

Public-Private Alliance Foundation
Newsletter
Vol I, No. 2 July 2007

The Public-Private Alliance Foundation is a not-for-profit corporation that brings together individuals, groups, government authorities, non-governmental organizations, donors and businesses to collaborate and provide funding to help poor people and communities in developing countries to become more self-reliant.

In brief: PPAF was prominently involved in several United Nations-related events in Vienna and Geneva in June and July, which helped strengthen its position for work in the Dominican Republic and Madagascar. These included the 7th Global Forum on Reinventing Government, organized by the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN/DESA); the Civil Society Development Forum 2007, organized by the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations (CONGO); the High-Level Segment of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC); and the UN Global Compact Leaders Summit.

Foundation Chair Mr. Daniel Mejia, Vice-Chairs Ambassador Zina Andrianarivelo-Razafy and Ambassador Francis Lorenzo, and Executive Director Dr. David Stillman spoke at these meetings and related side events. Mr. Herintsalama Rajaonarivelo, a Malagasy businessman and President of the Madagascar Business Owners Association FIVMPAMA, also joined the team. He is Vice-Chair of Alliance-Madagascar, which was formed under the UN Public-Private Alliance for Rural Development.

Highlights of PPAF participation were the speaking engagements and networking opportunities, especially in relation to plans for a festival telecast of Millennium Development Goals (MDG) Awards, to be held at the UN in 2008 in cooperation with BidGive International. PPAF leaders spoke with UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon, UN Millennium Project Director Professor Jeffrey Sachs, and other notables to explain the concept and secure their support. Mr. William Ho, the internationally-known Canadian artist who has created the prototype statue for the MDG Awards, also joined the group to display and discuss his work.

7th Global Forum on Reinventing Government – Vienna, June 26-29

Ambassador Lorenzo participated in the 7th Global Forum, which had as its theme “Building Trust in Government.” He chaired the Workshop on Managing Knowledge to Build Trust in Government. The Global Forum was organized by the Division for Public Administration and Development Management of UN/DESA, and chaired by its Director, Mr. Guido Bertucci. The workshop was convened by UN/DESA in partnership with the Ministry of Government Administration and Home Affairs of the Republic of Korea and the Dubai School of Government.

More than 3,000 government officials from around the world attended the Global Forum, held at the UN headquarters in Vienna. The [Vienna Declaration](#) adopted focused on several areas which need urgent action for a better government-people interaction, including better access to information and communication technology, support for effective civil society engagement, and more public-private partnerships.

PPAF was also a private sector sponsor of the Global Forum. All participants received a conference bag with the foundation’s logo and website to hold handouts and publications. In addition to name recognition this sponsorship was a first step in PPAF collaboration with the UN Division. Discussions took place toward the next step, which would be preparation of translations of the UN Public Administration Network (UNPAN) on-line training course “E-government – What a Government Leader should Know”, to help open opportunities for government officials from Spanish and French-speaking countries.

Civil Society Development Forum 2007– Geneva, June 28-30

Over 600 participants from non-governmental organizations (NGOs) attended this Forum, with its theme "A Platform for Development: Countdown to 2015." Organized by CONGO and chaired by its President Ms. Renate Bloem, the Forum's numerous noted speakers addressed plenary and workshop sessions for discussion of global issues and to help shape NGO participation at the High-level Segment of ECOSOC. Ambassador Lorenzo and Dr. Stillman were featured speakers in a plenary session on pro-poor growth, chaired by Ms. Jo Elizabeth Butler, Head of the Intergovernmental Affairs and Outreach Service and Secretary of the Trade and Development Board of UNCTAD. (See [Lorenzo statement](#) and [Stillman statement](#).) Ms. Butler invited PPAF to participate in UNCTAD XII, in Accra, Ghana in April 2008.

As part of his presentation Lorenzo announced plans for the MDG Awards Event and invited nominations and participation from CONGO and its members. William Ho displayed the prototype award and Bloem offered support and networking of CONGO for the event. Butler similarly offered networking from UNCTAD. (See further information below.)

In his presentation Stillman described the work of PPAF and, as one part of that, alerted CONGO members to the [NGO Aggregated Purchasing Program](#) for discounted prices for office supplies and banking services. Interested groups should contact hwalters@bidgive.com.

Lorenzo and Stillman emphasized public-private partnerships again in a panel on multi-stakeholder cooperation that was chaired by Ambassador Ilari Rantakari of Finland, on behalf of the Helsinki Process on Globalization on Democracy. Led by the Governments of Finland and Tanzania, the Helsinki Process promotes the idea that governments, civil society, the business community, international organizations, academia and the media can together play a major role in accelerating thinking on global problem solving and on implementing global commitments. Rantakari invited PPAF to explore further the possibility of association with the members of the Helsinki Process.

CONGO invited Lorenzo and Stillman to participate in a post-Forum luncheon event on July 2, entitled "Interactive Dialogue on Pro-Poor Growth and the Eradication of Poverty and Hunger." Lorenzo was one of three ambassadors asked to speak during the dialogue. The event was co-chaired by Ambassador Walter Furst, Director-General, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation and Mr. Jose Manual Salazar-Xirinacha, Executive Director of Employment, ILO, and co-hosted by the Governments of Mexico and Finland. The participants focused on the outcome of the Civil Society Development Forum and its potential for influencing the deliberations at the Council's High-Level Segment.

The [overview report](#) of the Civil Society Development Forum, read out at its closing session, included a prominent reference to the importance of the private sector and of multi-stakeholder partnerships and cited PPAF as an example. The report stated: "Much more work needs to be done to engage the private sector so that it adopts the highest ethical standards in promoting pro-poor sustained economic growth and equitable economic policies. One possible channel, presented during this Forum, is the Public-Private Alliance Foundation. We cannot ignore the business sector: civil society can perhaps influence and inspire its leaders, its shareholders, its investors, to achieve, as Wahu Kaara put it "Life before Profit."

Economic and Social Council High-Level Segment, Geneva – July 2-5

The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), which serves as the central UN forum for discussing international economic and social issues and for formulating policy recommendations, held the high-level segment of its 2007 substantive session at the Palais des Nations in Geneva.

The theme this year was strengthening efforts at all levels to promote pro-poor sustained economic growth, including through equitable macro-economic policies and through the global partnership for development. During the segment, ECOSOC held an Annual Ministerial Review and launched the Development Cooperation Forum – two new functions mandated by world leaders at the 2005 World Summit to step up implementation of the United Nations development agenda.

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon presented to ECOSOC the Millennium Development Goals Report 2007, which provides an overview of progress at the MDG mid-point of implementation. The Millennium Declaration set 2015 as the target date for the eight Goals. Speaking at the opening of the ECOSOC, the Secretary-General said “We must convert the ‘Global Partnership for Development’ into more than a catchy slogan, and turn it into fact, so as to address the most pressing development issues of our day, from climate change to trade and aid.” This sentence summed up the concern and purpose for PPAF presence at the sessions.

During the Annual Ministerial Review, Ambassador Andrianarivelo gave a formal statement which introduced a joint letter to the President of ECOSOC from the Permanent Missions to the UN of Madagascar and Dominican Republic. The letter described the creation and work of PPAF, its importance to the formation of partnerships against poverty, and its relevance to the deliberations of the Council. The letter had been published and distributed to delegations as document [E/2007/81](#) and is also available as an archived video by clicking on [Ambassador Andrianarivelo's Statement](#).

Ambassador Lorenzo spoke also, during the open dialogue on pro-poor growth on the first day of ECOSOC. The archived video is clicking on his [Statement](#).

In a side-event, Daniel Mejia and David Stillman were invited to participate in an informal policy dialogue on “The role of Civil Society, Legislative Bodies and other Stakeholders in Promoting Improved Aid Quality.” This was chaired by Mr. K. S. Jomo, Assistant Secretary-General in the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, and was an excellent opportunity to advance the relationship between PPAF and UN/DESA.

At the conclusion of the High-level Segment ECOSOC adopted a [Ministerial Declaration](#) (E/2007/L.13) on poverty reduction and partnerships. Of special interest to PPAF, paragraphs 41-45 of the Declaration address the roles of private sector, public sector, public-private partnerships and innovative sources of financing for development.

UN Global Compact Leaders Summit – Geneva, July 5- 6

Chaired by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon, over 900 representatives of corporations, business networks, governments, NGOs, UN agencies, and others from around the world came to Geneva to discuss good business practices in relation to the Global Compact’s ten principles (on labor, human rights, environment and anti-corruption measures), to report on actions taken and planned, to network, and to devise public-private initiatives. PPAF team members gained much from exposure to the concerns and accomplishments of other in efforts to strengthen corporate social responsibility and sustainable development under the theme “Facing Realities: Getting Down to Business.”

The Leaders Summit adopted a 21-point [Geneva Declaration](#) which spells out concrete actions for business, governments and Global Compact participants.

The meeting gave PPAF leaders -- normally based in Miami, New York, and Antananarivo -- a chance to begin planning for infrastructure development in Madagascar that would incorporate Global Compact principles, to discuss fish farming, cacao and ethanol investment projects in the Dominican Republic, and PPAF involvement on the social side of a special economic zone project in Haiti.

Just as PPAF leaders attended the Global Compact Leaders Summit, e-newsletter readers can be there too, through archived videos. Through the [Global Compact video archive](#) you can hear speakers including the UN Secretary-General, the President of the 61st Session of the UN General Assembly, the Chairman and CEO of Coca-Cola, the Secretary-General of Amnesty International, the General Secretary of the International Trade Union Confederation, the Minister of Foreign and European Affairs of France, the Chief Investment Officer of Goldman Sachs, the Chariman and CEO of Banco Bilbao Vizcaya Argentaria, the Executive Director of Environment of the City of San Francisco, the Chief Operating Officer of the World Wildlife Fund, a representative of the Guangcai Program of China, and many more.

MDG Awards Announced

A major feature of PPAF participation in the Geneva meetings was the opportunity to describe plans for the MDG Awards Telecast and to display the crystal prototype award, which had been created by William Ho, the internationally-renowned Canadian artist. Ho and his wife Carol joined the PPAF team to meet with a number of participants at the Geneva events.

To promote greater public awareness of the UN Millennium Development Goals, BidGive International, working with PPAF, is developing a major global telecast in 2008 to honor the work of those striving to achieve them. The lead coordinator of this project is Mr. Michael Jacobson of BidGive International.

Designed to educate the global public about the internationally-agreed goals and their importance, the telecast will provide global recognition to individuals, organizations, communities, corporations and countries for their contributions. Special categories will acknowledge the work of NGOs affiliated with the United Nations, UN Global Compact participants and signatories to the Principles of Responsible Investment (PRI). Nominated countries will have the opportunity to provide entertainment to help publicize their national culture.

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon and Dr. Jeffrey Sachs, head of the Columbia University Earth Institute and the Millennium Promise Alliance, each embraced the Awards concept and offered their support as the program develops. So also did CONGO President Renate Bloem and UNCTAD senior official Jo Elizabeth Butler (see above). The PPAF team also introduced the idea and prototype award to Mr. Yiping Zhou, Director of United Nations Special Unit for South-South Cooperation, and to Mr. Sarbuland Khan, Executive Coordinator of the Global Alliance for ICT and Development. They expressed great interest to collaborate in promoting the event and in helping to identify candidates for recognition.

Future newsletters will cover in greater depth the plans now developing for the MDG Awards event.