



Global Business Alliance (GBA) for Post-2015

Post-2015 Interactive Dialogue on Financing for Development and the U.N. Post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals With Major Group Stakeholders – April 23, 2015

Comments by Dr. Ariel Meyerstein (The United States Council for International Business) on behalf of the Global Business Alliance for Post-2015

Co-facilitators, Excellencies:

The private sector stands willing to help move us from “billions to trillions” in development and be the partner in sustainable development the global community needs in the post-2015 development era.

During our Business Hearings on FfD we offered practical advice on how to support infrastructure finance, SME finance and responsible investment. We proposed inserting references to the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights previously absent from the FfD Zero Draft. We have placed special emphasis on Goal 16 on governance and the rule of law, Goal 8 on inclusive economic growth and empowerment, and Goal 9, particularly with respect to infrastructure and innovation.

The proposed Means of Implementation in Goal 17 and the other 16 Goals fall short of the actionable and pragmatic proposals needed. While we recognize the need to address systemic issues and for enhanced communication between multilateral institutions, Goal 17’s targets on trade, institutional and policy coherence set an agenda that may remain only aspirational well beyond 2015.

So what should be included from the FfD outcome document? We propose that of the Zero Draft’s sections, A, B, C (particularly ¶¶ 37 – 54, 58, 63, 66, 68 – 72, and 73) and of course, section H on data, form the core of what will get us furthest towards achieving the SDGs and should be promoted as the key Means of Implementation for the SDGs. To achieve this, we would like to reinforce Ambassador Kamau’s intervention last week and call for a more detailed Goal-by-Goal analysis of which kinds of resource streams, global and national partnership

activities, platforms and other modalities will be the most effective with respect to different SDGs.

On the cross-cutting issue of technology transfer, we will need to redouble efforts on the fundamentals – that is open trade, protection of IP, and other enabling frameworks – and catalyze creative solutions that incentivize different actors to deliver according to their respective capabilities. The private sector continues to be an important source for R&D, innovation and dissemination of the technologies that will be indispensable to advancing the SDGs. Global and national governance frameworks that foster innovation are critical; likewise, the resources it takes to develop, commercialize and disseminate new technologies should be the intentional product of public-private collaboration and the blending and leveraging of different resource streams.

Indeed, a focus on governance at all levels, including through transparent national multi-stakeholder engagement, will help catalyze, coordinate and amplify the impacts of all resource streams and help direct them in ways that will leave no one behind: domestic resources will be enlarged, foreign private finance will be mobilized and ODA will stretch further in part because it will be used more efficiently and in part because it will mobilize private flows to reach places they might not otherwise venture. The good thing about governance is that Member States don't need to wait for July or September to get started.

Finally, while we are grateful for the opportunity to speak today, going forward, we would strongly recommend a change of format that allows for more continuous engagement of stakeholders in real-time during the course of the negotiations. We would also request that the co-facilitators arrange the seating of stakeholders and the designation of their respective seats to reflect the modalities resolution of December 2014 (A/69/L.46, ¶ 2(b)), so that Member States seeking to engage directly with the private sector can easily identify us in the room.

Thank you for your kind attention and consideration of our suggestions.