



**Alliances for Integrity –  
Government and Business Roles in Enhancing African Standards of Living  
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia – facilities of the Economic Commission for Africa  
March 7-8, 2005**

*Jointly organised by the Investment Committee of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the New Partnership for African Development (NEPAD) and the United Nations Global Compact in partnership with Transparency International*

## **CONFERENCE BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES**

The United Nations' Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) set out an ambitious agenda for progress in the areas of poverty reduction, education, gender equality, public health, environmental sustainability and international cooperation. The UN Monterrey Consensus recognises that financing the MDGs will require mobilising private investment, including foreign direct investment. The African Union's Guideline document notes Africa's unmet needs for investment in physical and social infrastructure.

A wide variety of actors – including African governments and regional organisations, the private sector, the United Nations and the OECD – are working to forge effective partnerships between governments and companies that will help Africa to achieve the MDG goals. The basic premise of this conference is that effective partnerships are based on appropriate allocations of roles. The conference will: 1) explore nature and limits of private and public sector roles; 2) look at how both sectors' effectiveness in assuming these roles can be made transparent and accountable; 3) look at how private and public activities can be conducted with integrity in the many areas where the two overlap (e.g. conducting business with state-owned enterprises, making business regulation work effectively, paying corporate taxes, etc.).

This event will bring together representatives of business, trade unions, NGOs and international and regional organisations to discuss integrity issues and, in particular, issues that arise at the intersection of public and private activities (public-private partnerships, joint ventures between privately-held and state-owned enterprises, privatisations, political activities by companies, etc.).

Participants in this conference will have an opportunity to:

- Improve their understanding of global, regional and national initiatives in the areas of integrity and transparency.
- Participate in the shaping and strengthening of regional and national integrity networks in Africa (e.g. under the UN Global Compact and Transparency International).
- Influence the development of an OECD risk management tool for investors wishing to conduct business with integrity in “weak governance zones” – that is, areas where governments are unable or unwilling to protect the general rights framework and to provide other public services.

Seen from the perspective of the organisers, the expected outcomes of the Conference include:

- Enhanced understanding among African governments and their investment communities of the respective roles of governments and business in promoting the integrity agenda for African development.
- Promotion of the OECD Guidelines and other OECD integrity instruments, the UN Convention against Corruption, the UN Global Compact and the African Union Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption and other African integrity initiatives among key actors in Africa.
- Improved coordination among OECD, UN, African regional and government initiatives as well as with initiatives by Transparency International and other participating organisations.
- The OECD will seek to:
  - Increase awareness of the OECD integrity instruments – the OECD Guidelines, Corporate Governance Principles and Anti-Bribery Convention – in the African context.
  - Bring African inputs into the OECD Investment Committee's work on the development of a risk management tool for investors in weak governance zones. The development of this risk management tool – scheduled for publication in mid-2005 -- is part of the Committee's follow up on the UN Expert Panel's references to the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises in its reports on illegal exploitation of natural resources in the Democratic Republic of Congo.
- Transparency International will seek to explore how such initiatives as the Transparency International Integrity Pacts and Business Principles for Countering Bribery could be more widely promoted and strengthened in an African context.
- The conference will provide inputs to the UN Global Compact's work against corruption in the African context in the following ways:
  - Sharing of good practices of the private sector in establishing anti-corruption policies within their operations and in coordinating their efforts against corruption collectively with other companies, non-government organisations, and governments in Africa.
  - Providing inputs to concrete projects on transparency in support of stability and peace building for the West African region which will be further discussed in a UN Global Compact meeting to be held in Dakar.

- Discussion of private sector actions (in coordination with the public sector) to promote and implement the UN Convention against Corruption in African countries.
- Consolidating ties among UN Global Compact's African member companies and forging stronger links with African governments and civil society actors to further the discussion on transparency within the national UN Global Compact networks in Africa.

The Co-chairs' report on the Conference will be made public.