



12th International Business Forum

Business Engagement for Governance

October 9-10 2007 Washington, DC

www.businessandmdgs.net

The debate at the Forum was not about whether businesses *should* play a role in development, but rather *how* they can do so most effectively. Participants debated the appropriate engagement of private sector participating in setting the global rules that govern their own conduct – moving from *rule takers* to *rule makers*.

Setting Priorities

Forum participants representing over 197 businesses and organizations from 49 countries generated recommendations and commitments over the course of the Forum, which they then prioritized into a “top ten” to be shared with business, governments and the international development community.

In a final electronic vote the delegates ranked their **Most Important** priority:

- ❖ Step up collaboration and coordination between business associations, civil society, and governments to make all parties more accountable to reduce corruption.

The vote also selected the **Most Achievable** action in the short term from among their top three recommendations:

- ❖ Press public and private sectors to share knowledge and examples of adaptive strategies in preventing climate change and offer guidance on implementation for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs).

Other leading recommendations included:

- Increase availability of financial products for new clean technologies to combat climate change.
- Build greater awareness of CSR across business sectors through training, handbooks, online communication and engagement of collective business organizations.
- Create a platform for SME's to share examples of good practices and CSR.
- Mainstream nutrition issues into broader debates on productivity, governance and national development agendas.
- Press the role of credible and consistent climate change legislation alongside incentives for compliance.
- Encourage SMEs to innovate for clean energy solutions provide them with technology transfers, skill development and government subsidies.
- Increase access to information and transparency of information in the fight against corruption.
- Bring down the cost of certifying sustainable products by decentralizing the process to regional certifiers.