

High-level Thematic Debate on Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals

A major priority of the 70th President of the General Assembly, H.E. Mogens Lykketoft is to support prompt and inclusive implementation of the 2030 Agenda. It builds on the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seeks to address their unfinished business. The 2030 Agenda includes 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 targets. The Addis Ababa Action Agenda complements and is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Paris Climate Agreement was adopted in December 2015 in Paris and will be signed in New York on 22 April 2016.

Given the broader framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its strong interlinkages with the Climate Agreement, the President will convene a High Level Thematic Debate on Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals on 21 April 2016.

This event will serve to significantly increase international awareness and political momentum around the implementation of the SDGs. It will bring together global political, business and civil society leaders in New York to focus on kick-starting SDG implementation. It will also be a unique opportunity to address the synergy between the COP21 outcome and the 2030 Agenda. Leaders will be offered a platform to catalyse action, discuss concrete steps forward and mobilize potential implementation partners.

UN @ 70 – A New Commitment to Action
High-level Thematic Debate on Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals
21 April 2016

Countries adopted in Sept 2015, after unprecedented consultation, a set of goals to end poverty, protect the planet, ensure shared prosperity and foster global peace. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development together with the Addis Ababa Action Agenda successfully defines “What” needs to be done over the next fifteen years. This High Level Thematic Debate seeks to explore the next critical step – “how” these goals and their targets can be successfully achieved over the next 15 years, including “who” the primary actors need to be for meaningful implementation.

Objectives

- Catalyse ambitious and immediate plans of action by all stakeholders, at all levels.
- Consider how to strengthen action by governments on implementation and unlock private investment to finance poverty eradication and sustainable development, including on climate.
- Illuminate the potential of information and technology for sustainable development and identify key technology partners.
- Examine how to build on the Paris Agreement through climate action that also supports the SDGs.
- Articulate the structure of potential partnerships to achieve the SDGs.

Outline

This event will bring together global political, business and civil society leaders in New York to focus on kick-starting SDG implementation. Declared candidates seeking to become the next Secretary-General of the United Nations will also be invited so that they are fully aware of what is required in this area, if selected. Sessions will be dedicated to five focus areas, selected to contribute to the above outcomes with a cross-cutting focus on gender equality and capacity building.

1. **Action at all levels:** Member States have committed to drive national responses to implementation of the SDGs. All actors, led by national governments, will need to work out how this can be done, and who is best charged with delivering sustainable development which leaves no-one behind.
2. **Financing poverty eradication and sustainable development:** Implementing the SDGs and fulfilling Paris Agreement commitments requires substantial financial resources as well as sound regulatory frameworks. Public and private finance as well as domestic and international finance can be urgently mobilized and potential strategies for doing so will be explored.
3. **Technology and data for SDGs:** To achieve the SDGs, there is a need to improve access to technology, as well as capacity for technology development, and ensure that the best available tools and information sources are used across sectors such as clean energy, health and information.
4. **Partnerships for the implementation of SDGs:** This new Agenda will only be realized if the implementation process is partnership based, fully inclusive, transparent and accountable.
5. **Climate action in the context of sustainable development:** A reception will be held to celebrate the successful adoption of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and the Paris Agreement, and ensure coherence and synergies in implementation of these outcomes. For details regarding invitations see the climate reception Concept Note.

The Debate will be a one-day event, consisting of multiple sessions. A full programme will be available at <http://www.un.org/pga/70/events/sdgs/>

UN @ 70 – A New Commitment to Action
High-level Thematic Debate on Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals
21 April 2016
Action at all levels – National Implementation

This High-level Thematic Debate on Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) will seek to answer the questions of “how” all key actors, led by national governments, can best work together to achieve the SDGs – “who” are the primary actors and “what” governments are doing to begin implementation.

Meeting objectives

- Catalyse ambitious and immediate action by all stakeholders at all levels.

Format

This session will run for a full day in traditional plenary meeting style. A speakers list will be opened in advance for participants to register to deliver three minute statements.

Focus

The 2030 Agenda is the defining development agreement of our time. Anchored by the 17 SDGs, it is universal, inclusive and integrated. Agenda 2030 commits all actors, led by governments, to work together to deliver sustainable and inclusive economic growth, social development and to protect the environment. It is the world’s best hope to ensure that the vulnerable and marginalised, those living in poverty, women, children and youth, and persons with disabilities are not left behind.

Member States are at the centre of creating a better world, as aspired to in the SDGs. All are committed to deliver ambitious national responses to successfully implement this agenda, building on a firm foundation, including national development and sustainable development strategies. Yet there is much more to do.

To meet the challenge laid down by the 2030 Agenda requires a new way of doing business. This means inclusive, coherent, integrated and balanced approaches to policy design and implementation, meaningful engagement and capacity building of all of constituents and stakeholders – all framed by a supportive institutional and legislative framework. The Debate is an opportunity to share early steps in implementation, challenges and opportunities to address them.

Questions for discussion

1. What steps are being taken to initiate and energize the 2030 Agenda – in particular anchoring political leadership, localizing the agenda and assessing national capacity?
2. What steps are being taken to create an enabling environment, including adapting institutional arrangements and legislation, and who must be engaged to promote ownership, accountability and inclusiveness?
3. How can policies be meaningfully anchored in the SDGs yet also aligned with existing national plans and global commitments such as the Intended Nationally Determined Contributions under the UNFCCC ?

UN @ 70 – A New Commitment to Action

High-level Thematic Debate on Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals

21 April 2016

Financing poverty eradication and sustainable development

Achieving sustainable development requires that all stakeholders at all levels shoulder their respective responsibilities and contributions to creating a robust and profitable trajectory for long-term financing of the 2030 Agenda. This session will seek to answer “how” finance at different levels can be urgently mobilized to support SDG implementation and the key actors “who” need to be incentivised to do so.

Meeting objectives

- Encouraging SDG implementation, including through private financing;
- Enhancing international cooperation for domestic resource mobilization and tax revenues through exploring new approaches, strategies and partnerships.

Format

This three-hour session will include two interactive moderated discussions with high-level participants, with questions and comments fielded from the floor.

Focus

The session will discuss how to incentivize investment in climate-resilient and sustainable development projects, how to unlock the transformative potential of people and the private sector, and how to support governments in fighting poverty.

Questions for Discussion

1. Which regulatory frameworks are needed in order to make financial flows fit for the SDGs?
2. How can private financial flows be incentivized for SDG financing? Which kind of potential projects can be identified that would support the SDG implementation including low-carbon and climate-resilient infrastructure? What innovative financing strategies might be successful in promoting and leveraging long-term investment in areas critical for SDGs including essential services where the business case may be less clear and new instruments required?
3. How can cooperation on financing the SDGs be enhanced, with a particular focus on domestic resource mobilisation?

UN @ 70 – A New Commitment to Action

High-level Thematic Debate on Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals

21 April 2016

Technology and data for SDGs

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development identified technology and data as key means of implementation. This session will consider “how” to find ways to improve access to technology, as well as capacity for technology development, and ensure that the best available information technology tools and information sources are used across sectors such as clean energy, health and information. It will also identify “who” could be key partners on technology and data for SDGs.

Meeting objective

- Illuminate the potential of technology and data for sustainable development and identify key partners.

Format

This three-hour session will include a series of interactive moderated discussions with high-level participants.

Focus

The creation, development and diffusion of new innovations and technologies are powerful drivers of sustainable development. High quality, accessible, timely, reliable and disaggregated data is also essential for evidence-based decision making as well as effective monitoring and follow-up of the implementation of the SDGs. This segment aims to stimulate discussions and galvanize actions among all stakeholders to harness the full potential of technology and high quality and timely data for the implementation of SDGs by showcasing good practice and addressing key challenges.

Questions for discussion

1. How can policy and regulatory frameworks at all levels be optimized to enable and incentivize technology innovations that support sustainable development?
2. What measures can be taken to improve national and human capacity in technology development, innovation and absorption?
3. What is the role of regional and international cooperation such as the Technology Facilitation Mechanism?
4. How can the emerging data revolution be harnessed to improve meaningful implementation of the SDGs as well as SDGs monitoring?
5. How can we ensure that everyone is connected and counted, especially those living in poverty and the most vulnerable?
6. What key partnerships or technology coalitions could be scaled up or newly form to support the SDGs?

UN @ 70 – A New Commitment to Action

High-level Thematic Debate on Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals

21 April 2016

Partnerships for SDG implementation

Realizing the ambitious, transformational and universal 2030 Agenda will require tapping into a more varied set of partnerships with all stakeholders as stated in Sustainable Development Goal 17. This session will address “how” new partnerships could be formed and existing partnership refined or scaled up, and “who” may be key partners to enable Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) implementation.

Meeting objective

- Articulate the qualities of partnerships that may enable innovative solutions to achieving the SDGs.

Format

This session will combine presentations and interactive discussion over the course of a two hour- lunch.

Focus

This High Level luncheon will focus on the potential for scaling up existing partnerships, especially in their transition from MDGs to SDGs, and provide new opportunities for public-private engagement in relation to the 2030 Agenda. To this end the latest research on the economic case for the SDGs and tools on how to incorporate the SDG framework into strategies will be shared. Heads of States and Governments, leader from civil society, philanthropy and the business sector, among others will have the opportunity to discuss how to carry out partnerships responsibly in accordance with transparent, inclusive and accountable frameworks. Finally new partnerships around the SDGs may be inspired.

Key Question:

- What are essential qualities of partnerships that may enable innovative solutions to achieving the SDGs.

Elements for consideration:

1. How can civil society, the public and private sector and other stakeholders work together in partnership to adroitly and meaningfully implement the SDGs and the 2030 Agenda?
2. What can governments do to support the development of responsible business and investment practices to align with the SDG financing needs?
3. How can companies engage with governments, stakeholders, and the UN to contribute to implementation of the SDGs? What market and investment opportunities emerge from the SDGs?
4. How can partnerships be built that work across different SDGs and contribute to other SDGs while still being impactful?
5. How can partnerships developed for implementing the MDGs and climate goals be transitioned to become universal and instrumental for addressing the SDGs.

UN @ 70 – A New Commitment to Action

High-level Thematic Debate on Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals

21 April 2016

Climate change

Governments reached agreements on both climate change and sustainable development in 2015, lining up 2016 to kick-start deep synergies in implementation of the Agenda 2030, the SDGs and the Paris Agreement. This Debate will seek to answer the questions of “how” to build from the baseline of the Paris Agreement and 2030 Agenda by identifying needed climate actions, “how” climate action may inspire and catalyse action on other SDGs and “who” may be essential to drive these synergies forward.

Meeting objective

Build on the Paris Climate Agreement to highlight how climate action supports Agenda 2030 and can do so even more going forward in exploring synergies and complementarities between the development and climate Agendas.

Format

This session, over a reception, will highlight a series of keynote speakers and encourage interactive discussion among high-level participants from Member States and other relevant stakeholders.

Focus

The successful Sustainable Development Summit in New York and COP21 in Paris affirms the unparalleled value of multilateralism in meeting global challenges and shaping the future we want. Moving forward, the full implementation of the 2030 Development Agenda and the Paris Agreement calls for a strengthened synergy at all levels, the promotion of international cooperation and concrete actions and initiatives that enhance resilience, build low carbon economies, incentivize investment and mobilize appropriate support, Governments policies and other public entities for people, planet and prosperity.

The climate reception will offer a space to celebrate the recent successes of the international community and highlight where synergies and shared opportunities between the climate and the development Agendas can more fully advance both agendas, through a genuine exchange of views between Government representatives as well as other relevant stakeholders, including from the UN system, private sector and civil society.

Question for discussion

How can synergy be fostered at all levels, including national and local levels in implementing the SDGs framework and the climate Agreement, through appropriate national policies and plans, including the INDCs as well as the creation of enabling environments for investments and the promotion of multi-stakeholder action?

PROGRAMME

OPENING CEREMONY

9 am – 10 am / General Assembly Hall

MODERATOR

Ms. Ghida Fakhry

International broadcast journalist

Drummers from Mamaroneck High School

9.00am

OPENING REMARKS

H.E. Mr. Mogens Lykketoft

President of the 70th session of the UN General Assembly

9:10 – 10am

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

H.E. Mr. Jan Eliasson

Deputy Secretary General, United Nations

Ms. Victoria Barrett

ACE Fellow (youth representative)

Mr. Forest Whitaker

SDG Advocate and Activist

Mr. Sunny George Verghese

Co-Founder and Group Chief Executive Officer, Olam International Ltd.

Ms. Leymah Gbowee

SDG Advocate and Liberian peace activist

Moderated Dialogue

Prof. Jeffrey Sachs

Director of the Earth Institute at Columbia University, SDG Advocate

Prof. Nebojsa Nakicenovic

Deputy Director General and Deputy Chief Executive Officer, International Institute for Applied System Analysis (IIASA)

PLENARY

Action at All Levels: National Implementation

10am – 2.30pm / General Assembly Hall

3pm – 9pm / Trusteeship Council Chamber

10am – 12:50pm

National Statements by Member States, Observers, UN system Principals, and Civil Society Representatives

12:50 – 1:00pm

Special briefing by Chinese G20 Sherpa on G20 and implementation of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda

1:00 – 2.30pm

National Statements by Member States, Observers, UN system Principals, and Civil Society Representatives

3:00 – 9:00pm

National Statements by Member States, Observers, UN system Principals, and Civil Society Representatives

CSO Speakers

Ms. Vanessa Rosemary Anyoti

World Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA), Tanzania

Mr. Najib Saab

Arab Forum for Environment and Development (AFED), Lebanon

Mr. Thauan dos Santos

Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Ms. Siva Thanenthiran

Asian Pacific Resource and Research Centre For Women, Malaysia

DISCUSSION LEADS

Mr. Marcos Bonturi
 Ms. Tove Maria Ryding

*Director, Global Relations Secretariat, OECD
 Policy and Advocacy Manager – Tax Justice,
 EURODAD*

Mr. Vicente Paolo Yu

*Head of Administration and Coordinator,
 Global Governance for Development
 Programme, South Centre*

HIGH-LEVEL LUNCH

Partnerships for SDG Implementation

1pm – 3pm / Delegates Dining Room

MODERATOR

Ms. Ghida Fakhry

International broadcast journalist

1:15pm

OPENING REMARKS

H.E. Mr. Mogens Lykketoft

*President of the 70th session of the UN
 General Assembly*

1:25pm

MODERATED DIALOGUE

Mr. Peter Bakker

*President, World Business Council for
 Sustainable Development (WBCSD)*

Mr. Jeremy Oppenheim

*Programme Director, Global Business for
 Sustainable Development*

Ms. Rhea Suh

*President, Natural Resource Defense Council
 (NRDC)*

1:45pm

ROUNDTABLE CONVERSATIONS

2:35pm

MODERATED DIALOGUE

Note: High Level Partnership Lunch for invited guests only

INTERACTIVE DISCUSSION TWO

Technology and Data for SDGs

3pm – 6pm / ECOSOC Chamber

3:00pm

PANEL 1 *Enhancing Technology Development and Cooperation for Sustainable Development Goals*

MODERATOR

Mr. Andrew Steer

*President and Chief Executive Officer, World
 Resources Institute*

OPENING REMARKS

Mr. Achim Steiner

Executive Director, UNEP

PANELLISTS

H.E. Mr. Sirodjidin Aslov

*Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of
 Tajikistan*

H.E. Mr. Esben Lunde Larsen

*Minister for Environment and Food of
 Denmark*

Mr. Li Yong

Director-General, UNIDO

Ms. Rachel Kyte

*Chief Executive Officer, Sustainable Energy
 for All & Special Representative of the United
 Nations Secretary-General*

Mr. Thomas Videbaek
 Ms. Barbara Birungi

*Chief Operating Officer, Novozymes
 Director, Women in Technology Uganda*

DISCUSSION LEADS

Dr. Peter Singer
 Prof. Xiaolan Fu
 Ms. Robynne Anderson

*Chief Executive Officer, Grand Challenges
 Canada
 Director of TMCD, Oxford University
 Chief Executive Officer, Emerging Ag Inc.*

DISCUSSION SUMMARY

Prof. Elmer Colglazier

*Senior scholar, American Association for
 Advancement of Science, Co-chair of the UN
 10-Member Group to support the TFM*

4:30pm **PANEL 2** *Harnessing the Data Revolution for SDGs: opportunities and challenges*

MODERATOR

H.E. Ms. Amina Mohamed

Minister of Environment of Nigeria

OPENING REMARKS

Mr. Wu Hongbo

Under-Secretary General, UNDESA

PANELISTS

H.E. Mr. Kenred Dorsett
 Ms. Lisa Grace S. Bersales
 Mr. Babatunde Osotimehin
 Mr. Christian Friis Bach
 Ms. Lara Birkes
 Ms. Erica Hagen

*Minister of Environment and Housing of
 The Bahamas
 Co-chair of IAEG-SDGs
 Executive Director, UNFPA
 Chair of UN Regional Economic Commissions
 Chief Sustainability Officer, Hewlett Packard
 Enterprise
 Board Member and Founder, Map Kibera*

DISCUSSANTS

Ms. Atefeh Riazi
 Mr. Mosharraf Hossain
 Dr. Robert Chen
 Mr. Robert Kirkpatrick

*Assistant Secretary General and UN Chief
 Information technology officer
 Director of Policy and Influencing, ADD
 International
 Director of CIESIN, Columbia University
 Director, UN Global Pulse*

DISCUSSION SUMMARY

Mr. John McArthur

Senior Fellow, Brookings Institution

HIGH-LEVEL RECEPTION
Climate Action in the Context of Sustainable Development

6:00pm – 7:30pm / East Lounge, 1st floor

Moderator:

Ms. Christiana Figueres

Executive Secretary of UNFCCC

6:15pm

OPENING REMARKS

H.E. Mr. Mogens Lykketoft

*President of the 70th session of the UN
 General Assembly*

6:20pm

H.E. Mr. Ban Ki-moon

Secretary-General of the United Nations

6:25pm

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

H.E. Mr. Tuilaepa Aiono Sailele Malielegaoi

Prime Minister of Samoa

H.E. Ms. Ségolène Royal

Minister of Environment, Energy and Marine affairs, President of COP21

H.E. Mr. Mohammed bin Abdulla Al-Rumaihi

Minister of Municipality and environment of the State of Qatar

Mr. Gérard Mestrallet

Chief Executive Officer, ENGIE

Mr. Patrick Khulekani Dlamini

Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director, Development Bank of Southern Africa

Mr. Xiuhtezcatl Roske-Martinez

Civil society representative

Note: High Level Climate Reception for Head of Delegation (HoD) and invited guests only

UNITED NATIONS



NATIONS UNIES

NEW YORK

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

20 April 2016

Excellency,

I have the honour to share the preliminary list of speakers for the President of the General Assembly's High-level Thematic Debate on Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, to be held on 21 April 2016 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York.

Please note, that in order to support the interactive nature of the Event, it is the President of the General Assembly's intention to intersperse the list with a limited number of select civil society representatives, United Nations system representatives and observers, time permitting.

For any updates to the list please contact Ms. Antonina Poliakova at the Department of General Assembly and Conference Management, e-mail: poliakova@un.org.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "T.A. Christensen".

Tomas Anker Christensen
Chef de Cabinet

To All Permanent Representatives and
Permanent Observers to the United Nations
New York

LIST OF SPEAKERS

Thursday, 21 April 2016,

High-level Thematic Debate on Implementing the Sustainable Development Goals and Climate Outcome

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. NAURU (HS)
(on behalf of the Pacific Small
Island Developing States (PSIDS)) | 33. EUROPEAN UNION (M) |
| 2. HUNGARY (HS) | 34. THAILAND (M)
(on behalf of the Group of 77
and China) |
| 3. PERU (HS) | 35. EGYPT (M)
(on behalf of Arab Group) |
| 4. COLOMBIA (HS) | 36. MALDIVES (M)
(on behalf of Alliance of Small
Island States (AOSIS)) |
| 5. NAMIBIA (HS) | 37. LUXEMBOURG (M) |
| 6. BULGARIA (HS) | 38. CHILE (M) |
| 7. CROATIA (HS) | 39. CUBA (M) |
| 8. IRAQ (HS) | 40. DENMARK (M) |
| 9. GABON (HS) | 41. IRAN (ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF)
(M) |
| 10. ZIMBABWE (HS) | 42. AUSTRIA (M) |
| 11. SLOVAKIA (HS) | 43. BELARUS (M) |
| 12. MARSHALL ISLANDS (HS) | 44. PANAMA (M) |
| 13. SENEGAL (HS) | 45. MADAGASCAR (M) |
| 14. CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC
(HS) | 46. AUSTRALIA (M) |
| 15. TOGO (HS) | 47. GEORGIA (M) |
| 16. BARBADOS (HG) | 48. UNITED KINGDOM (M) |
| 17. SAMOA (HG) | 49. PHILIPPINES (M) |
| 18. SLOVENIA (HG) | 50. DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S
REPUBLIC OF KOREA (M) |
| 19. ANDORRA (HG) | 51. NIGER (M) |
| 20. MONACO (HG) | 52. ICELAND (M) |
| 21. BAHAMAS (HG) | 53. UNITED ARAB EMIRATES (M) |
| 22. FIJI (HG) | 54. BOLIVIA (PLURINATIONAL
STATE OF) (HS) |
| 23. VANUATU (HG) | 55. ITALY (HG) |
| 24. ETHIOPIA (HG) | 56. CZECH REPUBLIC (M) |
| 25. COSTA RICA (VP) | 57. ESTONIA (M) |
| 26. CAMBODIA (DPM) | 58. SAINT LUCIA (M) |
| 27. MONTENEGRO (DPM) | |
| 28. SWEDEN (DPM) | |
| 29. TONGA (DPM) | |
| 30. ALBANIA (DPM) | |
| 31. NEPAL (DPM) | |
| 32. BELGIUM (DPM) | |

GENERAL ASSEMBLY - SEVENTIETH SESSION

LIST OF SPEAKERS

Thursday, 21 April 2016,

- | | |
|---|--|
| 59. TAJIKISTAN (M) | 94. COTE D'IVOIRE (M) |
| 60. GHANA (M) | 95. UNITED STATES (VM) |
| 61. NICARAGUA (M) | 96. FRANCE (VM) |
| 62. MEXICO (M) | 97. SPAIN (VM) |
| 63. VENEZUELA (BOLIVARIAN
REPUBLIC OF) (M) | 98. PORTUGAL (VM) |
| 64. ALGERIA (M) | 99. GREECE (VM) |
| 65. ARGENTINA (M) | 100. RUSSIAN FEDERATION (VM) |
| 66. GERMANY (M) | 101. UGANDA (CD)
(on behalf of the African states) |
| 67. FINLAND (M) | 102. DOMINICAN REPUBLIC (CD)
(on behalf of the Community of
Latin American and Caribbean
States (CELAC)) |
| 68. TUNISIA (M) | 103. ZAMBIA
(on behalf of 32 Member States
of the Land Locked Developing
Countries (LLDCs)) |
| 69. PARAGUAY (M) | 104. MOROCCO (CD) |
| 70. SEYCHELLES (M) | 105. GUATEMALA (CD) |
| 71. INDIA (M) | 106. SWITZERLAND (CD) |
| 72. TURKEY (M) | 107. KIRIBATI (CD) |
| 73. NEW ZEALAND (M) | 108. CYPRUS (CD) |
| 74. POLAND (M) | 109. BANGLADESH (CD) |
| 75. SAINT VINCENT AND THE
GRENADINES (M) | 110. CANADA (CD) |
| 76. JAMAICA (M) | 111. QATAR (CD) |
| 77. REPUBLIC OF KOREA (M) | 112. LIECHTENSTEIN (CD) |
| 78. SRI LANKA (M) | 113. VIET NAM (CD) |
| 79. MYANMAR (M) | 114. URUGUAY (CD) |
| 80. BURKINA FASO (M) | 115. BELIZE (CD) |
| 81. LATVIA (M) | 116. HONDURAS (CD) |
| 82. SUDAN (M) | 117. INDONESIA (CD) |
| 83. CONGO (M) | 118. IRELAND (CD) |
| 84. SOLOMON ISLANDS (M) | 119. NORWAY (CD) |
| 85. JORDAN (M) | 120. CABO VERDE (CD) |
| 86. SIERRA LEONE (M) | 121. PALAU (CD) |
| 87. KENYA (M) | 122. AFGHANISTAN (CD) |
| 88. BOTSWANA (M) | 123. EL SALVADOR (CD) |
| 89. LIBERIA (M) | 124. ISRAEL (CD) |
| 90. NIGERIA (M) | |
| 91. TIMOR-LESTE (M) | |
| 92. RWANDA (M) | |
| 93. DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE
CONGO (M) | |

LIST OF SPEAKERS

Thursday, 21 April 2016,

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------|
| 125. UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA | 132. SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC (CD) |
| 129. LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC
REPUBLIC (CD) | 133. JAPAN (CD) |
| 130. PAKISTAN (CD) | 134. TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO (CD) |
| 131. ARMENIA (CD) | 135. GUYANA |
| | 136. HOLY SEE (M) |

OBSERVERS:

1. INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR CONSERVATION OF NATURE (IUCN)
2. INTERNATIONAL RENEWABLE ENERGY AGENCY (IRENA) (HL)
3. INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION (CD)
4. INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT LAW ORGANIZATION (IDLO)
5. INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY (IAEA)
6. INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION

UN Entities:

1. UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (HL)
2. UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME (HL)
3. UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE (UNECE)
(would like to speak in the morning)
4. DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS (HL)
5. UNITED NATIONS OFFICE ON DRUGS AND CRIME (UNODC) (HL)
6. UN-HABITAT (HL)
7. UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND (UNFPA) (HL)
8. INTERNATIONAL COMMUNICATION UNION (ITU) (CD)
9. FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS (CD)
10. INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANIZATION (CD)
11. INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION (CD)
12. UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION (CD)

NGOs and Civil Society:

1. ASIAN PACIFIC RESOURCE AND
RESEARCH CENTRE FOR WOMEN (ARROW) - MALAYSIA
2. ARAB FORUM FOR ENVIRONMENT AND
DEVELOPMENT (AFED) - LEBANON
3. WORLD YOUNG WOMEN'S
CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION (YWCA), TANZANIA
4. FEDERAL UNIVERSITY OF RIO DE JANEIRO - BRAZIL

Financing sustainable development – report of the retreat organized by the UN PGA
(Pocantico, 8-10 March 2016)

Highlights

Participants agreed on the need to make the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) work productively both for governments and the private sector. Implementing the Paris Climate Agreement should be structured to support the implementation of the SDGs. In many cases, this will require businesses and investors to mainstream the consideration of the SDGs into their core business-decision making. This will require prioritization of investments that catalyse the SDGs and redirection of financial flows away from investments that may accelerate climate change. Achieving the SDGs will not only require expansion of climate-smart investments, but also less investments in harmful activities.

Discussion on integrating sustainability¹ risks into investment decisions

As carbon emissions generate costs for countries, companies and people, they inevitably create market failures. These costs need to be identified and quantified. Strengthening institutional capacities for assessing these risks is crucial. While everybody agreed on the importance of focusing on climate risks, many recommended that risk management policies, tools and approaches should factor the SDGs into the equation. The Addis Ababa Action Agenda, in this particular, was innovative in adopting strong language on sustainable financing. Responsible banking was cited as one approach to factoring SDGs into financial decision making. Stress-testing tools currently used for ESG risk assessment could also be used for other aspects of the development agenda, such as women discrimination. Tools and data collection can always be improved and scaled up, especially in developing countries, but there seemed to be a consensus that enough information is already out there to more fully understand the risks involved in policy and business decision making. A problem with risk analysis is that this data is not sufficiently well analysed or benchmarked and certain climate-related risks are therefore not being taken fully into consideration by companies or not being taken into consideration at all.

Discussion on Project Pipelines

Consideration of the SDGs should be incorporated in the development of project and investment pipelines. Policy coherence is crucial and needs to be guaranteed at the highest political level in government. Domestic resources and local financial institutions as well as a domestic financial market are crucial for SDG implementation and the creation of project pipelines. Standardization and aggregation of projects (e.g., credit facilities or bonds) and organizations (e.g. accreditation) makes it easier for investors to invest in SDG related projects. Many of the projects referenced in the NDCs are important to achieving the SDGs (in the water and forests sectors, etc.) In addition, a strong enabling environment that includes consistent application – globally - of policy and regulatory guidelines is essential to attract investors. A conversation on how to build such an environment is vital and should include all relevant stakeholders, covering both the sustainable national policy and international finance point of view.

Discussion on Systemic Issues

The financial system is a complex network of stakeholders, including regulators, brokers, and stock exchanges. All of the institutions in the network need to be engaged in the transformation of the financial services sector. Individual businesses and investors can signal their policy needs, but other actors, such as Central Banks and other financial regulators should be engaged as well. Requiring mandatory disclosure of ESG risks would help make the business case for the SDGs. The Global Compact could play a role in bringing forward sustainability standards in financing. Moving toward mandatory reporting by the private sector is important.

Conclusions

- Commitments on sustainable finance make a difference when taken up at the level of Heads of State and complemented with a strong coalition-building focus. The HLTD on 21 April should deliver a powerful message on the need for policy coherence in implementing the Climate Agreement and the SDGs and the messages should feed into other international fora and meetings.

¹ = Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) criteria

- Though the UN remains a key leader in this process, the G-20 together, with the world's leading economies, can lend crucial support in mainstreaming the SDGs into macroeconomic public policies, especially in regard to growth, energy, infrastructure and governance.
- The UN is critical as it exhibits strong convening power to exhort and engage national leaders and actors across the board to follow up on global commitments, and should continue its efforts in this direction.
- The PGA should suggest developing a strategy how to further integrate the SDGs into finance, including through engagement with the private sector.
- Existing processes and fora within the UN, especially the Financing for Development Forum and the High Level Political Forum, should be encouraged to provide a coalition/platform dedicated to engaging private finance sector (via associations and at CEO level and key trusted players).
- UNCTAD could be explored as a complementary liaison venue for investors in developing countries, given its extensive knowledge and experience on regulatory aspects and frameworks.
- A resolution on sustainable finance by the UNGA – as proposed by some participants – could be one option of bringing political attention and current strands that exist under one consistent framework to the topic of sustainable finance, keeping in mind that resolutions entail a long negotiation process by member states.
- The Global Compact could play a role in bringing the SDGs to the attention of the business community.

In whatever format these follow-up and liaison mechanisms take shape, it is crucial to bring externalities into market transactions, including through:

1. transitioning from principles to minimum standards on responsible investments
 2. transitioning from voluntary to mandatory ESG reporting in stock exchanges (environmental, social and governance criteria)
 3. incorporating sustainability risks in rating agencies
 4. de-risking investment and transferring risks
 5. differentiating various policy-related risks
 6. translating systemic risks for capital markets
 7. mainstreaming the SDGs in the design of project pipelines
 8. providing more "ready made products" for investors, like green and blue bonds
 9. updating central banks' mandates with sustainability goals
- Action is urgent!

Background

The finance retreat convened by the 70th President of the UN General Assembly, H.E. Mogens Lykketoft, and his Office (OPGA), was made possible thanks to the kind and professional organization of The Pocantico Center of the Rockefeller Brothers Fund. The retreat invited a select group of thought leaders from the finance sector (commercial banks, insurance companies, development banks, investor groups, rating agencies), NGOs, Academic Institutions, and representatives of Member States. The participants at the retreat discussed opportunities for accelerating and redirecting capital flows into low-carbon and climate-resilient infrastructure as well as investments that advance the UN's 2030 Agenda and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda.

This report was written by members of the OPGA staff based on materials prepared for this meeting and the discussions that took place there. It reflects the views of the authors and not necessarily those of other conference participants or of the Rockefeller Brothers Fund, its trustees, or its staff.

UNITED NATIONS



NATIONS UNIES

NEW YORK

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The Office of the President of the General Assembly (OPGA) presents its compliments to the Permanent Missions to the United Nations.

The OPGA is pleased to transmit herewith a copy of the Note on organizational arrangements for the High Level Thematic Debate on achieving the Sustainable Development Goals that is scheduled to take place on Thursday 21 April at UN Headquarters in New York. The Logistics Note can also be accessed online at:
<http://www.un.org/pga/70/events/sdgs/>

The Office of the President of the General Assembly (OPGA) avails itself of this opportunity to assure the Permanent Missions to the United Nations of its highest consideration.

**OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D.A. Christen".

New York, 6 April 2016

To all Permanent Representatives
and Permanent Observers to the United Nations
New York



Annex 1: LUNCHEON PARTICIPATION INFORMATION

High-level working lunch/ Partnerships for SDG implementation

(Ministerial Level and above)

Thursday, 21 April 2016, 1:00 p.m.,

Delegates Dining Room, fourth floor, Conference Building

(Please type or print only)

Delegation of/ Company/Organisation _____

Name of the invitee: _____

Title (Please check a box):

- Head of State
- Head of Government
- Vice President
- Crown Prince/Princess
- Minister: _____

(Please specify)

With interpreter:

- Yes (If Yes, must have interpreter's pass)
- No

Dietary restrictions, if any: _____

Contact at the Office /Mission: _____

Office phone: _____

Mobile phone: _____

Kindly complete the questionnaire, as appropriate, and return it, by fax, to Ms. Belinda Merceron by 15 April, 2016. Fax # 212-963-3115.

UN @ 70 – A New Commitment to Action

Organizational arrangements for the High-level Thematic Debate on Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, 21 April 2016

<http://www.un.org/pga/70/events/sdgs/>

Participation

1. The High-level Thematic Debate (HLTD) will be attended by a high number of Heads of State and Government and Ministers participation. Leaders from business, philanthropy, academia and civil society will also participate.

Programme of the High-level Meeting

2. The HLTD will be composed of an Opening segment, a Plenary meeting and two Interactive Discussions, as well as a high-level lunch and a reception. Additional explanatory details are provided below.

Plenary Meeting

3. The Opening of the HLTD will take place in the **General Assembly Hall from 9:00 to 10:00 am on 21 April, 2016** and will consist of statements by the President of the General Assembly (PGA), the Deputy Secretary-General and guest speakers invited by the President of the General Assembly. The Opening session will also feature a musical element and short films. A more detailed outline of the Programme for the Opening and other segments of the HLTD is available on the PGA's website (shown above)

4. The formal plenary meeting will begin, also in the **General Assembly Hall, at 10:00 am and will continue through to 2:30 pm**. The Plenary meeting will **break for 30 minutes at 2:30 pm** and then **resume at 3:00 pm in the Trusteeship Council and continue until 9.00 pm**. To enable maximum participation within the limited time available, statements in the plenary meetings **should not exceed three minutes**.

5. Delegations wishing to speak in the plenary segment are kindly requested to inscribe on the list of speakers, General Assembly Affairs

UN @ 70 – A New Commitment to Action

Branch (Ms. Antonina Poliakova (e-mail poliakova@un.org; tel. 1-(212) - 963-5063), copy to Ms. Mary Muturi (e-mail muturi@un.org).

6. Speaking order will follow the customary protocol order. Accordingly, precedence will be accorded to representatives at the Heads of State or Government and Ministerial levels, with some flexibility accorded to allow for Observers, UN system, and four CSO's to address the plenary during the day.

7. A lectern will be provided for the delivery of statements.

Documentation, statements and interpretation

8. Delegations are invited to submit PDF formatted versions of their statements via e-mail to kandt@un.org for posting on <http://www.un.org/pga/70/events/sdgs/> and to papersmart@un.org for electronic circulation through the PaperSmart portal. Delegations wishing to do so should provide them no later than two hours in advance of delivery to kandt@un.org and papersmart@un.org. The name of the meeting, agenda item, speaker and country should be indicated in the subject line of the e-mail and in the heading of the statement. The statements will remain embargoed until their delivery and then posted. Only statements presented during the course of the meeting will be posted.

9. Alternatively, delegations can bring a hard copy (unstapled and printed single-sided), for scanning and uploading, to the PaperSmart portal at the documents distribution counter located the booths outside the General Assembly Hall, inside the Trusteeship Council Chamber or at the conference officers' desk in ECOSOC Chamber. This applies not to the posting of statements to the PGA's website. Only electronically transmitted statements will be uploaded.

10. Statements made in any of the six official languages of the General Assembly are interpreted into the other official languages. Any speaker may also make a statement in a language other than the official languages. In

UN @ 70 – A New Commitment to Action

such cases, the delegation in question must provide either an interpreter from the non-official language into an official language, or a written text of the statement in one of the official languages to be read out by a United Nations interpreter. On the basis of this interpretation or the written text, which is accepted by the Secretariat as representing the official text of the statement, it will be interpreted into the other official languages by United Nations interpreters. When a written text is provided, the delegation concerned should make available to the interpreter someone who knows the language in which the statement is to be delivered and the official language into which it has been translated, to guide the interpreter through the translated text and to ensure synchronization between the speaker and the interpreter. Detailed arrangements for interpretation from non-official languages, including access by non-United Nations interpreters to the interpreter booth in the General Assembly Hall, the Trusteeship and in ECOSOC, must be made in advance through the Meetings Management Section (telephone: 212 963 8114; e-mail: emeetsm@un.org). The interpreter or the guide provided by the delegation should be brought by the delegation to the conference officers' desk in the Chambers 30 minutes prior to the delivery of the statement.

Interactive Discussion

11. The Interactive Discussion will consist of two segments, one on Financing Poverty Eradication and Sustainable Development, from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm, and one on Technology and Data for SDGs, from 3:00 to 6:00 pm. Both segments will take place in the ECOSOC Chamber.

12. The Interactive Discussion on Financing Poverty Eradication and Sustainable Development will be a three-hour session consisting of two interactive moderated exchanges with high-level participants, and questions and comments fielded from the floor. The session will discuss how to incentivize investment in climate-resilient and sustainable development projects; how to unlock the transformative potential of

UN @ 70 – A New Commitment to Action

people and the private sector; and how to support governments in meeting the challenge of poverty.

13. The Interactive Discussion on Technology and Data for SDGs will also be a three-hour session and will include two interactive moderated discussions with high-level participants. This segment aims to stimulate exchanges and galvanize action among all stakeholders to harness the full potential of technology and high quality and timely data for the implementation of SDGs by showcasing good practices and addressing key challenges.

14. The Interactive discussions will provide opportunities to have in-depth discussions on the themes identified above. To promote interactive, free-flowing discussions without prepared statements, participants will be invited to make very brief remarks, not to exceed three minutes (two minutes for the Technology and Data session), to raise questions and to respond to other speakers.

15. In order to promote interactive and substantive discussions; participation in the interactive discussions will be conducted without a list of speakers.

16. **Access passes (two per delegation) will be required to enter the ECOSOC Chamber.** These passes **must be collected in advance** from the Office of the President of the General Assembly on the 3rd floor of the Conference Building (CB-0306). **Passes will be available for collection from 3.00 pm - 5.00 pm on 18, 19 and 20 April.**

Lunch

17. Realizing the ambitious, transformational and universal 2030 Agenda will require tapping into a more varied set of partnerships with all stakeholders, as stated in Sustainable Development Goal 17. This luncheon session aims to build momentum and help articulate the qualities of partnerships that may enable and promote innovative solutions to achieving the SDGs.

UN @ 70 – A New Commitment to Action

18. This session will combine presentations and interactive discussion over the course of a moderated two hour lunch, from **1:00 pm to 3:00 pm in the Delegates Dining Room on the 4th floor**. To access the Delegates Dining Room, please take the elevators or the escalator from the third floor.

19. The working language of the luncheon will be English and no interpretation services will be provided.

20. Participation in the **invitation only** luncheon event will be at the **Ministerial level and above only** and principals will be unaccompanied. **Please bring paper invitation for access to session**. An additional information note will be sent to lunch participants. In the meantime, dietary restrictions or allergies must be indicated by completing and submitting the attached form (See Annex 1: Luncheon Participation Information). The form should be sent to the OPGA, by 15 April, 2016, attention Ms. Belinda Merceron, by fax # 212-963-3115, or by email Merceron@un.org.

Reception

21. The full implementation of the 2030 Development Agenda and the Paris Agreement calls for a strengthened synergy at all levels, the promotion of international cooperation and concrete actions and initiatives that enhance resilience, build low carbon economies, incentivize investment and mobilize appropriate support. This segment will offer a space to celebrate the recent successes of the international community and highlight where synergies and shared opportunities between the climate and the development Agendas can more fully advance both Agendas, through a genuine exchange of views between Government representatives and other relevant stakeholders, including from the UN system, the private sector and civil society.

22. The reception will take place **from 6:00pm to 7:30 pm, in The East Lounge**, and will combine statements and interactive discussions. No

UN @ 70 – A New Commitment to Action

interpretation services will be provided for this event. As participation will be by **invitation only**, invitees are requested to **bring paper invitation in order to facilitate access**.

Webcast

23. The Plenary Meeting, the two Interactive Discussions and speeches during the lunch and reception will be transmitted via live webcast.

Accreditation of Delegations

24. Accreditation of official delegations and members of the parties of Heads of State or Government, Vice-Presidents and Crown Princes or Princesses will be carried out by the Protocol and Liaison Service. Missions/offices are required to submit their accreditation requests by using the existing online system “eAccreditation”, available through the eDelegate Portal at <https://delegate.un.int>. Delegations wishing to obtain information on the system may refer to the updated “Guidelines on eAccreditation” and “Frequently Asked Questions” posted on the Protocol website at www.un.int/protocol. It should be noted that all accreditation requests, including requests for VIP passes, must be submitted via the eAccreditation system.

25. Heads of State or Government, Vice-Presidents, Crown Princes or Princesses and their spouses will be offered VIP passes without photographs. Deputy Prime Ministers, Cabinet Ministers and their spouses will be provided with VIP passes with photographs.

Security and United Nations Pass and Identification Office

26. For further information, please see the circular provided by United Nations Department of Safety and Security

UN @ 70 – A New Commitment to Action

Related Events and Policy Room Discussions

27. Side events in the form of for example policy dialogues will take place in parallel with the High-level Thematic Debate. Participants attending side events during this period must complete the necessary accreditation procedures.

28. Policy Dialogues will be held in **Conference Rooms E, F, 10:00 am – 6:00 pm; and rooms 5, and 7 from 10:00 am –2:30 pm**. Context and contact details for co-coordinators are available on the website of the President of the General Assembly, <http://www.un.org/pga/70/events/sdgs/>, under ‘Related Events’.

Facilities for bilateral meetings

29. For bilateral meetings, a limited number of temporary booths, with a maximum capacity of eight participants, will be available in the General Assembly Building. Booths will be available from **19 April**.

30. An electronic reservation system is available through eMeets 2.0 (<http://icms.un.org>), in order to provide equitable and efficient use of the facilities. Delegations are requested to submit reservations electronically through eMeets by accessing <http://icms.un.org>, logging in with the username and password of their permanent mission and clicking on the “Bilateral” tab. 34. The date and time and the name of the other delegation participating in the bilateral meeting should be specified in the request. Reservations will be accepted for periods of 20 minutes, **on the hour and half hour**. To prevent double bookings, only the delegations initiating the bilateral meeting(s) should submit the request.

31. Information about booth assignments will be provided one day prior to the meeting. Depending on the programme, every effort will be made to keep a delegation’s consecutive appointments in the same booth. Late

UN @ 70 – A New Commitment to Action

requests will be accepted until 6 pm on the day prior to the meeting and every effort will be made to assign a booth based on the availability of space at that time. **Delegations requiring further information regarding bilateral requests should send their questions or enquiries to bilats-msu@un.org.**

Communication opportunities

32. Please note that all participants are invited and encouraged to visit the **Digital Media Zone located in the Ex-Press Bar on the 3rd floor of the General Assembly Conference Building.**

33. This area is a dedicated social media newsroom for digital media specialists and invited journalists who will be reporting on the proceedings in the main conference rooms and eager to film and interview participants.

34. This group, which includes digital media organisations, UN media and some youth reporters, has a combined reach of millions of people.

35. All participants are welcome to visit the Digital Media Zone, with or without an appointment. However, to schedule appointments for Heads of State or Government or VVIP, please contact the PGA's Communications team in advance: Communications Director and Spokesperson, Dan Thomas at Daniel.Thomas@un.org or +1 917 225 1913 and Digital Media Specialist, Katharina Kandt at kandt@un.org or +1 917 244 3890.

36. There may also be some limited timeslots available for press briefings in the UN Press Briefing Room, S-0237.

37. Please note that the Digital Media Zone will be open from **Tuesday to Friday (19-22 April)** so the opportunity also applies to other days, e.g., to talk about the UNGASS on the World Drug Problem (19-21 April) or the Climate Agreement signing ceremony (22 April). For more information about the Digital Media Zone please visit: <http://dmz.news/>

UN @ 70 – A New Commitment to Action

Media accreditation

38. All members of the media accompanying Heads of State/Government or Heads of Delegation, **including official photo/video**, must submit a letter of assignment from the Permanent Mission concerned. The letter listing the names of the media representatives with their functional titles and affiliation, should be sent to the Media Accreditation and Liaison Unit, Department of Public Information, fax: 212-963-4642 or email: malu@un.org. First time applicants must create an online account: <http://www.un.org/en/media/accreditation/form/>

39. Members of the media accompanying Heads of State/Government or Heads of Delegation must present themselves to the Media Accreditation Office, where they will have their photographs taken and be issued a United Nations grounds pass upon presentation of national passports.

40. All media representatives will be required to present a valid United Nations grounds pass to the United Nations security officers at the gate.

41. Members of the media need to be escorted to the media booths from the Media Accreditation and Liaison Unit office (S-250) or liaison desks. For some meetings, tickets to the gallery will be available for print press, on a first-come first-served basis.

UN @ 70 – A New Commitment to Action

Organizational arrangements for the High-level Thematic Debate on Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, 21 April 2016

<http://www.un.org/pga/70/events/sdgs/>

Participation

The High-level Thematic Debate (HLTD) will be attended by a high number of Heads of State and Government and Ministers. Leaders from business, philanthropy, academia and civil society will also participate.

Programme of the High-level Meeting

The HLTD will be composed of an Opening segment, a Plenary meeting and two Interactive Discussions, as well as a high-level lunch and a reception. Additionally, policy room events and a digital media zone will run alongside the meeting. More explanatory details are provided below.

The Plenary Meeting, the two Interactive Discussions and speeches during the lunch and reception will be transmitted via **live webcast**.

Plenary Meeting

The Opening of the HLTD will take place in the **General Assembly Hall from 9:00 to 10:00 am on 21 April, 2016** and will consist of statements by the President of the General Assembly (PGA), the Deputy Secretary-General and guest speakers invited by the President of the General Assembly. The Opening session will also feature a musical element and short films. A more detailed outline of the Programme for the Opening and other segments of the HLTD is available on the PGA's website: <http://www.un.org/pga/70/events/sdgs/>.

The formal plenary meeting, with statements delivered by governments and UN Observers will begin, also in the General Assembly Hall, at 10:00 am and will continue through to 2:30 pm. The Plenary meeting will break for 30 minutes at 2:30 pm and then resume at 3:00 pm in the **Trusteeship Council** and continue until 9.00 pm.

Interactive Discussion

The Interactive Discussion will consist of two segments, one on Financing Poverty Eradication and Sustainable Development, from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm, and one on Technology and Data for SDGs, from 3:00 to 6:00 pm. Both segments will take place in the ECOSOC Chamber.

Access to the floor of the ECOSOC chamber will be limited to speakers. All others will have access through the balcony.

The Interactive Discussion on Financing Poverty Eradication and Sustainable Development will be a three-hour session consisting of two interactive moderated exchanges with high-level participants, and questions and comments fielded from the floor. The session will discuss how to incentivize

UN @ 70 – A New Commitment to Action

investment in climate-resilient and sustainable development projects; how to unlock the transformative potential of people and the private sector; and how to support governments in meeting the challenge of poverty.

The Interactive Discussions on Technology and Data for SDGs will also be a three-hour session and will include two interactive moderated discussions with high-level participants. This segment aims to stimulate exchanges and galvanize action among all stakeholders to harness the full potential of technology and high quality and timely data for the implementation of SDGs by showcasing good practices and addressing key challenges.

An overflow room in conference room 1 is available for the Interactive Discussions on Technology and Data.

Lunch

The High Level Lunch on Partnerships for the SDGs will take place from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm in the Delegates Dining Room on the 4th floor. Participation in the luncheon session will be at the Head of State/Government level and C-suite and head of organisation level. All principals will be unaccompanied. It will be **by invitation only**. **Please bring a printed copy of your invitation to access the High-Level luncheon session.**

To access the Delegates Dining Room, please take the escalator from the third floor. Dietary restrictions or allergies must be indicated by completing and submitting the attached form entitled *Luncheon Participation Information*. The form should be sent to the OPGA, attention Ms. Belinda Merceron, by fax # 212-963-3115 or by email (Merceron@un.org) no later than 15 April 2016 to be accommodated.

Reception

The Climate Action in the Context of Sustainable Development Reception will take place **from 6:00pm to 7:30 pm, in The East Lounge**. As participation will be by **invitation only**, invitees are requested to **bring printed paper invitation in order to facilitate access**.

Passes

All participants will need a pass to enter the United Nations. All passes need to be picked up at office of the United Nations Foundation (UNF):

Address:
United Nations Foundation
801 Second Ave
9th Floor
Suite 900 - New York, NY 10017

UN @ 70 – A New Commitment to Action

Badges can be picked up Wednesday, **April 20** from **12:00 -19:00** and **Thursday, April 21**, from **07:30 to 14:00**.

Please note **First Avenue** will be closed and the security periphery will extend to **Second Avenue** and badges will be needed to gain access.

Please arrive one hour in advance of your meeting so as to clear security and find your room inside the United Nations.

Participants can gain access to the United Nations through the entrance on 46th street and Second Avenue. The Office of the President of the General Assembly will have staff at this location to help participants to access the UN (once they have collected their passes at UNF).

Badges to the United Nations are limited access so please be aware that you will only be allowed entrance into the building one hour before the time allotted on your badge.

Related Events and Policy Room Discussions

Policy dialogues will take place in parallel with the High-level Thematic Debate and will be held in **Conference Rooms E, F, 10:00 am – 6:00 pm; and rooms 5, and 7 from 10:00 am –2:30 pm**. Context and contact details for co-coordinators are available on the website of the President of the General Assembly, <http://www.un.org/pga/70/events/sdgs/>, under the heading 'Related Events'.

Communication opportunities

Please note that all participants are invited and encouraged to visit the **Digital Media Zone located in the Ex-Press Bar on the 3rd floor of the General Assembly Conference Building**. For more information about the Digital Media Zone please visit: <http://dmz.news/>.

This area is a dedicated social media newsroom for digital media specialists and invited journalists who will be reporting on the proceedings in the main conference rooms and eager to film and interview participants.

This group, which includes digital media organisations, UN media and some youth reporters, has a combined reach of millions of people.

All participants are welcome to visit the Digital Media Zone, with or without an appointment. However, to schedule appointments for CEOs and heads of organisations contact the PGA's Communications team in advance: Communications Director and Spokesperson, Dan Thomas at Daniel.Thomas@un.org or +1 917 225 1913 and Digital Media Specialist, Katharina Kandt at kandt@un.org or +1 917 244 3890.



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

23 May 2016

Excellency,

It is my pleasure to enclose herewith the outcome document from the High-Level Thematic Debate on Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, which took place on 21 April, 2016. This outcome document contains my conclusions and observations from this exceptionally successful event, as well as impressions and views shared by participants.

It is my hope that the Event will have served to inspire actions by all stakeholders at all levels, so that we may work collaboratively in an inclusive, holistic and integrated manner towards achieving full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

I take this opportunity to again express my sincere gratitude to all who participated in the High-Level Thematic Debate, as well as those who supported in various other ways.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Mogens Lykketoft', written in a cursive style.

Mogens Lykketoft

To all Permanent Representatives and
Permanent Observers to the United Nations
New York

High-level Thematic Debate on Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals

New York, 21 April 2016

Informal Summary¹

The President of the 70th session of the United Nations General Assembly convened a climate neutral High Level Thematic Debate on 21 April, 2016, in order to bring attention to, and catalyse action by all actors, for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, anchored in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda.

Some key actions and proposals noted by the President included:

Member States need to drive national responses to implementation of the 2030 Agenda, including through early action to establish methods of national coordination, identify gaps in policy, institutions and capacity, according to national circumstances, and map existing tools and reporting requirements to establish information needs.

Multi-stakeholder partnerships building on trust, common goals and a clear vision, and that enable action at all levels, fostering engagement, investment and accountability for implementation of all SDGs, need to be promoted.

A global tax body hosted by the UN, which would provide for universal participation of countries in the elaboration of new rules, should be considered.

An advisory committee of experts from the finance ecosystem to assist member States and the UN system in unlocking private investment, especially from capital markets, in support of the SDGs, should be considered.

An initiative to produce effective standards of disclosure on SDG impacts building on climate-related financial disclosures could help accelerate global investments in technological innovation and clean energy.

The Technology Facilitation Mechanism and its online platform represent an important opportunity to maximize the contribution of science, technology and innovation in the achievement of the SDGs.

oOo

The Event brought together global political, finance and civil society leaders to discuss the “how” of implementation, in particular related to finance, technology, data and partnerships. Close to 30 Heads of State or Government, and more than 60 Ministers participated, as did large numbers of leaders from finance, business, academia, and other sectors of civil society. Discussions were held in multiple fora, including a plenary, interactive dialogues, a high-level luncheon, a high-level reception and in policy rooms related to the substantive aspects

¹ The summary does not necessarily express the views of the President of the General Assembly. It is a compilation of messages by participants in the Event, summarized in an informal format. It does not attempt to be exhaustive, nor does it reflect necessarily the views of all member States or other participants.

of the Event. A digital media zone facilitated significant presence from all forms of media, enabling engagement of communities globally. Sustainable Development Salons, among the many innovative features introduced, featured interviews with political leaders and prominent personalities which were webcast live.

Declared candidates seeking to become the next Secretary-General of the United Nations were also invited to attend, as a means of broadening their awareness of the challenges ahead.

Action at all levels

Member States committed to drive national responses to implementation of the 2030 Agenda, hence strong national ownership was highlighted as the foundation for its success. Countries were devoting considerable time and effort to develop or realign national development plans and strategies to reflect the New Agenda and its vision for the future. Early actions highlighted, included establishing national coordinating mechanisms, mapping of existing instruments and reporting requirements as well as identifying gaps in policy, institutions and capacity according to national circumstances, in order to prioritize and build capacity.

Governments reiterated their commitment to enhance a global partnership complemented by multi-stakeholder partnerships that mobilize and share knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources, with a view to supporting the achievement of the SDGs in all countries, but also at regional and global levels.

In order to move forward, Governments would have to reinforce their credibility and capabilities. They would have to establish long-term strategies and incorporate in a coherent way the imperatives of sustainable development in all its dimensions, including poverty eradication, climate action, productive transformation and growth. Investment priorities had to be determined by the interlinkages between specific SDGs and the overall framework of the 2030 Agenda.

Success in realising the SDGs necessitated a common understanding of the goals and holistic, integrated and balanced strategies to achieve them, between public and private sectors. Countries were seen as driving these efforts which needed to be complemented at regional and global levels.

In order to achieve a truly transformative Agenda, mode of business by all actors had to change. Governments must put in place regulatory frameworks that promote sustainable patterns of production and consumption, while financial markets and the productive sector must adapt sustainable patterns of production and consumption, for the transformation to take hold.

A shift was also seen as needed in international cooperation to move away from business as usual towards really transformative projects. The 2030 Agenda necessitates a renewed understanding of international cooperation based on results. International cooperation has to reflect a genuine partnership and be done in a way that allows the international community to

get beyond short-termism and go beyond donors and recipients, the north and south divide, while focusing on the most vulnerable.

There was a need for strengthening international governance to better connect all the SDGs and enhance transparency, accountability and policy coherence. For example, some bilateral investment treaties were seen as potentially making the implementation of the Paris Agreement and the SDGs more difficult. In going forward, it would be important to explicitly consider tensions that may exist between enticing the private sector to take a major role in the implementation of SDGs; the need to avoid harmful tax competition (“race to the bottom”); as well as the urgency to address profit shifting and combat illicit financial flows. Achieving the SDGs may in some cases imply more, not less regulation.

Financing poverty eradication and sustainable development

To achieve the SDGs, successfully eradicate poverty and fight climate change, capital flows needed to be redirected and investments accelerated into the SDGs. A low-carbon future required reorientation of investment, not necessarily more. Reform should continue in order to create a sustainable, resilient and inclusive global financial system able to handle potential shocks, including those of climate change and the impact of climate action on investment in financial markets. As an example, the current G20 Presidency included the SDGs in the agenda for the next G20 Summit and supported green finance as a critical means for implementing it. Green financing is seen as an approach that should be continued and that should potentially embrace all the SDGs. All countries needed to have the right macro-prudential regulation in place to absorb such sustainable investment flows.

Social impact investment and corporate social responsibility initiatives would have to be complementary and disclosure requirements unified, in order to incentivize investment shifts towards sustainability on a global scale. It was suggested to establish a form of advisory committee whereby experts from the finance ecosystem could assist Member States and the UN system unlocking private investment, especially from capital markets, in support of the SDGs. Investors were looking for sustainable asset classes, such as infrastructure, wind farms, biomass and green power capacity. Country experiences included changing regulations to allow pension funds and insurance companies to invest in SDG-related activities both domestically and abroad including in developing countries, as well as improving perceived risks through blended finance instruments. Development Banks could play an important role in this regard as risk mitigators. Official Development Assistance (ODA) could be used effectively to create incentives and leverage private sector resources, for example, in the renewable energy sector. However, these actions tended to shift the risk to the public sector which was perceived as problematic in some cases.

Private finance was seen as playing a critical role in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. It was therefore important to build up a pipeline of projects that would be interesting enough to attract private investment. While renewable energy is a long-standing sector with a well-established market and the corresponding investment risks well understood, other sectors,

such as water, had yet to reach this maturity. In general, private investment would need to be accompanied by accountability mechanisms and aligned with the SDGs and human rights.

Taxation

Enhanced mobilization of domestic resources was seen as critical to implementation of the SDGs. To that end, Governments would need to mobilize public resources, expand their revenue base and build up tax administration capacity, including through technical assistance and exchange of best practices, as necessary. Given the importance of the local level for the delivery of the SDGs, it would also be important to focus on improving sub-national and local level financing. In Addis Ababa, Governments had decided to further strengthen the United Nations expert arrangement to address international cooperation on tax matters.

Current constraints in the trading system and the high level of indebtedness of some countries also affected developing countries' ability to mobilize resources for development. Recent reports had highlighted the extent to which illicit financial flows and tax avoidance drained resources from the public purse.

Many recognized the need for a more coherent, strengthened international tax regime. Reflection was underway in different fora to find ways to avoid harmful tax competition among countries. Tax incentives usually generated externalities across borders, which had brought about new challenges not adequately addressed by the current global fora. Some called for a UN Convention on tax abuses while others called for a retooling of transfer pricing rules.

Concrete steps had been taken in recent years to step up international cooperation on tax matters. The OECD through the Global Forum on Transparency and Exchange of Information for Tax Purposes had been at the forefront of this work. The work on Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS) had made advances and the initiative set a benchmark for discussions at the G20. Yet, it was limited in scope. For example, country-by-country reporting for multinational corporations represented a step forward, though reports are still not available for all countries and to the general public. Similarly, an issue of routing money through tax havens had not been addressed. Finally, though BEPS had been largely discussed and globally reviewed, its decision-making and endorsement excluded many countries which significantly hinder its outreach and effectiveness.

Many were calling for a follow-up to BEPS, or "BEPS+" in order to form a comprehensive agenda that build an international framework on tax cooperation. Many called for an increased role of the UN in such efforts, including in the form of a global tax body hosted by the UN, which would provide for universal participation of countries in the elaboration of the new rules.

Technology for SDGs

Each of the SDGs involved aspects related to technology. Technology would be critical in moving to a less resource-intensive production system. Acceleration of technological change

could create opportunities and disruptions. A real issue for the SDGs could be the speed at which knowledge had to be applied along supply chains. This implied tighter links among potential users, needs, and the research system. The science and technology communities had an important role to play in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, including through highlighting science-based pathways to achieve the SDGs as an indivisible set of goals, providing new metrics, and bridging the data gaps.

Successful strategies used by Governments to stimulate technological innovation had involved combinations of actions, including: devoting a significant portion of budgets to research and development; adopting strong standards that challenged business while leaving time for business to devise solutions; and, building dialogue with business in order to build trust. Some countries had established a competitive advantage in the private sector in areas of renewable energy, waste-to-energy and wastewater cleaning, utilizing such strategies. Public agencies could facilitate the diffusion of knowledge and technology from academia to companies and in particular to Small and Medium size Enterprises. In some countries, basic policies to support innovators, such as facilitating access to laboratories and allowing pilot projects, could go a long way to stimulating local innovation.

Several international fora and programmes had worked to make national projects available at the global level or worked to spur resource efficiency and transfers of technology. There had been successful examples of incubator systems financed by donor countries, which had enabled genuine transfer of technology. In other cases international agreements had technology transfer provisions that had proven effective. Technology collaborative programs, which brought together the private sector, Governments and academia, had delivered concrete advances in past years. However, key challenges had included identifying promising technologies, mobilizing investment and maturing these technologies in order to bring them to scale. The role of the Technology Facilitation Mechanism and its online platform would give an opportunity to maximize the contribution of science, technology and innovation in the achievement of the SDGs.

Public-private partnerships could help transfer technology to developing countries. There had been collaborative experiences in health, agriculture and other sectors. Partnerships could be especially needed to push forward technology and corresponding policy in “laggard” sectors. For example, observed rates of technological progress in transport and in industrial use of energy were not high enough compared to what was seen as needed to achieve the SDGs.

As examples presented at the Event highlighted, technology had always been embedded in social innovation and played a central role in new business models. It was very important to demystify technology and help people relate it to local problems, in order to foster local capacity to innovate. Women and girls needed to be part of the conversation on technology and should be a primary target for social training and awareness raising programmes. It was also important to devise policies that favoured increased engagement of women in technology development and IT careers, including achieving equal pay for equal work.

Data for SDGs

Data requirements to manage the 2030 Agenda were seen as vast. Many statistical offices had started using big data to produce statistics, including from spatial and mobile phone sources. Going forward, countries would need roadmaps to strengthen their statistical capacity. The UN Statistical Commission recently created the High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-Building for Statistics for the 2030 Agenda to advise on harnessing the opportunities of the data revolution for the implementation of the SDGs. The group was designing a roadmap for modernizing and strengthening statistical systems, and was planning for the first UN World Forum for Sustainable Development Data to be held next year. Others were offering support with the application and testing the use of big data. There were important lessons to be learned from other areas, for example, the use of text messages in crisis contexts. Countries had launched pilot projects using data from satellite imagery, mobile phones and social media. Recent experiences with utilizing mobile phone data to better identify where poverty existed had produced lessons that were applicable to developed and developing countries alike.

The promise of new data and technologies should not overshadow the need for efforts to produce the most basic structural data, such as registration of all births. Other examples included birth registration schemes, data on school attendance, and accurate measurement of economic activity. Such data were seen as critical to identifying those left behind, especially girls, youth, and people with disabilities. Giving identity and legal status to everybody would be critical to the achievement of sustainable development and empowerment of peoples.

Data should not be confined to statistical offices and Governments. All stakeholders should have access to information and data on progress made on implementing the Agenda. Accountability was easier to obtain when open data policies and obligation to make data accessible were in place. One example of such access was the Open Data Inventory (ODIN), which assessed the coverage and openness of official statistics to identify gaps, promote open data policies, improve access, and encourage dialogue between national statistical offices and data users. The Aarhus Convention, which had articulated Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration, could provide a powerful mechanism for bottom-up accountability. Accountability was much easier to request when civil society was seen as an important resource in providing data, for example, through community-based systems of information.

It was no longer the purview of Government only to produce data. All over the world, people were mapping their own communities. The proliferation of mobile phones and the rapidly spreading ability to use computers had increased capacity to use information technologies, even in marginalized communities. Those communities should be seen not only as pockets of vulnerability, but also as a source of skills for generating data. There were many examples of locally produced data of better quality than data available from the Government. This provided opportunities for development of strategies and guidelines that integrate these new approaches with statistical data for improved decision making and better quality data overall.

Partnerships for the implementation of SDGs

The 2030 Agenda demands effective and complimentary multi-stakeholder partnerships in order to meet the highly ambitious SDGs and address their long-term, integrated nature with transformative solutions.

Efforts were widespread and awareness increasing in the finance and business community and among civil society partners in bringing the SDGs to the forefront of the development agenda. Business leaders were translating the SDGs into language that the private sector understood, transforming the aspirational values embedded in the SDGs into practical opportunities. For example, long term business viability and global sustainable development were mutually dependent on sustainable supply chains. With global agreement around the SDGs, businesses now had the opportunity and tools needed to assess and modify their supply chains in relation to these universal priorities, affecting the individuals, communities, lands and waters that their supply chains touch. Leading business communities had framed the SDGs as an opportunity for business to innovate, enter new markets, elevate the global labour force, and create a competitive edge, recognizing that there were risks for those who do not embrace the 2030 Agenda.

Partnerships that involve the UN should ensure a high level of integrity in relation to their private sector partners, especially in regards to human rights, labour, environmental and corruption issues. Many countries had legal mechanisms in place within which to hold the private sector accountable. At the global level, the UN Global Compact played an important role as entry point for the private sector into the UN.

Better data were needed for investors and pension holders to ensure companies were accountable to their commitments around the SDGs. Examples of initiatives on climate-related financial disclosures gave hope to accelerating global investments in technological innovation and clean energy by increasing transparency. This approach could be expanded to include all SDG-related disclosures with the ultimate goal of producing effective standards of disclosure on SDG impacts.

Countries, international organizations and civil society had a long history of multi-stakeholder partnerships from which to draw experience and success, in particular in areas such as renewable energy, transport, water, forests, sustainable agriculture, gender equality and women's empowerment. Civil society had played an essential role in raising awareness, building capacity of Governments, as well as holding actors and systems to account for transparency and results. The private sector and Governments had contributed support through multiple vehicles and instruments, and had shaped principles of engagement on core issues of sustainability and gender.

An in-room survey of participants conducted during the partnership luncheon captured essential elements and current challenges of multi-stakeholder partnerships. Participants were asked to select three 'essential characteristics' and three 'chronic challenges' from a list of 13 options (plus a 'write-in'). 90 percent of tables submitted responses, with at least one table

submitting views for each SDG except for Goal 1. Results found that certain qualities were commonly identified as essential for multi-stakeholder partnerships success include a shared vision (prioritized by 81 percent of participants), clear goals (66 percent), and trust and understanding between partners (66 percent). These were followed closely by good governance (50 percent) and sustainable financing (47 percent), results-orientation (40 percent), responsible to people and planet (29 percent), and clearly-defined roles for partners (26 percent). Conversely, three elements stood apart as chronic challenges: lack of trust and understanding, lack of sustainable finances, and lack of shared vision. These were deemed twice as critical as the next group of potential challenges which included lack of governance and poorly defined roles. Additional comments provided by participants highlighted specific aspects of clear communication, honest dialogue, engaging youth, transparency, trust and mutual respect, acceptance of profit for participating businesses, rigorous standard setting, good governance including anti-corruption, building on prior success, and enabling regulatory frameworks.

Climate action in the context of sustainable development

Timely action on climate change was seen as an important enabler for reaching the other SDGs. It would therefore be crucial to mainstream climate action and SDGs in national plans and action at all levels.

It was important that countries promptly ratified the historic Paris Agreement so that it could enter into force as soon as possible. Governments needed to establish credibility, starting with sending clear signals through ambitious Intended Nationally Determined Contributions. This would create a virtuous circle and spur transformative actions by the private sector.

Rather than being seen as two separate processes, the Paris Agreement and the SDGs should be considered complementary, as successful implementation of one would depend and strengthen the other. Many countries had started to reflect on this coherent implementation in their national strategies and plans, for some small Islands in particular, it was seen as a matter of ensuring survival.

The finance and business communities had supported a strong Agreement, and highlighted the need for a price on carbon. Public-private partnerships had been created that directly support the transition to low-carbon economies, and the youth movement in particular has presented a compelling case for action.



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

18 January 2016

Excellency,

I refer to my letter of 3 November 2015 in which I informed that I would convene on **11-12 April 2016** a High-Level Thematic Debate on Achieving the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Due to latest developments, however, the Thematic Debate will take place on the **21 April 2016**. It is my pleasure to hereby invite your delegation to participate, at the highest possible level, on this new date.

As you are aware, the Paris Climate Agreement mandated that a High-level Signing Ceremony should take place on **22 April 2016** at UN Headquarters in New York. Given the broader framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its strong interlinkages with the Climate Agreement, the sequencing and timing of the High-level Thematic Debate and the High-level Signing Ceremony can serve to significantly increase international awareness and political momentum around the implementation of the SDGs.

It is my expectation that this logical adjustment of dates will allow global leaders to come together and focus their efforts on mobilizing and catalyzing individual, collective, multilateral and multi-stakeholder action to support early progress on realizing the sustainable development goals and climate action.

The draft provisional programme for the Thematic Debate will be distributed in due course.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mogens Lykketoft', written in a cursive style.

Mogens Lykketoft

To All Permanent Representatives and
Permanent Observers to the
United Nations



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

4 December 2015

Excellency,

Further to my letter of 4 November, 2015, regarding the three High-level Thematic Debates that I will convene, I am pleased to invite your Government to participate, at the highest level possible, in the first of these events entitled, **High-Level Thematic Debate on Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals**, which will take place 11-12 April, 2016, at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. This HLTD will bring together global political, business and civil society leaders to focus their efforts on ramping up the means of implementation of the 2030 Agenda and its attendant Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

As you are aware, a major priority of my presidency is to support prompt and inclusive implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. To this end, it is critical that we maintain and increase the political momentum garnered from the successful Sustainable Development Summit that took place here in New York this past September and adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and the Third International Conference on Financing for Development which was held in Addis Ababa in July 2015. In like manner, I also intend to build on the outcome of the UNFCCC COP21 meeting in Paris, upon its completion in a few days' time.

A short Concept Note is attached and additional information will be provided in the weeks ahead.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.



Mogens Lykketoft

To All Permanent Representatives and
Permanent Observers to the United Nations
New York

UN @ 70 – A New Commitment to Action
**High Level Thematic Debate on
Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals
New York, 11-12 April, 2016**

Desired Outcomes:

- Catalyse ambitious and immediate action at all levels on the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- Strengthen action by governments on implementation and unlock private investment to finance poverty eradication and sustainable development, including climate action.
- Illuminate the potential of information and technology for sustainable development.
- Build on UNFCCC COP21 and demonstrate how climate action can support SDG implementation..
- Forge partnerships to achieve and enable innovative solutions to the 2030 Agenda.

Format:

This event will bring together global political, business and civil society leaders over two days in New York to focus on kick-starting SDG implementation. It will also be a unique opportunity to address the synergy between the COP21 outcome and the 2030 Agenda. Leaders will be offered a platform to catalyse action, discuss concrete steps forward and mobilize potential implementation partners. *Five focus areas have been selected to contribute to the above outcomes with a cross-cutting focus on gender equality and capacity building.*

1. Action at all levels: Member States have committed to drive national responses to implementation of the 2030 Agenda. All actors, led by national governments, will need to work to deliver sustainable development which leaves no-one behind.
2. Financing poverty eradication and sustainable development: Implementing the 2030 Agenda and fulfilling COP21 commitments, requires substantial financial resources as well as sound regulatory frameworks. Public and private finance as well as domestic and international finance must be urgently mobilized.
3. Technology and information for decision-making: The development and diffusion of new technologies and the collection of high quality, timely and reliable information and data are important means of implementing the SDGs. We need to improve access to technology, as well as capacity for technology development, and ensure that the best available information technology tools and information sources are used across sectors such as clean energy, health and information.
4. Climate action in the context of sustainable development; The world is on the cusp of a landmark climate agreement at COP21. This is only the start of the journey. We need to build from the baseline of COP 21 through climate action which supports successful and timely implementation of the 2030 Agenda.
5. Partnerships for the implementation of SDGs: This new Agenda will only be realized if the implementation process is partnership based, fully inclusive, transparent and accountable.

Background:

A major priority of the 70th President of the General Assembly, H.E. Mogens Lykketoft is to support prompt and inclusive implementation of the 2030 Agenda. It builds on the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seeks to address their unfinished business. The 2030 Agenda includes 17 SDGs and 169 targets. The Addis Ababa Action Agenda supports, complements and is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, . The COP21 climate change agreement is expected to be adopted in December 2015 in Paris.

High-level Thematic Debate on Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals

Related events

21 April 2016

How to Make a Powerful Business Case to Achieve Sustainable Development

Discussion will explore gaps, potential key messages, findings, and stories which could help this upcoming report stand out in a crowded space and make a real difference.

Transforming Our Food Systems to Transform our World: The Zero Hunger Challenge and the Sustainable Development Agenda

The round-table discussion will showcase pathways to transform and benchmark food systems, from production to consumption, through individual and collective action. It will consider how investments in food security, nutrition and sustainable agriculture can pay dividends across the whole of the 2030 Agenda, beyond SDG2: actively contributing to ending poverty, delivering equality and safeguarding the planet. It will do so by bringing together stakeholders from different parts of the food and agriculture value chain, exploring the experience of effective and innovative multi-stakeholder stewardship models, and taking into account the importance of evidence-based frameworks that consider needs, policies and resources. The round-table will discuss how supporters, participants and champions of the Zero Hunger Challenge can mobilize political leadership and coordinate action to deliver sustainable, inclusive and resilient food and nutrition systems.

Drivers of Change: Partnerships at Speed and Scale

Partnerships between government, business and civil society will be essential in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. This session will focus on the un-tapped potential of governments to enable innovative partnerships to be formed, accelerated and scaled. Participants will have the opportunity to discuss the role of governments in setting the rules of the game, enabling collaboration, and establishing frameworks for sustainable development.

Science, technology and innovation (STI): Realising the potential of STI for all to achieve the SDGs: opportunities and challenges for maximising the contribution of STI and key elements of necessary stakeholder action

This Policy Dialogue Room will bring together high-level representatives from various stakeholder groups to a focused discussion around two key questions on how exactly STI will contribute to the SDGs. First, what are the main opportunities and challenges – at policy, organisational and individual levels – for maximising the contribution of STI to the achievement of the SDGs? Second, what are key elements that countries and international organizations may take into account in formulating action plans and/or roadmaps for science, technology and innovation for the SDGs?

With an envisioned participation of 15-20 guests, this informal event will provide an opportunity to engage a small number of high-level experts and representatives to have a focused and concrete discussion on the outlined two guiding questions for the 2016 Multi-stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation. The key recommendations from this event will inform discussions at the STI Forum on 6-7 June.

Achieving Sustainable Energy for All by 2030

Achieving SDG7, with its goals on energy access, renewable energy and energy efficiency, is an essential element of meeting the sustainable development agenda, as well as the climate objectives agreed upon in Paris. This High Level Dialogue will explore the cross-cutting nature of SDG7 and the implications for the broader sustainable development agenda, profile recent action, and highlight priority areas for the next step change in advancing the SE4ALL objectives.

Sustainable Consumption and Production for the SDGs

This Policy Room will explore the potential for more closely aligning various sustainability agendas and partnerships which support the shift to SCP patterns and for enhancing the contribution of the 10YFP to a number of SDG targets.

Dialogue between Latin American high-net-worth Individuals and Decision-Makers to align investment with the SDGs leaving no one behind

Communicating the Sustainable Development Goals – For Everyone

This Policy Dialogue Room will bring together different actors to work together to communicate the SDG’s – bridging the gap between policy experts, campaigners and communication experts and build new partnerships for communicating, with the aims to inspire new communication means/tools for the SDG’s.

Winning the Battle for Sustainable Development: Local Authorities and Partnerships for Habitat III and the New Urban Agenda

This interactive roundtable will discuss the respective roles of local authorities and stakeholders in working with member states to develop and implement Habitat III outcomes. Among the topics to be reviewed will be: effective approaches to meaningful participation of local authorities and stakeholders in decision-making; the importance of decentralization and social inclusion in various contexts; the need for national urban policies and legislative and financing frameworks to achieve balanced territorial development.

Tools for the Private Sector to Accelerate Implementation of the SDGs

This Policy Dialogue will delve into how to accelerate the engagement of business and industry in the follow-up and implementation of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, including exchanging ideas on how the SDGs could be embedded into business strategies, including corporate sustainability strategies. The meeting will also serve as an opportunity to showcase different tools, developed by business and the United Nations which could be useful during the 2030 Agenda follow-up and review. These include: the SDG Compass, the Partnerships for SDGs platform and the Business for 2030 online platform.

Intensifying and Expanding International Tax Cooperation to Achieve Sustainable Development

The overall objective of the Dialogue Room is to highlight a range of constructive responses and possible solutions to the challenges of international tax cooperation in the context of increased attention to domestic resource mobilization in the SDG agenda and the recent OECD work on Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS). Its intended outcome is a wider and better informed constituency among delegations in New York, especially those from the developing countries, and revived public support from civil society organizations for new institutional arrangements to promote the higher level of international tax cooperation required for countries to undertake Agenda 2030 and their commitments under the Paris Agreement.

Role of capital markets in helping to deliver the SDGs

The event will explore how companies can embed sustainable development in their operations through PRI and ESG reporting and long-term investing; and how these practices can be used to bring private capital into supporting the implementation of the SDGs and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda. The discussion will explore the role of private sector actions and discuss their potential, as well as the need for regulatory frameworks, and how voluntary actions and regulatory frameworks can complement each other.

20 April 2016

High-level Forum: The Africa We Want in 2030, 2063 and Beyond

<http://www.un.org/en/africa/osaa/events/2016/earlyactionandresults.shtml>