustainable and equitable investment; and taxation and "reasonable profit repatriation" (this point was contentious).
3. Infrastructure and education. This encompassed the dimensions of skills and training.
4. Partnerships. This included the dimensions of joint ventures, technology and knowledge transfer, linking FDI with SMEs, and creation of quality and quantity employment
5. Best use of ODA. There was a debate on what "best use" means. Some thought that the role of ODA was not to leverage, but to improve policy infrastructure, as well as for trade and investment promotion. Both points were contentious in the group.

Group 4: Institutional investors at the service of sustainable development financing.

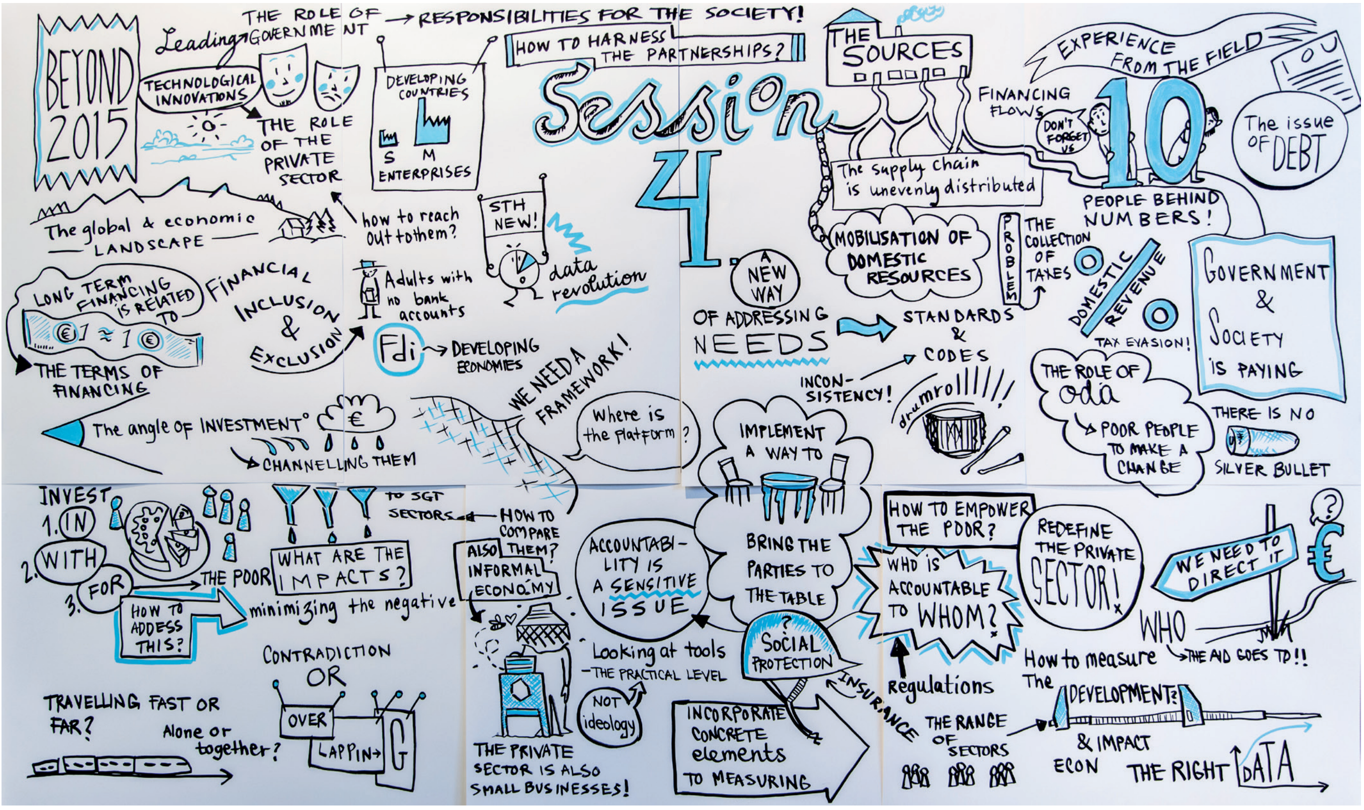
Questions examined by this group were: How to understand the mandate, incentives, flexibility of institutional investment? How to engage better institutional investor to ensure sustainable development and identify synergy? How to influence their incentives to invest? How to optimize their volume, meanwhile ensure the sustainable development financing as well as impact?

Recommendations were the following:

1. Build on good practices and success stories by some institutional investors (mutual/ pension/ sovereign wealth funds, insurance companies and some hedge funds) and emulate positive experience from good corporate governance practice.
2. Improve risk management/sharing approaches and mechanisms, together with integration of sustainability dimension in net present value assessment of financing opportunities
3. Adopt standards, codes and guidelines, drawing on third party experience and standards (revising them when needed), to promote sustainability in financing, addressing issues such as consistency, transparency, accountability and red tape
4. Work on incentives, regulations and instruments.

Friday, 4 April - Open Multi-stakeholder Day

The second day was organized as an open, multi-stakeholder meeting. Additional participants joined for the event. Participants were welcomed by Ambassador Pertti Majanen, Co-chair of the ICESDF.



Session 4: The role of private sector partnerships beyond 2015 - How to materialize universality in sustainable development financing

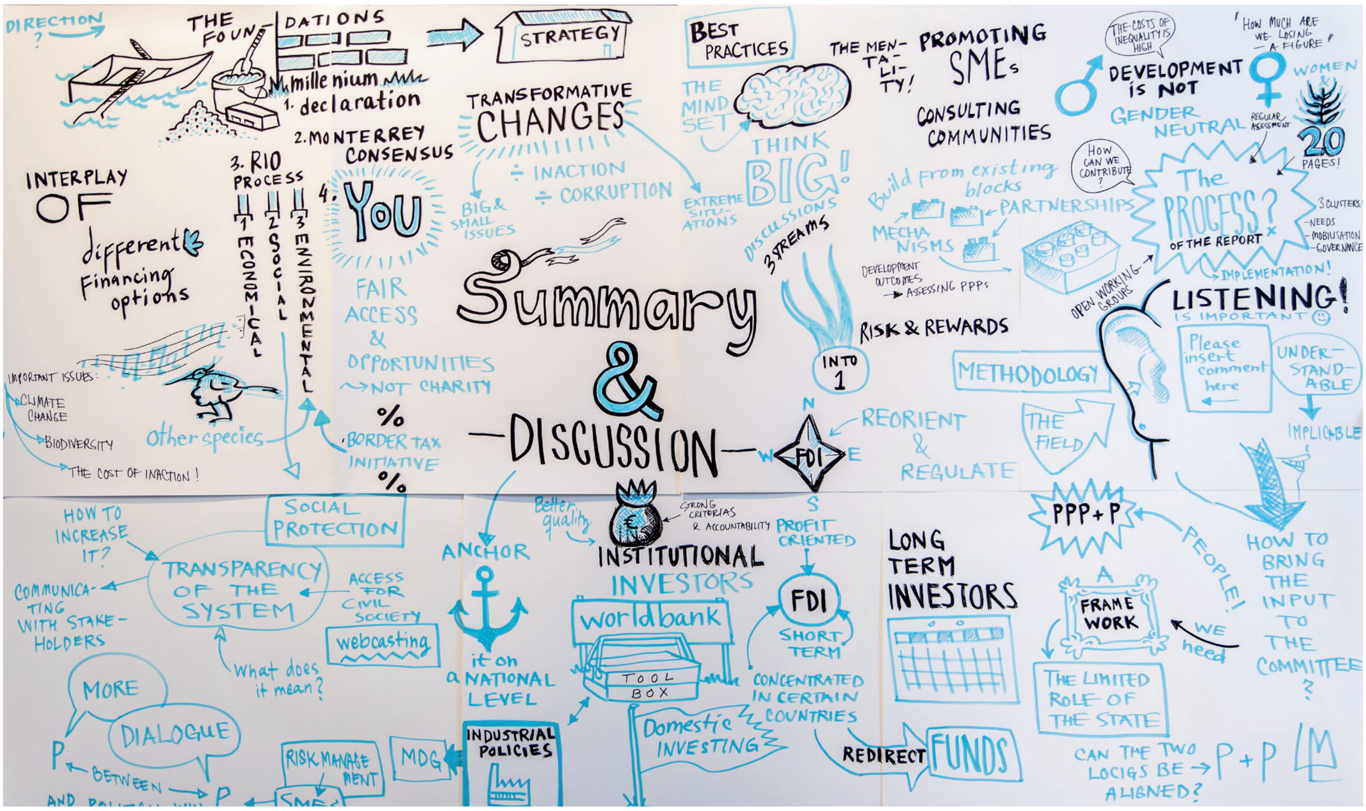
This session was organized as a panel. Panelists were: Mahmoud Mohieldin, World Bank; Mr. James Zhan, UNCTAD; Silvina Vatnick, Global Outcomes LLC; and Paul Okumu Odongo, Africa CSO Platform on Principled Partnership (ACP). The session was chaired by Mr. Thomas Gass, Assistant Secreratry-General from UN DESA.

Mr. Mohieldin focused his presentation on recent World Bank work on the role of private sector partnerships in the post 2015 development agenda. Post 2015, domestic resources should be better mobilized and private partnerships enabled through better and smarter aid. Developing the domestic finance sector and improving financial inclusion are also important, as lack of access to finance is the main constraint to economic development (in Africa less than 30% of adults have bank accounts). In parallel, mobilizing international capital flows into developing countries is a crucial goal for post 2015. Long term private finance for infrastructure faces many challenges, and should be leveraged through PPPs. Emerging partnerships in the future should benefit from the analysis of private sector financing and FDI in the last decade.

Mr. Zhan presented work done by UNCTAD for their forthcoming Trade and Investment report. The focus is on how to channel investment to SDG sectors; and how to maximize positive effects and minimize negative effects of such investment. This implies to examine "sensitive sectors" for the SDGs and their risk/return profiles, and to consider synergies across sectors and interaction among policies. Partnerships need a holistic framework where all the relevant actors, from investors to private companies to national investment promotion agencies to stock exchanges and securities regulators, can be brought on board. Such a forum does not currently exist in the UN.

Ms. Vatnik presented an overview of global sources of finance an how to mobilize them. Her main messages were: the importance of financial inclusion; the importance of domestic resource mobilization; the need for more financial and capital market instruments (e.g. for insurance, hedging, risk mitigation); the need to review and address inconsistencies in standards and codes for companies, banks, NBFIs, etc.; and the need for a mechanisms to "hear" private and mixed institutions and understand why they are not investing in certain sectors.

Mr. Odongo focused on the current situation and prospects for development finance in Africa, seen from the perspective of the needs of the poor. The focus on absolute figures for FDI going to Africa is misleading, as FDI is skewed. Most of it goes to a few countries and to the extractive sector. A first priority should be to ensure that money stays in the region, as outflows are currently larger than FDI. Rather than attracting more resources, the focus should be on how to direct them where they matter. Public-private partnerships are often an expensive way to finance development. ODA should not be diverted to support the private sector, but should go where it is intended, for poverty eradication. More national ownership and control of FDI and philanthropy funding is needed. The definition of the private sector should not be restricted to large



companies. In Africa, the informal sector effectively runs the economy; policies should strive to bring the informal sector into the formal economy.

The first thread of the interactive discussion focused on the accountability of the private sector for development outcomes, and the need for honestly addressing the question of "Who is leading whom" – avoiding capture of government by business.

There was a debate on the appropriateness of putting investment promotion agencies front and center in the discussion, as they might not have strong incentives to look at the quality and development additionality of investment. A speaker pointed to the role of investment promotion strategies and the need to reframe them to better target SDG sectors. In so doing, it is important to address issues such as inadequate risk/returns profiles and lack of capacity to build bankable projects. There is a critical role for policy advocacy to help government find the right incentives to attract the "right kind" of investment. One option is moving to performance-based incentives that can be taken away from non-performing firms. This is not easy, as there are currently more than 3,000 bilateral and regional investment treaties, which have a bearing on domestic policy space.

Some mentioned the need to avoid simplistic messages focused on volumes and quantity, which consider only the supply side of finance and on how to make it more efficient. Quality and targeting of SDG sectors are key dimensions of the conversation on partnerships. Investment should be assessed from multiple viewpoints, including ESG factors and capital and management skills transfers. This conversation should be informed by national and local needs assessments, in order to help targeting of financing. Education and access to basic services should remain priorities. Alignment of private investment with national development priorities remains a concern. Currently, 60% of aid going in support to the private goes to OECD companies.

Institutional capacity building was identified as a key requisite by many participants. Investing in education of young entrepreneurs to help them target bottom of the pyramid customers was offered by one speaker as an important activity.

Other questions revolved around the capacity of partnership projects to generate local productive capacity and income generation capacity, in particular to avoid unsustainable debt building; and how to measure development impacts of partnerships (e.g. beyond job creation).

Session 5: Multi-stakeholder dialogue

This session was an open multi-stakeholder dialogue including a wider participation than yesterday. The three panellists were the members of the ICESDF attending the meeting, Ambassador Pertti Majanen, Ambassador Dragan Zupanjevac and Mr. Hans Andre Djamba.
The session started with a presentation of the conclusions and key issues from Sessions 1-4, and was followed by an open discussion on conclusions, outstanding issues and next steps.

The interactive discussion brought up many of the issues already debated in previous sessions, as well as additional insights. Participants mentioned the lack of discussion about the financing of global public goods such as biodiversity, something that PPPs are unlikely to address. There were calls for a more vigorous take-up of a transformative agenda, which addresses the sustainability of the capital supply chains, as well as the need to redirect finance, including by banning investment in certain activities. Calls were also made for a more critical examination of policies which would enable to improve the contribution of the private sector to sustainable development. For example, it was mentioned that fossil fuel subsidies would not magically disappear and that strong role of Governments was needed to make this happen.

Summary and closing remarks by the Co-chair of the ICESDF.

In closing, Amb. Majanen gave a short summary of the major messages from the event and thanked everybody for a very productive event that provided a lot of concrete and implementable ideas and proposals for the consideration of the ICESDF. These are presented in the Chair´s Summary (page 2-3). The Chair expressed his special thanks to the speakers, Aalto University, ECDPM, UN DESA, artists, students and all supporting staff.

Annex 1: Meeting participants

GOVERNMENTS

Name	Organization
Mr. Jordan ALLOUCHE	Embassy of France in Finland
Mr. Sami JÄRVINEN	Embassy of the Republic of Korea in Finland
Mr. Kim PILWOO	Embassy of the Republic of Korea in Finland
Ms. Anne SIPILÄINEN	Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland
Mr. Pekka PUUSTINEN	Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland
Mrs. Riikka LAATU	Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland
Mr. Pertti IKONEN	Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland
Mr. Ismo KOLEHMAINEN*	Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland
Ms. Maria KURIKKALA	Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland
Mr. Pertti MAJANEN	Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland, Co-chair of the ICESDF
Ms. Laura NORDSTRÖM	Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland
Mrs. Pirjo SUOMELA-CHOWDHURY*	Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland
Mrs. Suvi VIRKKUNEN*	Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland
Mr. Heikki GRANHOLM	Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland
Ms. Mari HAKKARAINEN	Ministry of Employment and the Economy of Finland
Mr. Paul Klouman BEKKEN	Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Norway
Mr. Dragan ZUPANJEVAC	Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Serbia, Member of the ICESDF
Mr. Hans Andre DJAMBA	Ministry of Environment of DRC, Member of the ICESDF
Ms. Vivian VRIENDS	Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands
Ms. Tuulia TOIKKA	Ministry of the Environment of Finland
Mr. Luca ETTER	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation

INTERNATIONAL AND MULTILATERAL ORGANIZATIONS

Name	Organization
Mr. Ignacio CORLAZZOLI	Inter-American Development Bank
Mr. Reyaz AHMAD	International Finance Corporation
Mr. James ZHAN	UN Conference on Trade and Development
Ms. Monique BARBUT	UN Convention to Combat Desertification
Mr. Thomas GASS	UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs
Ms. Shari SPIEGEL	UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs
Mr. David LE BLANC	UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs
Mr. Olav KJORVEN	UN Development Programme
Ms. Maiju MITRUNEN	UNDP Nordic Representation Office
Mr. Nick ROBINS	UN Environment Programme
Mr. Jaime GARCIA ALBA	UN Global Compact
Mr. Kazuki KITAOKA	UN Industrial Development Organization
Mr. Mahmoud MOHIELDIN	World Bank

FUNDS

Name	Organization
Ms. Ritva LAUKKANEN	Finnfund
Mr. Pasi HELLMAN	Nordic Development Fund

ACADEMIA

Name	Organization
Mr. Pertti HAAPARANTA	Aalto University
Mr. Mikko KORIA	Aalto University
Ms. Teija LEHTONEN	Aalto University
Ms. Liisa LAHTI*	Lappeenranta University of Technology
Mrs. Liisa LAAKSO*	University of Helsinki
Mr. Ben THOMPSON COON*	University of Helsinki

PRIVATE SECTOR

Name	Organization
Mrs. Riitta RAHKAMA	Ajatella Consulting
Mr. Jyrki KOSKELO	Africa Agriculture and Trade Investment Fund
Mr. Steve WAYGOOD	Aviva Investors
Ms. Gargee GHOSH	Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
Mr. Heikki MASALIN	CIM Creative Industries Management Ltd
Ms. Outi ERVASTI	Confederation of Finnish Industries EK
Mrs. Satu VASAMO-KOSKINEN*	Confederation of Finnish Industries EK
Mr. Jouko KUISMA	CR Navigator J. Kuisma
Mrs. Margaret KIGOZI	Crown Beverages Ltd
Mr. Sami KOSKELA	Deloitte Oy
Mr. Erpo HEIKKILÄ	Earth Aid Finland Oy
Mr. Kustaa VALTONEN	Earth House Ltd
Mr. Antti LASSILA	Eltel Networks
Mr. Jusa SUSIA	Finpro
Mr. Michael REDDY	Furntech
Mr. Jussi IMPIÖ	Fuzu Oy
Mrs. Silvina VATNICK	Global Outcomes LLC
Ms. Pirita MIKKANEN	GreenStream Network Plc
Ms. Anna LAINE*	GreenStream Network Plc
Mr. Aleksi LUMIJÄRVI	GreenStream Network Plc
Mr. Mika SULKINOJA	GreenStream Network Plc
Mr. Jyrki SALMI*	Indufor
Mr. Oscar David ANKUNDA	Industrial Promotion Services
Mr. Timo VUORI	International Chamber of Commerce - ICC Finland
Mr. Janne RONKAINEN	ITUC/Trade Union Solidarity Centre of Finland
Mr. Lauri PALOJÄRVI	LIP Consulting Inc.
Mr. Rasmus LAMPÉN*	Lumivio Oy
Mr. Antti VÄISÄNEN*	Lumivio Oy
Mr. Simon MUTINDA	PricewaterhouseCoopers Limited
Mr. Pekka T. SAAVALAINEN*	Rdigo Oy
Mr. Uwe Schartz*	Sibesonke Oy
Mrs. Teija LAHTI-NUUTTILA	Tekes
Mr. Petri SAARINEN*	Teraloop Foundation
Mr. Nicholas SENYONJO	Uganda Environmental Education Foundation
Mr. Tuomas HAAPAKOSKI	Wärtsilä
Ms. Malin ÖSTMAN	Wärtsilä

NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

Name	Organization
Mr. Paul Okumu ODONGO	Africa CSO Platform on Principled Partnership
Ms. Danielle HIRSCH	Both ENDS
Mr. Aldo CALIARI	Center of Concern
Ms. Titilope AKOSA	Centre for 21st Century Issues
Ms. Katharine TEAGUE	Christian Aid
Ms. Jean Letitia SALDANHA	CIDSE
Ms. Hanna HANSSON	CONCORD Sweden
Mrs. Nicole BIDEGAIN	Development Alternatives With Women for a New Era
Mr. Daniel COPPARD*	Development Initiatives
Ms. Miia TOIKKA	Development Policy Committee
Ms. Katherine PUMPHREY	E3G
Mr. San BILAL	European Centre for Development Policy Management
Mr. Sebastian GROSSE-PUPPENDAHL	European Centre for Development Policy Management
Mr. Jesse GRIFFITHS	Eurodad
Mrs. Michelle BECKETT	European Task Force Beyond 2015
Ms. Anja MALM	FIDIDA/Finnish Disability and Development Partnership
Ms. Sara HAAPALAINEN*	Finland National Committee for UN Women
Mrs. Elina MULTANEN*	Finland National Committee for UN Women
Mr. Jouni NISSINEN	The Finnish Association for Nature Conservation
Ms. Johanna HAKULINEN*	The Finnish NGDO Platform to the EU Kehys
Mr. Rilli LAPPALAINEN	The Finnish NGDO Platform to the EU Kehys
Mr. Ossi LEPPÄNEN	Finnish post2015 Group
Ms. Jennifer Narcisa DEL ROSARIO	IBON International
Mrs. Minna HAVUNEN*	Kepa
Mr. Timo LAPPALAINEN	Kepa
Ms. Eva NILSSON*	Kepa
Ms. Aino PENNANEN*	Kepa
Mr. Henri PURJE*	Kepa
Mr. Klaus SCHILDER	MISEREOR
Mr. Tobias HAUSCHILD	Oxfam Germany
Mr. Ossi HEINÄNEN	Plan Finland
Ms. Julia OJANEN	Plan Finland
Mr. Vitalice MEJA	Reality of Aid Africa
Mr. Carlos BENAVENTE	Red Latinoamericana sobre Deuda, Derechos y Desarrollo
Ms. Sanna VESIKANSA	Save the Children
Mr. Akhteruzzaman SANO	Save the Earth Cambodia
Mr. Farooq ULLAH	Stakeholder Forum
Ms. Grace BALAWAG	Tebtebba
Ms. Pinja PARKKONEN*	UN Youth of Finland
Ms. Riikka KAUKORANTA*	Väestöliitto ry
Mr. Juha-Erkki MÄNTYNIEMI*	World Vision Finland
Ms. Anne PÖNNI*	World Vision Finland
Mrs. Tiina SAUKKO	World Vision Finland
Ms. Maija SEPPÄLÄ	World Vision Finland

*) Participation on second day only

Annex 2: Meeting agenda

Wednesday April 2nd 2014

19:00-21:00 **Cocktail and opportunity for registration**
Venue: Scandic Grand Marina Hotel (Katajanokanlaituri 7, Helsinki)
Welcoming remarks: Minister for international development Mr. Pekka Haavisto, Co-chair of the ICESDF Ambassador Pertti Majanen and Member of the ICESDF Mr. Hans Andre Djamba

Thursday April 3rd 2014

9:00-9:30 **Coffee and registration**
Clinics on collaboration projects

9:30-9:40 **Opening remarks by Under-Secretary of State Ms. Anne Sipiläinen**

9:40-11:00 **Session 1: The role of private sector and enabling environment in financing sustainable development: State of play**
De-coding partnerships: overview of current partnerships, including prospects and areas in need of improvement. Chaired by ICESDF Co-chair Ambassador Pertti Majanen

- Introduction to the ICESDF and to the theme of the event: Ambassador Pertti Majanen
- Introduction to the background paper on De-coding partnerships: Mr. San Bilal, Senior Executive Head of Economic Transformation and Trade Programme Editor, ECDPM
- Comment statements by
    - Mr. Jaime Garcia Alba, Program Manager, United Nations Global Compact
    - Mr. Jesse Griffiths, Director, European Network on Debt and Development
    - Ms. Margaret Kigozi, Director, Crown Beverages Ltd Uganda
- Interactive discussion

11:00-11:30 **Coffee break**
Clinics on collaboration projects

11:30-13:00 **Session 2: Innovative initiatives and best practices**
Exploring practices set by leaders in sustainable development, current constraints to their broader application, lessons learned and possible ways forward. Chaired by Ambassador Dragan Zupanjevac (Serbia), Member of the ICESDF.

- Introductory statements
    - Mr. Steve Waygood, Chief Responsible Investment Officer, Global Responsible Investment team, Aviva Investors
    - Ms. Gargee Ghosh, Director Development Policy & Finance, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
    - Mr. Michael Reddy, CEO, The Furniture Technology Centre Trust, South Africa
    - Ms. Jennifer Narcisa Del Rosario, Manager, Development Finance Program, IBON International
- Interactive discussion

13:00-15:00 **Brown bag luncheon**
Clinics on collaboration projects

Keynote speeches
13:30-13:50 Ms. Monique Barbut, Executive Secretary of United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, and former Executive Director of the Global Environment Facility

	14:00-14:20	Mr. Olav Kjørven, Special Advisor to the United Nations Development Programme Administrator on the Post-2015 Development Agenda
	14:30-14:50	Ms. Pirita Mikkanen, Executive Vice President, Green Stream Network

15:00-18:00 **Session 3: Interactive Session on creating new partnerships**
Workshop on ideas and opportunities on creating new partnerships between governments and the private sector on sustainable development financing
- Facilitated by Professor Mikko Koria, Aalto University's School of Business
- Topics for the workshop:

1. The role of public sector and enabling environment in sustainable development financing - from moral commitments into action
2. How to improve sustainable development impact at private investments - combining financial feasibility with economic viability
3. Foreign Direct Investments from the sustainable development perspective
4. Institutional investors at the service of sustainable development financing

Friday, April 4th, 2014

8:30-9:00 **Coffee and registration for second day participants**

9:00-9:10 **Open Multi-stakeholder Day, Welcoming words by Ambassador Pertti Majanen, Co-chair of the IC ESDF**

9:10-10:45 **Session 4: The role of private sector partnerships beyond 2015 - How to materialize universality in sustainable development financing**
- Panelists
  - o Mr. Mahmoud Mohieldin, Special Envoy for the President of the World Bank
  - o Mr. James Zhan, Director, Investment and Enterprise, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
  - o Mrs. Silvina Vatnick, Managing Partner, Global Outcomes LLC
  - o Mr. Paul Okumu Odongo, Head of Secretariat, Africa CSO Platform on Principled Partnership (ACP)
- Interactive discussion
- Chair: Mr. Thomas Gass, Assistant Secretary-General of United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs

10:45-11:15 **Coffee break**
Clinics on collaboration projects

11:15-13:00 **Session 5: Multi-stakeholder dialogue**
- Introduction to the Multi-stakeholder dialogue: presentation of conclusions and key issues from Sessions 1-4
- Open discussion on conclusions, outstanding issues and next steps, chaired by ICESDF Co-chairs Ambassador Pertti Majanen and with the ICESDF Members Ambassador Dragan Zupanjevac and Mr. Hans Andre Djamba.

13:00-13:15 **Summary and closing remarks by the Co-chair of the ICESDF**

13:15-14:30 **Unofficial buffet lunch**

Annex 3: Aalto Global Impact Clinics

Clinics showcase different, often unusual partnership and collaboration projects with the aim of sustainable development in a visual manner with pictures, music and brochures. Two concrete projects are presented; an innovation research project and a company project.

New Global

The New Global is Aalto University's multidisciplinary action research project with the aim of co-creating frugal innovations for large low-income emerging markets while creating new business opportunities for Finnish companies. The project will help companies to co-create innovations together with local residents, entrepreneurs and non-governmental organizations. In 2014 the partner countries are India, Mexico, and Tanzania, and in 2015 the project will expand also to other countries, possibly Brazil and Vietnam. The project is funded by Tekes – the Finnish Funding Agency for Technology and Innovation.

Weconomy Start

Weconomy Start Global Innovation Program helps Finnish companies to build and grow sustainable business in co-creation with poor communities in low-income markets in India and Sri Lanka so that they solve economical, ecological and/or social challenges. The program is produced by World Vision Finland (having expertise in recognizing the innovation needs and environment in developing communities and the BOP market) together with Aalto University (bringing the know-how on developing business operations and innovation) and Finpro (having expertise on internationalization and business).

Aalto Global Impact promotes and facilitates Aalto University's research and educational programs for societal impact globally. We are actively orienting innovation towards long-term societal needs. Our aim is to support Aalto University's mission to change the world for a better place.