



Public-Private Alliance Foundation

Creating and Endorsing Public-Private Partnerships

Presentation at the United Nations David Stillman May 23, 2017

Excellencies, honored guests, ladies and gentlemen,

We are here today to find new ways to encourage Public-Private Partnerships in support of the Sustainable Development Goals. We are looking at UN Member States initiatives, UN policies, NGO passions and private sector involvement and investment. In the case of the organization I represent, the Public-Private Alliance Foundation, we combine collaboration, innovation and inspiration and connect a wide range of stakeholders.

PPAF is a non-profit that encourages business and sustainable development, with a focus on gender and the environment, primarily in Haiti, the Dominican Republic and Madagascar. It has its origins in the interest of the Ambassadors to the UN from those three countries, and started as an initiative of the UN Economic and Social Council. It develops partnerships, conducts projects and organizes seminars at the UN and elsewhere on bio-energy, clean cookstoves, sustainable agriculture and women's empowerment. Having had a career in the United Nations, I am a founder and Executive Director of PPAF.

PPAF promotes the 17 Sustainable Development Goals and the 10 Principles of the UN Global Compact. We are active in the Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves, which is a public-private partnership hosted by the UN Foundation that seeks to save lives, improve livelihoods, empower women, and protect the environment by creating a thriving global market for clean and efficient household cooking solutions.

I'd like to talk about that area of work today. Families in Haiti are caught in a poverty – respiratory disease – deforestation trap because of the country's heavy reliance on charcoal cooking. We are helping to overcome that by focusing on non-polluting cookstoves that use as fuel ethanol from Haitian sugarcane, or biogas from organic waste or solar power from the tropical sun.

In work for the Inter-American Development Bank we studied and provided advice on how to improve the ability of Haiti's small-scale distilleries to augment alcohol production and make ethanol for cookstoves. Not only was this to help improve capacities and profits among distillers, but also to help sugarcane farmers to find new value for their crops. For the UN Environment Program we collaborated with a Haitian company to design and test a low-cost ethanol stove and prepare a draft business plan for commercialization.

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Currently we have a consortium with five other organizations for solar and biogas cooking in Haiti. This includes a solar oven company, a Haitian hometown nonprofit, an association of those researching, promoting, selling or distributing solar cookers, a somewhat similar association of those promoting and installing biodigesters for biogas cooking, and a program for adolescent girls' empowerment in which club members learn about healthy living, financial literacy and entrepreneurship.

In Haiti about 90 percent of the people use wood or charcoal as their primary sources for energy for cooking. This has led to health, environmental, economic and gender impacts that impede sustainable growth and development. These are hard to overcome, whether through private, public or non-governmental actions.

In order to take steps to transform the sector in Haiti much attention is being given to making and selling charcoal stoves that are more efficient, to establishing well-managed woodlots and charcoal kilns, and to creating and implementing government policies related to taxes, tariffs and environmental regulations.

Beyond those obvious choices the Public-Private Alliance Foundation is fostering closer involvement by the solar and biogas cooking associations into the relevant planning processes, and building up the budding interest in ethanol cookstoves and fuel. Now PPAF promotes income generation in the adolescent girls' empowerment clubs through sales of cooked food and eventually of solar ovens as signature elements of the program.

Inspiration, advocacy and partnering are at the heart of our work. We have held several "Partners Against Poverty" multi-stakeholder conferences at UN Headquarters, on bioenergy, women's empowerment, and microfinance. In the Dominican Republic we co-convened with the government and other seminars on national planning for aquaculture and for investment in renewable energy. After the 2010 earthquake we co-convened with a Haitian-American investment group a workshop on business and reconstruction.

Again at the UN we convened with the UN Office for Partnerships a conference on ethanol cookstoves, and with the Department for Public Information the first such presentation of the Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves resource guide on scaling adoption of clean cooking solutions through women's empowerment. As side events to sessions of the UN Commission on the Status of Women we have co-convened seminars at the UN Foundation on girls, women, clean energy and entrepreneurship.

PPAF's motto is "Policies into Practice." To take the broad international agreements on priorities, especially the Sustainable Development Goals, and to contribute to them through collaboration, innovation and inspiration – these are transformative actions. They require involvement by all, and in particular public-private partnerships.

Thank you.