



7 AM – 2:00 PM EDT | 23 September 2020

This year — five years after the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the start of the Decade of Action and Delivery of the SDGs — has presented a new set of unforeseen challenges. The social and economic costs of the COVID-19 pandemic have been exacerbated in many countries by environmental stressors and social unrest.

As companies struggle to maintain their footing in a COVID-19 world, some commentators have suggested the outlook for the global economy may have a chilling effecting on the adoption of sustainable business practices. But, to the contrary, a new form of leader has emerged in this crisis – a generation of executives and rising professionals who understand that there are no successful businesses in a failed world. In this context, the private sector – in partnership with governments and civil society leaders – is leveraging the framework of the Sustainable Development Goals to respond to immediate threats in their communities, prepare for long term sustainability, and remedy the three critical fragilities which have been exposed by events of 2020: climate change and biodiversity loss; social inequality; and economic exclusion.

As the largest and most globally representative UN convening of business leaders, the SDG Business Forum – co-hosted by UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA), UN Global Compact and International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) – highlights companies that are using their influence as a positive agent of change in their local communities and across the world. The 2020 SDG Business Forum, held virtually on the margins of the 75th UN General Assembly, is a platform for all stakeholders to come together for meaningful dialogue on the role of the private sector in addressing the current economic landscape and to co-create lasting solutions for a more sustainable future. To stay updated on the SDG Business Forum, visit sdgbusinessforum.org. Interested participants can register [here](#).

PROGRAMME OUTLINE

Master of Ceremonies: Ms. **Maggie Lake**, Business Journalist and Correspondent

7:00 – 7:30 | **Opening Plenary**

Keynote Address:

- H.E. Mr. **Antonio Guterres**, Secretary-General, United Nations
- H.E. Mr. **Volkan Bozkir**, 75th President of the United Nations General Assembly (Invited)
- H.E. Mr. **Gaston Browne**, Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda
- Mr. **Albert Bourla**, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Pfizer (Invited)
- Ms. **Sharan Burrow**, General Secretary, International Trade Union Confederation

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7:30 – 8:20 | **Partnerships to Achieve the SDGs in the COVID-19 Era**

Leaders from the private sector have undertaken unprecedented levels of cooperation with governments, UN agencies, their supply chains – and even their competitors – to save lives and livelihoods in the midst of global crisis, but these actions aren't limited to immediate threats. Corporate action to deliver on the Sustainable Development Goals is underpinned by a similar effort to develop comprehensive ecosystems and partnerships where businesses of all sizes - and society at large - can thrive sustainably. This is particularly needed to ensure that the world remains on target to meet the Paris Climate Agreement and the UN Sustainable Development Goals as we begin a decade of action and delivery.

This session will explore a variety of initiatives which leading institutions and businesses have developed to support climate resilience and sustainable business innovation for their businesses, communities and global supply chains.

Opening Address: Ms. **Sanda Ojiambo**, Executive Director, UN Global Compact

Panel Discussion (50 minutes):

- Moderator: Ms. **Jessica Cheam**, Managing Editor, Eco-Business
- Ms. **Ester Baiget**, Chief Executive Officer, Novozymes
- Mr. **Jesper Brodin**, Chief Executive Officer, IKEA
- Mr. **Kerry Adler**, President, SkyPower
- Mr. **Italo Freitas**, Chief Executive Officer, AES Tiete
- Mr. **Takeshi Niinami**, President and Chief Executive Officer, Suntory Holdings

8:20 – 8:30 | **High-level Remarks**

- Mr. **Gilbert F. Hougbo**, President of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (Invited)
- H.E. Ms. **Rania Al-Mashat**, Minister of International Cooperation, Arab Republic of Egypt

8:30 – 8:40 | **Special Global Announcement and Video Presentation**

- Mr. **Achim Steiner**, Administrator, UNDP

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9:00 – 10:00 | Breakout Sessions & Networking

In-depth breakout sessions on corporate efforts leveraging the frameworks of the SDGs to address the three fragilities: climate change and biodiversity loss; social inequality; and economic exclusion.

<p>Build Back Better: Designing a Future that Leaves No One Behind The B-Team</p>	<p>The Role of Business in Advancing the Global Goals on Sustainable Development B20</p>	<p>Purpose-Driven Business: Corporate Action for Collective Good Global Citizen</p>
<p>Accelerating Digital Transformation to Achieve the SDGs Keidanren (Japan Business Federation)</p>	<p>Catalysing Finance and Investment for the Achievement of SDG 7 UN Energy</p>	<p>The Ocean and the 2030 Agenda: Towards an Action-Oriented UN Ocean Conference United Nations Global Compact</p>

10:00 – 10:50 | Reducing Inequalities through Principled Leadership

In order to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, private sector leaders with clear visions are needed to develop actionable strategies that enable opportunity for all without sacrificing corporate solvency. This session will draw upon insights from the UN Global Compact’s Leadership for the Decade of Action Survey to explore common social values and attributes which have propelled commitments from visionary sustainability leaders and the new or emerging initiatives they are supporting to reimagine capitalism for transformational and lasting change.

Opening Address: Mr. **Liu Zhenmin**, Under Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations

Panel Discussion (45 mins):

- Moderator: Ms. **Christa Gyori**, Chief Executive Officer and Co-Founder, Leaders on Purpose
- Ms. **Bola Adesola**, Vice-Chair, UN Global Compact, Senior Vice-Chairman at Standard Chartered Bank Group Nigeria
- Ms. **Maria Fernanda Garza**, First Vice Chair, International Chamber of Commerce, Chief Executive Officer, Orestia S.A de C.V
- Ms. **Anne Finucane**, Vice Chair, Bank of America (To be Invited)
- Dr. **James Mwangi**, Chief Executive Officer, Equity Group Holdings; 2020 Oslo Business for Peace Award Recipient (To Be Invited)
- Mr. **Jean Pascal Tricoire**, Chief Executive Officer, Schneider-Electric (To be Invited)

10:50 – 11:00 | High-level Remarks

- Ms. **Henrietta Fore**, Executive Director, UNICEF
- H.E. **Urmas Reinsalu**, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Estonia (Invited)

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11:00– 12:00 | Breakout Sessions & Networking

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Nature is Everyone’s Business: A Business and Policy Dialogue Business for Nature	Untapping SME Potential to Achieve Agenda 2030 International Organization of Employers	JCI RISE: Rebuilding the World after COVID-19 Junior Chamber International
Business as a Driver of Sustainable, Low Carbon Transport SLOCAT Partnership and World Business Council for Sustainable Development	Untapped Potential: Water Innovation to Advance the SDGs UN Water	Achieving the SDGs through Corporate Transparency & Social Change: A Roadmap for the Decade of Action World Benchmarking Alliance

12:30 – 13:20 | The Business Case for a Resilient Rebuild

Business leaders – working in partnerships with governments and civil society groups – have played an outsized role in shaping the COVID-19 response. As we look to the recovery and rebuild, there is a clear economic imperative for leaders in the private sector to advocate and act on behalf of a resilient and sustainable future. With this insight, corporations are driving investment towards projects that align with the Sustainable Development Goals and are engineered to be fit for purpose in the long term. This session will explore new and existing initiatives to stabilize and reboot the economy and what actions are needed from all stakeholders to accelerate progress on this critical agenda.

Opening Address: Mr. **John W.H. Denton AO**, Secretary-General, International Chamber of Commerce

Panel Discussion (45 mins):

- Moderator: **Paul Polman**, Vice Chair, UN Global Compact; Founder, Imagine
- Ms. **Veronica de la Cerda**, Chief Executive Officer, Triciclos
- Mr. **Emmanuel Faber**, Chief Executive Officer, Danone
- Mr. **Oscar N. Oyema**, Chief Executive Officer, Nigerian Stock Exchange

13:20 – 13:30 | High-level Remarks

- Ms. **Stephanie von Friedeburg**, Chief Operating Officer, International Finance Corporation
- Ms. **Jutta Urpilainen**, Commissioner of International Partnerships, European Union
- Ms. **Pamela Coke Hamilton**, Executive Director, International Trade Centre (To Be Invited)

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13:30 - 14:00 | **Closing Plenary**

Keynote Address:

- H.E. **Pedro Sánchez Pérez-Castejón**, Prime Minister of Spain (Invited)
- Mr. **Ajay Banga**, Chair, International Chamber of Commerce and Chief Executive Officer, Mastercard
- H.E. Ms. **Amina J. Mohammed**, Deputy Secretary-General, United Nations

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BREAKOUT SESSIONS

9:00 – 10:00

<p>Build Back Better: Designing a Future that Leaves No One Behind The B-Team</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moderator: Ms. Halla Tómasdóttir, Chief Executive Officer, The B Team • Ms. Silvia Dias Lagnado, Sustainable Growth Officer, Natura & Co. • Mr. Hiro Mizuno, Independent Director, Board of Directors and Audit Committee, Tesla • Ms. Leena Nair, Chief Human Resources Officer, Unilever • Mr. Peter Ndegwa, Chief Executive Officer, Safaricom • Mr. Danny Sriskandarajah, CEO, Oxfam GB 	<p>The Role of Business in Advancing the Global Goals on Sustainable Development B20</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Yousef Abdullah Al-Benyan, Chair of the B20
<p>Purpose-Driven Business: Corporate Action for Collective Good Global Citizen</p>	<p>Accelerating Digital Transformation to Achieve the SDGs Keidanren (Japan Business Federation)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moderator: Dr. Jane Nelson, Founding Director of the Corporate Responsibility Initiative at the Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University • Mr. Takashi Hibino, Chairman of the Board, Daiwa Securities Group Inc. • Mr. George Nakayama, Senior Adviser (Former CEO), Daiichi Sankyo Co., Ltd. Chair of the Committee on Responsible Business Conduct & SDGs Promotion. Keidanren (Japan Business Federation) • Ms. Sunita Grote, Co-lead UNICEF Ventures, UNICEF Office of Innovation • Ms. Michelle Edkins, Global Managing Director, BlackRock Investment Stewardship
<p>Catalysing Finance and Investment for the Achievement of SDG 7 UN Energy</p>	<p>The Ocean and the 2030 Agenda: Towards an Action-Oriented UN Ocean Conference United Nations Global Compact</p>

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<p>JCI RISE: Rebuilding the World after COVID-19 Junior Chamber International (JCI)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moderator: Mr. Kevin Hin, Secretary-General, JCI • Mr. Francisco Abad Guerra, Executive Director, CODEIS • Ms. Malak Al Akiely, Founder and Managing Director of Golden Wheat for Grain Trading, Ltd. • Mr. Itai Manyere, World President, JCI 	<p>Business as a Driver of Sustainable, Low Carbon Transport SLOCAT Partnership and WBCSD</p>
<p>Untapped Potential: Water Innovation to Advance the SDGs UN Water</p>	<p>Achieving the SDGs through Corporate Transparency & Social Change: A Roadmap for the Decade of Action World Benchmarking Alliance</p>

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