



## **The Public-Private Alliance Foundation will launch with “Partners Against Poverty” event at the United Nations**

NEW YORK, May 16, 2007— “Partners against Poverty,” the theme of the formal launch of the Public-Private Alliance Foundation, will bring an important and diverse group to the United Nations on Friday, May 18. “The mission of PPAF is to encourage governmental authorities, non-governmental organizations, businesses, academic institutes and others to collaborate and provide funding to help poor people in developing countries become self-reliant,” said Executive Director David Stillman.

The Public-Private Alliance Foundation is part of a growing recognition of the strong and positive impact that a pro-poor business approach can have in improving lives and livelihoods. According to Stillman, “Business is the engine for sustainable economic development.” PPAF has its roots in the UN Public-Private Alliance for Rural Development, which is an initiative of the UN Economic and Social Council.

“PPAF is committed to assist in the achievement of the UN Millennium Development Goals through this partnership initiative,” said Daniel Mejia, who chairs the project finance and development company Sunland Group Corp and also chairs the Board of PPAF. “The Dominican Republic and Madagascar are pilot countries for this effort. PPAF is establishing a Board of UN Ambassadors to extend this to other countries.”

Projects getting underway in the Dominican Republic aim to provide assistance in agribusiness, information technology, nutrition, microfinance and other local priorities. One such project aims to revitalize the fish farming industry in Monte Plata, one of the poorest provinces in the country, by successfully stimulating investment and technology assistance to greatly expand production and processing of tilapia fish for export and local consumption.

At Friday’s meeting, Mejia will address the group. He will be joined by several others from the UN community, notably the Vice-President of the Economic and Social Council, Ambassador Leo Mérorès of Haiti, as well as Ambassador Zina Andrianarivelo-Razafy of Madagascar, Ambassador Francis Lorenzo of the Dominican Republic, Mr. Georg Kell, the Executive Head of the UN Global Compact, and Dr. Hanifa Mezoui, the Chief of the Non-Governmental Organizations Section of the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs. Representatives from companies and business associations, as well as universities and other non-governmental organizations, will also take the floor to announce initiatives and garner support for partnerships.

For further information, please visit our website at <http://www.ppafoundation.org> or e-mail us at [ppafoundation@gmail.com](mailto:ppafoundation@gmail.com).