



**Name of Event: [Roundtable] Ensuring a Return on Investment in Local Action**

**Date of Event: May 10, 2011**

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**Panellists:**

- Mr. Andrew Bidnell, Global Network of Civil Society Organizations for Disaster Reduction (Moderator)
- Mr. David Cadman, President of ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability
- Mr. Abdou Sane, Member of Parliament, National Assembly, Senegal
- Ms. Haydee Rodriguez, President of the Union of Cooperatives of Las Brumas, Nicaragua
- Mr. Philip Verges, Founder, Small Equity Initiative
- Ms. Yoka Brandt, Director-General for Development Cooperation, Netherlands
- Mr. Marcus Oxley, Chairman, Global Network of Civil Society Organisations for Disaster Reduction, United Kingdom

**1) Outline**

The session had speakers from local/grassroots levels as well as national and international. The question of investments was addressed from each perspective answering the questions: How do we insure a return on investment? What should we be invested in? Where investments should be focused? What kind of investment? Who will be investing?

**2) Key messages, outcomes, recommendations**

- If you want to translate policy into practice, you need to push down from the top (supply side) and, more importantly to build demand up from the local level.
- To accelerate progress at the local level, we should systematically do local participatory risk assessments and aim for specific, identified targets.
- In order to have a good ROI – return on investment – you need to have a public private partnership.

- When things are OK at the local level, they are OK at the national level as well. This is Senegal's key to sustainable development. (Abdul Sane)
- We see that the interests of taxpayers and local beneficiaries coincide – they both want to see accountability. Donors need to come up with a solution to siloed funding (Yoka Brandt).
- If we break down the barriers between the private sector and public sector (e.g., language, culture), we will realize their goals overlap. (P. Verges)
- The small and medium size business sector is a high risk sector – 70% fail. These high risk business funder are also potential funders for DRR (P. Verges).

### 3) Conclusions

- A. Sane: In my role as an MP, we need to bring together different partners so they work together to reduce disaster risks to increase sustainable development.
- Haydee Rodriguez: We need to invest in communities. It is us, the women, who work after a disaster. We need to take into account what the communities have experienced and I, as a community member, need to be aware what resources are at my disposal.
- Yoka Brandt: We need to build bridges and make sure local communities are always taken into account.
- K. Hinds: There will always be a lack of resources at local level but because we have added a citizen watch dog group, we are able to be accountable for the money that comes to us.
- Marcus Oxley: People see these issues in a holistic way – one holistic problem (e.g. climate change, DRR, development). They want to secure their lives, their livelihoods, their assets. The common unit in all this is people!