which examined the role and degree of success of the Global Compact and the risks associated with the use of the United Nations brand by companies that might benefit from their association with the Organization without having to prove their conformity with UN core values and principles.

Jiu found that, while the Global Compact initiative evolved quickly under the aegis of the Secretary-General, the lack of a clear mandate had resulted in blurred focus and impact, while the absence of adequate entry criteria and an effective monitoring system had drawn some criticism and reputational risk for the Organization. The inspectors further noted the absence of a regulatory and institutional framework, as well as the lack of an effective screening and monitoring system to verify the engagement of the participants and their actual implementation of the Global Compact principles. At times, the flexibility granted to the Global Compact Office (GCO) in terms of financing and staffing had led to the bypassing of regulations and to an unbalanced funding structure. The report further identified a costly and ineffective governance structure without central decision-making, and stressed the need for an independent performance evaluation mechanism.

Jiu recommended the preparation of a long-term strategic framework in accordance with a clear mandate for the GCO, and the regrouping of the latter with the United Nations Office for Partnerships under one umbrella. In terms of participants, it requested a more equal composition by category and geographic region, and a selection process based on preset criteria. Further recommendations concerned the strengthening of accountability, transparency, funding structure and evaluation mechanisms.

In October [A/66/137/Add.1], the Secretary-General transmitted his comments on the Jiu report. He generally agreed on the remarks of the inspectors and stated that many of the recommendations had already been implemented or were being implemented.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 22 December [meeting 91], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second Committee [A/66/447], adopted resolution 66/223 without vote [agenda item 26].

Towards global partnerships

The General Assembly,


Reiterating that sustainable development is a key element of the overarching framework for United Nations activities, in particular for achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and those contained in the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (‘Johannesburg Plan of Implementation’),

Recalling the objectives formulated in the United Nations Millennium Declaration, notably the Millennium Development Goals, and the reaffirmation they received in the 2005 World Summit Outcome, and the outcome document of the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals in 2010, particularly in regard to developing partnerships through the provision of greater opportunities to the private sector, non-governmental organizations and civil society in general so as to enable them to contribute to the realization of the goals and programmes of the Organization, in particular in the pursuit of development and the eradication of poverty,

Underlining the fact that cooperation between the United Nations and all relevant partners, including the private sector, shall serve the purposes and principles embodied in the Charter of the United Nations, and shall be undertaken in a manner that maintains and promotes the integrity, impartiality and independence of the Organization,

Taking note of the further increase in the number of public-private partnerships worldwide,

Welcoming the contribution of all relevant partners, including the private sector, non-governmental organizations and civil society, to the implementation of the outcomes of the United Nations conferences and summits and their reviews in the economic, social, environmental and related fields, as well as the realization of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

Emphasizing that the United Nations, together with the private sector and all other relevant partners, can contribute in multiple ways to addressing the obstacles confronted by developing countries in mobilizing the resources needed to finance their sustainable development and to the realization of the internationally agreed development goals,

Welcoming the efforts and encouraging further efforts by all relevant partners, including the private sector, to engage as reliable and consistent partners in the development process and to take into account not only the economic and financial but also the developmental, social, human rights, gender and environmental implications of their undertakings and, in general, towards implementing corporate social and environmental responsibility, that is, bringing such values and responsibilities to bear on their conduct and policy premised on profit incentives, in conformity with national laws and regulations,

Recalling that the 2005 World Summit welcomed the positive contributions of the private sector and civil society, including non-governmental organizations, foundations and academia, in the promotion and implementation of development and human rights programmes, and also recalling that the 2005 World Summit resolved to enhance the contribution of non-governmental organizations, civil society, the private sector and other stakeholders in national development efforts, as well as in the promotion of the global partnership for development, and encouraged public-private partnerships in a wide range of areas, with the aim of eradicating poverty and promoting full employment and social integration,