FOSTERING COMMITMENT AND LEADERSHIP FOR PHILANTHROPY’S ENGAGEMENT IN THE POST-2015 DEVELOPMENT AGENDA FOR COLOMBIA

Planning Workshop Post-2015 Partnership Platform for Philanthropy
Bogotá, Colombia, March 12th, 2015

This initiative has been launched at the workshop: FOSTERING COMMITMENT AND LEADERSHIP FOR PHILANTHROPY’S ENGAGEMENT IN THE POST-2015 DEVELOPMENT AGENDA FOR COLOMBIA. The workshop called together the broad philanthropic community, national and local governments, private sector, academia, and civil society, in order to open a dialogue to identify and promote opportunities where philanthropy and private social investments can move toward a more strategic collaboration in this new context for development. This process will be particularly meaningful in Colombia considering the challenges country faces in a post-conflict context, and the need to lay a foundation for a lasting peace.

The ‘Post-2015 Partnership Platform for Philanthropy and Private Social Investment’ is a global initiative, which aims to facilitate a collaboration between United Nations and philanthropy at global dialogue on Post-2015 Development Agenda and in selected countries: Kenya, Colombia, Indonesia and Ghana.

“Colombia is working tirelessly to reduce poverty and achieve peace, two necessary conditions for any society to attain its full potential. To deal with post-conflict situation and achieve sustainable development with strength, we must recognize the contributions of philanthropy and rethink how we are collaborating with this in order to achieve a greater impact. The Post-2015 Development Agenda provides an opportunity to promote and support the development of strong partnerships with philanthropy, facing these great challenges.” - Fabrizio Hochschild, Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator, United Nations Colombia, and UNDP Resident Representative
The whole world, and particularly Colombia, faces an immense challenge. During 2015 the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) will finalize its development period with an interesting balance for Colombia at the national level, and great challenges at the subnational level. At the same time, we are transitioning towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which will demand collaboration schemes, which are effective and innovative, if we want to successfully face the new development panorama: a world with a high pressure on the supply of natural resources, youth unemployment, high concentration of wealth and inequality, and a continuous violence against women.

It’s important to highlight the leadership of Colombia in the global Post-2015 Development Agenda process and constructing of SDGs. Colombia is not only the first country that introduced the SDGs in its National Development Plan, but also the country that formed a special governmental body, the ‘SDG’s High-Level Governmental Commission’, to support the transition process from MDGs to SDGs, as well as subsequent implementation and monitoring of the goals at national, subnational and local levels.

Indeed, we face a huge challenge. The lag of achievement of MDGs at the subnational level was mostly a result of the internal armed conflict. Today, Colombia is at the turning point with an ongoing process of peace negotiations. The implementation of the new development agenda is closely interconnected with the post-conflict process aiming to achieve a long-lasting peace.

In this scenario it is essential to identify truly transforming collaborative actions stemming from philanthropy and private social investment. Since 2013 the UN has been carrying out the dialogue with Philanthropy that focused on its input into the development landscape but also the importance of having a greater involvement in the design and implementation of the Post-2015 Agenda. The SDGs represent a great opportunity for collaboration since they are global objectives that touch all of us, hence we should all work to achieve these objectives. This means that it is necessary to find a common ground between philanthropy and private social investment, governments, the UN System, and other actors, in order to create alliances that will make a real difference.

This is why UNDP has been leading the effort to collaboratively launch the ‘Post-2015 Partnership Platform for Philanthropy and Private Social Investment’. The project’s activities focus initially in four countries. Following Kenya, Colombia is the second country that launched the Platform. The activities carried out at the country level aim to enable both sectors to understand how this collaboration between philanthropy and other development actors can be improved, and also help identify, through the collection of relevant information and lessons, the opportunities where we can start working together or areas that can be given a greater scope.

Building peaceful societies, fostering economic empowerment and skills development, and building sustainable cities, are just some of the topics Colombia is ready to focus on from now on, with your commitment.

Thank you for being a part of this call for joint action.
Key Messages

“Colombia was one of the first countries that insisted on sustainable development as the next step in the global development agenda, going beyond MDGs-Plus. The government of Colombia realized that only using this approach could the country, and the world, witness a qualitative leap in its development that included a lasting, sustainable peace. For this, and also for its significant experience in creating multi-sectoral partnerships including philanthropy, Colombia has one of the greatest potentials for this project.”

“Maps, data, information and knowledge are closely linked with development, so this Platform is going to contribute to the improvement of this collaboration between philanthropy and other development actors. Our challenge is to produce information that is focused on the user, ensuring that it will be consulted and used to generate new partnership opportunities, or to enhance existing ones.”

“We are convinced that networks and alliances among different sectors of society are the key to generating social changes. The ‘Post-2015 Partnership Platform for Philanthropy and Private Social Investment’ is the ideal scenario for bringing together different actors in order to work towards a better understanding of the Sustainable Development Goals and the strengthening the collaborative work to achieve them”.

“2015 will be remembered as a great year for the world and for Colombia due to two major developments: First, all nations, united, sat down to agree on the most ambitious development goals in history. Second, in Colombia, the peace process has brought structural needs into focus. We need to look not at symptoms but systems of inequality: social injustice, federations of power, behavior, beliefs. The question that arises and brings us together is how philanthropic organizations can take advantage of these two processes. Here we are initiating a dialogue that seeks to move towards a truly transformative philanthropy”.

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MARÍA CAROLINA SUÁREZ
Executive Director,
Association of Corporate and Family Foundations in Colombia, AFE Colombia

JEAN-PAUL LACOSTE
Senior Program Officer, Ford Foundation

HEATHER GRADY
Vice President, Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors

BRAD SMITH
President, Foundation Center
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**PLANNING WORKSHOP: POST-2015 PARTNERSHIP PLATFORM FOR PHILANTHROPY AND PRIVATE SOCIAL INVESTMENT**

**COLOMBIA, MARCH 12TH, 2015**
Meeting the Post-2015 Ambition in Colombia: Best Paths to Link Global Goals, National Priorities and the Efforts of Philanthropy

Heather Grady, Vice President of Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors, moderator of the panel, highlighted the universality principle of the Post-2015 Development Agenda: everyone will commit to address the new goals and the idea of North-South development modality will be deconstructed in this new development era. This has not been a case for MDGs. Furthermore, this is an inclusive agenda that aims to “leave no one behind”.

María Carolina Suárez thanked all partners for choosing AFE as a strategic partner for the initiative. AFE is working on issues related to transparency, stakeholder engagement, and making their member foundations more known and trusted by the public at large. The role of AFE in philanthropic sector in Colombia is essential to bridge the actions of local foundations with the global development agenda. She also highlighted that the initiative coincides with the AFE’s mission as spokesperson and promoter of cooperation and knowledge sharing that lead to a better impact of interventions. For the AFE it is clear that all associated foundations are working around the SDGs. Now the challenge is to achieve greater visibility, coordination, measurement, and systematization of this work with the support of the United Nations System and the actors that who lead the ‘Post-2015 Partnership Platform for Philanthropy and Private Social Investment’.

The Mayor of Cali, Rodrigo Guerrero, shared his professional prospective and his life-long career

The discussions in the first panel focused on the transition from the MDGs to the SDGs: systemic view for the implementation of the goals, and specifically how to involve philanthropy and private social investment so their efforts are leveraged through the collaborative mechanisms and understanding of the national priorities and programs.
observations on how partnerships evolved in the years. He emphasized the importance of moving forward towards a more strategic collaboration that ensures sustainability and empowerment of communities, but avoiding dependence on philanthropic funds. He also mentioned the relevant role that the private sector and philanthropy play in monitoring and evaluation processes, which is often difficult for the public sector to develop. With regard to the future and moving beyond the peace process: there is a need to provide workforce opportunities, particularly for communities and peasants. Although the Government is already investing heavily in entrepreneurial programs; foundations should complement that work (not replace it).

He also noted a feature of foundations: they have more space for decisions, can explore, make mistakes and correct them (hopefully quickly and cheaply), which allows them to develop initial models to be scaled by the public sector.

Mario Gómez Jiménez, Former Social Director of Antonio Restrepo Barco Foundation, was emphatic in stating the need for corporate foundations to start to understand that their work must transcend the area of influence of the company’s business, because the country’s transformation is not necessarily done in the areas of their influence. This, in the context of peace, is going to be essential. He noted that partnership between sectors is crucial, for example, if there is a lack of infrastructure to distribute and sell rural products, and if government is serious about providing development, they need to ensure means of getting products to market. He believes that philanthropy can be playing a leading role in topics such as local development (in Colombia 8 million people are living in very poor, post-conflict zones); education; alternatives to incarceration, and peace process.

The – DNP, National Planning Department, represented by its Director of Social Development, Alejandra Corchuelo, welcomed the establishment the Platform, which recognizes that SDGs are not only a responsibility of the Colombian Government. She also stressed that the real challenge of coordination is at subnational and local level, and that the Colombian Government made an effort to include SDGs in its ‘Development Plan 2014-2018 All for a New Country’. She noted corporate foundations are already on the ground in many of the neediest areas where government services are poor and she called upon them to work together to close the gap between the ‘Two Colombias’: the one on internal conflict and the one in peace, the one which development shows improvement, and that which profound inequalities remain; the old Colombia and the new Colombia. Alejandra then addressed the question: How are we going to do this? The answer must be found by The SDG’s High-Level Governmental Commission, with the help of all sectors.

The questions from the audience emphasized the difficulty in working with the public sector, such as budget validities, investment restrictions, legal barriers and bureaucracy, which can’t be resolved in the short term. Finally, it was discussed how philanthropy and the public sector can work together using creative and innovative solutions, leveraging on the strengths of each other and mitigating inefficiencies.
This panel was composed of a range of speakers including Andrea León, Coordinator of alliances-Social Map, Department for Social Prosperity DPS; Oscar Joaquín Villamizar from the Department of Methodology and Statistics Production of DANE, National Administrative Department of Statistics; Bernardo Antonio González, Deputy District Director of Supervision and Control of Non Profit Organizations; Andrea Ramírez from the Planning Office of the Mayor of Tunja; and Erika Marcucci, Research and Development Coordinator, AFE.

Brad Smith started the session by connecting the issue of information with inter-sectorial collaboration, and its importance in making the process of decision-making more efficient. He stressed that technology plays a profoundly relevant role in everything that has to do with information diffusion and visualization, enabling it to spread at a faster rate and to a greater extent.

Andrea León, from the DPS, talked about Social Map, a database that geo-references social projects all over Colombia and houses information in an open technology platform. She highlighted that the process was supported by the AFE map. She also highlighted this interaction of maps, as an example of the importance of smart partnerships to avoid duplication of data collection and noted that this initiative is fully aligned with the SDGs. She mentioned that public-private collaboration is not just about financial resources explaining that they include expertise, time and sharing of experiences.

Erika Marcucci, R&D Coordinator of AFE, mentioned the Strategic Platform of Projects of AFE. The Platform is a tool that allows AFE Foundations upload, monitor and follow up the information of their projects and also it is a tool of transparency and accountability.

On the other hand, the municipality of Tunja has created a social observatory to monitor the SDGs and a mechanism to include the goals in specific initiatives. Similarly, the Office of the Mayor of Bogotá shared their own ongoing efforts to track non-profit entities with an open technology platform.

DANE explained that the major challenge faced by all actors involved in the data collection, is duplication and inefficiency of processes, and the vital importance of educating people on how to access information that is useful for them. Data needs to be democratic which is why DANE’s audience is expanding – now including youth who are technically savvy and university students.

It was noted that local/territorial data collection is expensive and The Government has scarce resources for comprehensive, localized data collection. In order to help implement the SDGs, they need to reach that local data level and DANE can play an important role in helping to establish standards. It was outlined that sectors should work together to create most robust measurements possible. DANE’s doors are now open to collaboration/help, although putting in place formal agreements/contracts, is difficult.

Brad Smith concluded by stating the importance of using a user-oriented approach for the production and diffusion of information.
PEACE, POST-CONFLICT AND SDGs

María Victoria Llorente, Director of the Fundación Ideas para la Paz, delved deeper into the context of the peace and post-conflict processes, they are profoundly inter-related with development processes, particularly with the SDGs.

Maria Victoria recognized that Colombia has made significant progress, most importantly, in the field of multi-sectorial dialogue in order to overcome the conflict, and that without the participation of the business and philanthropic sectors a long-lasting peace will not be possible.

She also highlighted the following issues related to the sustainable development and peace, on which decisions need to be made:

1. Government programs continue all over the country, but given the rising importance and presence of other actors, such as philanthropy and private sector, there is a need for a better coordination mechanism.

2. National government has outlined potential areas the foundations could help in. There are existing examples of peace initiatives that can be looked at for best practices.

3. Agree on what that “another Colombia”, mentioned in the Development Plan, means. That “another Colombia” we all must pay attention to, to which we have a shared responsibility.

4. Explore how this collaboration will be carried out. How we can truly create innovative mechanisms where philanthropy and private social investment are more than just funders, but agents of change.

5. She concluded with the discussion on the linkages between the sustainable development and peace.
Roundtable 1

Special guests:
Juan Carlos Franco, Director, Mario Santo Domingo Foundation; Edgar Cataño, Director of UN Habitat in Colombia; Juan Esteban Ángel, Private Advisor, Office of Mayor of Cali; Alejandro Florián, Executive Director of Habitat for Humanity, Colombia; Ángela Escallón, Director, Corona Foundation.

Moderator:
Don Chen, Director, Metropolitan Opportunities, Ford Foundation.

Main Ideas:
This roundtable started the conversation on how the SDG framework is essential for peace process and overcoming poverty. It is important to recognize that Goal 11 “Making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable” is not only about cities and the urban growth. It is also about communities: how they can live with dignity. Working around the urban goal of SDFs will also improve the impact at subnational level.

• It is important to participate in Habitat III, to be held in October 2016 in Quito, Ecuador.
• Within the context of SDGs and the list of indicators, choose and implement the ones relevant to Colombia.
• There is a need to establish a mechanism for exchanging information (clearing house) for philanthropic organizations that are working on the issue of urbanization.
• Philanthropy can play a key role in the capacity development for both people and organizations. There are several existing examples that can be a starting point to explore and share with others.
• Cultural change is needed in development processes. This is an area where philanthropy can develop interesting initiatives. Sharing knowledge in this area is a key.
• Find ways to support rural and urban synergies, rather than competition.
• It is fundamental to focus on the areas where there has not usually been an interest in development initiatives, especially in the context of post-conflict.

Roundtable 2

Special guests:
Fernando Cortés, Vice President, Seguros Bolivar Group and Director, Bolívar Davivienda Foundation; Ana María Ospina, General Coordinator of the Local Network, UN Global Compact; José González-Trevijano, Private Sector Consultant, SDG Fund; and Diego Molano Aponte, Director of Bavaria Foundation.

Moderator:
Diana Gutiérrez, Inclusive Economic Development Project Manager, UNDP Colombia.

Main Ideas:
• Better define what kind of models would be more useful for philanthropy (and also private sector) to contribute to development.
• It is imperative to concentrate efforts on empowering women.
• Move towards a more active role, transcending funding, that allows and encourages the sharing of knowledge and expertise, especially with the communities.
• Philanthropy should serve as a bridge between the company and the community, bring innovative models which power the DNA of the organizations, ensuring the sustainability.
• Better understand what others are doing to enhance opportunities (information sharing).
• There are resources to develop initiatives on several fronts, including international cooperation. This should be capitalized.
### Roundtable 3

**Special guests:**
Leonel Narváez Gómez, President of Foundation for Reconciliation; Manuel Ramiro Muñoz, Director, Centre of Intercultural studies, Pontifical Xavierian University; Catalina Cock Duque, Executive Director, Foundation Mi Sangre; Pontus Ohrstedt, Head of Resident Coordinator Office, UN Colombia.

**Moderator:**
César Rodríguez Garavito, César Rodríguez Garavito, Director, Programme of Global Justice and Human Rights, University of Los Andes and Coordinator, Observatory of Racial Discrimination

**Main Ideas:**

This roundtable discussed the possibilities of collaboration in the context of post-conflict, challenges.

- We need to become a society where people trust each other. Regions are fractured and there is not enough movement of people around the country. Many in Bogota have no idea what challenged the rural areas face. Philanthropy can take its networks to the most affected areas to help to heal the fractures; spread awareness in the civil society and raise questions like: How will the private sector, philanthropy, other social organizations, and other actors understand each other in a post-conflict society? It would be worthy for philanthropy to facilitate discussion of opportunities around this issue, and at the same time develop specific initiatives in this regard.

- There needs to be a rapid response – 50% of societies that sign peace accords see peace disintegrate within 2-5 years. Need to act quickly during the initial, more fragile period. Identify early victories. This will show society that betting on peace is worth doing. This, of course, accompanied by long-term processes focused on the creation of social capital (trust).

- How will we pay for peace? It is very expensive. US$40-60bn over 10 years. What are the financing mechanisms? Public, private, crowdsourcing, social investments, and entrepreneurs. Everyone needs to be engaged.

- Build a dialogue space for actors who have a low probability of reaching an agreement. Build hybrid coalitions between actors who often would not collaborate.

- Without sustainable development, Colombia will not have a lasting peace. Likewise, peace is linked to development. Both processes are interlinked.
As part of this reflection, it was mentioned that Colombia and the world are going through a key moment regarding communication that has drastically changed in the last 10 years. It has gone from being vertical or circumscribed to the Media, which has a fundamental role in decisively influencing the narrative of a society that, ultimately, vows for one decision over another. But today, in Colombia, the responsibility of building this new narrative belongs to us all: “We must rewrite the history of our country.”

Journalists in this country were formed under the logic of war, this is why the fact that philanthropy is working on changing the lives of an entire community is not necessarily part of the narrative to which they are used to or in which they are interested.

The challenge is to reinvent ourselves and find relevant stories that connect Colombians, and this responsibility belongs to all of us as a social sector.

Talking about cities, the change in civic culture for building a narrative is a key aspect and language is a central part of that.

Starting with philanthropy, it is important that we have the ability to communicate what we are doing, but not as we believe it should be communicated, as mentioned by Brad Smith of the Foundation Center, but researching what people want to know and hear, and how can we get them to empathize, in order for society to participate and mobilize. It is important that philanthropy thinks about communication in real time: to be transparent and accountable in real time, simplify the language, talking to ordinary people.

A key question is: Why aren’t we able to make decisions or agree when it comes to issues that seem so obvious? Climate change, for example: There is a scientific consensus about its severity, it involves all of us and yet we have not changed our habits as citizens. Part of the explanation is the lack of connection when issues seem to be ‘that big’ and complex to understand. We must achieve empathy with people through emotions, and make them commit to the changes. This is where the social sector has a lot to do. Additionally communication is going to walk towards the local level.

Finally, two extremely important issues: first, the importance of self-criticism to build credibility. If we accept our failures and communicate them as learnings, we build our own credibility. Second, if we use technology platforms for communicating stories, we must simultaneously use all communicational tools.

Maria López emphasized the richness and depth of the discussions, and also highlighted that peace-building is a process that should not be trivialized. It is, perhaps, the most relevant for coordinating and collaborating: it is the process that should bring us together, excite us, and make us speak with a common voice.
The Deputy Director of UNDP Colombia, Inka Mattila, wrapped up the event with the following conclusions and follow up actions:

1. The SDG’s High-Level Governmental Commission for the effective implementation of the SDGs is an essential space to build dialogue channels with the private sector, philanthropy, and civil society. From the side of 'Post-2015 Partnership Platform for Philanthropy' we also commit to promote and facilitate this dialogue, which requires the identification of common ground between the different sectors in order to successfully implement the SDGs.

2. In the context of Colombia, the SDGs will also become a platform for peace building. It is a reality that there will be no lasting peace without sustainable development. This view is specifically reflected in the 16th SDG, which seeks to promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development. This will only be achieved from a vision of co-responsibility and integrality of public policies and the programs.

3. Without accurate and timely data and knowledge sharing we cannot guarantee a more effective partnership for the implementation of the Post-2015 Development Agenda. This platform will advocate sharing data and knowledge, as well as will aim to connect different data collection and diffusion initiatives.

4. From the UNDP and the Platform standpoint we engage with the Government’s request of supporting the negotiation, implementation, and monitoring of SDGs.
WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE POST-2015 PARTNERSHIP PLATFORM FOR PHILANTHROPY AND PRIVATE SOCIAL INVESTMENT

1 Q: WHAT IS THE NAME OF THE PROGRAM THAT WAS LAUNCHED ON MARCH 12TH AT THE EVENT ‘FOSTERING LEADERSHIP AND COMMITMENT OF PHILANTHROPY WITH THE POST-2015 DEVELOPMENT AGENDA FOR COLOMBIA’?


2 Q: WHO ARE THE STRATEGIC ALLIES?

A: The UN System coordinated by UNDP, the Association of Corporate Foundations in Colombia, AFE, Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors, Foundation Center, Ford Foundation, the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation and The MasterCard Foundation.

3 Q: WHY WAS CREATED AND WHICH ARE THE EXPECTATIONS OF THE PLATFORM?

A: The organizations listed above began to converge their efforts in early 2014 in a participatory and consultative process. A March 2014 convening organized by the Hilton Foundation and UNDP brought together foundations and networks interested in the greater engagement of philanthropy around the SDGs. The forum was opened by UNDP Administrator Helen Clark and built upon earlier convening held by the Ford and Rockefeller Foundations. Participating foundations continued their deliberations at the Worldwide Initiative for Grantmaker Support (WINGS) Forum 2014 in Istanbul, the Salzburg Global Seminar on Philanthropy as a Catalyst for Social and Financial Transformation, the 2014 Annual Council on Foundations meeting, the Development Cooperation Forum in Istanbul in June 2014, and other events. Responding to this imperative and building on the outcomes of the various meetings are three strong organizations committed to the implementation of the Platform, and incorporating a deeply collaborative approach. UNDP, the Foundation Center and RPA each bring a unique set of assets that are critical to this project’s success.

4 Q: WHAT IS THE PROJECT’S VALUE ADDED?

A:
- Philanthropy will be more involved in the Post-2015 Development Agenda process as a sector and implementation of SDGs.
- It will connect the philanthropy with development ecosystems: national and subnational policies, MDGs/SDGs information.
- Develop country-level structures that create space for collaboration and alliances.
- Make data on philanthropy investment more transparent, accessible to track progress, find partners and tell stories.

5 Q: HOW MANY COUNTRIES ARE INVOLVED?

A: It is a global program. The first phase is developed in four countries: Kenya, Colombia, Indonesia and Ghana.

6 Q: HOW CAN FOUNDATION BECOME PART OF THIS INITIATIVE?

A: Foundations can get involved in the Platform by knowledge exchange: using and sharing the giving data, strategizing the programs using the shared framework of SDGs and finding partners across sectors to build alliances to leverage the impact.

7 Q: WHAT WOULD BE THE STEPS TO TAKE AFTER THE EVENT IN COLOMBIA?

A: Developing a route of action based on the discussion held on March 12th and launching the web platform in September 2015.
1. End poverty in all its forms worldwide.

2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture.

3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.

4. Ensure inclusive and equitable education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.

5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.

6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.

7. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all.

8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.

9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation.

10. Reduce inequality within and among countries.

11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.

12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns.


14. Conserve and make sustainable use of the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.

15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt the loss of biodiversity.

16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.

17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development.
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