



**MEDIA CONTACTS:**

Ariel Vaagen – U.S. Department of State – 202-256-9549 [VaagenAR@state.gov](mailto:VaagenAR@state.gov)

Frank Grozel – UNCTAD - +41-79-214-0960 [frank.grozel@gmail.com](mailto:frank.grozel@gmail.com)

Mark Marich – Global Entrepreneurship Network – 202-370-6934 [mark@gew.co](mailto:mark@gew.co)

PALO ALTO, CA – June 24, 2016 – At the Global Entrepreneurship Summit today at Stanford University, three partner organizations announced the expansion of a public-private partnership that is making it easier for startups to register their new businesses all over the world.

Charles H. Rivkin, U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Economic and Business Affairs, Frank Grozel, Coordinator of the Business Facilitation Unit for the UN Conference on Trade and Development, and Jonathan Ortman, President of the Global Entrepreneurship Network, signed a Memorandum of Understanding for the development, maintenance, expansion and promotion of the Global Enterprise Registration portal (GER.co).

The portal is helping businesses by encouraging governments to develop simple online procedures, starting with business registration. GER.co has links to all business registration websites in the world, and a rating of the user-friendliness of each. A simple green dot rating lets businesses immediately see whether an online process is clear and complete, which saves them time and money.

Entrepreneurs are the lifeblood of any economy. As cities and countries around the world look to stimulate economic growth, those that simplify the process for entrepreneurs to start and scale their enterprises will be the most successful.

GER.co focuses on business registration because 1.8 billion workers – 60 percent of the global workforce – are employed in the informal economy. These individuals do not have access to worker’s protections or bank accounts to grow their businesses, which translates into a huge untapped economic potential.

The signing of the GER.co MOU demonstrates the commitment of the U.S. government, UNCTAD and GEN to promote entrepreneurship globally by making business registration a simple, easy process for even the smallest firms.

For more information, visit <http://ger.co>.



GLOBAL ENTERPRISE REGISTRATION

[ger.co](http://ger.co)

### **About UN Conference on Trade and Development**

The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) is the principal organ of the United Nations General Assembly dealing with trade, investment, and development issues. Its work can be summed up in three words: think, debate, and deliver. It produces analyses that form the basis for recommendations to economic policymakers, aimed at ending global economic inequalities and generating people-centered sustainable development. It is a forum where representatives of all countries can freely engage in dialogue. It offers direct technical assistance to developing countries and countries with economies in transition, helping them to build the capacities they need to become equitably integrated into the global economy and improve the well-being of their populations. For more information, visit [unctad.org](http://unctad.org).

### **About U.S. Department of State**

The U.S. Department of State is the lead U.S. foreign affairs agency. The Department's mission is to shape and sustain a peaceful, prosperous, just, and democratic world and foster conditions for stability and progress for the benefit of the American people and people everywhere. The Department collaborates and partners with non-government actors based on risk-sharing and value creation to advance mutual goals. For more information, visit [state.gov](http://state.gov).

### **About Global Entrepreneurship Network**

Global Entrepreneurship Network (GEN) is a year-round platform of programs and initiatives created by the communities that celebrate Global Entrepreneurship Week each November. Aimed at creating one global entrepreneurial ecosystem, GEN helps people in more than 160 countries unleash their ideas and turn them into promising new ventures—creating jobs, unearthing innovations for society and strengthening economic stability around the world. For details on the programs and initiatives that make up GEN, visit [weareGEN.co](http://weareGEN.co) and follow @unleashingideas on Twitter.

### **Additional Articles and Resources on GER.co**

Videos (English, Spanish, French):

<http://ger.co/about/testimonials>

Informational flyer (1 page, downloadable, English or Spanish)

<http://ger.co/go-green/promotional-material#flyers>

Go Green by 2019 Campaign (article):

[https://issuu.com/cfi.co/docs/cfi.co\\_summer\\_2015/21?e=6174959/14467542](https://issuu.com/cfi.co/docs/cfi.co_summer_2015/21?e=6174959/14467542)

Go Green World Map – Progress:

<http://ger.co/go-green>

GER.co and inclusive economic growth (article):

[https://issuu.com/cfi.co/docs/winter\\_2015-2016/25](https://issuu.com/cfi.co/docs/winter_2015-2016/25)

Six Lessons Learned to Help Governments Make Business Registration easier (essay):

[http://businessfacilitation.org/ppt/Contribution\\_to\\_UNCITRAL-UNCTAD\\_experience.pdf](http://businessfacilitation.org/ppt/Contribution_to_UNCITRAL-UNCTAD_experience.pdf)

Resources for educators

<http://ger.co/schools/educators>

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