

UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION

International Coordinating Council of the Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme
Twenty-seventh session

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Item 15 of the provisional agenda: PANEL ON MAB AND PRIVATE SECTOR PARTNERSHIP: EXPLORING NEW OPPORTUNITIES AND CONCRETE ACTIONS.

1. Under this item, a panel is convened with Private Sector and MAB community to identify possible new opportunities and joint concrete actions pertaining to the MAB programme and potentially relevant to the Post 2015 Development Agenda, the MAB Strategy 2015-2025 and the forthcoming MAB Action Plan (2016-2025).
2. The private sector will be critically important for the implementation of the Post 2015 Development Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's), providing a wealth of expertise and resources to help address world's greatest development challenges. The promotion of sustained and inclusive economic growth, social development, environment protection and sound governance, pillars of sustainable development, requires full involvement of the private sector.
3. To carry out its mandate UNESCO cooperates with a wide range of private sector partners such as business enterprises, including small and medium-size firms, national, international and multinational corporations, philanthropic and corporate foundations, financial institutions and private individuals. With regards to the MAB Programme in particular, partnership with private sector is essential to, *inter alia*, the achievements of the development function of its World Network of Biosphere Reserve.
4. There is a range of options for businesses to contribute to MAB. A number of successful partnerships with private sector ranging from fundraising to strategic partnerships have been successfully implemented within the MAB framework (i.e. Danone, Procter and Gamble, Star Alliance, Abertis Foundation, CHIC Group, Yves Rocher Foundation...). These experiences should be used to leverage more collaboration with private sector in areas such as tourism, energy, sustainable logging, mineral extraction, climate change mitigation and adaptation, new and sustainable consumption etc...
5. The objective of the panel therefore is to provide an opportunity for MAB ICC Members, observers and representatives of private sector relevant to MAB to share ideas, information, insights and perspectives of future collaboration, and looking at success stories and lessons learned. The panel aims to improve the engagement of the private sector with the MAB programme and to identify joint concrete actions for future partnerships.
6. The Secretariat will communicate the name of the panelists and the detail of the session in a separate information document.

7. The Council is invited to participate in the discussion and to provide ideas and suggestions for formulation of partnerships between MAB and the private sector.