

2019 CBi Annual Event

Tuesday 5 February 14:00 – 17:30

Geneva International Conference Centre (CICG), Conference Room: 4

The CBi Annual Event is the main convening for CBi Member Networks and other key partners to come together to discuss collective private sector contributions to disaster risk reduction, preparedness, response and recovery. Organized now for the third time, allowed participants to showcase their work over the past year, share lessons learned and identify further opportunities for collaboration. In 2019, the CBi Annual Event was structured around two thematic sessions – one that explored enabling policy environments for public-private collaboration and one that focused on private sector engagement in manmade disasters.



Agenda

14:00 – 14:15 Official welcome

- Mr. Marcos Athias Neto, Director, Istanbul International Center for Private Sector in Development, UNDP (event moderator)

Session 1: Creating an enabling policy environment for public-private collaboration in humanitarian action

14:15 – 14:20 Opening of the session

- Mr. Sahba Sobhani, Global Programme Advisor, Istanbul International Centre for Private Sector in Development, UNDP (Session moderator)

14:20 – 14:30 Setting the scene

- Mr. Paul Kelly, Assistant Secretary, Humanitarian Response, Risk and Recovery Branch, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Government of Australia

14:30 – 14:40 Reflections from the private sector

- Mr. Hans-Peter Teufers, Director, International Programs, The UPS Foundation

14:40 – 15:30 Interactive panel discussion

- Ms. Nathalie Olijslager, Deputy Permanent Representative, Minister Plenipotentiary and Head of Political Affairs, Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the United Nations Office in Geneva
- Ms. Kellie Bentz, Head of Global Response and Relief, Airbnb
- Mr. Luis Gomez Sanchez, President, CENACED
- Mr. Firzan Hashim, Country Director, APAD Sri Lanka
- Mr. Sahba Sobhani, Global Programme Advisor, Istanbul International Centre for Private Sector in Development, UNDP (moderator)

Session 2: Exploring private sector engagement in manmade disasters

16:00 – 16:10 Opening of the session

- Mr. Barnaby Willitts-King, Senior Research Fellow, Humanitarian Policy Group, Overseas Development Institute (session moderator)
- Ms. Karen Smith, Business Partnership Advisor, External Relations and Partnerships Section, OCHA

16:10 – 16:20 Inspiring action

- Mr. Stean Auguste Tshiband, Early Recovery Coordinator, UNDP Yemen

16:20 – 16:30 Leading by example

- Mr. Jock Mendoza-Wilson, Director of International and Investor Relations, System Capital Management

16:30 – 17:15 Reducing risks and scaling impact: collective private sector action to address manmade disasters

- Mr. Alexandros Ragoussis, Economist, Economics and Private Sector Development, IFC / World Bank Group
- Ms. Kathryn Taetzsch, Global Director of Humanitarian Partnerships & Cash Based Programming, World Vision International & HPPP Kenya
- Mr. Rene “Butch” Meily, President, Philippine Disaster Resilience Foundation
- Moderated by: Mr. Barnaby Willitts-King, Senior Research Fellow, Humanitarian Policy Group, Overseas Development Institute

17:15 – 17:25 CBI Guidance Toolkit for private sector networks in manmade disasters, including complex emergencies

- Ms. Tiina Mylly, CBI Secretariat

17:25 – 17:30 Closing of the CBI Annual Event

- Mr. Marcos Athias Neto, Director, Istanbul International Center for Private Sector in Development, UNDP (event moderator)

Highlights of the discussion

Official welcome

- Marcos Neto, Director, Istanbul International Centre for Private Sector in Development, UNDP opened the third CBI Annual Event by introducing CBI and some highlights from last year. Seven of the thirteen CBI member networks responded to a total of 15 crises in 2018, and all networks including those that didn't face disasters organized business continuity trainings, participated in simulation exercises, strengthened critical infrastructure, established communication links etc.



Creating an enabling policy environment for public-private collaboration in humanitarian action

- The session started with opening remarks from the moderator, Sahba Sobhani, Global Programme Advisor on Private Sector, Istanbul International Centre for Private Sector in Development, UNDP, where he emphasized that without policies, private sector's role in disaster management can remain ad hoc as policies are essential in formalizing institutions, partnership structures, roles and responsibilities, among others.
- Paul Kelly, Assistant Secretary of the Humanitarian Response, Risk and Recovery Branch of Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade highlighted Australia' national policy framework to build resilience from a wide range of hazards like earthquakes, droughts and storm surges. He emphasized that the task of building a resilient nation cannot be done by government alone; policies are needed for more effective communication and collaboration which ensure stronger and clearer partnerships and systems between government and the private sector.
- Hans-Peter Teufers, Director of the International Programs of The UPS Foundation then provided his reflections on enabling participation and noted that government and the private sector have to create mutual goals and share of resources and all parties have to share risk and rewards as well.
- The session proceeded with an interactive panel discussion with the following speakers: Nathalie Olijslager, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Permanent Mission of the Netherlands to the United Nations Office in Geneva; Kellie Bentz, Head of Global Response and Relief of Airbnb; Luis Gomez Sanchez, President of CENACED Mexico; and Firzan Hashim, President, APAD Sri Lanka. The discussion highlighted the wide range of policies on public-private collaboration that have been applied not only in humanitarian action but also disaster resilience in the international and national contexts as well, such as policies on national structure on disaster management, food security, civil military engagement, logistics, hosting in times disasters, and preparedness from natural hazards like floods and earthquakes. The discussion also underlined the need for both government and the private sector to "speak the same language", "bring entities together", "build relationships and alliances ahead of time", and "engage at various levels of national and local governance" through effecting enabling policies.



Exploring private sector engagement in manmade disasters

- After the opening remarks by Karen Smith, Business Partnership Advisor, External Relations and Partnerships Section, OCHA and the session moderator Barnaby Willitts-King, Senior Research Fellow, Humanitarian Policy Group, Overseas Development Institute, Stean Auguste Tshiband, Early Recovery Coordinator, UNDP Yemen, provided a call to action reminding of the challenges ahead, while also encouraging companies to raise the bar in addressing manmade disasters alongside Governments and the humanitarian community. The primary responsibility for responding to manmade disasters rests with Governments and the humanitarian community, as the speakers explained, but the private sector has an important role to play. Therefore it is not a question of “if” we should engage with the private sector, but “how” it should be done. The way humanitarian response is organized is also important, as sometimes it can even harm the local private sector.
- Jock Mendoza-Wilson, Director of International and Investor Relations, System Capital Management, who explained how their company is actively supporting humanitarian efforts and addressing the needs of people whose lives have been impacted by the crisis in the Ukraine. As he pointed out, coordination is critical to ensuring that the support private sector provides, reaches the affected populations. Therefore the Connecting Business initiative (CBI) will continue to highlight the importance of connecting companies with the humanitarian community and government(s) particularly in manmade disaster and complex emergency contexts.
- The session then continued with an interactive panel discussion featuring Alexandros Ragoussis, Economist, Economics and Private Sector Development, IFC / World Bank Group, Kathryn Taetzsch, Global Director of Humanitarian Partnerships & Cash Based Programming, World Vision International & HPPP Kenya, and Rene “Butch” Meily, President, Philippine Disaster Resilience Foundation. Entitled *“Reducing risks and scaling impact: collective private sector action to address manmade disasters”* the panel explored several topics (cash, livelihoods etc) and invited participants to explore reasons why the private sector has collectively become an important asset in addressing manmade disasters, what has been learned from previous experiences and what can be done to further enable private sector engagement in challenging operating environments. It was suggested that any private sector intervention would have to address both the “reward” (opportunity) and “risk” of engagement. Business networks provide an entry point to systems that enable companies to share best practices and lessons learnt, but also share the risks of possible engagement.
- Before closing the session, Tiina Mylly from the CBI Secretariat highlighted the recent collaboration between CBI and ODI (with support from ECHO) to develop a Guidance Toolkit to support CBI Member Networks in engaging the (local) private sector in manmade disasters, including complex emergencies.



Closing of the CBI Annual Event

- Marcos Neto, Director, Istanbul International Centre for Private Sector in Development, UNDP provided closing remarks, summarizing some of the key discussion points and encouraging participants to further engage with CBI and its member networks to better prepare for, respond to and recover from crises.