

American Model United Nations Economic and Social Council

ECOSOC/I/3

SUBJECT OF RESOLUTION: United Nations Public-Private Alliance for Rural Development

SUBMITTED TO: Economic and Social Council

Economic and Social Council,

Affirming the United Nations' commitment to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), particularly the goal to "eradicate extreme hunger and poverty," as well as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that regard global partnerships for development,

Recognizing the efforts of microinsurance in Kilimo Salama, Kenya as a means for bringing rural communities out of extreme poverty by insuring 187,000 farmers across three States who would be unable to continue farming without insurance,

Noting with zest the importance of Public-Private Alliances in alleviating rural poverty,

Recognizing the successes of case studies conducted in Madagascar and the Dominican Republic by the United Nations Public-Private Alliance (UNPPA) and looking forward to further progress,

Stressing the importance of rural development with the impending Post-2015 Development Agenda,

Acknowledging the recommendations communicated in Item 13 of the provisional agenda in the Report of the Secretary General on the United Nations Public-Private Alliance for Rural Development in July 2007,

Concerned about the unintended discrimination and/or unequal treatment against farms that, due to their small size and/or isolated locations, are difficult to access by private parties such as corporations and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs),

Aware that the term "rural area" does not always indicate the need for agricultural assistance, but also includes assistance for industry, service, animal husbandry, forestry and mining in certain situations,

- 1. Encourages Member States to support the UNPPA by:
- (a) Creating advisory committees on a State-by-State basis composed of governmental leaders that oversee and negotiate domestic public-private alliances focused on rural development;
 - (b) Submitting annual reports to a transparent database maintained by the UNPPA;
- (c) Attending biennial summits to be organized by the UNPPA where Member States may exchange statistics, current government policies and best practices regarding strategic negotiation skills with private parties;
- (d) Maintaining transparency within the aforementioned advisory committees to ensure that government funds are disbursed for the specified task and not lost to corruption, while at the same time maintaining State and corporate sovereignty and noting that the European Union Public Private Partnership Expertise Center is available to assist relevant States with strengthening organizational capacity of the public sector to facilitate these transactions;
- 2. Requests that the UNPPA identifies and provides the following services and information for Member States in order to promote rural growth:
- (a) Categorizing enterprises based on equity, long-term sustainability, regional suitability and other key factors with the intent of using this information to incentivize industries such as animal husbandry, forestry, industry, service, mining and renewable energy in regions which, due to issues such as but not limited to low fertility, are not conducive to agriculture-based partnerships;
- (b) Evaluating land based on fertility, and accordingly incentivizing industries such as animal husbandry, forestry, mining and renewable energy in regions with low fertility;

- 37 (c) Publishing information regarding successful enterprises and providing resources to bolster such 38 enterprises within or between States;
 - (d) Drafting legal and regulatory frameworks in order to facilitate low-cost partnerships;
 - 3. Urges Member States to increase transparency in public-private partnerships by:

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- 41 (a) Ensuring that comprehensive information pertaining to contract opportunities is publicly avail-42 able and contracts are publicly biddable;
- (b) Appointing third-party fairness and process auditors to ensure that the bidding process for contracts is fair and equitable and that conflicts of interest do not influence the selection of private partners;
- 45 (c) Establishing a committee including representatives from UNPPA to which private companies can 46 appeal if they feel they have been treated unfairly during the bidding process;
- (d) Instituting a system of accountability by which private companies provide periodic reports on key metrics relating to the particular project;
 - (e) Cooperating with other States or organizations to adopt these practices if necessary;
 - 4. Recommends Member States to encourage the formation of grass-roots agricultural and industrial cooperatives (consisting of people within the same geographic location) within rural areas to better facilitate communication, and noting that positive outcomes will include:
 - (a) Distributing information and technology more quickly and efficiently to rural participants;
 - (b) Allowing external parties to engage with boards of directors of cooperatives to negotiate and disseminate information and technology to collectively-based cooperatives rather than to individuals;
 - (c) Discussing and educating on best practices regarding pertinent issues, including but not limited to rural health, agricultural and industrial technology, effective and sustainable farming practices and responses to natural disasters;
- 59 (d) Encouraging farmers to expand planting, diversify crops and pursue sustainable farming prac-60 tices;
 - 5. Recommends governments of Member States to partner with microfinance and microinsurance corporations, for example Grameen Bank in Bangladesh, Kilimo Salama in Kenya and One Acre Fund in East Africa, to:
 - (a) Rapidly provide access to microfinance and microinsurance in rural areas, possibly through encouraging the growth of new local microinsurance companies which can partner with local seed suppliers, private microfinance and microinsurance companies, and Member States in order to;
 - (i) Facilitate rural access to microinsurance;
 - (ii) Increase legitimacy of the microinsurance in the eyes of these farmers;
- (b) Raise awareness of microfinance and microinsurance in these regions and educate farmers on effective methods of utilizing these resources;
 - (c) Work with and subsidize these corporations to allow them to maintain low interest rates;
- 72 (d) Work with aforementioned agricultural/industrial cooperatives in order to encourage community 73 responsibility and reduce loan default rates;
- (e) Work with private telecommunications companies to expand the use of mobile banking such as M-pesa in Kenya;
- (f) Provide monetary support to developing service sectors (such as the hospitality industry or health services sectors) in order to increase the amount of economic opportunities for those struggling to find work in primarily service-focused, rural economies;
- 79 (g) Target specific microfinance programs towards promoting female financial independence and 80 stability;

- 81 (h) Package loans with non-financial products, such as business and financial literacy programs and 82 health initiatives;
- 6. *Urges* Member States to acknowledge the lack of information technology, transportation resources and electrical power in many rural areas and to expedite technological, transportation and power access to the rural populace with the support of corporations and NGOs, such as the Alliance for Rural Electrification, by:
 - (a) Extending telecommunications, internet, physical (including, but not limited to, roads and transportation) and power infrastructures swiftly to rural areas, prioritizing areas with zero access, so as to increase communication between rural communities:

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- (b) Setting up access tools through individual national agricultural and industrial bodies to disseminate relevant information through cell phones as well as through the internet, such as, but not limited to, seed and crop prices and health tips;
- 92 (c) Encouraging and setting goals for power generation from renewable energy resources over non-93 renewable energy resources;
- 94 (d) Recommending patent relief for developing States in order to protect the population from liti-95 gation;
- 7. Calls upon the UNPPA and other expert bodies, including but not limited to the European Union PPP Expertise Center, to be actively involved in the formation of public-private alliances by:
- 98 (a) Overseeing the negotiation of such alliances and contracts, and the disbursement of funds as and 99 when requested by Member States;
- 100 (b) Training and educating government officials on negotiating effective public-private alliances in 101 order to maximizes both State and corporate benefits;
- 8. *Urges* States engaging in public-private ties through the UNPPA to prioritize the private industry within their States prior to engaging in ties with multinational corporations;
 - 9. Recommends prudent multinational cooperation between States through:
 - (a) Encouraging Multinational Corporations (MNCs) to participate in Public-Private Alliances with State governments, while ensuring better working conditions and environmental responsibility;
- (b) Emphasizing international trade as a means of building and developing international relationships, while also facilitating avenues for information and technology exchanges;
- (c) Endorsing fair trade agreements and the removal of politically motivated sanctions to benefit the development and independence of rural areas;
- (d) Protecting domestic enterprises from unfair competition from large, well-established MNCs by allotting quotas for domestic corporations, specifically for small domestic enterprises;
- 10. *Urges* States, given the importance of education in promoting rural development and promoting Public-Private Alliances, to:
 - (a) Provide rural participants with basic educational skills such as literacy, arithmetic and finance;
- 116 (b) Cooperate with relevant NGOs to educate farmers on best farming practices, as well as the 117 importance of markets;
- (c) Increase access to fundamental resources for human sustenance, such as but not limited to, water resources;
- (d) Cooperate with the World Health Organization (WHO), Doctors Without Borders and other organizations to help provide accurate disease prevention and treatment education in rural areas;
- (e) Encourage governments to form programs to educate the rural populace on best monetary practices and investments, or to work with other States or organizations to assist in the formation of such policies;
- 11. Resolves to continue the establishment of Public-Private Partnerships for sustainable development by supporting the UNPPA in:

(a) Publishing case studies and best practices for sustainable development based on successful initiatives in Madagascar and the Dominican Republic as well as reports on rural development from other bodies such as the World Bank, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), and International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).

Passed, Yes: 18 / No: 0 / Abstain: 7