



The Bretton Woods Committee **MULTILATERAL ROUNDTABLE**

OVERVIEW ♦ The Bretton Woods Committee’s Multilateral Roundtable is a group of private sector organizations which closely follow the work of the multilateral economic institutions—the World Bank, IMF, WTO and the regional development banks. The founding principle of the Roundtable is the recognition that the private and public sectors must work more closely together in an era in which the predominant source of flows to developing countries is from the private sector.

The Multilateral Roundtable provides its member organizations with a forum in which to explore policies and issues at the multilateral institutions that relate to private sector development, commercial opportunities, global financial stability and social responsibility.

MEMBERSHIP ♦ Membership in the Multilateral Roundtable is open to private sector organizations/ companies interested in increasing opportunities in developing and emerging markets and which support the mandate of these institutions to promote development and enhance social welfare. Companies are typically represented by both senior Washington representatives and headquarters executives with international commercial responsibility.

OBJECTIVES ♦ The Multilateral Roundtable seeks to:

- Increase the capacity of the multilateral institutions to promote open markets and international commerce;
- Increase the capacity of the member companies to promote multilateral efforts and public-private partnership and alliances and;
- Deepen the dialogue between the business sector and the multilateral institutions and explore ways to deepen a mutually beneficial relationship.

FORMAT ♦ The Multilateral Roundtable:

- Arranges informal meetings with heads and representatives of Bretton Woods institutions and U.S. government officials.
- Creates subgroups on specific issues to pursue policies benefiting both the Multilateral Roundtable members and the Bretton Woods institutions.



MULTILATERAL ROUNDTABLE

Past And Future Dialogue Agendas

“DAY AT THE WORLD BANK” ♦ A day of informal briefings and info sessions were led by Bank officials and designed to update Roundtable members on current policy directions and opportunities.

WORLD BANK AND TRADE ♦ The Roundtable explored the role of international assistance in building trade capacity and why developing countries are wary of trade liberalization. World Bank trade experts provided insights into the role of the private sector in promoting trade in cooperation with the World Bank trade efforts and assessed the pros and cons of free trade agreements vs. multilateral liberalization.

TARGETING ASSISTANCE TO IMPROVE PERFORMANCE AND GOVERNANCE ♦ The Roundtable will ask the IMF and World Bank to prepare a report on possible new ways to use their leverage to improve governance, the rule of law, and transparency; to protect intellectual property; and to permit undervalued currencies to find their market values.

BUILDING TRADE CAPACITY ♦ Examine the role of the WTO, the World Bank and other multilateral development banks in helping countries build trade capacity by supporting more effective implementation of trade related measures.

PROCUREMENT SYSTEM ♦ Early assessment of recent changes in the World Bank’s procurement system. Have the changes increased fairness and transparency in the competitive bidding process? What impact have they had on local versus international competitive bidding?

SHORTEN PROJECT CYCLE ♦ Explore with development bank officials the possible innovations to shorten the lengthy project cycle—the time needed to go from loan preparation to project implementation—while upholding high standards.

EVALUATE ENVIRONMENT AND SOCIAL SAFEGUARD RULES ♦ Recently adopted safeguards have changed the rules for IFC and other World Bank programs. The questions now are whether they are working well; applied fairly; or are in need of any revision?

OUTLOOK IN KEY EMERGING MARKETS ♦ Briefings will be arranged at which multilateral institution experts will discuss the outlook for key countries including China and others.