

Proposed panel at the Growing Inclusive Markets Forum, Halifax, June 20-21, 2008

**Facilitating inclusive financial markets: the role of policy, regulation, supervision of microinsurance**

Financial markets – and insurance services in particular – largely exclude the poor and disadvantaged groups. Despite the growing importance of microinsurance services and their rapid expansion, many of the schemes are quite small in coverage, leaving millions of poor people without adequate protection against shocks such as illness, death, or disability. Facilitating poor people's access to effective and viable mechanisms for mitigating vulnerability and risk is therefore an important strategy for reducing poverty. This panel will discuss the role of policy, regulation and supervision in defining the scope and reach of insurance markets that work for the poor, and makes some recommendations for overcoming regulatory constraints and barriers.

The panel will present the findings of an international comparative project that examines microinsurance experiences in five countries with the view to developing a set of principles to assist developing countries establish a facilitative regulatory environment for microinsurance. The project is jointly supported by the IDRC, the Gates Foundation, GTZ and FinMark Trust.

**Panelists:**

Doubell Chamberlain, FinMark Trust, South Africa

Hennie Bester, Genesis Analytics, South Africa

Piedad S. Geron, RIMANSI, Philippines (Tbc)

Sanjay Sinha, M-CRIL, India