



UNIDOScope

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UNIDO - Sandoz Partnership for affordable essential drugs in developing countries

Vienna, Austria, 3-4 March 2005



foreground left to right: UNIDO DG Magariños and Sandoz CEO Rummel at the Global Partners Symposium UNIDO HQ Vienna
background: UNOV DG Costa and UNIDO Deputy to the DG, Hirose

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UNIDO and [SANDOZ](#) held a *Global Partners Symposium* on 3-4 March, 2005 to explore partnership possibilities that will accelerate progress towards the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). In his presentation ([available here](#)) introducing the Symposium to participants, Special Advisor to the UNIDO Director-General, Kandeh Yumkella, who along with Claudia Arthur-Flatz of Sandoz, organized the Symposium, spoke of the "silent Tsunami of poverty, hunger and illness" where malaria alone kills as many as three children each minute.

Building global partnerships for development is the theme of MDG 8. Target 17 of MDG 8 puts attention on partnerships with pharmaceutical companies to provide access to affordable essential drugs in developing countries.

Although Sandoz is the big partner on the private sector side, the partnership is not just about Sandoz. In his summing-up at the final session, Kandeh Yumkella stressed the importance of a multi-stakeholder approach, "We need the partnerships. We need to join hands", he said, and went on to name the various institutional, private sector and scientific stakeholders who were "very pleased" that the symposium had been organized. While he emphasised this "compelling case for partnerships" he also stressed the consensus that "CSR cannot, and must not assume a role that legitimately belongs to government". The partnership is a collective responsibility he said "especially for those of us in poorer countries, we have to take some of the responsibilities ourselves and create that enabling environment that will make the private sector more willing, either to invest or to practice corporate social responsibility". Sandoz CEO Andreas Rummelt put it in a nutshell in his opening remarks ([view or download welcome address](#)): "The world's economic, social and

environmental goals will only be achieved if businesses, governments, civil society, employees and their representatives recognize their task to jointly build the future."

A related key message Mr. Yumkella mentioned in his summing-up ([view or download](#)) was the "tremendous opportunities for south-south cooperation" as well as cooperation between the south and transition economies.

SANDOZ, the generics division of [Novartis](#), is a leading global supplier of high-quality generic pharmaceuticals. Novartis is a founding member of the Secretary-General's [Global Compact](#). In 2002, Corporate Citizenship was formally incorporated into the Novartis management structure. As part of its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)-Strategy, SANDOZ has provided free medication to developing countries. This Corporate Citizenship Initiative has had a direct impact on debilitating diseases that greatly reduce labour productivity in developing countries. Also the firm has made significant investments in the safe application of medicinal bio-pharmaceuticals in the pharmaceutical industry.

For UNIDO, the Symposium is a further step to operationalize the key recommendations of the UN Commission on Private Sector and Development ([see UNIDOScope 3 - 9 October, 2004](#)) and UNIDO's Biotechnology Forum, held in Chile, March 2-5 2004 ([see UNIDOScope 7 - 13 March, 2004](#)).

The objectives of the Global Partners Symposium were: to establish a multi-stakeholder forum for an informed dialogue between UNIDO, private industry and other UN agencies and relevant institutions on Corporate Social Responsibility; explore the potential Private Sector Development for eradicating income poverty through responsible entrepreneurship and corporate action; Identify innovative partnership models for the implementation of new technologies in the fight against hunger and promoting good health; and to elaborate a conducive framework for legislation and quality and standardization to stimulate the production of generic drugs with existing cost-efficient technologies ([view or download statement of Austrian Permanent Mission Representative Thorsten Eisingerich on Symposium Objectives](#)).

CEOs of four international organizations participated in the symposium: from Sandoz, Andreas Rummelt; from the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), Secretary-General, Alan Bryden; from the UN Office on Drugs and Crime, Executive Director, Antonio Costas; and Director-General Magariños from UNIDO.

For UNIDO Director-General Carlos Magariños ([view or download welcome address](#)), the Symposium was a practical example of his longstanding efforts to "identify new ways and means to change the way we do business in the multilateral system." As the Director-General said in his welcome address, "UNIDO will do its utmost to promote the spirit of inter-agency cooperation within the UN system and joint activities and partnerships with the private sector, as the only way to make a meaningful contribution to this very serious challenge of fighting against poverty. Working together we can address the problems of disease and improve economic development."

Joining the UNIDO Director in welcoming participants, Sandoz CEO Andreas Rummelt, said "In today's world, the importance of achieving a balance between economic growth, social cohesion and sustainable development as a sound foundation for competitiveness and higher productivity cannot be stressed enough...". Corporate social responsibility has a long history within Sandoz and Novartis.

Antonio Maria Costa, UN Office on Drugs and Crime Executive Director (UNODC) and Director-General of the UN Office in Vienna made the concluding remarks at the opening session ([view or download concluding remarks](#)). "As the custodian of the *United Nations Convention Against Corruption*, my agency has an obligation to carry an important message to government and businesses across the world: the cost of corruption is always too high and is usually charged to those who can afford it the least." The UNODC Executive Director went on to say, "We all know that in the last decade, scandals have rocked the corporate world and some business leaders have abandoned their ethical and fiscal obligations to shareholders,

employees and the public. ... On the ground in villages, on city streets in town halls, in health centres, schools and in their homes, people need to see social responsibility in action.” Immediately after the opening session of the Symposium, UNIDO signed a special agreement with UNODC to join forces to fight drug trafficking and improve economic development ([see UNIDOScope 6 - 12 March, 2005](#)).

Founder and Chairman of the FATE Foundation, Mr. Fola Adeola was guest speaker at the luncheon on the first day of the Symposium. FATE is a private sector non-profit organization that promotes entrepreneurship in Nigeria and offers entrepreneurship training in Lagos and Port Harcourt to aspiring and emerging entrepreneurs. FATE programmes are carried out by some 500 volunteer facilitators and mentors. Mr. Adeola is a member of the recently launched Commission for Africa. ([view or download presentation](#))

The Final Session Summing Up ([view or download](#)), participants list, statements and presentations made at the Symposium are available on UNIDO's Global Partners Symposium page <http://www.unido.org/globalpartners>

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