



International Year of **Microcredit** 2005

**MEDIA ADVISORY**

## **International Forum to Focus on Expansion of Financial Services for All**

### **Microentrepreneurs to be honoured by United Nations and celebrities**

**WHAT:** The **International Forum to Build Inclusive Financial Sectors**, the closing event in New York of the International Year of Microcredit 2005 will be held from 7-9 November.

#### **HIGHLIGHTS:**

- Panelists and speakers over the three day forum include **Bill Clinton**, Former U.S. President; **Her Royal Highness Princess Maxima** of the Netherlands; **Paul Wolfowitz**, President of the World Bank; **Kemal Dervis**, Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme; **José Antonio Ocampo**, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs; **Stanley Fischer**, Governor of the Bank of Israel; **Sir Nicholas Stern**, Head of the U.K. Government Economic Service; **Sir Ronald Cohen**, Chairman of the Social Investment Task Force; and **Diana Taylor**, Banking Superintendent of New York.
- Discussions will centre on the changing profile of microfinance from charity to a profitable business opportunity that can benefit poor people, governments and investors alike.
- A major highlight of the Forum is the honouring of nine microentrepreneurs who are coming to New York from **Afghanistan, Bangladesh, China, India, Liberia, Malawi, Peru, Sierra Leone and South Africa** for the event. The winners will receive their awards from celebrity guests **Jennifer Lopez, Marc Anthony, Chelsea Clinton, Walter Cronkite, Rory Kennedy and Rebecca De Mornay** at a UN gala dinner hosted by renowned actor **Tim Robbins** on 8 November.

**WHEN:** 7- 9 November 2005.

**WHERE:** 7-8 November: United Nations Headquarters, 1st Avenue & 46th Street.  
9 November: Federal Reserve Bank of New York, 33 Liberty Street

**Panels and events on 7& 8 November will be webcast and telecast on UNTV [www.un.org/webcast](http://www.un.org/webcast)**

#### **MEDIA ARRANGEMENTS:**

Accreditation- Journalists without United Nations accreditation who wish to attend the events should send a request on company letterhead signed by a supervisor to Mr. Gary Fowlie, Chief, UN Media Accreditation Unit, United Nations at fax (212) 963-4642. Media accreditation forms and general information for the media can be found at [www.un.org/media/accreditation](http://www.un.org/media/accreditation)

For further information on accreditation and media access questions, Tel: +1 (212) 963-6934

**For further information or to schedule interviews with microentrepreneurs, please contact:**

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Or visit: [www.yearofmicrocredit.org](http://www.yearofmicrocredit.org)

**OVER FOR KEY EVENTS**

## Summary of key events:

### 7 NOVEMBER

#### **Opening Ceremony of the International Forum to Build Inclusive Financial Sectors, 9:00 -10:30a. m., Conference Room 2**

Hosted by the Second Committee of the General Assembly, the opening ceremony will be attended by government ministers, UN Ambassadors, National Committee Chairs, representatives from UN agencies and country

offices, senior representatives of the private sector, microfinance partners and non-governmental organizations. The ceremony will be chaired by **HE Aminu Bashir Wali**, Ambassador of Nigeria with welcome remarks by **Kemal Derviş**, UNDP Administrator. Speakers include **Paul Wolfowitz**, World Bank President and **HRH Princess Maxima** of the Netherlands.

#### **Morning Panels, 10:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m., Conference Room 2**

**PANEL I (10:30-11:30 a.m.) Financial Sector Indicators and the Blue Book on Building Inclusive Financial Sectors.**

**Speakers include:** Richard Weingarten (Executive Secretary, UNCDF), Asli Demirguc-Kunt (Finance Research Manager, World Bank) and Raghuram Rajan (Economic Counselor and Director of Research, IMF). Moderator: José Antonio Ocampo (Under-Secretary-General, UN).

**PANEL II (11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.) Taking Meaningful Steps to Mitigate Financial Sector Crises in Post-Disaster/Post-Conflict Countries.**

**Speakers include:** In Channy, (CEO, ACLEDA Bank), James D. Rogers (Governor, Central Bank of Sierra Leone), Mama Fatu (Microentrepreneur, Sierra Leone), Shakila Sarajulldin (Microentrepreneur, Afghanistan), B.S. Kusmuljono (Board Commissioner, Bank Rakyat Indonesia). Moderator: Robert Davies (CEO, The Prince of Wales International Business Leaders Forum)

#### **Afternoon Panels, 3:00 p.m. - 6:00p.m., Conference Room 2**

**PANEL III (3:00-4:30 p.m.) Will the International Private Sector Transform the Landscape of Microfinance?**

**Speakers include:** Bo Cutter (Managing Director, Warburg Pincus), Doris Kohn (First Vice President, KfW), Rory Stear (Executive Chairman, Freeplay Energy), Khalid Sheikh (Senior Vice President, ABN AMRO Bank), Israel Moreno (General Manager, PATRIMONIO HOY, an initiative of CEMEX). Moderator: Matthew Bishop (Chief Business Writer, The Economist)

**PANEL IV (4:30-6:00 p.m.) Technology: Expanding the Outreach of Microfinance. Speakers include:** Simon Willis (Global Head of eGovernment, Cisco Systems), Vikram Akula (CEO, SKS Microfinance), Henrik Parl (Managing Director, Eurogiro). Moderator: Matthew Piasecki (Chief Commercial Officer, Visa International)

### 8 NOVEMBER

#### **Morning Panels, 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., Conference Room 2**

**PANEL V (10:00-11:00 a.m.) The Future of Access to Finance.**

**Speakers include:** Yi Gang (Assistant Governor, Central Bank of China), Stanley Fischer (Governor, Bank of Israel), Arthur Vayloyan (Head of Private Banking, CSFB Switzerland), Sir Ronald Cohen (Chairman, Social Investment Taskforce). Moderator: Tom Easton (Senior Finance Writer, The Economist).

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PANEL VI (11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.) **Poor and Low Income Clients: Exploring their Financial Needs.**

**Speakers include:** Robert Townsend (Charles E. Merriam Distinguished Service Professor, University of Chicago), Fouad Abdelmoumni (Executive Director, Association Al Amana), Xu Xiao En (Microentrepreneur, China), Milkov Machaca, (Microentrepreneur, Peru) Andrey Vladimirovich Sharov (Director, Department of State Regulation of Economy, Ministry of Economic Development, Russia). Moderator: Jonathan Morduch (Associate Professor of Public Policy and Economics, New York University).

PANEL VII (12:00-1:00 p.m.) **Africa: Growth and Access to Finance – The Final Frontier. Speakers include:** Charles Konan Banny (Governor, Central Bank of West African States), HE Maimouna Sourang Ndir (Minister of Small and Medium Enterprises, Republic of Senegal), Rene Azokli (CEO, PADME), James Mwangi, (CEO, Equity Bank), Liza Troskie (Microentrepreneur, South Africa). Moderator: Sir Nicholas Stern (Head of U.K. Government Economic Service)

### **Afternoon Panels, 3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m., Conference Room 2**

PANEL VIII (3:00-4:30 p.m.) **Migration: The Changing Landscape of Banking.**

**Speakers include:** Diana Taylor (Superintendent of Banks for the State of New York), Luigi Zingales (Robert C. McCormack Professor of Entrepreneurship and Finance, University of Chicago), Dilip Ratha (Senior Economist, World Bank), Ajay Banga (Co-head of the Global Consumer Group, Citigroup). Moderator: Goanpot Asvinvichit (President and CEO, Government Savings Bank)

PANEL IX (4:30-5:30 p.m.) **Can “Access to Finance” be a Policy Objective? Statements by Member States.** Ministers, Ambassadors and Delegates will read statements on the commitment and concrete actions their countries will take to build inclusive financial sectors.

**Closing Statement** (5:30 – 6:00 p.m.) **Stanley Fischer**, Governor, Bank of Israel and Chair of the Advisors Group to the International Year of Microcredit will make the closing statement.

### **Evening Gala Awards Dinner, 6:30- 10:45 p.m., Delegates Dining Room (4th Floor)**

(By invitation only- photo opportunity for interested press. Please send requests in advance to [chakrabarti@un.org](mailto:chakrabarti@un.org), or call 212.963.8264)

An Awards Dinner will honour the unsung heroes of poverty eradication on the evening of 8 November. Microentrepreneurs from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, China, India, Liberia, Malawi, Peru, Sierra Leone and South Africa will be honoured for their innovative businesses and its impact on the community. The evening will be hosted by Academy Award winner Tim Robbins with performance by singing star Marc Anthony. Celebrity presenters include Jennifer Lopez, Chelsea Clinton and Walter Cronkite. Performances by Anoushka Shankar, Roberta Flack, Ben Jelen and others. Red carpet arrivals start at 7:00 p.m.

## **9 NOVEMBER**

Panel discussions will be held at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York. Details at [http://www.yearofmicrocredit.org/docs/Formatted\\_Nov9\\_Agenda.pdf](http://www.yearofmicrocredit.org/docs/Formatted_Nov9_Agenda.pdf)