

# Sustainable Development International



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## UN Private Sector alliance launched

Wednesday 30th July 2003

United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan launched a new partnership with the global private sector on Friday with the aim of achieving Millennium Summit targets to halve extreme poverty, halt the spread of HIV/AIDS and provide universal primary education by 2015.

" We cannot reach these goals without support from the private sector" announced Annan, "Most of all we cannot reach them without a strong private sector in the developing countries themselves to create jobs and build prosperity".

The secretary General intends the commission, an initiative of the UN Development Programme (UNDP), to provide a fresh analysis of issues and practical proposals "that can have an impact on the ground". He pointed to the commission as another illustration of the growing partnership between the private sector and the UN.

The Commission on the Private Sector and Development, co-chaired by former President Ernesto Zedillo of Mexico and former Finance Minister Paul Martin of Canada, will intentionally have a short writing period so that it can focus on a pilot phase where the Commission's ideas can be tried out in the field.

Mr Zedillo indicated that he would be happy if the Commission's report clearly put forward the best ideas to foster the domestic private sector in poor countries. He highlighted that what has been done in rich developed countries cannot be mechanically repeated and that the particular characteristics of developing countries will have to be taken into account. "There is no such thing as a silver bullet for development" he said.

Mr Martin said the commission wanted to engage people from the small and medium sized business sector. He called it the most dynamic "big business sector" of any country.

Sula Bruce

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