

**PRIVATE SECTOR DINNER**  
**DRIVING INNOVATION THROUGH PRIVATE SECTOR PARTNERSHIPS**  
**14 October 2015; 19:00**

1. The Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), Private Sector Section (PSS) hosted guests at a dinner side event to the Global Consultation on 14 October 2014.<sup>1</sup> The event was titled: *Driving Innovation through Private Sector Partnerships*. The dinner brought together 48 guests from the private sector with UN agencies and NGOs.
2. Elaine Weidman of Ericsson and Marcy Vigoda, Chief of OCHA's Partnerships and Resource Mobilization Branch made opening remarks. Stephen O'Brien, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, addressed the guests during the dinner and Gwi-Yeop Son, Director of OCHA's Corporate Programs Division, closed the evening.
3. During his address, the Under-Secretary General:
  - a. highlighted the potential for public-private collaboration in delivering humanitarian relief and for the private sector to mobilize in emergency preparedness and response;
  - b. conceptualized public-private partnerships in emergency preparedness and response in terms of a joint venture, where both parties have shared interests and shared value in collectively undertaken activities; and
  - c. emphasized the importance for the humanitarian community to recognize that the private sector's expertise and knowledge is engaged in emergency response and preparedness and to accept the business case for private sector involvement in humanitarian action.
4. Guests were asked to share examples of innovative solutions implemented by the private sector in collaboration with humanitarian actors and to explore how these examples may be highlighted and brought to scale before the World Humanitarian Summit.
5. The messages that were raised during this discussion are summarized below, grouped by theme.

**Innovation**

  - a. The humanitarian community and the private sector need to recognize that private sector engagement in emergency risk reduction, preparedness, response and recovery is not about philanthropy. As Olivier Delarue of UNHCR stated 'innovation has to be sustainable and has to be scalable ... If a company can make money out of [innovative solutions to humanitarian issues], that should be celebrated. This is something that we need to educate the humanitarian world about ... if it is ethically and principally done, there is no reason why [the private sector] should not have a profit motivation'.
  - b. The humanitarian community, including OCHA, should support innovators by articulating the business case for engagement in humanitarian action and promoting the positive impacts of innovation.
  - c. The private sector will invest in innovations, but will not scale them without a strong business rationale. The UN and its private sector partners need to work to identify a shared value model that facilitates investment in scalable solutions.

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<sup>1</sup> Refer to Annexure A for a list of participants at the event.

- d. Governments and the humanitarian community need to increase incentives for the private sector to develop innovative technologies and engage in emergency preparedness and response. This could include tax incentives or research and development investments.
- e. The UN should explore innovative ways of financing solutions to humanitarian challenges, for example, by collaborating with banks to guarantee loans for the development of innovative products or by exploring novel insurance mechanisms and risk distributions.
- f. Micro, small and medium sized enterprises have much to contribute to innovative solutions and it is at this local level where much of the humanitarian work is being done. While multinational companies are finding it easier to connect with the humanitarian community, micro, small and medium sized enterprises are still not well connected.
- g. The cumbersome procurement rules for United Nations agencies and for Member States may stifle innovation and private sector engagement in emergency preparedness and response. The UN and its private sector partners need to adapt in terms of procurement rules to overcome inflexibility and collectively identify best procurement practices.
- h. The private sector has much to offer in fostering human dignity and empowering people to choose which goods and services they receive. The humanitarian community and the private sector should look to increase service provision by the private sector in humanitarian situations. Lessons from the private sector experience of providing cash transfer services should be extended into other areas of private sector service provision.

#### **Platforms for private sector engagement**

- i. Networks need to be created to bring the private sector together at the national, regional and global levels and around industry and thematic areas. Networks will facilitate private sector engagement in humanitarian action by facilitating dialogue and practical initiatives to identify where private sector expertise and knowledge is best utilized. As Ines Knapper from THE Port recognized, DHL is working on a similar project to one of the humanitarian hackathon @CERN teams; ‘many people are working on the same topics and need to talk together’.
- j. Cooperation between the humanitarian community and the private sector needs to be strategic, with a focus on resilience, encompassing risk reduction, preparedness, response and recovery.
- k. While collaboration and cooperation with other humanitarian actors is necessary, the private sector should stop waiting for ‘permission’ from the humanitarian community and should self-mobilize to engage in humanitarian action. As Sally Stanfield of Deloitte stated ‘we just need to understand that it is up to us to do it and share it with the broader community’. The private sector does not necessarily need to partner with humanitarian actors to do the work that humanitarian organizations used to do (for example, drought insurance).
- l. The UN and the business community should look at creating a space for UN leaders and business leaders to hold small-scale discussions on how the UN can adapt to allow innovations in the humanitarian context to be identified and replicated on a large scale.

#### **The World Humanitarian Summit process**

- m. Greater private sector representation is required at the World Humanitarian Summit and in other conversations regarding the development of the humanitarian system; the private sector did not have enough of a voice at the Global Consultation.
  - n. The UN and the private sector need to showcase examples of public-private partnerships and private sector engagement in humanitarian action at the World Humanitarian Summit and more generally.
6. During her closing address, Gwi-Yeop Son, Director of OCHA’s Corporate Programs Division, recognized the need to develop a common shared value, a space and model for collaboration and a

mechanism to allow the private sector to more easily access the UN system. A key message identified was the need for greater private sector participation in the World Humanitarian Summit process, with Ms. Son committing to work with the WHS Secretariat to ensure increased private sector representation at the World Humanitarian Summit in May 2016.

## Annexure A – List of event participants

<b>Title</b>	<b>First Name</b>	<b>Last Name</b>	<b>Organization</b>
Ms.	Sue	Adkins	Business in the Community
Dr.	Zubair	Anwar Bawany	CSR Association of Pakistan
Ms.	Gayan	Azizyan	CERN Hackathon participant
Dr.	Linus	Bengtsson	Flowminder
Mr.	Patrick	Blanchet	Banque de l'Union Haitienne
Mr.	Gianluca	Bruni	World Food Programme
Mr.	Brent	Carbno	Ericsson
Mr.	Jeremy	Cole	Red Rose
Ms.	Asma	Dakhouché	Hewlett Packard Enterprise
Mr.	Olivier	Delarue	UNHCR
Ms	Tahleel	Dilawar Moon	MFA, Bangladesh
Ms.	Linda	Doull	Global Health Cluster
Ms.	Sophie	Evans	Willis Group
Mr.	Cyril	Ferrand	FAO
Mr.	Darrell	Gifford	Agility DGS
Ms.	Loretta	Hieber-Girardet	OCHA
Ms.	Aarti	Holla	EMEA Satellite Operators Association
Mr.	Ichiro	Miyawaki	Nippon Express
Mr.	Pradeep	Kandel	Microsoft Innovation Center Nepal
Mr.	Andrej	Kirn	World Economic Forum
Ms.	Ines	Knaepper	THE Port association
Mr.	Kevin	Koh	OHCHR
Mr.	Jeremy	Konyndyk	U.S. Agency for International Development
Mr.	Benjamin	Kumpf	UNDP
Mr.	Kimmo	Laukkanen	MFA, Finland
Ms	Marie	Lindblad	UNMAS
Mr.	Rene	Meily	Philippine Disaster Recovery Foundation
Ms.	Kathrin	Mohr	Deutsche Post DHL Group
Ms.	Tomoko	Muranaka	CERN
Ms.	Sara	Murray	MercyCorps
Mr.	Paul	Musser	MasterCard
Ms.	Susan	Myers	UN Foundation
Mr.	John	Myraunet	World Food Programme
Mr.	Marcos	Neto	UNDP
Ms.	Michela	Paganini	CERN
Mr.	Jacques-Philippe	Peyron	Henry Schein
Mr.	Howard	Politini	Pacific Islands Private Sector Organisation (PIPSO)
Mr.	Stuart	Price	Vantage Partners
Ms.	Kyla	Reid	GSMA Mobile for Development
Ms.	Cecilia	Rosell	National Society of Industries of Peru
Ms.	Shaun	Scales	UNHCR
Mr.	Adam	Smith	sQuidcard
Dr.	Sally	Stansfield	Deloitte
Mr.	Peter	van Leeuwen	Hospitainer BV

Mr.	Jelte	Von Wieren	Ministry of Foreign Affairs The Netherlands
Ms.	Elaine	Weidman	Ericsson
Mr.	Dylan	Winder	Department for International Development
Dr.	Ahmed	Zouiten	WHO