



Roundtable on Sustainable Business in Africa

During these times of economic hardship and stagnation in Europe, the developing world, and Africa in particular, represents the ideal partner to spur sustainable development.

A high-level dialogue on “sustainable business”, in the form of an online roundtable between the private and public sectors and with the participation of experts in the field, will convene online (www.acpbusinessclimate.org) at 10am on 3rd April 2012. The session, themed “What type of public-private partnership for sustainable business?”, is part of a series of online discussions facilitated by the ACP Business Climate Facility (BizClim). The session will explore steps towards implementing sustainable business models, applicable in developing countries and particularly in Africa.

Having as moderator Mr. Randall Krantz, Director of Sustainability Initiatives at the World Economic Forum, the roundtable has drawn the participation of high-level officials and private sector leaders, including Dr. Mohammed Ibn Chambas, Secretary General of the ACP Group of States; Mr. Andris Piebalgs, EU Development Commissioner; Dr. Maxwell Mkwasalamba, African Union

Commissioner for Economic Affairs; Mr. Paulo Nigro, Vice President of Tetra Pak for Latin America; Mr. François Bloch, Global Vice-President of Louis Dreyfus Commodities; Mr Peter White, Global Sustainability Director for Procter and Gamble; Prof. Elaine Vlock, Manager of Corporate Services at Clover Dairy, from South Africa; and Ms. Elena Bonfiglioli, Director of Microsoft Health IT for Europe, as representative for Microsoft, who will kindly co-host the roundtable on their technology platform.

No room for one-sided policies which disregard people and the planet

Sustainable development is at the core of the European Commission's development cooperation vision and policy, as highlighted by the Green Paper on the EU's development policy, the EU action plan in support of the Millennium Development Goals and the recommendations made to the European Parliament for the 11th European Development Fund.

Table of contents

1 DOSSIER

Roundtable on Sustainable Business in Africa

2 IN BRIEF

e-School under scrutiny in Ghana

2 NEW BIZCLIM REQUESTS



Towards a private sector enabling environment

A Facility financed by the European Union through the European Development Fund

The ACP Business Climate Facility (BizClim) provides technical assistance that is essentially about improving regulations, legislation, the institutional set up and financial measures (the rules of the game) relating to the enabling environment of the private sector in ACP countries or regions and to do so by focusing on possible support to ACP governments or regional institutions and private sector organizations.

Responsible Editor

M'Hamed Cherif
Rue Belliard, 205
1040 Brussels - Belgium
Tel: +32 2 669 98 25
Fax: +32 2 669 97 86
info@acpbusinessclimate.org
www.acpbusinessclimate.org

➤ The EU's development cooperation policy is undergoing a strong transition from aid to partnership, through the implementation of high-impact strategies, innovative financial mechanisms and budget support, with an ever-stronger emphasis on the role of the private sector.

Including development goals in core business operations

In the interest of social stability and progress, many multinationals are prioritising sustainability in their models, placing it higher on their agenda. Indeed, the concept of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), whereby businesses integrate the economic, social, and environmental imperatives of their activities, is gaining currency internationally. Despite the absence of a



regulatory global sustainability reporting standard, large companies are increasingly reporting on their CSR activities.

Recognising the magnitude of ongoing societal and economic changes and believing that 'business as usual' is no longer a viable option, leading companies are now anticipating trends and aligning profitable business ventures with the needs of society. As a result, new, inclusive business models are emerging.

Identifying essential factors for the implementation of sustainable business projects

Inclusive business models are one way for the private sector to contribute holistic solutions to support the sustainable development of emerging economies in an increasingly urbanised, energy- and resource-constrained world – for the benefit of both developing countries and business. It is now well understood that companies should focus on their core competencies and strengths – this is vital to ensuring consistency within a company's portfolio. However, it is less clear how they can work with government agencies and development organisations to this end. ■

Discussion Themes

- 1) **Incentives** – How does sustainable business create value in such a way as to represent an incentive for sustainability considerations to be competitively internalised into business models?
- 2) **Regulation** – Has sustainability as a core concept of doing business gained sufficient traction to progress independently, or is a mandatory regulatory framework necessary for the success of sustainable business models? Is international coherence essential, or can individual nations successfully lead by example without damaging the competitiveness of their private sectors?
- 3) **Corporate Social Responsibility** – What is the relevance of sustainability considerations within the context of CSR in the global economy, and can it play a role in governing global markets?

e-School under scrutiny in Ghana

The Federation of West Africa Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FEWACCI), with the support of the ECOWAS Commission and sponsorship from the ACP Business Climate Facility (BizClim), will hold a two-day e-School Regional Conference on 26-27th March at the Mensvic Hotel in Accra, Ghana, aiming to validate a new Public-Private-Partnership (PPP) model.

The initiative seeks to facilitate a better knowledge of the e-school initiative in the ECOWAS region and the identification of new Public-Private-Partnership (PPP) models for its implementation. The new PPP model will help tackle some of the challenges and constraints experienced in the demonstration projects. The Conference will lead to the preparation of a roadmap for implementing a concrete action plan for the roll-out of the accepted PPP model in Ghana and across the ECOWAS region with the involvement of the private sector.

A number of high-level education and technology specialists and professionals from the ECOWAS region will participate in the Conference, including former Education Minister of Ghana, ECOWAS President, and current Secretary-General of the African Caribbean and Pacific Group of States, Dr Mohammed Ibn Chambas; Prof Abdoulaye Maga, Director of Education, Science and Technology of the ECOWAS Commission, and Mr Lee Ocran, the Minister of Education of Ghana. ■



REQUESTS

Country /Region	Beneficiary	Title
Nigeria	NEPAD Business Group	Removing business barriers in West Africa
Fiji	FTIB	Setting up a virtual one-stop shop
Tanzania	EC Delegation	New arbitration legislation
COMESA	COMESA RIA	Setting up an Investor Tracking System