

ICC AT THE UNITED NATIONS

Business and the UN SDGs

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THE SDGs: A NEW APPROACH

- In September 2015, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was launched to address pressing global social, environmental, and economic challenges. At its core, this agenda contains the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and provides a framework and roadmap to expand upon the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) while also addressing their shortcomings.
- However, challenges in the design and implementation of the 2030 Agenda were significantly different from the experience of the MDGs due to a changing global landscape:
 - Poverty now resides mostly in Middle Income Countries
 - Official Development Assistance (ODA) is no longer sufficient to stimulate growth
 - Technological improvements have revealed glaring gaps between and within countries
 - Climate change has worsened and increased competition over natural resources
- Cooperation and collaboration between all stakeholders – governments, the private sector, and civil society – is critical for the success of this ambitious agenda

THE ROLE OF BUSINESS

- In a historic development, the 2030 Agenda places heavy emphasis on the important role of business in the achievement of the SDGs.
- It is recognized now more than ever that economic growth, trade, investment, entrepreneurship, innovation, and sustainable job creation are fundamental for sustainable development.
 - On average, business now provides 60 percent of GDP, 80 percent of capital flows, and 90 percent of jobs in developing countries.
- For successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda in all countries, it is essential that businesses of all sizes grow and flourish in a responsible and sustainable manner.
- It is the private sector that will create decent jobs and livelihoods, and provide the technical resources to create and deploy new solutions to the sustainable development challenges the global community faces.

WHY THE SDGs RESONATE WITH BUSINESS

- The SDGs are action oriented – they are S M A R T.
- Universality underpins the SDGs.
- The SDGs recognize that the earth is finite.
- The SDGs emphasize good governance focused on smart regulation, rule of law, and well-functioning national institutions.
- The SDGs support institutions to protect and promote human rights, gender equality, and women’s empowerment.
- The SDGs provide a roadmap through the Means of Implementation
- The key ingredient for all of this to work is building trust among all actors in society.

THE ICC AND THE SDGs

- **The ICC, which has coordinated business inputs during the two years of negotiations applauds the leadership of the UN on the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs**
- **The UN has delivered to the global community a truly transformative development agenda that will pave the way for new partnerships among governments, business, and civil society.**
- **The private sector welcomes this new era of cooperation and will readily provide the full depth of resources, expertise, and technological innovation needed for them to succeed**

BUSINESS ENGAGEMENT BRIEFING

- On the occasion of the ECOSOC Partnership Forum, we organized a Breakfast Briefing on Business Engagement at the UN on the morning of 31 March.
- As the UN and its member states, as well as stakeholders, prepared for implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the follow-up processes that took place this year, including the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF), the briefing focused on how the business community could engage constructively in these deliberations.
- The Permanent Mission of Denmark, one of the co-facilitators for the Follow-up and Review Processes for the 2030 Agenda, as well as the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Kenya co-hosted the breakfast meeting with us.

FINANCING FOR DEVELOPMENT FORUM

- The inaugural ECOSOC Forum on Financing for Development follow-up was held from 18 to 20 April and included the special high-level meeting of the Council with the Bretton Woods Institutions, the WTO, and UNCTAD.
- The theme was “Financing for Sustainable Development: Follow-up to the Addis Ababa Action Agenda” and the forum addressed the follow-up and review for the FfD outcomes and the means of implementation of the 2030 Agenda.
- There was a series of six interactive multi-stakeholder round tables on all seven action areas of the Addis Ababa Agenda. Business was allotted three seats at each round table, totaling 18 private sector representatives.
- The ICC populated the round tables with members of the Policy Commission on Trade and Investment, who also participated in and organized a stand alone side event at the forum.

FORUM ON INVESTMENT IN THE LDCs

- **The United Nations and the Government of Turkey organized a Private Sector Forum on Investment Opportunities in the Least Developed Countries as part of the High-level Midterm Review of the Implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action which was held in Antalya, Turkey on 26 May.**
- **The UN-OHRLLS asked the ICC to help coordinate the forum, which convened high-level representatives of investment promotion agencies, the private sector, LDC governments, and their development partners.**
- **This forum provided an important platform to exchange views and best practices on how to increase investment opportunities in the LDCs and foster their sustainable development.**

SDG BUSINESS FORUM

- The inaugural SDG Business Forum was held at the UN on 19 July during the ministerial segment of the first HLPF since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- Co-hosted by the ICC, the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the UN Global Compact, and organized in collaboration with the Global Business Alliance for 2030, the SDG Business Forum convened leaders from business and government, with heads of UN agencies, key international organizations, and civil society groups to delve into the important role of business in delivering the 2030 Agenda.
- As the first ever business-led event at the UN, this historic forum marked a milestone for gauging private sector efforts to catalyze sustainable growth and development.
- Featuring a showcase review of business engagement on all 17 SDGs, as well as individual sessions examining investment, partnerships, and monitoring, this unique event fostered robust dialogue between member states and business on critical issues and the way forward.

GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR EFFECTIVE DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

- Organized by the UNDP and OECD, the Global Partnership is an inclusive, multi-stakeholder partnership which is improving the quality, effectiveness, and impact of development cooperation through regular engagement with business.
- It provides a platform for national and local governments, business, foundations, civil society and other development actors to identify best practices and address constraints to achieving sustainable development results.
- The ICC is leading a Business Steering Committee to organize a Private Sector Plenary Session at the Second High-Level Meeting in Nairobi this November.
- Plans to hold a Business Day are also in the preliminary discussion stages.

IMPORTANT EVENTS IN 2017

- **ECOSOC Partnership Forum [April 2017]**
- **Financing for Development Forum [April 2017]**
- **Science, Technology, and Innovation Forum [June 2017]**
- **SDG Business Forum during the HLPF [July 2017]**
 - **In discussion with the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs to hold the event annually during the high-level ministerial segment of the HLPF**
- **UNGA Opening [September 2017]**