

**ST. PETERSBURG INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC FORUM  
JUNE 21–23, 2012**

**Realizing Russia's Potential  
RUSSIA'S PRESIDENCY IN G20: THE ROLE OF CIVIL SOCIETY IN FORMING  
THE AGENDA**

**JUNE 22, 2012 — 14:45–16:00, Pavilion 5, Business breakfast Hall 5.4**

**St. Petersburg, Russia  
2012**

**Moderator:**

**Alena Peryshkina**, Head of Secretary, G8/G20 Russian NGOs working group

**Panelists:**

**Nancy Alexander**, Director, Economic Governance Program, Heinrich Boell Foundation

**Vladimir Chernigov**, Director, Social and Industrial Foodservice Institute

**Xu Haoliang**, Deputy Director, UNDP Regional Bureau for Europe and CIS

**Jean-Elie Malkin**, Regional Director, Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS

**Ariane McCabe**, Senior Programme Funding Officer, GAVI Alliance

**Gabriela Ramos**, Chief of Staff, OECD; Sherpa to the G20

## **A. Peryshkina:**

Good afternoon. We would like to welcome all those present to our session. This session is called 'Russia's Presidency in G20: The Role of Civil Society in Forming the Agenda'. The session will be in the form of an open dialogue; for that reason, we very much hope that after our speakers have had their turn, you will have questions we will be able to discuss and obtain opinions on from those featured in the session. In December 2012, Russia will take the G20 baton from Mexico. According to economists' forecasts, which we have been listening to for two days now, the global economy will then still be in a period of slowed and fairly stable growth. In 2013, Russia will be faced not only with coordinating its own solutions for facilitating financial stability, but with providing a response regarding the fulfilment of the responsibilities the G20 will set itself and has set itself since its inception. In addition to discussing the G20, today we will also talk about the fulfilment of obligations related to the attainment of the UN's Millennium Development Goals. Most likely, everyone knows that our leaders have signed this declaration and that we will have to give an account of our actions in 2015. It seems that according to many indicators, several countries will not be able to show the progress that was announced and planned for; therefore, the G20 has another issue to deal with: how to facilitate the fulfilment of the Millennium Development Goal obligations, and what leaders of those countries can do in that area.

Allow me to introduce our speakers. You can see that our first speaker, who will be talking to us via Skype, is Nancy Alexander, representing the Heinrich Boell Foundation. She has headed the Foundation for ten years; before that, she was Director of the Bread for the World movement. Also here is Vladimir Chernigov, Director of the Social and Industrial Foodservice Institute. Until 2009, Vladimir was Advisor to the Minister of Agriculture; he has unique experience in the implementation of the Russian school foodservice project in Armenia and Tajikistan, which took place as part of an international development assistance initiative. Jean-Elie Malkin is the Regional Director for the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS. He is an MD who has been a soldier in the battle against infectious

diseases for 25 years and is the author of many scientific and medical works. Dr. Malkin participated in the preparation for and running of the Millennium Development Goals 6 (MDG6) forum under the chairmanship of Arkady Dvorkovich, which took place in Moscow in October 2011. Ariane McCabe is the Senior Programme Funding Officer for the Global Alliance for Vaccination and Immunization (GAVI). It is an extremely important fact that Russia is responsible for the mobilization of resources and for relations with such donor nations as the UK, Italy, and Brazil. Russia is one of the main Advance Market Commitment Alliance programme donors. Ariane has a Ph.D. from Cambridge University, and has been working with Russia for quite a while now. Gabriela Ramos is Chief of Staff of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and Sherpa to the G20. Since 2006, she has been consulting for the UN Secretary General on issues related to the implementation of the G20's strategic agenda; she is also responsible for gender policy and advanced training and development policy. Previously, Gabriela headed the OECD office in Mexico and Latin America, where she was directly responsible for the practical implementation of recommendations. Xu Haoliang is the Regional Director for the UN Development Programme (UNDP) for Europe and the CIS and the Deputy Director of the UNDP Regional Bureau for Europe and the CIS. He speaks Russian, Chinese, and English fluently, has worked in Kazakhstan, and has a good understanding of our region. Viacheslav Smolensky is Head of Rospotrebnadzor's International Department and is a healthcare expert for the G8; he currently works at Russia's G20 Sherpa Office. Our participants also include Svetlana Lukash, Head of Russia's G8 and G20 Sherpa Office and initiator of the 'open dialogue with civil society' cooperation format; Mark Rakhmangulov, Deputy Director of the Global Governance Research Centre of the International Organizations Research Institute at the National Research University Higher School of Economics, Russia; Roman Chukov, member of the J8 Club Russia; and Evgeny Shvarts, World Wide Fund for Nature. I suggest we begin.

**N. Alexander:**

I am honoured to speak to you this morning about the role of civil society in the G20 process. I only wish that circumstances did not prevent me from being with you in St. Petersburg. I want to congratulate Russia for assuming the Presidency of the G20 on December 1, 2012.

During the presentation and preparation for the G8 St. Petersburg Summit in 2006, I had the privilege of working as Co-Chair of the Civil Society, Trade and Finance Group with a Russian colleague from ECO-Accord. That was a very positive experience.

But, in 2007, only one year after the summit, the USA triggered the global financial crisis, which, as we know, is now intensifying in Europe. The crisis has further concentrated financial power in the West. Processes are accelerating that privatize gain and socialize or nationalize loss, creating high levels of inequality. As a result, we are seeing multiple crises, with not only the financial and economic crisis, but also a development and food crisis, as well as an environment and climate crisis.

The crisis has forced the West to broaden the global steering committee from a G7 and G8 configuration to the G20. Some of us have lived through a bipolar global era and then a unipolar world, so we celebrate the G20, in the sense that it represents a multipolar world. We support the BRICS and other developing countries in their efforts to gain more influence in global decision making, for instance in international finance and trade institutions.

At the same time, we see that the G20 has only taken timid steps towards tackling the serious crises that threaten our planet, such as reregulating the private sector, creating jobs, supporting food sovereignty, achieving the Millennium Development Goals, financing the fight against climate change, and cracking down on illicit financial flows and tax havens.

So, in my remarks, I want to cover two issues: firstly, the special role of a potential Civil G20, versus the Business 20 and the Labour 20, and, secondly, I would like to make a few remarks about the broader role of the G20 in the world.

I would first like to discuss the C20, the Civil Society 20. Many civil society groups see the G20's lack of progress as representing a lack of accountability to its citizens.

We support a Civil G20. Australia has promised to hold a Civil G20 in 2014, and we are hopeful that Russia will sponsor one in 2013. Mexico held the first Think Tank 20 meeting and we hope that Russia will continue with that as well. However, most civil society groups do not want a Civil G20 unless it can make a real difference to G20 decision making.

Over the four years that the G20 has met at the Head of State level, the Business 20 has increasingly made a difference. Working with the International Chamber of Commerce, the World Economic Forum, and McKinsey & Company, among others, the Business 20 has had a major impact on G20 decision making. Business certainly deserves a voice, but the taskforces of the Business 20 are dominated by transnational businesses, not the smaller and medium-sized enterprises that have the largest role to play in creating jobs and prosperity.

Civil society sometimes agrees with business and supports its positions, for example when they pressure governments to remove fossil fuel subsidies in ways that protect the poor, or when business promotes renewable energy. Nevertheless, we believe that business exerts too great an influence, for instance in creating public-private partnership models in all sectors, from agriculture and infrastructure to energy and minerals. This has created some contradictions. As a case in point, the G20 High Level Panel on Infrastructure has developed criteria for regional infrastructure projects that exclude almost any consideration of a project's carbon footprint or the rights of local communities. To our dismay, most of the projects recommended by the G20 High Level Panel on Infrastructure are being implemented.

So far, the Labour 20 has provided a modest counterbalance to the influence of business in civil society. It has had some positive impact on the G20, for example in their discussions about creating social protection floors. But still, governments seem

unable to balance the imperatives of fiscal and budget prudence with the need for decent jobs.

Let me now turn to how civil society can help. First of all, civil society needs leadership from a very broad array of civil society groups in the host country, which, in this case, is the Russian G20 Presidency. We need leadership from a broad array of groups that can champion free speech, freedom of assembly, and free media. These host country citizens can take the lead in working with domestic and international civil society groups, as they did in the run-up to the G8 summit in St. Petersburg.

Over the course of the Mexican Presidency, I have, on many occasions, worked with civil society in discussing issues with the Mexican government. The Mexican government has made numerous efforts to reach out to civil society, especially throughout Latin America. On the whole, it has reached a fairly narrow array of civil society groups.

Of course, many groups in Mexico, as well as in France and South Korea, where we were also very active, did not wish to engage in a dialogue with their government. Now, some did not engage because of political principles. However, there were others that did not engage with the government because they that they lacked sufficient information for meaningful participation. For example, we found it very difficult to obtain even basic information about the policy proposals before the G20. Uninformed participation is not a good use of anyone's time, whether in civil society or government.

In Canada, at the Canadian G20 Summit, and in the USA – two countries that tout their democratic traditions – there were the fewest opportunities for civil society to consult with the governments. For instance, there was almost no consultation and no media accreditation before the recent G8 Summit that President Obama held at his Camp David retreat. Civil society was very disappointed with this.

Now, what does civil society need, in addition to good and broad leadership from civil society in the country of the G20 Presidency? Firstly, it needs resources, technology, and a willingness to build consensus in key policy areas. Secondly, as I

already mentioned, it needs comprehensive information about the policy proposals on the table in the G20 process. Thirdly and very importantly, it needs access to G20 officials from an early stage in the decision-making process.

I can say that, in every summit process today, governments have provided insufficient information about policy proposals and only given civil society access to decision makers at the eleventh hour, when the real decisions have already been made. There are a few exceptions to this. I know that Russian civil society went to Mexico, along with the other civil societies of the Troika, at an early stage, but, for the most part, civil society has been brought into decision making at the very end of the process.

Finally, let me turn to some of civil society's broader ambitions. Civil society does not want to narrow its ranks to the G20 countries. We are aware that the G20, especially its Action Plan on Development, which, during the Mexican presidency, focused on infrastructure, food security, and green growth, affects all 194 member countries of the United Nations. We therefore want to work with global civil society and global parliaments. This would be easier if the G20 were accountable to a democratic global institution, such as the UN, which is run on a one nation, one vote system. Even the IMF and the World Bank, which are run on the one dollar, one vote principle, are more democratic than the G20. For this reason, we believe that, instead of giving mandates to some 25 global institutions, as it does today, the G20 should provide advice and recommendations to the appropriate global or regional bodies.

As an example, we believe that the UN Committee on World Food Security (CFS) should give advice to the G20, rather than vice versa. In 2011, the CFS was unable to take action on a range of issues, from buffer stocks and biofuels to commodity price volatility. As these issues were on G20 turf, the UN Committee on World Food Security was not able to take action. This was very disappointing to civil society because the G20 received recommendations from international organizations. It was told to remove mandates and subsidies on biofuels and that agricultural trade could not be liberalized unless there were substantial international, national, and

regional food reserves. Indeed, along with regulatory disciplines such as position limits, such reserves should be a key factor in addressing price volatility, which is creating so much hunger in the global community.

The G20 has rejected this advice, but we believe that the G20 can prove very effective in helping to raise public finance, through a financial transactions tax and other means, not only to tackle the problems of food security and climate change, but also the challenge of the Millennium Development Goals. We hope to work together to this end. Thank you very much.

**A. Peryshkina:**

Vladimir Chernigov.

**V. Chernigov:**

Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen.

We actually deal with issues related to the creation of complex systems for the organization of food supply. We are a non-commercial, non-governmental organization, and over the course of eight years of operations, we have acquired modest, but very significant practical experience. We have worked both in Russia and in conjunction with the UN under the auspices of the UN World Food Programme, carrying out these kinds of projects in Armenia, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, and several Middle Eastern countries. The Millennium Development Goals include the priorities of the war against poverty and the war against hunger, but, although this does not sound very original, the food on a child's plate at school takes care of the health of a child, aid to his family, education (because the child is going to school), and the war against the hunger of that specific person. The G20 and the G8 are both constantly paying attention to food security issues, but I would like to propose a rather different view on this issue: the view from below, because in the eyes of a person in relation to whom measures must be taken to provide that food security, this is all a good deal simpler and clearer. On the plate sitting in front of that person on the table, in front of his child at school, that food is either there or it is

not. There is either enough of it or there is not. It is either healthy and safe, or it is not. We can look at the war on hunger as an extreme case in those countries where food security cannot be attained for climatic, economic, or other reasons. Equally, we can talk about countries experiencing difficulties connected with issues and problems with food supply organization. Our projects in Armenia, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan rely more on this particular component. For this reason, the Russian Federation (and we participated in these processes) has been addressing issues of improving school foodservice as a food distribution infrastructure. Since 2007, experimental projects have been underway, and solutions have been found, because our country ran into the problem that after socialism, after the fall of the Soviet Union, there were no mechanisms formed in the new market conditions for effective cooperation between the authorities, society, and business for the purpose of addressing those issues. They were not a development priority.

We have offered up the things we have been able to figure out for discussion in a very comprehensible and open format. It seems to me that the issue of providing food to vulnerable sections of the population is a real, current one for every country. These programmes exist and are being implemented in the world's most-developed countries, and are extremely timely and necessary in the world's poorest nations. I believe that there is not one country in the world that could collect its population and deliver it to its food reserves, even if those reserves were provided. Therefore, a solution to the issue of food security, in my view, has no perspective or chance to be achieved without effective national food distribution systems. I repeat, every country encounters this problem, be it a G20 or G8 member country, or one of the world's poorest nations, to which support and assistance measures are directed. Moreover, as I said at the beginning, the issue of nourishment is a natural issue: a person has to drink, breathe, and eat from the first to the last day of his life. That is why I think that the food security issue must most certainly be one of the items on the agenda, and one of the options for its reading may be the issues surrounding the creation of these systems in every country in the world. In that sense, I hope for cooperation, support, and interest from everyone. Thank you very much.

### **A. Peryshkina:**

During his speech at the opening of the St. Petersburg International Economic Forum, Russian President Vladimir Putin said that he believes that Russia will be able to join the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development. I would like to give the floor to Gabriela Ramos, the OECD's G20 Sherpa.

### **G. Ramos:**

Thank you very much, and thank you for the invitation. I am glad that Alena has started by telling you that we are really hoping to get Russia into the OECD. I was going to start by saying this. We are trying to see if we can match the dates for when you host the G20. There is not much time, but let us see what happens. Either then or, at least, at the G8, so that Russia can become a member of the OECD.

The OECD is one of the organizations that provide analytical support to the G20. We have been there since Pittsburgh, and we have been joining the forces of the G20 countries together as they attempt to address the major challenges that we face. I have to say that, when I was invited to this panel, I thought about what my message would be. I would say that it is good that the G20 is becoming more and more engaged with the B20, although I agree with Nancy that we probably need to reach out to small businesses. I agree that it is important to listen to the labour unions, so there is the L20, and it is vital to listen to civil society because the global economy and the G20 need all the help they can get!

Just today, there are important meetings taking place in Europe. What are they talking about? They are talking about banks, bailouts, and the sovereign debt crisis. They are discussing unemployment and fiscal policy constraints and, if you think about it, we have been talking about these issues for five years. Nevertheless, we are not yet out of the woods. I am willing to concede that the G20 has really generated great achievements in terms of avoiding the worst case scenario. However, the size and impact of the crisis is such that we need to gather support, ideas, and engagement not only from the G20 countries and the outreach that they

offer to many other countries, but also from civil society. They can bring their ideas, support, and real power to the discussion.

So, I would say that I welcome this panel and I am grateful for the invitation.

Now, how do I see civil society engagement? It is difficult to say because civil society, as can be seen here, represents such a diversity of topics. You can focus on anti-corruption, food security, or development. The agenda of the G20 is so broad that I guess we would need to engage many civil society groups in many areas. That is fine. But how do you organize this, and how do you have a meaningful discussion with the representatives of civil society?

My advice would probably be that we first need to think of them as a source of information. Many NGOs have a lot to offer in terms of what they are doing and how they see the world. They are also a source of good feedback, and I know the G20 has already got very important initiatives in this regard. It would be good to compare them with the aspirations of the organizations that are working in the field to see how meaningful, or not, the proposals are. The third area, which I believe is the most important, is that NGOs, civil society, and think tanks are instigators of change. That is how we, in the OECD, work with NGOs.

Let me just give you an example. The OECD Anti-Bribery Convention is a powerful instrument to fight against bribery in the public arena and it punishes the supply side. It punishes enterprises that offer bribes to get a contract. Alongside this legal instrument, we also perform analysis on whether countries fulfil their obligations. When doing so, we rely heavily on Transparency International and other organizations that join forces against corruption because they provide a lot of information. Within the process of the discussions and peer reviews that we conduct at the OECD, we receive a lot of support and feedback from them. In addition, we also receive information that you would probably never get from governments or companies, so I think that is an important element.

Now, turning to the G20, anti-bribery is also part of the efforts that it has been pursuing in the field of anti-corruption. At the G20, we are working on tax transparency, which I think is one of the most meaningful outcomes, but one which

is probably not that well known. In general, before the G20, it was impossible to get certain countries with very strong bank secrecy provisions to share information for tax purposes, so as to avoid tax evasion. Thanks to the G20, the OECD is able to work with them to hold a global forum that now enforces this principle in many regions. We also work extensively with NGOs because they are really vocal in their opposition to tax evasion and the erosion of taxes for developing countries.

This leads me to the Multi-Year Action Plan on Development, endorsed at the 2010 G20 Summit in Seoul. It contains a section that is related to tax and development. Alena and other representatives were invited to one of the sessions that we had with the Mexican Presidency. Oxfam, for example, is very strong in this area and works hand in hand with us to move forward on the tax agenda and the mobilization of domestic resources.

I just have one final thought. As I said, I think that the agenda of the G20 is too broad. The Presidency will need to see how and where they want to engage, with which organizations, and how they would like to structure that dialogue. But I see great potential in the development agenda, as we are now four years into the Multi-Year Action Plan of Seoul. Many of the issues that were included in that plan have already been delivered, so I think there can be a fruitful process of reflection on what issues the G20 and Russia want to continue with in the development arena and how we align these priorities because, as you mentioned, we of course cannot ignore the fact that, in two years' time, we will be finished with the Millennium Development Goals. We will need to restart the thought processes on that. There are probably many important contributions that civil society can make in pursuit of this agenda for the G20. We must make sure not just to talk about the failure of big banks and how to avoid the sovereign debt crisis we are seeing in many countries. We also need to think about the impact that this profound crisis has left, the fact that growth will be sluggish for years to come, and the impact this will really have on developing countries. I think that the G20 has to think extremely thoroughly about these areas. Thank you.

**A. Peryshkina:**

Gabriela Ramos just noted that development questions will probably be one of those areas in which civil society can be heard, and in which it can play some kind of significant role. One of our speakers here is Xu Haoliang, who represents the UN Development Programme, which is the UN agency which operates within the G20 Development Working Group. It tackles these questions directly, so maybe he will share with us his vision on how to practically implement a recommendation such as the one advocating the involvement of civil society in the G20's work on development issues. Thank you.

**X. Haoliang:**

Thank you very much, Alena. Indeed, the UNDP is very much involved in the development work of the G20. Let me first just say a few words about the UNDP because I think my Russian audience is probably not very familiar with it.

The UNDP is the largest non-banking, non-financial development agency in the world. I emphasize non-banking because, compared with international financial institutions, the resources of the UNDP are of course limited. But nevertheless, the UNDP is definitely the largest development agency within the UN. It has a budget of USD 5.5 billion per year and has over 44,000 staff in 130 offices across the world. We operate in more than 160 countries in the world. So that is the UNDP.

Our task, in simple terms, is to promote sustainable development and ensure that development is addressed in all its social, economic, and environmental aspects, to ensure that we have a sustainable future.

Now, let me turn to our relationship with the G20. As you know, when the UN participates in the G20 process, you can effectively consider the Secretary-General as the Head of State or Government. The UNDP Administrator, Helen Clark, is effectively the Finance Minister. The Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs is effectively the UN's Sherpa to the G20. So, the UN has a system that allows it to participate effectively in the G20 process.

Speaking of today's agenda, this is obviously a very important issue for us. I think that there is no doubt that the G20 is a very important grouping. Although it is clear that it is not as representative as the United Nations, it consists of the largest economies in the world and its decisions do make a difference to how we set the course for development. That is why we are here. We see Russia's G20 Presidency as an important opportunity for Russia to influence and set an agenda for development in an environment that is critical, not only because of the financial and banking crisis, but also because, as Alena mentioned, we still have an unfulfilled MDG agenda for 2015. We are now talking about the post-2015 agenda and the possibility of Sustainable Development Goals. We are also following up the outcome document of Rio+20.

So this is a highly critical moment for Russia's Presidency, and I think civil society should definitely play a role. Why? Civil society can play a role through participating in policy discussions and by influencing the agenda that governments are setting. I think a very important aspect of civil society's involvement is its ability to hold governments to account, for example, through monitoring and evaluation.

So, for us, the role of civil society is critical. But how can civil society play a role in informing the development agenda for Russia's Presidency? Again, if you look at the impact they can have, I believe that they can do a number of things in terms of influencing policy, getting the public to participate in this process, and promoting mutual learning across countries. All the issues that my co-panelists have mentioned, such as food, are multidisciplinary and require a lot of learning across the board and across countries.

I would like to give some examples of how this can be done. One, clearly, is via participation. I think the Russian civil society agenda can include some elements of encouraging participation. We have supported the Brazilian government ahead of the Rio+20 Conference, which is a dialogue process with the citizens of the world. We supported a process whereby more than 10,000 academics are involved in reviewing the key challenges of development in the world. They came up with 10 areas of importance, including water, urban issues, poverty reduction, and others.

They developed 10 recommendations for policy makers in each of these 10 areas. We put these 100 recommendations to a vote by the general public on the Internet. So we can work with governments on this to help get people's voices heard.

This is one example. You may know that there is a network of powerful and important women in politics, and that there is a technology platform called iKNOW, which we are also involved in facilitating. Owing to time constraints, I will not go into other examples, but, essentially, there are technologies that can be brought to bear to support the agenda that the G20 leaders will ultimately set and prioritize.

I think that another very important way to support civil society involvement is to look at how civil society can be involved multilaterally in global debate and dialogue. I can give you examples of a few important initiatives.

Again, we come back to the MDGs. Now, the MDGs represent a process that was reflected in the Millennium Declaration and has been implemented since 2000. We are currently talking about the post-2015 agenda of the Sustainable Development Goals. How can we come up with goals, indicators, and targets that are really effective? For, if you come up with goals that cannot be monitored effectively or enforced through certain definitive processes of monitoring and evaluation, then they are not effective. However, you also want to make sure that these goals go towards addressing people's concerns. The UNDP and the entire UN development system is thus working together to support dialogue in 50 countries to support national consultation processes that will come up with these goals. If civil society groups can be involved in this process, I think that this will be a way to come up with ideas for future development.

The UN also has another very important partnership, which is focused on the promotion of the rights of individuals with disabilities. This is a multi-agency platform, of which civil society is an important part.

Given the limited time, I will give just one more example, which took place recently in Russia. Ahead of the G20, the UNDP and the UN Economic Commission for Europe jointly prepared a report on sustainability in the Europe and Central Asia region. We worked with NGOs in Russia to organize a regional forum to promote

the idea of sustainability and show the impact of inaction. We worked with the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation in May, and over eight countries were represented in the civil society organizations that came to Russia and worked together on this.

These kinds of forums can continue to be held in the Commonwealth of Independent States and this geographical region. We can bring this forward. There are other examples that I can give, but I will not go into detail.

In short, the challenge now is really for civil society in our communities to come up with focus areas that, in their view, are important and on which the G20 leaders should focus. We have already mentioned food. There are other issues, for example the Sustainable Energy for All initiative. We know that energy is the basis for all economic and social activity. I have personally visited a lot of villages, for example, most recently in Tajikistan, where a simple small hydro off-grid solution made a difference in a community's life because they now have electricity to light a school, keep medicines cool in a refrigerator, and store the milk that they produce. Energy is such a simple issue, but it makes a difference to people's lives. Perhaps civil society can play a role in ensuring that this important agenda is not lost among the many other priorities.

There are a lot of issues on which we can focus. I now have just a few concluding remarks. I think everybody around the table agrees that the role of civil society is critical in advancing the development agenda. In fact, the Busan High Level Forum stated very clearly that governments should accord civil society an equal role in decision making. We are very pleased that Russia has actually already established a very effective institutional arrangement for civil society involvement. The G20 Working Group has a direct link to Russia's G20 Sherpa, which I think is very impressive. We should use this mechanism effectively.

I would say that the UNDP strongly supports the idea of civil society in the G20. We stand ready to support your efforts in discussions, consultations and joint actions as we move forward very rapidly to form this agenda for the involvement of civil society. Thank you very much.

**A. Peryshkina:**

Thank you very much. We have heard words to the effect that direct responsibility for the fulfilment and progress of the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) also lie with the G8 and G20 as well as with the political leaders who signed that declaration. One of the Russian G8/G20 Working Group's practical initiatives was conducting the MDG6 meeting in October 2011. The forum's chair was Arkady Dvorkovich, who at the time was Russia's G8 and G20 Sherpa. I would now like to give the floor to Jean-Elie Malkin, the Regional Director for the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS and partner to the Government of the Russian Federation in the battle against infectious diseases and HIV/AIDS.

**J. Malkin:**

Thank you, and let me first thank Alena for inviting me to participate in this panel discussion at the St. Petersburg International Economic Forum. First of all, let me also explain what UNAIDS is. UNAIDS is a joint United Nations programme in charge of coordinating the worldwide response to HIV/AIDS, in collaboration with the UN co-sponsor agencies. You may wonder why AIDS has a place in such a panel discussion. Let me just tell you that the epidemic started 30 years ago, and civil society has been one of the major driving forces in the AIDS response over the last 30 years.

The leadership provided by people living with and affected by HIV has revealed the power of civil society to focus and generate transformational change. In the early days of the epidemic, civic dynamism and activist mobilization centred on a few key organizations. Nowadays, HIV organizations span all four corners of the globe and have generated changes in the way that we approach health, human rights, and development.

Some examples of this are the access to antiretroviral drugs and the repeal of travel restrictions. These are some of the issues that constitute the legacy of the efforts of countless civil society organizations. Today, a new generation is demanding social

justice and political accountability. There is a great need for inspirational leaders who can mobilize movements to generate and channel political demands for equity, dignity, and sustainable development. Civil society must continue to provide not just inspiration, but also political incentives for sustained leadership.

I have given this introduction because, once again, in the overall response to HIV, we would never have achieved the success we have achieved in HIV/AIDS without civil society. Civil society has shown its potential to serve as the catalyst for the response to HIV/AIDS. Civil society is at the core of the HIV/AIDS response.

Now, let me turn back to the Millennium Development Goals, especially to MDG 6, which is supposed to provide a solution to the control of infectious diseases, including HIV/AIDS. We fully support Russia putting civil society on the G20 agenda as one of the main stakeholders and key players in the response to all of the issues that the G20 will have to face. We fully support Russia regarding MDG 6. The initiative to establish a regional cooperation programme could serve as an example in the discussions within the G20. A regional cooperation programme will address the issue of controlling infectious diseases, especially with some very well targeted goals on HIV/AIDS response.

We at UNAIDS will be a partner in this momentum. Such an example of a dedicated and full commitment at the regional level to cooperate with more resource-limited countries to improve the response to HIV/AIDS should be highlighted in discussions at the G20, showing that, if it is possible in this region, it should be possible in other regions worldwide. Once again, civil society will be one of the main stakeholders in this regional cooperation programme. We will not achieve any success without civil society. Civil society focuses on gender, women, children, young people, and vulnerable populations, which is a key population in driving epidemics in this region. Showing that Russia is able to set up a regional programme to target one of the MDG goals and putting this on the agenda of the forthcoming G20 will, I believe, be a very good example and an excellent signal in order to move forward. Thank you.

**A. Peryshkina:**

Ariane McCabe, please.

**A. McCabe:**

Hello. First, I would like to thank Alena for inviting me to participate on this panel today. I thought I would start by saying a few words about GAVI, for those of you who are less familiar with our organization.

GAVI stands for the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization, and we are a public-private partnership. We were founded in 2000 by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and various sovereign donors, including the UK and Norway. The aim was really to address declining rates of immunization. So our mission is to save children's lives and improve health more generally by increasing access to immunization in the poorest countries. We really address Millennium Development Goals 4 and 5, as our vaccines target issues around maternal and child health.

As I mentioned, we are a public-private partnership. That means that we were able to pull the collective wisdom of our partner organizations together to address the issue of immunization. We work with the World Health Organization, UNICEF, the World Bank, and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, as well as with donor governments, recipient governments, the private sector, and also, of course, with CSOs.

We bring that collective wisdom together to attain three specific goals: to increase immunization levels; to improve the inequity in access to vaccines between developing countries and developed countries; and to shape the market. That means we engage with vaccine manufacturers to develop and increase funding for R&D for products that are specific to developing countries. We also drive down prices for vaccines.

In terms of Russia's engagement with GAVI, Russia has been a donor since 2007, when it committed USD 80 million. That was particularly through the Advance Market Commitment, which is an innovative financial instrument that provides funds to shape the market and encourage vaccine manufacturers to invest in R&D, in particular for pneumococcal vaccine. This is quite significant because

pneumococcal disease is actually responsible for the highest number of deaths in children under the age of five in developing countries. So Russia has shown some leadership in engaging with innovative finance mechanisms and with the private sector and we would certainly encourage them to do this and expand that role.

In terms of CSOs, CSOs are really critical to what we do. As has been alluded to earlier in the panel discussion, they play three significant roles. The first is advocacy, at the global level, for development and global health, but also ensuring the accountability of governments and their policy and financial commitments to development. The second role that they play is serving as key advocates for health spending in developing countries. This is really important in order to secure the sustainability of development programmes in developing countries.

The other way in which they play an important role, in particular in GAVI, is that they provide many of the health services in developing countries. So, for example, many of our immunization programmes in developing countries are delivered through CSOs, in particular in countries where the state is unable to provide health services. This, for instance, is the case in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Afghanistan, and in countries like Bangladesh. At the end of last year, I was in Bangladesh, and we were able to visit some rural health services that were provided by an NGO called BRAC, which provides something like half of the health services in Bangladesh. So NGOs are really critical to agenda setting, but also to providing a source of information and practical experience, both in country and at the global level. We would therefore certainly encourage the promotion of CSOs and the role of CSOs at the level of the G20.

In terms of key priorities for the G20 and the Russian Presidency, we have obviously seen this shift in power from the G8 to the G20, and we really encourage the G20 to take a greater leadership role, in particular in development and especially around global health. I think it is important that the G20 takes this leadership and really puts this on the agenda. I think that global health is something that everybody can relate to and can agree upon. It is also really important in terms of development, and has an important impact on development in terms of reducing

health care spending, whilst also increasing the productivity of countries' populations.

I also think that we are in a new era of development. This means that new models for development are required. So we are not only interested in the transfer of resources from developed to developing countries, but also in new models for development that include public-private partnerships and engage with CSOs, both on a policy level and on the practical level of delivering services. This also includes the private sector, as they have a really important role to play in potentially delivering services, supporting development financially, shaping markets, and in performing the research and development required to bring new products to developing countries and address the bottom billion. Another important aspect of new models of development is really that of ensuring the sustainability of development programmes.

Another issue to which I alluded and that I also think is important is that of innovative finance for development. Mechanisms such as the Advance Market Commitment that I mentioned Russia has invested in, and increasing the role of the corporate sector in financing development through instruments such as our Matching Fund are really critical issues. In my view, they also fit well with Russia's current interest in expanding its role in the global and regional discourse on development, whilst also engaging with the private sector.

#### **A. Peryshkina:**

Viacheslav Smolensky will give the concluding remarks. Viacheslav was Head of the Group for Infectious Diseases in the Expert Council for the Steering Committee for G8 Presidency of the Russian Federation in 2006. He has practical experience in involving civil societies in an agenda and the implementation of decisions.

#### **V. Smolensky:**

First of all, I would like to congratulate Russia's Working Group on Non-Commercial Organizations, which came up with the initiative for this session, and organized it.

This is very important, especially in a forum that is purely economic in nature. I believe that it is an example of cooperation between official agencies concerned with the preparations for Russia's presidency and a civil society. The fact that they were able to bring this kind of panel together with the participation of both the UN and the OECD is significant as well, in my opinion. With regard to the topic under discussion, I would like to say that there are two reasons for which it is a good idea to work with NCOs when preparing for and implementing Russia's (or in fact any) presidency of the G20. In the first place, in my view, NCOs are more emotional, more tenacious, and more motivated in promoting a given idea than we, the bureaucrats, are, and this has been demonstrated many times at forums that have been held by various organizations in Russia and in UN arenas. Secondly, on many issues, NCOs have more experience and sufficiently broad knowledge. I mean that not a single significant occurrence, not a single significant event which somehow affects people's lives and well-being escapes civil society's field of vision. This relates to issues of healthcare, the climate, food security, education, financial services, consumer rights protection, and so on. It is for those two reasons – the passion for ideas and the possession of experience, know-how, and knowledge – that it is advisable to involve NCOs. I am certain that they will be brought into, and are already being brought into, Russian presidency organizations.

At the press conference that closed the Los Cabos Summit, the President of the Russian Federation, in talking about Russia's coming presidency, announced the intention to focus on key G20 financial topics, and also noted that Russia will continue the discussion on traditional non-financial subjects where the role of NCOs will be especially important. The President said that the topics would include the environment, the climate, world trade, and international development assistance, which is of principal importance. Moreover, in his speech, the President made note of the fact that as part of the Russian presidency, the format of cooperation with civil society would continue.

Going on to the organization of NCOs' work in the coming year, I would like to mention four areas in which civil society organizations might be the most useful,

regardless of their areas of activity. The first would be the promotion of the interests of the Russian presidency at various international expert arenas and forums, including events organized within the UN system. By promotion I mean specifically discussion and acquiring feedback. The second area where civil society's experience could be helpful is in assisting the operations of the G20 Working Groups. As you know, there are a lot of them, and in Los Cabos the mandates were extended for many, including the Development Working Group, the Energy Security Working Group, the Financial Integrity Working Group, the Global Marine Environment Protection Working Group, and many other Working Groups which will be doing work as part of Russia's presidency. Here NCOs could prepare their expert evaluations or other initiatives and conduct consultations within these groups, which implies a meeting format.

The third type of participation is a review of the obligations. Following what was announced in Los Cabos, and also in accordance with the declaration approved there (in which we have already had a lot assigned to us with regard to the presidency), as far as the evaluation of previous obligations is concerned, we need to do a huge amount of work related to the presidency. This work includes the evaluation of the progress in fulfilling the obligations assigned by the G20 since it started having leaders' meetings. Here the experiences of NCOs and our academic institutions which are also part of the Working Groups (I am also referring to the Higher School of Economics) are of principal importance.

Then there is the last type of participation, although it is probably the most important type from the NCO point of view. This has already been discussed over the course of several meetings with both the previous and the current Sherpas of the G20, Arkady Dvorkovich and Stanislav Voskresensky. I am talking about promoting the G20's initiatives and work as a whole amongst the population. In other words, this would be the translation of G20 language into a language understood by various population groups: what a given decision or responsibility means, and how it will affect the personal welfare and well-being of each person, regardless of the social group to which they belong. It seems to me that the general topic of the Civil G8

next year, if it is organized under Russia's presidency, could be 'The Significance of G20 Initiatives to the Public in the Transformation of Decisions into Practical Actions'. We need widespread support of the G20 precisely because it is a mechanism that is truly important, but not always one that is understood by the population at large.

Finally, I believe that a wide range of opportunities is opening up to Russia, considering its presidency of the G20 and subsequent presidency of the G8 in 2014, as well as the experience it has accumulated in cooperation with civil society. I would like to remind you that the first G8 was held right here in St. Petersburg, and also that we are on the threshold of the Millennium Development Goals for 2015. Therefore, we have a good opportunity to make use of these two presidencies for Russia and for civil society (including global civil society), and to look ahead, beyond 2015. Gabriela also talked about this: we should already be thinking today about what is going to be happening after 2015, about what goals will be achieved by 2015, and monitor the progress. Russia could become one of the coordinators of the discussion in the period after the MDG in 2015, determining what Millennium Development Goals will be set next. Thank you.

**A. Peryshkina:**

Thank you very much, Viacheslav. To take advantage of this moment, I would like to say that the format of our session today is an open dialogue, and the very idea of holding this session came during a working meeting with G20 Sherpa, Stanislav Voskresensky. He is not here today, but next week we are going to be proposing practical actions on the priorities which Viacheslav has designated. These are the popularization amongst the citizenry of the G20's decisions and the wide involvement of the population in the practical application of the decisions taken by the G20 heads of state.

We have another issue on the agenda, but it has not yet been elucidated. This is the issue of inclusiveness: how development programmes can be made inclusive, and why it will be impossible to attain the Millennium Development Goals without

attending to the interests of people with special needs. One of our participants today is Asya Zalogina, Executive Director of the Naked Heart Foundation, a charity created by Natalia Vodianova. Asya has headed the Foundation's activities in Russia since 2006, and I would like to address this question directly to her. Why has this issue been raised by organizations that work with the Foundation? Why are the Millennium Development Goals unattainable without attending to the rights and interests of people with special needs?

**A. Zalogina:**

Good afternoon. First of all, I would like to thank Alena for the opportunity to participate in this session and outline my wishes for our country as it prepares to chair the G20. We, as an organization that has been concerned for a relatively short time (since 2011) with the protection of the rights of people with special needs and that is developing services for these people and their families, believe that it is very important that the Millennium Development Goals include the interests of people with special needs. These are all-encompassing interests which holistically affect all aspects of life: education, healthcare, employment, and social services. All of these aspects must take into consideration these people's special condition and the opportunities to include them in our lives, because in countries with developed social policies it is clear that these people can be active participants in society. Today it can unfortunately be noted that even the venue in which this Forum is being held is not very accessible for those with disabilities, but we hope that by the time we are chairing the G20, we will be taking even these small issues into account. Thank you.

**A. Peryshkina:**

Thank you very much. Incidentally, we have already talked about whether Franklin Delano Roosevelt could have participated in the Economic Forum. I would like to invite brief commentary on what Asya had to say.

**X. Haoliang:**

Just in relation to people with disabilities, I wanted to say that we recently published a report on social inclusion in Europe and Central Asia, in which we had a very good analysis of the issues and what can be done about the issue of people with disabilities. So, taking this subject, I just want to say that inclusiveness is a very important issue, even in terms of civil society itself. I think we should not forget the role that academic institutions can play in supporting civil society's efforts. Recommendations made on the basis of evidence will be more powerful, so academic institutions can also play a major role in this inclusivity. Thank you.

**A. Peryshkina:**

Thank you. We will now open up the dialogue. Roman.

**R. Chukov:**

First of all, let me thank the organizers of this session. I think that it is really crucial to have this discussion within the framework of the St. Petersburg International Economic Forum. My name is Roman Chukov, and I represent the J8 Club Russia. We are actually a youth NGO, funded by J8 Summit alumni. So, as you are aware, Russia initiated the J8 Summit in 2006, with young people also gathering in St. Petersburg to discuss crucial issues from the leaders' agenda. This practice was followed by other G8 member countries and, for the last two years, the format has also included a Y20 Summit. We actually represented Russia at the Y20 Mexico Summit and promoted the idea of establishing the Y20 community as an NGO community, to include the young people of the G20. This is related to the question of including ordinary people in solving the G20 problems.

We think that establishing a Y20 community will increase inclusiveness in solving these problems. It will really help to make a difference because these summits, when young people from all the countries gather and discuss crucial issues, are truly excellent. Our fresh opinions and comprehensive perspectives on the problems, which we not only hear about on the news, but also experience in our

own lives, could be really important to the leaders. It will be very important to have contact with our leaders because, as I understand it, these summits will produce a final communiqué that will then be presented to the leaders and the sherpas. For instance, the previous Russian Sherpa at the G8 and G20, Arkady Dvorkovich, actually inspired our NGO and has always supported us. The new Sherpa at the G20, Stanislav Voskresensky, was an initiator of the Y20 community. We presented this idea at the Y20 Mexico summit. So we think that the more that young people are involved in the G20 agenda, the more they will be excited about solving global problems and the better the results will be. Civil society will also gain better results in achieving its goals in the G20 agenda. Thank you.

**A. Peryshkina:**

Thank you very much. We also have with us today Richard English, Acting Country Director for Oxfam in Russia. We have already heard today that Oxfam was a partner in the G20 initiative in Mexico.

**R. English:**

Thank you very much, Alena. Just to say that I am very encouraged by what I have heard from the panel in terms of the engagement of civil society. We are hugely supportive of this process and want to do all we can here in Russia and globally to support that.

I would just like to make one point. Civil society has been influential in the past, on the G20 agenda and other global agendas. We should learn from that, but, in relation to what happened in Mexico, a lot of those in civil society were very frustrated by the progress, or lack of progress, that was made on the key issues that civil society was trying to raise. We all know why. It was because of the euro and the focus on economic issues. So hearing that Russia can give some commitment to there being space in the next G20 to earmark good discussion about priority development issues would be a real step forward. That can then move on to the next G20, so that we get some continuity on these issues. For instance, the

progress that was made in 2011 on food security has now disappeared. It was not on the agenda this year. We had a key opportunity to progress on that, so that might be one issue on which to focus. Thank you.

**A. Peryshkina:**

Thank you. We will now take the last three questions, and then give our speakers the chance to respond.

**K. Khoruzhinikova:**

Hello, my name is Ksenia Khoruzhinikova. I am here representing two civil society and non-governmental organizations. One organization is the G8 and G20 Youth Summit Network, which unites young professionals, students, and young leaders from G8 and G20 countries and has 20 different NGOs in 20 countries in order to organize the G8 and G20 Youth Summits, and reflect and represent the opinions of young leaders. The second NGO is the G20 Y Summit and National Organizing Committee. This NGO deals with business and financial leaders, whether business owners or senior management, who are young, aged 25-45. This includes very successful business leaders, who are already running companies at a relatively young age.

On behalf of these two NGOs, I can say that we are very open to cooperating with civil society to present our results or listen to your opinions. We would also welcome opinions from the Sherpa office on what our agenda should look like, and how our target audience from the 20 countries, the students and, in the other project, young business leaders, can help the global process of the G20. So we are very open to your recommendations for the agendas of our NGOs and we are ready to be involved and support the global process as much as we can, from the point of view of our ideas. Thank you.

**O. Peshekhonova:**

Thank you very much. My name is Olga Peshekhonova, I also represent J8 Club Russia. First of all, I would like to thank all the panelists for sharing their valuable ideas. What is most exciting is that you gave very specific examples about your initiatives and your organizations. I think that is wonderful because it always increases awareness. We have received some unique information. I would like to follow up on Roman's comment about the role of young people in civil society. Perhaps you could share some very specific activities and successful examples of how young people have been involved in your organizations. Maybe young people have proposed some exciting initiatives or programmes?

My second question is connected to the post-MDGs agenda, which has been mentioned by almost all of the speakers. Which of these goals offer the best opportunity for the new millennium, and how can we ensure that young people and civil society are involved in formulating and monitoring them? Thank you.

**E. Shvarts:**

Hello everybody. I would like to congratulate the organizers. As a representative of the national WWF organization and part of the international network, I will speak in Russian. I should note that we already have very good examples of active cooperation with the G20 and G8. I am not just talking about the fact that I represented the Energy Group at the Civil G8 in 2006. (Incidentally, ideas that were unheard of back then are beginning to be implemented now.) It is also important that without our active involvement, President Medvedev's G20 Global Marine Environment Protection Initiative would probably not have seen such effective development and would not have become one of the Russian presidency's priorities. However, it should be noted that the speech we prepared on subsidies for fossil fuel extraction was not embraced as delightedly by our respected Russian Sherpas. The same speeches made by our partners from Canada and Norway from the International Institute for Sustainable Development were the target of even more critical commentary; therefore, I believe that together we are headed in the right direction.

The next very important point is this: the announcement made by Russia's President at the G20 Summit worries me. He said that it is quite often the case that international ecological standards are used for the purpose of protecting national markets. Let us acknowledge that any state measures that are seen as protectionism are simply the consequence of changes in consumer behaviour. The US Lacey Act would not have come into existence if the American consumer had not wished to purchase stolen lumber or furniture made from it. For this reason, we will never achieve the Millennium Development Goal connected with stopping the over-exploitation of marine resources if we do not support international standards for the use of these resources: first and foremost, voluntary marine certification (the Marine Stewardship Council). I would also like to note that, because cod and pollock know no international borders, we have nowhere to run from common international environmental protection and biological resource use standards simply because every government must, first and foremost, take into account the demands of its population as a consumer. Today began with a discussion on crowdsourcing. The key, in my opinion, is not the advent of the Internet, but the fact that the rise of the middle class is changing consumer behaviour, and this is the main challenge to the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals within the G20 and the G8. Thank you.

**A. Peryshkina:**

We have time for one last comment.

**M. Crow:**

My name is Michael Crow and I am a Vice-President for GlaxoSmithKline. I have got to say I am very proud to work for this company, not just because of the heritage of the science that we have been involved in over the years, but actually because of the alliances that we have with organizations like the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and GAVI. As a result of these alliances, we are on the eve of being able to produce and develop the world's first effective vaccine against malaria,

which will have a tremendous effect on populations within the least developed countries of the world.

But also, because of our collaboration with organizations like GAVI and UNICEF, babies in these countries today actually get vaccinated against infections such as diphtheria, tetanus, and influenza Type B. Thanks to GAVI, the pneumococcal infection vaccination is now starting to be rolled out in these countries and rotavirus vaccinations are starting to be used. Furthermore, I know GAVI is about to initiate a programme for women on the prevention of cervical cancer.

As Russia takes the baton as the leader of the G20, I hope that the private sector is also given a good voice, as we have a lot to contribute in terms of science. In Russia, vaccines that are available in the least developed countries are still actually not available. While there is talk about a pneumococcal vaccination programme being introduced by 2015, it could be introduced tomorrow. Actually, tomorrow is too late: it needs to happen immediately. I can tell you that my company is ready to participate in that. Thank you.

**A. Peryshkina:**

Thank you very much; now we will give our panelists a chance to react. Let us review the issues discussed in the speeches. We have the priority of development issues in the agenda of the G20 Summit, the role of the youth movement, the MDG agenda after 2015, the stability of marine resources, common international biological resource use standards, and the role of the private sector in research and in the field of vaccinations (an example of this kind of thing was given). We will begin with Gabriela and go on to Dr. Malkin. Please go ahead.

**G. Ramos:**

I would just like to say that this has been a very interesting discussion because I can see the enthusiasm of many organizations and many people to get engaged in the G20. I have to say that Svetlana has a big challenge in terms of how to organize all these voices and all these very interesting points.

I would just like to say something on the issue of young people. I think it was a major undertaking to have young people express their voice, and I will explain why. When we started working with the G20, the whole agenda was of course driven by financial regulations, the crisis, and by getting the structures right in terms of the banking system and international cooperation. One thing that we believe was left behind was the social impact of the crisis. The OECD has been pursuing analysis in terms of why young people find it so difficult to get a job, not only in the advanced economies, where you can see unemployment rates are twice or three times the average unemployment rate for other countries, but in developing countries or emerging economies, where you do not even know where they are. Young people might not even be in school or work. In order to find solutions to these problems, I think it is important to engage young people and to hear from them about the issues that really concern them.

In terms of the Global Marine Environment Protection Initiative, the OECD was engaged with the Russian Sherpa. I think that this shows that you probably do not see everything in the headlines, with reference to what our colleague from Oxfam said. I would encourage you to look at the past agreements that the G20 has achieved at each summit that do not make headlines. I do not think that everything that goes into the Declaration, or all the work that has been done by various working groups on anti-corruption, green growth, the marine environment, taxes, and development makes big headlines. However, as long as we hold those countries that have committed to certain issues in these plans accountable, that is the main thing. This is where I believe that choosing precisely the area you think you can have the largest impact on is extremely important. Lots of things have been achieved and many agreements have been made, but this is not filtering through to the wider public. But for those of you who are dealing with the day-to-day issues in practice, it will be important to get yourself engaged and to follow up the issues, in order to gain a voice in the agendas in question.

**A. Peryshkina:**

Thank you.

**J. Malkin:**

Yes, returning to the issue of young people. You know, in HIV/AIDS, when we provide information to change the behaviour of young people, they are passive recipients and it does not work, or it does not work as well as we would wish. If we see a reverse in the trend of the epidemic, especially in high prevalence countries in Africa and in young people aged between 15 and 24, it is because they have become active rather than passive. They are active players in their own lives. What I will say to you, as the young people who will participate closely in the G8 and the G20, is this: do not take yourselves as the model. Look beyond yourselves. Do you think we will achieve the MDG goals by 2015? No, do you really believe that? No, so just remember that you are the young people. Do not take us as a model. Remember that you will live in a globalized world. Do not have an academic attitude, and shape your own destiny. That is my advice.

Talking about the private sector, we have the experience of GlaxoSmithKline here and very good experience in the field of immunization and vaccination. I would also highlight the role of civil society in pushing the pharmaceutical companies to make very expensive drugs such as antiretrovirals more available. For example, there is now a new body called the Patent Pool Initiative. I do not remember if GlaxoSmithKline is part of it or is negotiating participation. The Patent Pool was created under pressure from civil society and it will make some branded drugs widely available in resource-limited settings. This is also an example of public-private partnership and how the private sector can be an active participant in all this, in improving the accessibility of global health to the people.

Finally, I will conclude by referring to our colleague from Oxfam. Yes, please give more space to civil society in the forthcoming G8 and G20. They feel very frustrated and, if Russia is willing to be more committed to giving some space, we will be fully on your side.

**A. Peryshkina:**

Viacheslav Smolensky.

**V. Smolensky:**

I would like to comment on MDG 2.0, if I may call it that. The problem with MDG 1.0 was that these goals were really good, but there was no action plan. To this day, we are in the process of developing the best measures for attaining the MDGs, although 2015 is only two years away. Not everyone has taken the plans to attain the MDGs into account in their national actions, with the exception, generally, of developing countries. Usually, there should not just be a goal; there should be people appointed who are responsible for taking measures to attain that goal. That should also be the approach to the MDGs, from an organizational point of view.

From a content standpoint, the goals were well-developed: they were healthcare, education, the war on poverty, and the coordination of donor efforts. All eight of the Millennium Development Goals are sufficiently clear and concrete, and they cover nearly the entire spectrum of assistance for international development and the sustainable growth of humanity as a whole, as well as of the fight against all existing threats. For that reason, I think that, considering the fact that the MDGs will obviously not be attained according to many indicators, we should also, in the first place, specify what the infectious disease, education, hunger, environmental, and sanitation goals will be. After that, as Jean-Elie rightly said, we should look at the new realities of this rapidly changing world: what awaits us, and what threats we are going to encounter in 2015. That is, we should try to do a risk projection in relation to future challenges and threats, and then make the battle against these risks into one of the Millennium Development Goals. We heard a wonderful discourse about people with special needs. By the way, we might recall the new centre in Los Cabos which was built for the Summit: I doubt it is very accessible for people with disabilities. Those of you who were there know that that is the case. The devil is in the detail. Thank you.

**A. Peryshkina:**

The final comments will be from Mr. Xu Haoliang, Ariane, and Vladimir.

**X. Haoliang:**

OK, thank you. I just have a comment on the WWF. Marine resources are definitely critical and the UNDP has had a very long-standing relationship with Russia to protect coastal areas and marine resources. So we are very happy that you mentioned this. In fact, one of the ten areas for which people voted is the ocean. So I think this is great.

Alena's list did not include energy, so I want to mention energy again. Energy, access to energy, energy efficiency, and renewable energy are important, in my view, for the future. Of, course, we talked a lot about the MDGs today, but we are most likely moving towards a world of SDGs, Sustainable Development Goals. We need to look at what kind of process we can undertake to reach these.

So I have three quick conclusions. First, yesterday Mr. Putin said that the G20 should not be an elite club. He said very clearly that he sees the G20 as a platform to promote sustainable development for all people in all countries. I think civil society can play a role in holding him and other world leaders accountable. Do not forget that sustainable development is our common goal.

Secondly, we did not have time to talk about it, but it is important to recognize that civil society has been a source of innovation and knowledge. We need to capitalize on this and harness this. I would strongly suggest, in fact, that the organizers of the civil society involvement in the Russian G20 organize competitions for ideas and solutions amongst NGOs. We will be very happy to cooperate with you in this area.

The last thing is that we cannot afford to forget about the thousands and millions of NGOs all over the world, in Africa, Latin America, and Asia, who are working on concrete development projects that make a difference to people's lives. So civil society involvement in the G8 and G20 process should try to reach out to this constituency and reflect their views. Thank you very much.

**A. Peryshkina:**

Ariane, please.

**A. McCabe:**

OK, thank you. I just wanted to follow up on Vyacheslav's comments on the interest of his office and the Sherpa in engaging the Russian population in the issues of the G20 to a greater extent. I think that it is really important to be able to translate G20 policy into something that is understandable and tangible to the general population. My colleague from UNAIDS talked about the important role of grassroots NGOs and mobilization around UNAIDS and I think we see that around global health in general.

I think another issue that is quite important is the following. I just came from the previous panel on philanthropy in Russia and its potential role. We talked a bit there about the change in the mind-set of companies, who are really beginning to see engagement in social sector activities as something that is part of their strategic activity and that is really in the best interests of the company. I also consider this to be very important and, if that kind of mind-set and initiative can be adopted to a greater extent in Russia and in other places in the world, it would be positive for development in general.

**A. Peryshkina:**

Thank you.

**V. Chernigov:**

I will try to be brief, and I will not be discussing each of the proposed points individually. Allow me to give a small summary, although I think that Alena will now be concluding the discussion, and she will be doing that better and in more detail. This is just a fresh viewpoint from a person connected with food security.

In the first place, I would like to thank Evgeny for the question and the hint. I had completely forgotten that marine resources are yet another, and, perhaps, the last

source that can provide global food security. That is to say that if climate change leads to changes in soils and harvest yield, then our very last support and hope will be the sea. That is just a remark.

Now I would like to say something about civil society as a format for cooperation. It seems to me that recently, we in Russia have also seen an increase in the role of civil society, whose voice – even if the voices are varied and so are the formats – is gaining strength. I believe that the format proposed for dialogue with the G20 and G8 by civil society is consolidating youth, business, and society. The bedrock of the dialogue is probably that word ‘common’, for countries and for the world. That dialogue should be supported and continued.

I would like to thank Mr. Smolensky; he got there first to highlight the fact that a unique situation has now come to pass. I would like to ascribe it to the Russian presidency in the formats, but the succession of presidency of the G20 and G8 gives civil society a strong opportunity not only to make proposals for the presidency, but to extend them. We are facing 2015, by which time the fulfilment of the Millennium Development Goals will be summarized, and proposals will be made for new, additional MDG+ and MDG-2, or whatever you want to call it. Since young people will be living longer in this millennium than will those of us who are older, I propose beginning with them. They should express their initiatives on paper and propose, as has been said, an evaluation of what has been before and their view on the future: what is ahead; what to supplement the new goals with; what should be left in; and what should be changed. For these reasons, I am in favour of strengthening the role of civil society in the G20 and G8 formats.

**A. Peryshkina:**

Thank you very much. We will stop in just a minute.

The last thing I would like to do is to remind you that this session was organized by a civil society. That is quite significant in and of itself.

Furthermore, our group is open; it will have expanded operations. Even now, academic circles and the Higher School of Economics have linked up with us. We

are hoping to see cooperation with the youth movement of the Russian Working Group and international organizations.

The last remark is a bit of practical information: the results of this session will be posted in the form of a report on our site at <http://www.civilg8.ru/>. Many of you know about it already, and if you are on Twitter, you can follow us.

Thank you, everyone.