SESSION 3 SUMMARY

SESSION TITLE: PARTNERSHIP MODELS: POLICYMAKERS

SESSION DATE: 25 September 2017

SPEAKERS:

Vera Baumann, Senior Policy Officer, German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)

Cristina Fedato, Team Leader on Sustainable Infrastructure, Products and Services, Collaborating Centre on Sustainable Consumption and Production (CCSCP)

Melvin Spreij, Secretary of the Standards and Trade Development Facility Secretariat, World Trade Organization (WTO)

Nguyen Quang Vinh, Deputy Secretary General of Vietnam Chamber of Commerce and Industry (VCCI) & Vice Chairman and General Secretary of Vietnam Business Council for Sustainable Development

(moderator) Eliza Anyangwe, Writer, editor and moderator, The Guardian/The Nzinga Effect

NOTES FROM THE PANEL:

Vera Baumann, BMZ

- BMZ has established PPPs in sustainable textiles. In the textile sector, Germany follows the approach of multi stakeholder initiatives.
- In 2014, the partnership for sustainable textiles was founded. In 2 years it had 188 members, among them big brands that make up 30% of German textile revenue.
- Lessons learned: from the beginning you need good relationship with the media and you need to clearly communicate that these partnerships take time.

Cristina Fedato, CCSCP

- The CCSCP has 50 people working on various projects looking at sustainable solution for sustainable development
- The Banana Forum: German project funding by BMZ. Focus of the project is to look at the supply chain of bananas coming to Germany and look at multi stakeholder solutions to make supply chains more sustainable
- On the need to being part of mainstreaming niche solutions: no niche solution is sustainable if it is not possible to be scaled up to the mainstream.
Melvin Spreij, WTO

- The Standards and Trade Development Facility Secretariat (STDF) helps developing countries to meet Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures import requirements. It benefits from the input of various technical organizations.
- A knowledge platform is needed to avoid duplication to mobilize and to leverage additional resources.
- STDF could expand into technical barriers to trade and even into VSS and private standards as well.
- Multiplicity of standards has been an issue. VSS can act as a de-facto barrier.

Nguyen Quang Vinh, VCCI

- Sustainability Map of ITC can be used to improve agricultural partnerships in Vietnam.
- VCCI works with a number of key players like Adidas and Nike and NGOs to address problems like payroll and salary.
- VCCI works with several partners in Vietnam to make their corporate sustainability index.
- Financial sector is still very slow to markup implementation by businesses. It is difficult for MSMEs to get microcredit for green investment.

QUOTES FROM THE FLOOR

A few years ago, it was argued that VSS were an initiative of the private sector. This is not true. Nowadays, many developing and developed countries support VSS. We know many developing and developed countries support VSS as well. Isn’t it about time that the WTO should look at this whole issue of VSS even to the point of maybe creating a new committee?

RECOMMENDATIONS

An important point is the issue of cost and cost benefit analysis. It is agreed that standards are important supply chain management tools, however implementation mechanism are not always the best. There is work to be done in analyzing and challenging implementation mechanisms. There is a need to look at standards in the north that were developed and put on the south. There are lower risk transaction costs but for whom? Costs rest at the door of the SME. Risks eventually are going somewhere, who is paying for these? We are demanding increasingly that these people at the end of the chain pay a living wage, but does the price cover that?