



UNITED NATIONS
Department of Economic and Social Affairs

Innovative Finance for Sustainable Development
New York, October 18-19, 2007

Objective

The conference aims to provide a platform to stimulate discussion on financial innovations pertaining to a range of issues in sustainable development which will be covered by the Commission on Sustainable Development 16/17 cycle: agriculture, rural development, desertification, drought, and Africa.

Date & Venue

The meeting will take place in Conference Room 7 at UN Headquarters (New York) on **October 18-19, 2007**.

Conference Website: <http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/sdissues/finance/egm2007/index.htm>

Agenda

The meeting agenda is built so as to bring together the perspectives of development institutions, practitioners in the field, and private sector actors. The mix of conceptual and practical approaches will allow participants to grasp more fully the challenges relating to the effective design and implementation of new financial tools for innovative sustainable development projects.

The meeting will comprise four sessions covering:

- Financing instruments for agricultural R&D;
- Index based insurance products for agriculture;
- Micro health insurance in Africa;
- Sub-national instruments for financing basic utilities.

Each session will gather 3 to 5 presenters, representing different categories of actors/participants in the field: (i) Policy-makers or international development institutions; (ii) Practitioners, project leaders; and (iii) Private sector actors. Each presentation should last 30 to 40 minutes, with 30 minutes allowed for discussion at the end of each session.

Audience

The meeting will be open to all country delegations at the United Nations, UN Agencies, Funds and Programmes and accredited NGOs, as well as other interested practitioners from academia and the private sector.

Output of the conference

Presentations made at the conference will be made publicly accessible through the Internet in the days following the conference. The proceedings of the conference will be summarized into a background report to the Commission for Sustainable Development as an input to the discussions of the next cycle.

The session will cover issues relative to the financing of agricultural R&D. The recent years have witnessed a shift in the way agricultural R&D is financed, with a declining role of public funds. In Africa, additional problems relate to scarce and scattered human and financial resources. The session will include an overview of new tools aimed at stimulating research on specific products, such as advanced purchase commitments and cash-prizes.

Speakers: William Masters (Purdue University), Nienke Beintema (IFPRI), Annik Dollacker (Bayer Cropscience)

Session 2 will consider recent developments in index-based insurance products, which aim at providing farmers in developing countries with a way to cover risks associated with weather/climate shocks. These products are based on weather indexes, which serve as the objective measure for the determination of the risk covered by the insurance. Through an overview presentation and examples from three different countries, the session aims at covering key elements such as concept, implementation, scope and limits of this class of products, risk sharing between government and beneficiaries, and potential for development.

Speakers: Joanna Syroka (WFP/World Bank), Christina Ulardic (Swiss Re), Jerry Skees (University of Kentucky), Olivier Mahul (World Bank), Hemanth Valvekar (BASIX India)

Sub-Saharan Africa has the world's highest maternal mortality, while HIV/AIDS, malaria, and tuberculosis continue to undermine the hope and vitality of its people. Increasingly, there is recognition that the private sector must play a key role to improve health. Finding sustainable business models for private health care provision in Africa is therefore a high priority. This session will examine the African experience in terms of micro-health insurance (MHI) products. The issues under scrutiny in this session will include:

- Performances of different types of organizations for MHI product delivery
- Ability to pay for services and financial sustainability of MHI: are there general lessons?
- Potential for coverage scale -up in African countries
- The obstacle of HIV/AIDS to health insurance in high prevalence countries
- Synergies and links with other financial products / networks

Speakers: Gerry Noble (MicroCare), Rupalee Ruchismita (Institute of Financial Management and Research), Agnes Chakonta (Madison Insurance)

Local government borrowing was traditionally not seen as a viable financing option for water and electricity. This view has been challenged in recent times due to increased financing needs of municipalities as a consequence of rapid urbanization, fiscal decentralization and a decline of fiscal subsidies from central governments. Session 4 will focus on successful cases of raising long term finance for utilities. The session will be structured around the following agenda items:

- Recent trends and developments in the financing of utilities in Sub-Saharan Africa
- Key success factors in attracting domestic and international investors to municipal bonds in developing countries
- Risk-sharing and credit enhancements: the role of financial intermediaries and pooled financing arrangements

Speakers: Jason Ngobeni (City of Johannesburg), Isaura A. Guzmán L. (Fitch Ratings), Randall Dodd (IMF), Vikram Kapur (Tamil Nadu Urban Infrastructure Financial Services Ltd.)

Expert Group Meeting: Innovative Finance for Sustainable Development

October 18-19, 2007
Conference Room 7, UN Headquarters, New York

Agenda

Day 1: Thursday, October 18 2007

10:00-10:30 Opening Session: Welcome Remarks & Conference Overview

Speakers: **David O'Connor**, Division for Sustainable Development, UN DESA
Alex Trepelkov, Financing for Development, UN DESA

10:30-12:30 Session 1: Financing agricultural R&D

Speakers: **William Masters**, Purdue University
Nienke Beintema, IFPRI
Annik Dollacker, Bayer Cropscience

Moderator: David O'Connor, DESA-DSD

12:30-14:00 Lunch

14:00-17:15 Session 2: Index-based insurance for agriculture

Speakers: **Joanna Syroka**, WFP/World Bank
Christina Ulardic, Swiss Re, Switzerland
Jerry Skees, University of Kentucky
Olivier Mahul, World Bank
Hemanth Valvekar, BASIX

Moderator: David Le Blanc, DESA-DSD

Day 2: Friday, October 19 2007

10:00-12:45 Session 3: Micro health insurance in Africa

Speakers: **Gerry Noble**, MicroCare, Uganda
Rupalee Ruchismita, Institute of Financial Management and Research, India
Agnes Chakonta, Madison Insurance, Zambia

Moderator: Malika Bhandarkar, DESA-DSD

13:00-15:00 Lunch

15:00-17:15 Session 4: Sub-national instruments for financing basic utilities

Speakers: **Jason Ngobeni**, City of Johannesburg, South Africa
Isaura A. Guzmán L., Fitch Ratings, Mexico
Randall Dodd, International Monetary Fund
Vikram Kapur, Tamil Nadu Urban Infrastructure Financial Services Ltd., India

Moderator: Daniel Platz, DESA-FfD

17:15-17:45 Closing Session

Speakers: **David O'Connor**, Division for Sustainable Development, UN DESA

About the Organizers

UN DESA

The Department of Economic and Social Affairs (<http://www.un.org/esa/desa/>) of the United Nations Secretariat is a vital interface between global policies in the economic, social and environmental sphere and national action. The Department works in three main interlinked areas: (i) it compiles, generates and analyses a wide range of economic, social and environmental data and information on which Member States of the United Nations draw to review common problems and to take stock of policy options; (ii) it facilitates the negotiations of Member States in many intergovernmental bodies on joint courses of action to address ongoing or emerging global challenges; and (iii) it advises interested Governments on the ways and means of translating policy frameworks developed in United Nations conferences and summits into programmes at the country level and, through technical assistance, helps build national capacities.

The Expert Group Meeting on Innovative Finance for Sustainable Development is organized by two offices of UN DESA:

Division for Sustainable Development, Policy Integration & Analysis Branch

The Division for Sustainable Development (<http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/index.html>) is responsible for providing substantive secretariat support to the Commission on Sustainable Development for follow-up to the implementation of Agenda 21, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (JPOI), and the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation.

The mission of the *Policy Integration and Analysis Branch* is to provide strategic analysis and policy research of emerging issues in sustainable development that may merit intergovernmental discussion and review. The cross-cutting issues include the enabling environment for provision of basic economic, social and environmental infrastructure and services, and financial, economic and institutional innovations for effective resource mobilization and allocation

The Branch has a number of publications that contribute to the policy debate of sustainable development. Some recent publications include:

- Sustainable Development Innovation Briefs, 2007
<http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/publications/innovationbriefs/index.htm>
- Trends in Sustainable Development 2006/2007
<http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/publications/trends2006/index.htm>
- Industrial Development for the 21st Century- Sustainable Development Perspectives, 2007
http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/publications/industrial_development/index.htm

Financing for Development Office

The objective of the Financing for Development Office (<http://www.un.org/esa/ffd/>) is to provide effective secretariat support for sustained follow-up within the United Nations system to the agreements and commitments reached at the International Conference on Financing for Development, as contained in the Monterrey Consensus, as well as financing for development-related aspects of the outcomes of major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields, including the development goals set out in the United Nations Millennium Declaration.

FfDO contributes to ongoing deliberations, both in United Nations and non-United Nations forums, on issues and policies related to international economic, financial and development cooperation.