

## 2023 SDG Global Business Forum

Turbocharging the 2030 Agenda with business impact

**Tuesday, 18 July 2023, 8:30am – 12:00pm**

**Conference Room 3, UNHQ in New York**

*As we approach the halfway mark to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, the world has been confronted with a complex web of interconnected crises that have put the achievement of the 2030 Agenda at serious risk. What needs to change to get back on track to achieve the 2030 Agenda? Who needs to play a more prominent role? How do we ensure a just and fair transition to net zero? What immediate action can companies, governments, business organizations and civil society take to move the needle on the 2030 Agenda?*

*This year's 2023 SDG Global Business Forum, taking place alongside important policy debates at the ministerial segment of the 2023 High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF), will welcome a global community of movers and shakers, problem solvers and innovators to debate these questions, discuss priorities, build alliances and co-create high-impact business solutions to turbocharge the SDGs in the remaining seven years before 2030.*

**8:30-9:30**

### **Think Globally, Act Locally (Virtual, Zoom)**

*In advance of the SDG Summit, focused on people and re-inspiring enthusiasm and action for the second half of the 2030 Agenda, this virtual hour will go around the world to feature local impact stories and new opportunities for accelerating the SDGs based on current projects connected to the SDGs under review at the 2023 High-Level Political Forum.*

*Through dialogue, collective planning and implementation at the country level, UN Resident Coordinators, Employers Federations/Chambers and Global Compact Local Networks can effectuate progress towards the SDGs. Hear local stories from our partners in numerous countries on their journey towards progress confronting the many challenges, as well as updates from the LDC+5 Private Sector Forum and Regional Forums on Sustainable Development.*

**Moderator: Ms. Gita Sabharwal, UN Resident Coordinator, Thailand**

- **H.E. Ms. Helena Ndapewa Kuzee, Deputy Permanent Representative of Namibia to the UN**
- **Mr. Mossadeck Bally, Chief Executive Officer, Azalai Hotels Group & President of the Employers Federation of Mali**
- **Mr. Issa Sanogo, UN Resident Coordinator, Madagascar**
- **Mr. Thierry-Marie H. Rajaon, Managing Partner FTHM Consulting & President of Madagascar Employer Federation**
- **Ms. Véronique Perdigon, Secrétaire Général, Axian Group**
- **Mr. Dmitry Mariyasin, Deputy Executive Secretary, UN Economic Commission for Europe**

## In-person sessions in Conference Room 3 (Streamed on UN WebTV)

Master of Ceremony: **Mr. Eric Loeb**, Executive Vice President, Government Affairs, Salesforce

9:30- 10:00	<p><b>Opening Session: Halfway to 2030, where are we?</b></p> <p><i>Approaching the midpoint of SDG implementation, how is our progress so far? How bad has the pandemic and the war in Ukraine affected development globally? Going forward, what role does the world need the private sector to play? This stage-setting session will feature opening remarks from the UN Secretary-General António Guterres, followed by an inter-generational fact-finding journey to explore “where we are” and “where we need to be” guided by the Secretary-General’s Envoy on Youth Jayathma Wickramanayake.</i></p> <p><b>Opening Remarks: Mr. Antonio Guterres</b>, Secretary-General of United Nations (Video)</p> <p><b>Moderator: Ms. Jayathma Wickramanayake</b>, Secretary-General’s Envoy on Youth</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Dr. Imme Scholz</b>, Co-President of the Heinrich Böll Foundation &amp; Co-Chair of the Independent Group of Scientists</li> <li><b>Mr. Vikrant Viniak</b>, Senior Managing Director, Accenture</li> </ul>
10:00-10:30	<p><b>Fireside Chat I: Just transition to Net Zero and a nature-positive world</b></p> <p><i>Interconnected sustainable development challenges often offer opportunities for integrated strategies and systemic progress. This session will take a deep dive on relevant goals under in-depth review at HLPF, such as water, energy and infrastructure, exploring innovative practices and lessons learned in understanding and managing their impact on the planet, across value chains, harnessing the interconnections among SDGs to build synergies. It will highlight actions needed from business leaders and governments to ensure a just transition to a net zero and nature-positive world.</i></p> <p><b>Moderator: Prof. Carolyn Kissane</b>, Academic Director and Clinical Professor, Center for Global Affairs, New York University</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Ms. Ann Tracy</b>, Chief Sustainability Officer, Colgate Palmolive</li> <li><b>Mr. Marco Margheri</b>, Chairman, Eni New Energy Inc. &amp; Chairperson of WEC ITALIA</li> <li><b>Ms. María Paz Jervis</b>, President of CIP Ecuador and President of the Iberoamerican Business Council (CEIB)</li> </ul>
10:30-11:00	<p><b>Fireside Chat II: Partnerships for People Centered Progress</b></p> <p><i>Individuality, independence, trust, partnership, choice, dignity, respect and rights are all critical if we are to accelerate SDG implementation in a human/people centered manner. All hands must be on deck from the public and private sector from large to small companies, to governments in cities to regional hubs to global institutions. But what is needed for us to partner better and take action to ensure the most vulnerable are not left behind? This dialogue will highlight the “What? Who? How?” of potential and existing partnerships that can fast-track SDG implementation.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Ms. Michele Parmelee</b>, President of International Organisation of Employers (IOE) and Principal, Sustainability and Climate Practice, Deloitte US</li> <li><b>Mr. Gilbert Hounbo</b>, Director-General, International Labor Organisation (ILO)</li> <li><b>Mr. Sandeep Chauhan</b>, Fiji Commerce &amp; Employers Federation</li> </ul>

<p><b>11:00-11:30</b></p>	<p><b>Fireside Chat III: Scaling up private financing for the SDGs</b></p> <p><i>What constitutes an enabling environment to scale up private financing for the SDGs? What policies and financial instruments have worked? What steps need to be taken for investors to hold companies more accountable for their environmental, social and governance impacts? This session will provide a platform for practitioners to discuss the latest trends, challenges and opportunities, share lessons learned and best practices, and make policy recommendations to further unlock the potential of private financing for the SDGs.</i></p> <p><b>Moderator: Ms. Shari Spiegel</b>, Acting Director, Financing for Sustainable Development Office, UN-DESA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>H.E. Ms. Mathu Joyini</b>, Permanent Representative of South Africa to the United Nations</li> <li>• <b>Mr. Gavin Power</b>, Executive Vice President and Chief of Sustainable Development and International Affairs, PIMCO</li> </ul>
<p><b>11:30-12:00</b></p>	<p><b>Closing Session: The time is now</b></p> <p><i>Led by senior UN officials with private sector, Government and youth leaders, join us for a dynamic closing where the private sector will be challenged to raise their ambition levels. Calls to action featured in the SDG Business Forum will demonstrate the viability of tangible, reportable accountable action in five areas - living wage, gender equality, climate, water, and sustainable finance.</i></p> <p><b>Moderator: Mr. Erik Loeb</b>, Executive Vice President, Government Affairs, Salesforce</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Ms. Amina J. Mohammed</b>, Deputy Secretary-General, United Nations (Video)</li> </ul> <p><i>Closing dialogue:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Ms. Raquel Artecona</b>, Economic Commission for Latin America &amp; the Caribbean</li> <li>• <b>Mr. Michael Okorafor</b>, Chief Sustainability Officer, McCormick &amp; Company</li> <li>• <b>Ms. Mayada Adil</b>, 2022 Cohort of Young Leaders for the SDGs</li> <li>• <b>Mr. Alejandro Encinas Nájera</b>, Undersecretary of International Commerce, México</li> </ul> <p><i>Closing remarks:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mr. Li Junhua</b>, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations</li> <li>• <b>Ms. Sanda Ojiambo</b>, Assistant Secretary-General and CEO of UN Global Compact (Video)</li> </ul>