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

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

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

**PROGRAMME OUTLINE**

**MASTER OF CEREMONIES:**
Ms. Maggie Lake, Business Journalist and Correspondent

7:00-7:30 | Opening Plenary

**KEYNOTE ADDRESS:**
H.E. Mr. Antonio Guterres, Secretary-General, United Nations
Rt. Hon. Mr. Gaston Browne, Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda
Ms. Sharan Burrow, General Secretary, International Trade Union Confederation
7:30-8:20 | Partnerships to achieve the SDGs in the COVID-19 Era

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

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

OPENING ADDRESS:
Ms. Sanda Ojiambo, Executive Director, UN Global Compact

PANEL DISCUSSION (50 minutes):
MODERATOR: Ms. Jessica Cheam, Managing Editor, Eco-Business
Ms. Ester Baiget, Chief Executive Officer, Novozymes
Mr. Jesper Brodin, Chief Executive Officer, IKEA
Mr. Kerry Adler, President, SkyPower
Mr. Italo Freitas, Chief Executive Officer, AES Tiete
Mr. Takeshi Niinami, President and Chief Executive Officer, Suntory Holdings

8:20-8:30 | High-levelRemarks
H.E. Dr. Thani Al Zeyoudi, Minister of State for Foreign Trade, United Arab Emirates
H.E. Ms. Rania Al-Mashat, Minister of International Cooperation, Arab Republic of Egypt

8:30-8:40 | Special Global Announcement and Video Presentation
Mr. Achim Steiner, Administrator, UNDP

9:00-10:00 | Breakout Sessions & Networking
In-depth breakout sessions on corporate efforts leveraging the frameworks of the SDGs to address
the three fragilities: climate change and biodiversity loss; social inequality; and economic exclusion.

| Build Back Better: Designing a Future that Leaves No One Behind | Purpose-Driven Business: Corporate Action for Collective Good |
| The B-Team | Global Citizen |

| Accelerating Digital Transformation to Achieve the SDGs | Catalysing Finance and Investment for the Achievement of SDG 7 |
| Keidanren (Japan Business Federation) | UN Energy |

| The Ocean and the 2030 Agenda: Towards an Action-Oriented UN Ocean Conference |
| United Nations Global Compact |
10:00-11:50 | Reducing Inequalities through Principled Leadership

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

**OPENING ADDRESS:**

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

**PANEL DISCUSSION (45 mins):**

**MODERATOR:** Ms. Christa Gyori, Chief Executive Officer and Co-Founder, Leaders on Purpose

Ms. Bola Adesola, Vice-Chair, UN Global Compact, Senior Vice-Chairman at Standard Chartered Bank Group Nigeria

Ms. Maria Fernanda Garza, First Vice Chair, International Chamber of Commerce, Chief Executive Officer, Orestia S.A de C.V

Mr. James Mwangi, Chief Executive Officer, Equity Group Holdings; 2020 Oslo Business for Peace Award Recipient

Mr. Jean-Pascal Tricoire, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Schneider Electric

10:50-11:00 | High-level Remarks

Ms. Henrietta Fore, Executive Director, UNICEF

H.E. Mr. Urmas Reinsalu, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Estonia

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

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

- **Nature is Everyone’s Business: A Business and Policy Dialogue**
  - Business for Nature

- **Business Leadership toward Food Systems Transformation**
  - International Fund for Agricultural Development

- **Untapping SME Potential to Achieve Agenda 2030**
  - International Organization of Employers

- **JCI RISE: Rebuilding the World after COVID-19**
  - Junior Chamber International

- **Business Driving Zero-emission Freight Transport**
  - SLOCAT, Transport Decarbonisation Alliance and WBCSD

- **Untapped Potential: Water Innovation to Advance the SDGs**
  - UN Water

- **Achieving the SDGs through Corporate Transparency & Social Change: A Roadmap for the Decade of Action**
  - World Benchmarking Alliance
12:30-13:20 | The Business Case for a Resilient Rebuild

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

OPENING ADDRESS:
Mr. John W.H. Denton AO, Secretary-General, International Chamber of Commerce

PANEL DISCUSSION (45 mins):
MODERATOR: Paul Polman, Vice Chair, UN Global Compact; Founder, Imagine
Ms. Veronica de la Cerda, Chief Executive Officer, Triciclos
Mr. Emmanuel Faber, Chief Executive Officer, Danone
Mr. Oscar N. Oyema, Chief Executive Officer, Nigerian Stock Exchange

13:20-13:30 | High-level Remarks
Ms. Jutta Urpilainen, Commissioner of International Partnerships, European Union
Ms. Pamela Coke Hamilton, Executive Director, International Trade Centre
Ms. Stephanie von Friedeburg, Chief Operating Officer, International Finance Corporation

13:30-14:00 | Closing Plenary

KEYNOTE ADDRESS:
H.E. Ms. Evelyn Wever-Croes, Prime Minister of Aruba
H.E. Mr. Frank Reister, Minister Foreign Trade and Economic Attractiveness of France
Mr. Ajay Banga, Chair, International Chamber of Commerce and Chief Executive Officer, Mastercard
H.E. Ms. Amina J. Mohammed, Deputy Secretary-General, United Nations
BREAKOUT SESSIONS

9:00-10:00

► Build Back Better: Designing a Future that Leaves No One Behind

MODERATOR: Ms. Halla Tómasdóttir, Chief Executive Officer, The B Team
Ms. Silvia Dias Lagnado, Sustainable Growth Officer, Natura & Co.
Mr. Hiro Mizuno, Independent Director, Board of Directors and Audit Committee, Tesla
Ms. Leena Nair, Chief Human Resources Officer, Unilever
Mr. Peter Ndegwa, Chief Executive Officer, Safaricom
Mr. Danny Sriskandarajah, CEO, Oxfam GB

► Purpose-Driven Business: Corporate Action for Collective Good

Ms. Fran Katsoudas, Executive Vice President and Chief People Officer of Cisco
Mr. Tim Mapes, Senior Vice President and Chief Marketing and Communications Officer, Delta
Ms. Nomzamo Mbatha, UNHCR Goodwill Ambassador; Actress; and Businesswoman
Ms. Stephanie McMahon, Chief Brand Officer, WWE
Ms. Chloe Targett-Adams, Global Director of Promoters and Business Relations, Formula 1
Ms. Gail Tifford, Chief Brand Officer, Weight Watchers

► Accelerating Digital Transformation to Achieve the SDGs

MODERATOR: Dr. Jane Nelson, Founding Director of the Corporate Responsibility Initiative at the Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University
Mr. Takashi Hibino, Chairman of the Board, Daiwa Securities Group Inc.
Mr. George Nakayama, Senior Adviser (Former CEO), Daiichi Sankyo Co., Ltd. Chair of the Committee on Responsible Business Conduct & SDGs Promotion. Keidanren (Japan Business Federation)
Ms. Sunita Grote, Co-lead UNICEF Ventures, UNICEF Office of Innovation
Ms. Michelle Edkins, Global Managing Director, BlackRock Investment Stewardship
Catalysing Finance and Investment for the Achievement of SDG 7

H.E. Ms. Lois Young, Permanent Representative of Belize to the United Nations; Chair, AOSIS
Ms. Damilola Ogunbiyi, Chief Executive Officer and Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Sustainable Energy for All; Co-Chair of UN Energy
Ms. Dewi Dylander, Deputy Executive Director and Head of Sustainable Investments, PKA
Ms. Chebet Lesan, Founder and Chief Executive Officer of BrightGreen Renewable Energy

The Ocean and the 2030 Agenda: Towards an Action-Oriented UN Ocean Conference

H.E. Mr. Francisco Duarte Lopes, Permanent Representative of Portugal to the United Nations
Mr. Peter Thomson, UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy on the Oceans
Ms. Maria Francesca Spatolisano, Assistant Secretary-General for Policy, Coordination and Inter-Agency Affairs, UN DESA
Ms. Dona Bertarelli, Special Advisor for the Blue Economy, UNCTAD
Ms. Marisa Drew, Chief Executive Officer, Impact Advisory and Finance, Credit Suisse
Ms. Gloria Fluxa, Vice-Chair and Chief Sustainability Officer of Iberostar Hotels and Resorts
Mr. Erik Giercksky, Head of Sustainable Ocean Business, UN Global Compact
Mr. Sturla Henriksen, Special Advisor on Oceans, UN Global Compact
BREAKOUT SESSIONS

11:00-12:00


Mr. Michael Koach
Mr. Kiruben Naicker; Head of Science Policy, Sustainability, Biodiversity and Ecosystems Services; Department of Forestry, Fisheries and Environment; South Africa
Mr. Mathias Vicherat, General Secretary, Danone
Ms. Eva Zabey, Executive Director, Business for Nature

▶ Business Leadership toward Food Systems Transformation

Dr. Agnes Kalibata, UN Secretary-General’s Special Envoy for UN Food Systems Summit 2021
Mr. Martin Frick, Deputy to the Special Envoy for the UN Food Systems Summit 2021
Ms. Alison Cairns, Private Sector Partnerships Lead, UN Food Systems Summit 2021
Mr. Gene Moses, Senior Partnership Officer, International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)

▶ Untapping SME Potential to Achieve Agenda 2030

Mr. Louis Camara
Ms. Chantal Line Carpentier, Chief, New York Office, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)
Mr. Henrik Munthe, Attorney-at-Law, Confederation of Norwegian Enterprise
Mr. Douglas Opio, Executive Director, Federation of Uganda Employers
Mr. Alvaro Ramirez
Mr. Roberto Suarez Santos, Secretary-General, International Organization of Employers

▶ JCI RISE: Rebuilding the World after COVID-19

MODERATOR: Mr. Kevin Hin, Secretary-General, JCI
Mr. Francisco Abad Guerra, Executive Director, CODEIS
Ms. Malak Al Akiely, Founder and Managing Director of Golden Wheat for Grain Trading, Ltd.
Mr. Itai Manyere, World President, JCI
Business Driving Zero-emission Freight Transport

Ms. Andrea Meza Murillo, Minister of Environment and Energy, Costa Rica
Ms. Sita Holtslag, Senior Advisor, Sustainable Mobility, Netherlands Enterprise Agency, Transport Decarbonisation Alliance (TDA)
Mark Major, Senior Advisor, SLOCAT Partnership
Ms. Sophie Punte, Executive Director, Smart Freight Centre
Mr. Rodrigo Rodriguez Tornquist, Secretary of Climate Change, Sustainable Development and Innovation, Ministry of Environment, Argentina
Mr. David Thackray, Sales & Marketing Director, Tevva

Untapped Potential: Water Innovation to Advance the SDGs

Ms. Maria Francesca Spatolisano, Assistant Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Inter-Agency Affairs, UN DESA
Mr. Olcay Unver, Senior Water Advisor at the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO); Vice Chair, UN Water
Ms. Faduma Ali, Junior Professional Officer, Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE); Member, Water Youth Network
Ms. Kate Gibson, Global Director, Diageo in Society, Diageo
Ms. Aina Grobicki, Deputy Director for Adaptation, Green Climate Fund
Mr. Jason Morrison, President, Pacific Institute
Ms. Samantha Sims, Vice President for Environmental Sustainability and Product Stewardship, PVH Corp
Mr. Eric Souberain, Vice President, One Planet and Water Cycle, Danone

Achieving the SDGs through Corporate Transparency & Social Change: A Roadmap for the Decade of Action

MODERATOR: Ms. Pauliina Murphy, Engagement Director, World Benchmarking Alliance
Ms. Leila Fourie, Group Chief Executive Officer, JSE
Mr. Gerbrand Haverkamp, Executive Director, World Benchmarking Alliance
Ms. Taki Netshitenze, Chief Officer and Executive Director of External Affairs, Vodacom South Africa; Chair, Vodacom Foundation
Mr. Andrés Penate, Vice President of Regulatory and Public Policy, AB InBev