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

As companies struggle to maintain their footing in a COVID-19 world, some commentators have suggested the outlook for the global economy may have a chilling effecting on the adoption of sustainable business practices.

But, to the contrary, a new form of leader has emerged in this crisis — a generation of executives and rising professionals who understand that there are no successful businesses in a failed world. In this context, the private sector — in partnership with governments and civil society leaders — is leveraging the framework of the Sustainable Development Goals to respond to immediate threats in their communities, prepare for long term sustainability, and remedy the three critical fragilities which have been exposed by events of 2020: climate change and nature 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, CNN Correspondent

7:00 – 7:30| Opening Plenary

Keynote Address:
- H.E. Mr. Antonio Guterres, Secretary-General, United Nations
- H.E. Mr. Volkan Bozkir, 75th President of the United Nations General Assembly
- H.E. Ms. Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission (Invited)
- Rt Hon Mr. Gaston Browne, Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda (Invited)
- Mr. Albert Bourla, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Pfizer (Invited)

7:30 – 8:30| Partnerships to achieve the SDGs in the COVID-19 Era

From partnering with UN agencies to deliver humanitarian aid to collaborating with competitors to develop tests, treatments and vaccines to providing crucial guidance, support and liquidity to others in their supply chains and their communities, leaders from the private sector understand that rebuilding the foundation to deliver on the SDGs will require innovative partnerships and unprecedented levels of cooperation. This session will explore transformational private sector led initiatives and collaborations which have saved lives and livelihoods in the midst of global crisis.

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

Panel Discussion (45 mins):
- Moderator: Ms. Jessica Cheng, Managing Editor, ECOBusiness (Invited)
- Ms. Ester Baiget, Chief Executive Officer, Novozymes
- Mr. Kerry Adler, President, SkyPower
- Mr. Italo Freitas, Chief Executive Officer, AES Tiete (Invited)
- Mr. Takeshi Niinami, President and Chief Executive Officer, Suntory Holdings (Invited)
- Mr. Christophe Weber, President and Chief Executive Officer, Takeda Pharmaceuticals (Invited)

High-level Remarks: H.E. Mr. Wang Yi, Minister of Foreign Affairs, China (Invited)
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/nature loss; social inequalities; and economic exclusion.

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<th>Build Back Better: Designing a Future that Leaves No One Behind</th>
<th>The Role of Business in Advancing the Global Goals on Sustainable Development</th>
<th>Purpose-Driven Business: Corporate Action for Collective Good</th>
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<td>Accelerating Digital Transformation to Achieve the SDGs</td>
<td>Catalysing Finance and Investment for the Achievement of SDG 7</td>
<td>The Ocean and the 2030 Agenda: Towards an Action-Oriented UN Ocean Conference</td>
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<td>UN Energy</td>
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10:00 – 11:00 | **Reducing Inequalities through Principled Leadership**
In order to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, dynamic leaders with clear visions are needed to develop actionable strategies that drive progress towards reducing inequalities and enabling opportunity for all. In the private sector, staff at all levels contribute to this effort in the workplace and improve quality of life within their communities. This session will explore best practices in enabling professional development and how professionals at all levels can take action to advance implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

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

**Panel Discussion (45 mins):**
- Ms. **Bola Adesola**, Vice-Chair, UN Global Compact, Senior Vice-Chairman at Standard Chartered Bank Group Nigeria (Invited)
- Mr. **Jesper Brodin**, Chief Executive Officer, IKEA (To Be Invited)
- Ms. **Maria Fernanda Garza**, First Vice Chair, International Chamber of Commerce, Chief Executive Officer, Orestia S.A de C.V (Invited)
- Mr. **Carlos Ignacio Gallego Palacio**, CEO, Grupo Nutresa (Invited)
- Ms. **Rita Maria Zniber**, Chief Executive Officer, Diana Holdings (Invited)

**High-level remarks:** H.E. Mr. **François-Philippe Champagne**, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Canada (Invited)
11:30–12:30 | Breakout Sessions & Networking
In-depth breakout sessions on corporate efforts leveraging the frameworks of the SDGs to address the three fragilities: climate change/nature loss; social inequalities; and economic exclusion.

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<td>Business for Nature</td>
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<th>Business as a Driver of Sustainable, Low Carbon Transport</th>
<th>Untapped Potential: Water Innovation to Advance the SDGs</th>
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<td>SLOCAT Partnership</td>
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12:30 – 13:30 | 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
- Ms. Vericona de la Cerda, Chief Executive Officer, Triciclos (To be Invited)
- Ms. Henrietta Fore, Executive Director, UNICEF
- Ms. Kristalina Georgieva, Managing Director and Chairman of the Executive Board, International Monetary Fund (Invited)
- Mr. Emmanuel Farber, Chief Executive Officer, Danone (Invited)
- Mr. Oscar N. Oyema, Chief Executive Officer, Nigerian Stock Exchange

High-level Remarks: H.E. Mr. Tito Mboweni, Minister of Finance, South Africa (Invited)

13:30 - 14:00 | Closing Plenary

Keynote Address:
- H.E. Mr. Emmanuel Macron, President, France (Invited)
- Mr. Ajay Banga, Chair, International Chamber of Commerce and Chief Executive Officer, Mastercard
- H.E. Ms. Amina J. Mohammed, Deputy Secretary-General, United Nations