



INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION OF EMPLOYERS
ORGANISATION INTERNATIONALE DES EMPLOYEURS
ORGANIZACION INTERNACIONAL DE EMPLEADORES

Geneva, 6 March 2013

NEWS RELEASE

IOE SECRETARY GENERAL BRENT WILTON CALLS FOR ENABLING CONDITIONS FOR THE PRIVATE SECTOR TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE POST-2015 DEVELOPMENT AGENDA

At a private sector round table in The Hague on 5 March, IOE Secretary-General Brent Wilton appealed to the **High-Level Panel (HLP) on the Post-2015 Development Agenda** to urge Governments to provide enabling conditions for the private sector to thrive, to create jobs and to generate wealth.

The event was attended by HRH Princess Máxima of the Netherlands in her capacity as the UN Secretary-General's Special Advocate for Inclusive Finance for Development; HE Mark Rutte, Dutch Prime Minister, HE Lillianne Ploumen, Minister of Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation; Mr Paul Polman, CEO of Unilever – who jointly hosted the roundtable with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; a number of other CEOs of leading Dutch companies, and IOE member VNO/NCM President Bernard Wientjes.

Speaking for the IOE's global membership, Mr. Wilton said that the best way for the private sector to contribute to the realization of the Millennium Development Goals, and the post-2015 development agenda, was to “enable business to do what it does best”. Removing barriers to SME development, facilitating access to financing, promoting the respect of property rights and women's economic empowerment would make it easier for business to become a more effective partner in the development process. This view was also expressed by HRH Princess Máxima, who stated her strong commitment to seeing women entrepreneurs being provided with greater access to investment capital as a core priority, particularly in the context of SMEs.

VNO/NCM President Bernard Wientjes made an appeal for transparency, noting that while Foreign Direct Investment could contribute a lot further to economic growth and job creation, it was often hampered by red tape and corruption.

Summing up the discussions, Unilever CEO Paul Polman - a member of the eminent persons group involved in the UN High Level Panel on the post-2015 Development Agenda (HLP) - welcomed the contribution of business to the debate. He hoped that the private sector, which had not been consulted in the development of the MDGs, would have a strong voice and a clear role in the development agenda going forward.

The roundtable was part of the consultation and engagement process which the HLP had committed to having with the private sector to ensure that its views were taken into account.

The next HLP meeting will be hosted in Bali on 25 March 2013 by HE Mr. Yudhoyono, the President of Indonesia, who is also a co-chair of the High level Panel. Other co-chairs include President Johnson Sirleaf of Liberia and Prime Minister Cameron of the UK. The IOE will again be represented to ensure the voice of business is heard.

Chemin de Joinville, 26 • P.O. Box 68 • CH-1216 Cointrin / Geneva • Switzerland

Tel.: +41 (0)22 929 00 00 • Fax: +41 (0)22 929 00 01 • e-mail: ioe@ioe-emp.org • Internet: www.ioe-emp.org