

HELSINKI PROCESS SIDE-EVENT AT THE UN SECOND COMMITTEE
10:00-13:00 7 NOVEMBER, 2007, UN HEADQUARTERS, NEW YORK

Draft concept, 22 October 2007

BACKGROUND

With the rise of multiple non-state actors, states are no longer the sole arbiters of international policy, as different stakeholders – such as civil society, private sector and local authorities – have become as much involved in global governance. **The international community has acknowledged that tackling global problems, ranging from climate change to economic crisis and debt, require new and innovative forms of cooperation between different actors and regions.**

The Helsinki Process on Globalisation and Democracy, co-chaired by the governments of Finland and Tanzania, is based on the notion that various stakeholders can play a major role in accelerating thinking on global problem-solving and on implementing global commitments. Since its launch in 2002, the Helsinki Process has **strived to promote more democratic governance of globalisation by fostering cooperation among different stakeholders and between the North and South.**

The United Nations provides us with a unique forum for tackling the challenges and realising the possibilities of globalisation. The engagement of non-state actors in the UN has grown both in depth and quantity, but difficulties and gaps still remain. The Helsinki Process side-event aims to discuss concrete examples and best practises of multi-stakeholder cooperation in order to further promote cooperation among different actors within the UN, and in particular within the Second Committee.

AIMS AND STRUCTURE OF THE SIDE-EVENT

1. Panel Discussion (10.00-12.00)

Key Questions:

1. What are the challenges posed by globalisation to existing governance mechanisms and what is the value-added that multi-stakeholder cooperation could bring in addressing these challenges?
2. What are the concrete experiences of multi-stakeholder cooperation within the Helsinki Process and the UN system?
3. What are the key lessons-learned and how could multi-stakeholder cooperation best work within the UN context?

Co-chairs:

Dr. Erkki Tuomioja, Member of the Parliament of Finland, former Minister for Foreign Affairs and Co-chair of the Helsinki Process

Dr. Augustine P. Mahiga, Permanent Representative of the United Republic of Tanzania to the United Nations

Panellists:

Ms. Mary Robinson, President, Ethical Globalisation Initiative

Mr. William Pace, Executive Director, World Federalist Movement, Institute for Global Policy

Mr. Rick Samans, Managing Director, World Economic Forum

Mr. Jomo Kwame Sundaram, Assistant Secretary General for Economic Development, UN

Moderator:

Mr. Alex Taylor, Journalist

2. Open Discussion (12.00-1.00) guided by questions such as:

- Could the governance of globalisation benefit from multi-stakeholder cooperation?
- How could multi-stakeholder cooperation best work within the UN context?
- What contribution could the Second Committee make in this area?

3. Conclusions

Concluding remarks drawing together the discussion, including making a possible recommendation to the Second Committee to promote multi-stakeholder cooperation and global partnerships in its work.
