

Strengthening Private Sector Resilience under Conflict: Lessons Learned and the Way Forward

11-12 November 2008
Beirut, UN-House, MZ-Level

Provisional Work Programme

Tuesday, 11 November 2008

08:30 – 09:00 **Registration**

09:00 – 10:30 **PANEL 1**

The Private Sector under Conflict (Presentations 15 min. max. each)

Moderator: Mr. Tarik Alami, Chief, Unit for Emerging and Conflict Related Issues, ESCWA

Why Private Sector Resilience in Conflict?

Mr. Tarik Alami, Chief, Unit for Emerging and Conflict Related Issues, ESCWA

Stocktaking of the Weaknesses, Strengths, Abuses and Coping Strategies

Mr. Mahdi Hafedh, Member of Parliament and Former Minister of Planning, Iraq

Public-Private Sector Partnerships for Development and Conflict Mitigation: Current Status and Potential

Mr. Moazzam Mekan, Senior Operations Manager, International Finance Cooperation (IFC) / World Bank Group

Discussion

10:30 – 11:45 **PANEL 2**

The Private Sector – Challenges Specific to Crisis Afflicted Countries in Western Asia (Presentations 15 min. each)

Moderator: Mr. Moazzam Mekan

The Impact of Political Crisis and Conflict on Private Sector Operations in Western Asia

Mr. Charbel Nahhas, Economist and Consultant

Current Practises and the Need for Good Governance Reform

Mr. Jad Chaaban, Professor of Economics, American University of Beirut and President of the Lebanese Economic Association (LEA)

The Role of the Financial Sector: A Facilitator or an Obstacle?

Ms. Rima Turk-Ariss, Professor of Finance, Lebanese American University

Discussion

11:45 – 12:15 **Coffee Break**

12:15 – 14:15

PANEL 3

The Private Sector – Difficulties to Public Institutions, Funds and International Organizations in Western Asia (Presentations 15 min. each)

Moderator: Mr. Mahdi Al Hafedh

Donor Policies in Crisis Afflicted Countries

Mr. Mohammed Sadiki, Resident Representative, Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development in Lebanon

Investment Retention under Conflict Conditions in Palestine

Mr. Mahmoud El Khafif, OIC, Programme of Assistance to the Palestinian People, UNCTAD

Interventions by the Representatives from the Ministries of Economy of Iraq, Lebanon, Palestine, Sudan and Yemen and International Organizations (8 min. max. each)

Discussion

14:15 – 15:45

Lunch (Hosted by LEA)

15:45 – 17:30

PANEL 4

Success Stories from Iraq, Lebanon, Palestine, Sudan, and Yemen

Moderator: Mr. Sam-Gwang Cho, Chief, Private Sector Section, UNECA

Sectors More Resilient to Conflict and Political Tensions (15 min. max)

Mr. Christian Henderson

Experiences from the Field (8 min. max. each)

Mr. Youssef El Khalil, Head of Financial Operations, Central Bank of Lebanon, and Director, Association for the Development of Rural Capacities

Dr. Fouad Matraji, General Manager, Arab Finance House

Mr. Ibrahim Adel, Chief Communications Officer, Zain

Mr. Bassem Anton, Vice Chairman, Union of Iraqi Businessmen

Mr. Jamal Jawabreh, General Manager, Federation of Palestinian Chambers of Industry and Commerce

Wednesday, 12 November 2008

9:30 – 11:30

PANEL 5

Responding to the Challenges facing the Private Sector in Adverse Environments: Financial Schemes

Moderator: Mr. Youssef El Khalil

Regional Risk Pooling for Strengthening Private Sector Resilience

Mr. Nabil Fawaz, Operations Team Manager, Multinational Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA) / World Bank Group

National Insurance Scheme for Strengthening Private Sector Resilience
Mr. Khater Abi Habib, Chairman of the Board of Directors and General Manager,
Kafalat

Expatriates in Support of Private Sector Resilience
Mr. Nassib Ghobril, Head of Economic Research and Analysis, Byblos Bank

Discussion

11:30 – 12:00 **Coffee Break**

12:00 – 14:00 **PANEL 6**

Responding to the Challenges facing the Private Sector in Adverse Environments: Technical Support

Moderator: Mr. Oussama Safa, Director, Lebanese Center for Policy Studies

Capacity-Building Modules for the Public Sector
Mr. Tarek Hatem, Associate Dean, Dubai School of Government

Incubators for Private Sector Resilience
Ms. Tania Saba Mazraani, Business Development & Communication Director,
Berytech

Plan for Supporting SMEs and Small Investors
Mr. Antoine Abou Samra, Managing Director, BADER

Discussion

14:00 – 15:15 **Break**

15:15 – 16:15 **CLOSING SESSION**

Conclusions and the Way Forward

Moderator: Mr. Youssef Chaitani

*Co-moderators: Mr. Jad Chaaban
 Mr. Christian Henderson*