

Mr. Wu Hongbo
Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs

Chief Sustainability Officers and Sustainability Champions Event

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Distinguished colleagues,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Welcome to the United Nations, and to the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, also known as the HLPF.

I am pleased to see so many eminent leaders in business and industry with us here today.

Let me begin by commending you on your tireless efforts to promote corporate sustainability practices.

You are at the forefront of guiding the efforts of the private sector to implement the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs. I laud you for your efforts.

The transformative 2030 Agenda and the interlinked SDGs are an ambitious blueprint for the international community to leave no one behind.

The 17 Goals seek to ensure peace and prosperity for all, and forge partnerships with people and planet at the core.

While Member States are primarily responsible for implementing this universal Agenda, the SDGs cannot be achieved without the contributions by all sectors of society, including the private sector.

You have the expertise and the drive for innovation to more effectively address the inter-connected global challenges that the SDGs seek to tackle.

Today we will hear from leading global experts on a number of key issues regarding how the private sector is responding to this new global framework.

We have already heard inspiring examples over the past several days. The Partnership Exchange and SDG Business Forum have shown us how the private sector is catalyzing progress towards the 2030 Agenda.

Today, we will learn how companies are effectively integrating the 2030 Agenda into their business strategies, and how industry leaders are translating this new vision into effective action.

Successful experiences on collaboration between the private sector and government will also be shared.

The question of monitoring, and the experiences of using sustainability metrics to make more impactful business investments, will also be discussed.

Finally, we will hear how successful business solutions can be scaled, to reach the needs of our global community.

I encourage you, as leaders in corporate sustainability, to continue your endeavor, and to share valuable knowledge within your own corporate communities.

I wish you a fruitful discussion this morning.

And we hope to see you back here next year at the 2018 HLPF.

Thank you.