



General Assembly

Distr.: Limited
31 October 2013

Original: English

Sixty-eighth session Second Committee

Agenda item 26

Towards global partnerships

Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland: draft resolution

Towards global partnerships: a principle-based approach to enhanced cooperation between the United Nations and all relevant partners, in particular the private sector

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions [55/215](#) of 21 December 2000, [56/76](#) of 11 December 2001, [58/129](#) of 19 December 2003, [60/215](#) of 22 December 2005, [62/211](#) of 19 December 2007, [64/223](#) of 21 December 2009 and [66/223](#) of 22 December 2011,

Reiterating that poverty eradication and sustainable development are key elements of the overarching framework for United Nations activities, in particular for achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals and those set out in the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development entitled “The future we want”,¹

Recalling the objectives formulated in the United Nations Millennium Declaration,² notably the Millennium Development Goals, and the reaffirmation they received in the 2005 World Summit Outcome,³ and the outcome document of the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals in 2010,⁴ particularly in regard to developing partnerships through the provision of greater opportunities to the private sector, non-governmental organizations and civil society in general so as to enable them to

¹ Resolution 66/288, annex.

² See resolution 55/2.

³ See resolution 60/1.

⁴ See resolution 65/1.



contribute to the realization of the goals and programmes of the Organization, in particular in the pursuit of development and the eradication of poverty,

Underlining the fact that cooperation between the United Nations and all relevant partners, including the private sector, shall serve the purposes and principles embodied in the Charter of the United Nations, and shall be undertaken in a manner that maintains and promotes the integrity, impartiality and independence of the Organization,

Welcoming the contribution of all relevant partners, including the private sector, non-governmental organizations and civil society, who respect and support, as appropriate, the core values and principles of the United Nations, to the implementation of the outcomes of the United Nations conferences and summits and their reviews in the economic, social, environmental and related fields, as well as the realization of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

Emphasizing that cooperation between the United Nations and all relevant partners, in particular the private sector, can contribute to addressing the obstacles confronted by developing countries through responsible business practices, such as respecting the principles of the United Nations Global Compact and taking action, including by mobilizing the resources needed to finance their sustainable development, and to realizing the internationally agreed development goals in developing countries,

Welcoming the efforts and encouraging further efforts by all relevant partners, especially the private sector, to engage as reliable and consistent partners in the development process and to take into account not only the economic and financial but also the developmental, social, human rights, gender and environmental implications of their undertakings and, in general, towards implementing corporate social and environmental responsibility, that is, bringing such values and responsibilities to bear on their conduct and policy premised on profit incentives, in conformity with national laws and regulations,

Welcoming also the recommendation made by the Secretary-General that the Guidelines on Cooperation between the United Nations and the Business Sector be updated to ensure their full alignment with the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights,

Recalling that the participants in the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in 2012, acknowledged that the implementation of sustainable development would depend on the active engagement of both the public and private sectors, and recognizing that the active participation of the private sector can contribute to the achievement of sustainable development,

Recalling also that the participants in the Conference supported national regulatory and policy frameworks that enable business and industry to advance sustainable development initiatives,

Recognizing the potential of the private sector to reduce the drivers of conflict, to foster stability and to support recovery by creating job opportunities and advancing economic development, contributing to trust and reconciliation, infrastructure development, the building of security and response to acute crisis situations,

Noting that the financial and economic crisis, inter alia, has demonstrated the need for values and principles in business, including for sustainable business

practices, social protection floors and the promotion of full and productive employment and decent work for all,

Reaffirming the principles of sustainable development, and underlining the need for a global consensus on the key values and principles that will promote sustainable, fair, equitable and sustained economic development, and that corporate social and environmental responsibility are important elements of such a consensus,

Recognizing that a socially responsible private sector contributes to the promotion of children's rights and education, as well as of sustainable development and peace, welcoming in this context the Children's Rights and Business Principles, the Framework for Business Engagement in Education and the Business for Peace platform,

Taking note with appreciation of the progress achieved in the work of the United Nations on partnerships, notably in the framework of various United Nations organizations, agencies, funds, programmes, task forces, commissions and initiatives, and taking note of the establishment of partnerships at the field level entered into by various United Nations agencies, non-public partners and Member States, as well as such multi-stakeholder partnerships initiated by the Secretary-General as the Sustainable Energy for All initiative, the Every Woman, Every Child initiative, the Global Education First Initiative, the Zero Hunger Challenge initiative and the Global Pulse initiative,

Noting that there has been a renewed emphasis on partnership in the course of the discussions on a United Nations post-2015 development agenda, and recognizing in this context the unique position of the United Nations as a builder of bridges to various sectors, in particular the private sector, and the need to continue to push forward new, improved and diversified forms of collaboration with the private sector to achieve a lasting impact and promote United Nations goals, as well as the need to further enhance cooperation between the United Nations and the private sector,

Noting with appreciation the advancement of the concept of corporate social responsibility through the United Nations Global Compact and the contribution of the private sector to the discussion on the post-2015 development agenda,

Recognizing the vital role that the United Nations Global Compact Office continues to play with regard to strengthening the capacity of the United Nations to partner strategically with the private sector in accordance with its General Assembly mandate to advance United Nations values and responsible business practices within the United Nations system and among the global business community,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General⁵ concerning specific progress on integrity measures, on the implementation of the revised United Nations guidelines for partnerships between the United Nations and the private sector and on the strengthening of the Global Compact Local Networks;

2. *Stresses* that partnerships are voluntary and collaborative relationships between various parties, both public and non-public, in which all participants agree to work together to achieve a common purpose or undertake a specific task and, as mutually agreed, to share risks and responsibilities, resources and benefits;

⁵ A/68/326.

3. *Also stresses* the importance of the contribution of voluntary partnerships to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, while reiterating that they are a complement to, but not intended to substitute for, the commitment made by Governments with a view to achieving those goals;

4. *Further stresses* that partnerships should be consistent with national laws and national development strategies and plans, as well as the priorities of countries where they are implemented, bearing in mind the relevant guidance provided by Governments;

5. *Emphasizes* the vital role played by Governments in promoting responsible business practices, including providing the necessary legal and regulatory frameworks, where appropriate, and invites them to continue to provide support to United Nations efforts to engage with the private sector, as appropriate;

6. *Recognizes* the vital role that the private sector plays in development, including through engaging in various partnership models and by generating decent employment and investment, giving access to and developing new technologies, offering technical vocational training activities and stimulating sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth, while bearing in mind the need to ensure that their activities conform fully with the principle of national ownership of development strategies;

7. *Welcomes* the contribution of the private sector to the process of advancing the United Nations post-2015 development agenda, including its contribution made to the report of the High-level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda and that conveyed through the United Nations Global Compact, and underlines the important role that the Global Compact Local Networks are taking on as conveners to gather input from businesses on a post-2015 development framework and promote poverty eradication and sustainable development through, inter alia, the exercise of corporate social responsibility;

8. *Also welcomes* the intention of the Secretary-General to scale up collaboration and strengthen the capacity of the United Nations to cooperate with all relevant partners, including the private sector, and in this context welcomes the commitment of the Secretary-General to retaining the integrity of the Global Compact;

9. *Further welcomes* the initiatives of the Secretary-General, including the Sustainable Energy for All initiative, the Every Woman, Every Child initiative, the Global Education First Initiative, the Zero Hunger Challenge initiative and the Global Pulse initiative;

10. *Invites* the United Nations system, when considering partnerships, to seek to engage in a more coherent manner with private sector entities, including small and medium-sized enterprises, that support the core values of the United Nations as reflected in the Charter and other relevant conventions and treaties and that commit to the principles of the United Nations Global Compact by translating them into operational corporate policies, codes of conduct and management, monitoring and reporting systems;

11. *Encourages* the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination to continue to develop, for those partnerships in which the United

Nations system participates, a common and systemic approach, which places greater emphasis on transparency, accountability and due diligence, without imposing undue rigidity on partnership agreements, by:

(a) Improving the Guidelines on Cooperation between the United Nations and the Business Sector;

(b) Disclosing its partners, contributions and matching funds for its respective partnerships;

(c) Strengthening due-diligence measures that can safeguard the reputation of the Organization and ensure confidence-building;

(d) Reflecting these elements in its contributions to the next reports on the implementation of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review;

12. *Underlines*, in this context, the importance of integrity measures as taken and advocated by the United Nations Global Compact;

13. *Acknowledges* the importance of corporate sustainability reporting, encourages companies, where appropriate, especially publicly listed and large companies, to consider integrating sustainability information into their reporting cycle, and welcomes in this context the collaboration of the United Nations Global Compact with the Global Reporting Initiative and the World Business Council on Sustainable Development;

14. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to promote effective implementation of the revised United Nations guidelines for partnerships between the United Nations and the private sector, including through the effective implementation of the revised Guidelines on Cooperation between the United Nations and the Business Sector;

15. *Encourages* the international community to strengthen global partnerships for the integration and implementation in partnerships of the International Labour Organization Global Jobs Pact and the call for action on youth employment, in accordance with national plans and priorities;

16. *Stresses* the importance of developing national strategies for the promotion of sustainable and productive entrepreneurial activities through partnerships, and encourages Governments to create a climate that is conducive to increasing the number of women entrepreneurs and the size of their businesses;

17. *Encourages* the private sector and the Global Compact Local Networks to join the United Nations Global Compact “Business for Peace” platform and to seek to maximize the beneficial contributions to peace and development while minimizing the risks for and negative impacts on both business and society;

18. *Takes note with appreciation* of the convening of the annual United Nations Private Sector Forum, which in 2013 focused on unique opportunities and challenges in Africa;

19. *Also takes note with appreciation* of the private sector tracks at the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, held in Istanbul, Turkey, from 9 to 13 May 2011, as well as the Corporate Sustainability Forum held during the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012;

20. *Recognizes* the work of the Global Compact Local Networks, as well as the importance of cooperation between the United Nations system at the local level and the Global Compact Local Networks, to support, as appropriate and in a manner complementary to existing networks, the coordination and application of global partnerships locally;

21. *Also recognizes* that the Global Compact Local Networks provide an avenue for diffusing United Nations values and principles and facilitating partnerships with business on a broad scale;

22. *Acknowledges* the holding of annual meetings of United Nations system private sector focal points, which remain important forums for the exchange of best practices, lessons learned and innovations in partnerships with the private sector, as well as the establishment of the United Nations private sector focal points network promoting greater coherence and capacity-building within the Organization on activities involving business and disseminating innovations in engagement across the system;

23. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventieth session a concise report on specific progress on integrity measures, on transparency, on the improvement and implementation of the revised United Nations guidelines for partnerships between the United Nations and the private sector, on the strengthening of due-diligence measures and on the strengthening of the Global Compact Local Networks, including from a gender perspective.
