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International Year of
Microcredit 2005

United Nations International Forum to Build Inclusive Financial Sectors



**“Alleviating
Poverty
through
Microfinance”**

7 to 8 November 2005
United Nations Headquarters, New York, USA

9 November 2005
Federal Reserve Bank of New York, New York, USA

Agenda

Day 1: Monday, 7 November 2005
United Nations Headquarters, Conference Room Two

- 8:00-9:00 Registration
- 9:00-10:30 Opening Ceremony
- 10:30-11:30 PANEL I: Launching the Blue Book on Building Inclusive Financial Sectors
- 11:30-13:00 PANEL II: Taking Meaningful Steps to Mitigate Financial Sector Crises in Post Disaster/Post Conflict Countries
- 13:00-15:00 Networking luncheon
- 15:00-16:30 PANEL III: Will the International Private Sector Transform the Landscape of Microfinance?
- 16:30-18:00 PANEL IV: Technology: Challenging Information Asymmetries
- 18:30-21:00 Reception Hosted by Credit Suisse First Boston
Credit Suisse First Boston: One Madison Avenue, Atrium

Day 2: Tuesday, 8 November 2005
United Nations Headquarters, Conference Room Two

- 9:00-10:00: PANEL V: Looking back: Best Practices and what has been learned?
- 10:00-11:00 PANEL VI: The Future of Access to Finance
- 11:00-12:00 PANEL VII: Poor and Low Income Clients: Exploring Their Financial Needs
- 12:00-13:00 PANEL VIII: Africa: Growth & Access to Finance–The Final Frontier
- 13:00-14:30 Networking luncheon
- 14:30-16:15 PANEL IX: Migration: The Changing Landscape of Banking
- 16:15-17:30 PANEL X: Can “Access to Finance” be a Policy Objective: Scrutinizing the Role of the State
- 17:30-18:00 Member State Delegate Statements and Summary
- 18:30 to 22:00 Evening Gala Awards Dinner
“Celebrating the Unsung Heroes of Poverty Eradication”
Delegates Dining Room

Day 3: Wednesday, 9 November 2005, by special invitation only
Federal Reserve Bank of New York

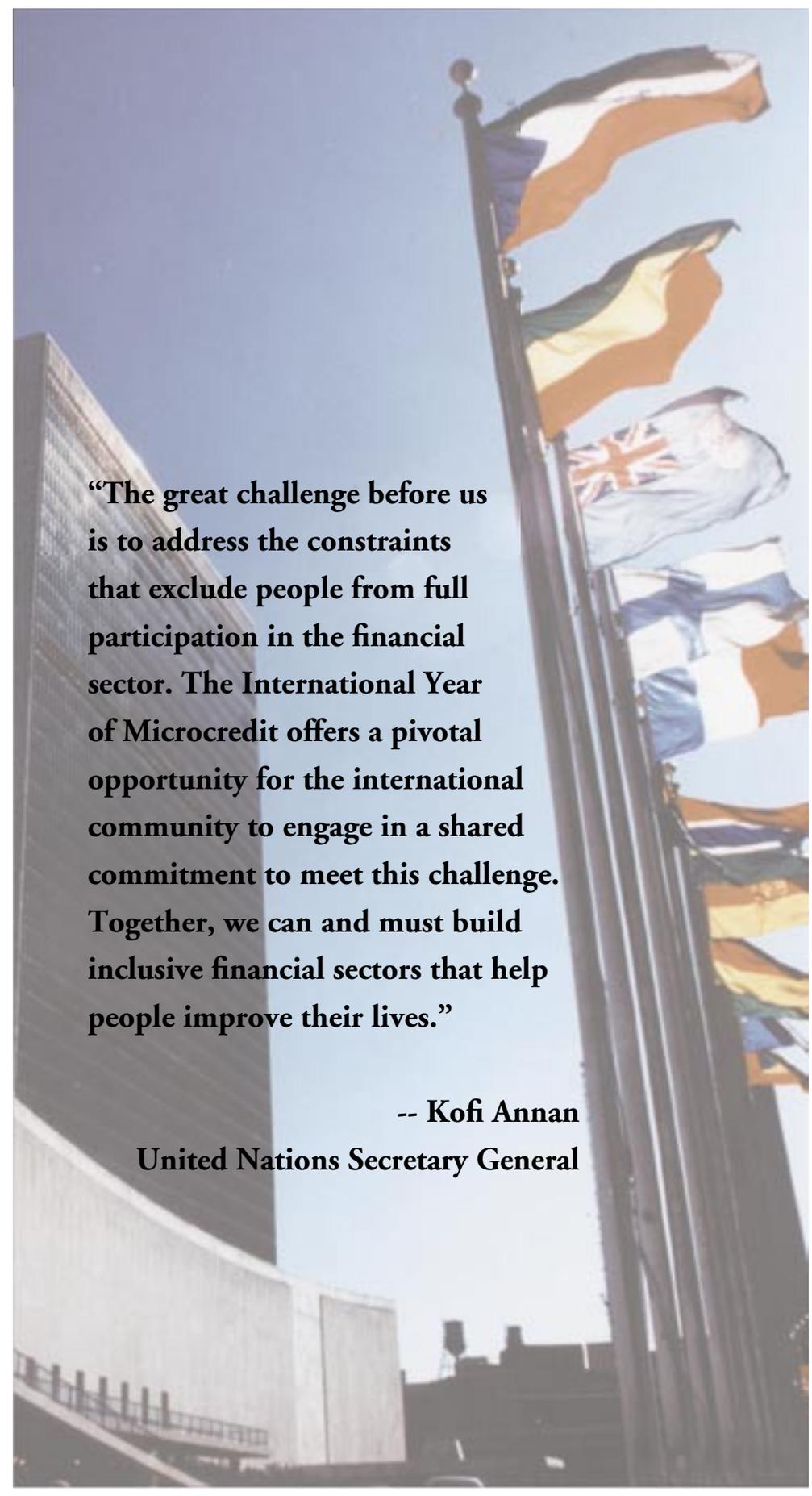
- 9:00-9:30 Opening Remarks and Welcome
- 9:30-11:00 Panel I: Safety and Soundness with Diverse Providers: Can governments effectively level the playing field?
- 11:00-11:30 Coffee Break
- 11:30-1:00 Panel II: Financial Literacy and Consumer Protection: Can regulators actuate expanded access to financial services through financial education programmes and consumer protection standards?
- 13:00 to 15:00 Luncheon
- 15:00 to 16:30 Panel III: Commercializing Microfinance: Can a consensus be reached on how to expand and supervise relevant services to the unbanked?
- 4:30 to 5:00 Summary

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The United Nations wishes to acknowledge the generous support of the core sponsors of the International Year of Microcredit: UNCDF, Citigroup, VISA, the ING Group and the United Nations Foundation.

“The great challenge before us is to address the constraints that exclude people from full participation in the financial sector. The International Year of Microcredit offers a pivotal opportunity for the international community to engage in a shared commitment to meet this challenge. Together, we can and must build inclusive financial sectors that help people improve their lives.”

-- Kofi Annan
United Nations Secretary General



About the International Year of Microcredit 2005

To address the urgent need for financial services among the world's poor and low-income people, the United Nations declared 2005 the International Year of Microcredit. Since the launch of the Year, support for microfinance has flourished by working hand-in-hand with global partners in the private sector, microfinance community, and governments to raise awareness about financial needs, and the powerful tool of microfinance as an important step towards poverty reduction.

Global response to the Year has been overwhelmingly positive and unprecedented. Over 100 countries have pledged support to the messages of the Year, and have engaged their governments and private sectors to examine financial sectors and extend services to their poor. Microfinance providers and their clients have stood centre stage while celebrities have joined with prominent leaders in the fields of banking and economic development to voice their commitment to building inclusive financial sectors where all people, regardless of income-level, can participate with pride and honour.

For further information we invite you to visit www.yearofmicrocredit.org



"I want to eat by the sweat of my own brow. If I'm out begging on the street, it won't help my children at all. I want my children to learn from me. I want them to say: "My father did this." That is why I do all of this. I know what I am doing. I'm building a foundation for the future."

– John Bati Kalinga, Kenya

"The rising costs of living made it difficult for us to make ends meet with just my husband's salary. We had many problems. Having access to financial services enabled me to create my own business making and selling clothing, and contribute to our family's success."

– Ramona Bangsail, Philippines



United Nations International Forum to Build Inclusive Financial Sectors United Nations Headquarters, New York 7 to 9 November 2005

The crowning and final event of the Year of Microcredit, the International Forum to Build Inclusive Financial Sectors, will bring global leaders together to deliberate on how to increase access to finance, and thereby alleviate poverty through microfinance around the world. Assembling experts from governments, the private sector, the United Nations, academia, civil society, other donors in the microfinance community and microfinance clients, the Forum will be an environment rich in both debate and achievement. Participants will share successes and challenges of the Year and will discuss how to maintain momentum. Panel themes cover a range of topics, including, the role of public and private sectors in extending microfinance, microfinance in a post-conflict/disaster and recovery setting, and the future of access to finance. A special Gala Dinner on 8 November, "Celebrating the Unsung Heroes of Poverty Eradication" will highlight the tremendous achievements of men and women microentrepreneurs around the world. On 9 November a special session on regulation and supervision will be hosted by the Federal Reserve Bank of New York and co-sponsored by the New York State Banking Department and UNCDF. Ultimately, the goal of the Forum is to foster collaboration amongst critical financial sector actors and powerbrokers to build inclusive financial sectors, bringing the world one step closer to achieving the Millennium Development Goals.



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