



UNITED NATIONS PRIVATE SECTOR FORUM 2015



Concept Note

Saturday, 26 September 2015

11:00-15:00

Delegates Dining Room, UN Headquarters New York

The United Nations Private Sector Forum 2015 will focus on the role of the private sector in implementing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Convened in the context of the UN summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda, the interactive Forum is designed to increase understanding of efforts underway by the private sector and civil society, and provide a platform for the private sector to announce long-term goals and partnerships that will make an important contribution towards achieving sustainable development for all.

Hosted by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, the Forum will feature high-level roundtable discussions among business, Government, civil society and UN leaders. With a view to ushering in a new era of enhanced collaboration between the UN and the private sector, the Forum will advance the following objectives:

- Showcase important contributions being made by business to sustainable development globally and locally – including by setting ambitious goals, taking action, engaging in cross-sector partnerships and reporting on progress;
- Create shared understanding of the important role of the private sector in contributing to the SDGs, with a particular focus on how business contributions to governance issues – such as anti-corruption, peace and stability, and the rule of law – can accelerate progress in advancing the entire SDG agenda;
- Highlight the importance of long-term goal-setting by business aligned with the SDG time frame of 2030, and inspire action in support of the SDGs by business – both as individual companies and in partnership with others; and
- Provide a platform for business, investors, Governments, foundations and civil society organizations to explore new pathways for enhancing the impact of business contributions to sustainable development, including through new forms of public-private partnership.

Participants

350 participants, equally representing the public and private sectors are expected to attend the Forum. Participation will be at the highest level:

- CEOs or C-suite officials from business
- Heads of State/Government
- Heads of UN Agencies, Funds and Programmes
- Heads of civil society organizations
- Heads of business associations, foundations and investor groups

Participation in the UN Private Sector Forum is by invitation only. Due to limited capacity, select chief executives and leaders from civil society organizations, including labour organizations and business associations that are UN Global Compact signatories or actively working with the United Nations, will have priority in attending the event.

Registration will be on a first-come, first-served basis, with concerted efforts made to ensure geographic and sectoral representation. To request an invitation please email unpsf@unglobalcompact.org.



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Programme

Segment 1: Private Sector Session

11:00-12:30, South Delegates Dining Room, UN Headquarters

Segment 1 of the Forum will demonstrate how businesses of all sizes and sectors are contributing to sustainable development. The segment seeks to inspire businesses to take action while showcasing how companies are aligning core business strategies and practices with the SDGs, creating value for shareholders and other stakeholders alike.

Leading CEOs will share examples of concrete actions and partnerships that contribute to sustainable development and present how they plan to report on the impact of their activities on achieving the SDGs. The session will also provide a platform for CEOs to announce ambitious goals and targets for their respective companies that will support implementation of the SDGs. It will feature the official launch of the “SDG Compass”, a new resource to support companies in navigating and operationally aligning with the SDGs.

Segment 1 will be restricted to business, civil society, foundations and the investment community. The session is co-organized by the UN Global Compact, World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD) and the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI). Approximately 150 private sector participations are expected to attend.

Segment 2: Private Sector Participants, joined by Heads of State and UN leaders

13:00-15:00, Delegates Dining Room, UN Headquarters

Heads of State and Government from around the world will join UN leaders and private sector representatives for Segment 2. Following opening remarks from UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, participants from across sectors will engage in roundtable discussions seated at tables of 10.

Looking at the proposed SDG 16 to “Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels”, participants will explore how multi-stakeholder partnerships involving business that contribute to advancing anti-corruption, peace and stability, and the rule of law can, as a result, accelerate progress towards achieving the entire sustainable development agenda.

Participants will be invited to pre-select one of the following three roundtable discussion themes and will receive relevant briefing material in the weeks leading up to the Forum:

a) Anti-corruption **b)** Peace and Stability **c)** Rule of Law

The event will conclude with a report-back plenary session where important elements of the roundtable discussions will be summarized, and new partnerships or commitments to action will be announced.

Organizing Partners

The UN Global Compact will lead the organization of the Forum, in close collaboration with the Office of the Post-2015 Development Planning. Organizing Committee Partners will include a group of UN Agencies, Funds and Programmes and the UN Foundation.