



2025 SDG Global Business Forum

Business in Action: Co-Creating Solutions for a Sustainable Future

Tuesday, 22 July 2025, 8:00 a.m.-10:00 a.m. (EDT), Virtual
DRAFT CONCEPT NOTE

Background

Co-convened by United Nations Global Compact (UNGC), United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), International Organisation of Employers (IOE) and the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD), the SDG Global Business Forum (website is forthcoming) is the premier annual platform for showcasing how business are driving progress across the full breadth of sustainable development.

The [2025 SDG Global Business Forum](#) will convene leaders from business, government, civil society, and other sectors to explore how to foster a more **conducive policy environment** to maximize the private sector's contributions to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. The Forum will also showcase **innovative, field-driven actions** that can inform and inspire future policy agendas.

The 2025 SDG Global Business Forum will be held as one of the high-level special events alongside the [2025 High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development \(HLPF\)](#), the United Nations' central platform for follow-up and review of the SDGs. This year's discussions will place particular emphasis on SDGs under in-depth review: Goal 3 (Good Health and Well-being); Goal 5 (Gender Equality); Goal 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth); Goal 14 (Life Below Water); and Goal 17 (Partnerships for the Goals).

In alignment with the Pact for the Future (Action 55(c)¹), which calls for strengthening private sector accountability and its contribution to addressing global challenges, this year's Forum will contribute to broader multilateral discussions on sustainable development. Building on the outcomes of the fourth International Conference on Financing for Development (30 June - 3 July 2025), which will tackle systemic financing barriers, the discussions of the 2025 SDG Global Business Forum will help inform key intergovernmental processes, including the Second World Summit for Social Development (4 - 6 November 2025). Nearly three decades after the first Social Summit, world leaders will reconvene to address persistent gaps in poverty eradication, decent work, and social inclusion - areas where business engagement is increasingly seen as essential.

¹ Accessible from: <https://www.un.org/pga/wp-content/uploads/sites/109/2024/09/The-Pact-for-the-Future-final.pdf>

Target audience

The 2025 SDG Global Business Forum is designed for business leaders and engaged representatives from governments, civil society and all other stakeholders. Participants will gain valuable insights through open policy discussions and real-world business examples of scalable impact. The Forum also offers a unique opportunity to connect with a global network of innovators, industry experts and changemakers who are actively shaping practical solutions and accelerating measurable progress on the SDGs across sectors and regions.

Format

The Forum will be held in **fully virtual** format.

Draft Programme

8:00-8:10 a.m.	<p><i>Introduction by Moderator:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Ms. Sonja van Lieshout, Head of Public Affairs Randstad. <p><i>Opening Remarks:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Mr. Li Junhua, Under Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs (DESA).
8:10-8:35 a.m.	<p><u>Session 1: High-level Conversation: “From Commitment to Results: Views on public policy and private sector action coming together to implement tangible SDG-linked achievements</u></p> <p><i>“What capacities and policies are needed to drive private sector actions and deliver results on the ground in support of sustainable development?”</i></p> <p>Objective: To identify concrete bottlenecks, emerging opportunities and practical solutions for strengthening capacities, policy coherence, accountability frameworks, etc. – all aimed at optimizing the contributions of businesses to sustainable development.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Ms. Sanda Ojiambo, Assistant Secretary-General, CEO and Executive Director of the United Nations Global Compact (UNGC)Mr. Roberto Suárez Santos, Secretary-General of International Organisation of Employers (IOE)Mr. Peter Bakker, President and CEO of the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD) <p>Moderator: Ms. Sonja van Lieshout, Head of Public Affairs Randstad.</p>

<p>8:35-9:25 a.m.</p>	<p><u>Session 2: Voices from the Ground: Innovation that Inspires Change</u></p> <p><i>“What practices and innovations are emerging on the ground, and how might they inspire or inform future policy directions?”</i></p> <p>Objective: To spotlight dynamic, innovative developments – such as demand-driven PPP, indigenous peoples'-led or pilot solutions, etc. – that can inspire more responsive and forward-looking policy agendas.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indonesia, Finland and Nigeria (TBC: Each country is represented by one government and one business delegate). <p>Moderator: Tolulope Lewis Tamoka, Chief of Government Relations and Africa, UN Global Compact.</p>
<p>9:25-9:30 a.m.</p>	<p><u>Moderator's Summary</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ms. Sonja van Lieshout, Head of Public Affairs Randstad.