**Lesson 4 – Examples of Global Development Players**

**United Nations** – The UN was created in 1945 to maintain international peace and security, develop friendly relations between nations and provide a forum to support co-ordinated action on economic, social, cultural and humanitarian issues. The UN was intended to prevent a repeat of the unprecedented destruction and suffering of the two World Wars, and to promote and protect fundamental human rights. The organization offers leadership on global development through its many programs, funds and agencies. The UN is one of several multilateral organizations involved in global development.

**Governments** – Governments bear primary responsibility for the quality of life of their citizens, through the provision of critical social services, infrastructure, economic policies, and the legal and fiscal frameworks that support development. In many countries, however, governments lack the resources, capacities and systems to do so. It is critical that development efforts work with governments at all levels – from local to national – to ensure they fit with local priorities and that the governments have the ability to sustain positive changes over the long-term. Developed country governments contribute to global development by funding the UN and dedicating a portion of their budgets directly to global aid and development. Canadian Prime Minister Lester B. Pearson headed a commission in 1968 that recommended that 0.7% of rich countries’ gross national product (GNP) should be directed to Official Development Assistance (ODA). Countries seldom reach this target. In 2014, only Norway, Denmark, Sweden and the United Kingdom met or exceeded this percentage, with Canada contributing only 0.24%.

**Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)** – NGOs are a diverse group of organizations that are generally not-for-profit, and neither under government control nor affiliated with a political party. They may be faith-based or secular organizations. NGOs vary by both focus (e.g. poverty, health, education, human rights) and level of operation (e.g. community-based, national, international). Both international and local NGOs have an important role to play in sustainable development. NGOs often focus on important long-term projects often underserved by business and government.

**Businesses** – In the words of UN Secretary General Ban Ki Moon, “the private sector is the driving force of the global economy.” While the first priority of businesses is the growth of profits, they also have a responsibility to ensure that growth is sustainable. In an increasingly global world, sustainability can align with the objectives of aid and development and business and industry. Businesses have skills and other resources the developing world needs.

**Universities and colleges** – Around the world, universities and colleges play an integral role in the social, economic, political and cultural life of countries. Universities and colleges in developed countries contribute resources and knowledge to sustainable development projects in other countries. This can be through research, faculty exchanges as well as by implementing projects with local partners. In the developing world, these institutions are critical to building the local knowledge and leadership to sustain improvements in quality of life over the long term.