

Informal Spotlight Session

Unlocking investment and financing for SDG implementation: the role of private sector partnerships

31 January 2023, 12:00 – 1:00 pm, EST

Concept Note

Organizers:

Lead Organisation of Employers (IOE)

Co-organizer United States Council for International Business (USCIB)

Focal point:

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Problem statement:

We are at a critical point in time as we reach the midpoint of the 2030 Agenda. To accelerate inclusive and sustainable recovery with ‘no one left behind’, we need to capitalize on the opportunities of international platforms and the political will of the governments, while leveraging digital innovations and public-private partnerships.

The 2023 Partnership Forum of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), the fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (LDC5) 2023, ECOSOC Forum on Financing for Development follow-up (FfD Forum), 2023 High-level Political Forum (HLPF) to be held under the auspices of ECOSOC in July and of General Assembly in September, and other key events this year will create spaces to build momentum for promoting public-private partnerships aimed at adaptable, innovative, and actionable outcomes. Ongoing efforts to develop innovative business models for directing investment towards SDG actions are in progress, while more must be done, with a view to fostering enabling environments for LDCs and SMEs to build more capacities; generate more finance, both domestic and international; and create more and better employment opportunities.

Objectives:

On the margins of ECOSOC 2023 in New York, under the umbrella of Business and Industry Major Group, IOE joins hands with the USCIB to lead a spotlight event by bringing together international partners around the table to discuss concrete steps for enhancing finance, including private sector investment, in support of sustainable development for all, including the LDCs and SMEs. The session will aim to identify good business practices anchored in a human-centered approach and demonstrate innovation, adaptability and sustainability.

Discussion questions:

- *What innovative actions has the private sector taken to address the challenges of inadequate enabling frameworks for investment? Can SDG-guided partnerships be a vehicle to mobilize funds and stimulate economic activities, including income-generating ones?*

- *What are some of the areas where the UN and specialized agencies see the greatest potentials for collaboration and impact in partnering with the private sector and with respect to catalyzing and leveraging investment and finance?*
- *How can we scale up the investment and financing for LDCs and what are the roles of the private sector to such end? What are some of the good examples and lessons learned?*

Proposed format:

The session will be held in a hybrid format in Conference Room 5, using WebEx platform and will be webcast via UN web TV. The WebEx link will be shared with all registered stakeholder participants. Many speakers will be attending in person but given the vast network of employers in some 150 countries, it would be best to give the opportunity to those who are unable to travel to New York to be part of the discussion through a hybrid format. Please [register here](#)

Speakers/moderator:

Moderator: *Shea Gopaul, IOE Permanent Representative to the UN*

H.E. Mr. Arrmanatha Christiawan Nasir, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Indonesia to the UN in New York / Vice President of ECOSOC

Mr. Douglas Opio, Executive Director, Employers Federation of Uganda

Ms. Lisa Kurbiel, Director of the Joint SDG Fund Secretariat at the United Nations

Mr. Chris Sharrock, Vice President, UN Affairs and International Organisations, Microsoft

Mr. Roberto Valent, Regional Director, UNDCO Latin America and the Caribbean (TBC)



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