



**June 24, 2015**

**Joint Session: UN-Business Partnerships & Sustainable Development  
24 June, 2015; 2:15 p.m. to 4 p.m.**

**Presentation by Dr. Abdulrahman Jawahery  
President  
International Fertilizer Industry Association (IFA)**

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Good afternoon distinguished colleagues,

I am pleased to be here today on behalf of the International Fertilizer Industry Association and I would like to thank the organizers for giving me the opportunity to on the role of global trade associations in facilitating sustainability collaboration and partnerships.

The Business Associations Forum on Sustainable Development is a commendable effort to foster the exchange of best practices between associations and the UN entities and thus plays a key role and advancing the sustainable agenda through public-private partnerships.

Today I will be presenting on the opportunities and challenges faced by industry associations to forge meaningful partnerships with the UN system. Before I dive into my presentation; please allow me to give some background information about the organization I represent.

The International Fertilizer Industry Association (IFA) is a trade association representing the global fertilizer industry.

IFA has some 540 members in about 85 countries. In total, the members represent over 80% of the fertilizers industry worldwide.

The global fertilizer industry produces some 170 million tons of fertilizer nutrients annually. These are used in every corner of the globe to support sustainable agricultural production and food security.



IFA is a registered trade association which engages with over a 100 international bodies, to represent the global fertilizer industry. As such, IFA has been a fully accredited organization to the UN ECOSOC for 20 years and the OECD since 2001.

It enjoys observer status in a number of other multilateral organizations and initiatives, including the UN Environmental Programme (UNEP).

IFA has a unique and long-standing relationship with the FAO. IFA is one of the founders of the Private Sector Mechanism (PSM) to the UN Committee on World Food Security (CFS) as well as the International Agri-Food Network (IAFN), which serves as focal point for the PSM.

UN-IFA share long lasting common goals of feeding the world, fighting poverty, providing nutritious food, women empowerment whilst protecting soils, seas and air.

IFA joined the UN Global Compact in 2014. IFA has endorsed the UNGC Food & Agriculture 6 principles and working with its 542 members to adopt them.

IFA is a strong supporter of the Zero Hunger Challenge and it was one of the first industries to adopt formally and tailor the 5 pillars to the specifics of the fertilizer industry.

I have to be honest with you. To some in the business community, the UN can still seem like a large and slow moving bureaucracy and not so relevant to the everyday business concerns of companies. I strongly believe this is a short sighted view. The business community needs a greater appreciation of the impact of UN initiatives and resolutions. The UN is truly the only body capable of defining, implementing and monitoring such an inspirational and aspirational agenda like the Sustainable Development Goals.

The outreach on the SDG agenda has been so much more inclusive than that for the Millennium Development Goals agenda 15 years ago, and I am delighted that so much emphasis has been placed on the need for multi-stakeholder innovative partnerships to fuel universal transformation and yield results across geographies.

At IFA, we have continuously updated our members on the importance of the SDG agenda and involved them in our UN outreach efforts. Over the past two years, myself and dozens of other IFA member companies have participated in numerous outreach missions to the UN agencies in Rome, Nairobi and New York. During these missions, IFA met with over 50 country missions and UN staff.



Through the members' commitment and dedication, the industry has gained a place at the table and has succeeded in informing and shaping the Sustainable Development Goals and the post-2015 agenda, especially on Goal 2 "End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture".

We are grateful for this tremendous engagement opportunity and we will continue to promote and advocate for the solutions our industry can provide via its existing capacity and expertise. These areas include but are not limited to promoting sustainable fertilizer use, mitigating land degradation by restoring soil fertility, closing the gender gap by facilitating women's access to productive inputs such as fertilizers and seeds, combatting malnutrition caused by micronutrient deficiencies by delivering the missing micronutrients directly at crop level, facilitating inclusive growth for smallholder farmers and SMEs by building up a vibrant fertilizer supply chain.

IFA is the largest sole association representing the fertilizer producers and transporters, it can join hands with UN to set up a strategy of implementation of such SDGs.

The opportunities for engagement are numerous and much appreciated by the Associations. However there are also challenges and areas of improvement. The multi-layered nature of the UN-system and the synergies and cross-cutting issues between the various specialized agencies can sometimes prove difficult to navigate for businesses who are not yet well-versed in UN protocol. This no doubt contributes to the uninformed perception by some in the private sector about the UN's role.

To come back to the SDG agenda, while the process of consultation around the goals and targets has been fairly straightforward, I must say that this does not appear to be the case when it comes to the indicators, which will be used to measure the implementation efforts towards meeting the SDGs. This is unfortunate, especially because the private sector has a lot to contribute on this rather more arcane but ultimately very important part of the negotiations.

Events such as this one provide excellent platforms for discussion and exchange on ways forward on improving the multi-stakeholder dialogue and partnership between the UN and the private sector.

Because our membership is so diverse and spread globally, our individual members can contribute their capacities and expertise at regional and national level. This is particularly relevant in the area of research and innovation, but also with public-private



partnerships. This knowledge sharing has proved beneficial to us because we are able to contribute to important studies and be involved from the beginning.

Global trade associations in general and IFA in particular are keen to continue working with the UN specialized agencies and provide assistance and expertise in regions and topical areas where our capacities complement the needs of other stakeholders. I cannot help but draw a parallel between the acronym for public-private partnership which is PPPs and "people, planet and prosperity" mentioned in the recent zero draft of the outcome document for the adoption of the SDG agenda.

Together we can create the conditions for sustainable, inclusive and sustained economic growth

Thank you.