



7th  
**WORLD INVESTMENT FORUM**  
INVESTING IN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

18-22 OCTOBER 2021

[worldinvestmentforum.unctad.org](http://worldinvestmentforum.unctad.org)



# PROGRAMME



UNITED NATIONS  
UNCTAD

## ABOUT THE WORLD INVESTMENT FORUM

The UNCTAD World Investment Forum is the largest global platform for investment and development. The Forum is a biennial event that facilitates dialogue and action on the world's key and emerging investment-for-development challenges. The Forum offers the investment community a unique opportunity to shape the global investment environment in multiple dimensions and foster partnerships at all levels.

The Forum gathers investment stakeholders from more than 160 countries, with participants representing the full spectrum of upstream and downstream investment, thereby integrating sustainable development along the entire “investment chain”. Participants include Heads of State and Government, ministers, executives of global companies and stock exchanges, sovereign wealth and pension fund managers, impact investors, investment treaty negotiators, heads of investment promotion agencies, international investment location experts, industrial zone and infrastructure developers, project financiers, heads of international organizations, parliamentarians, civil society representatives, eminent scholars, and the international media. The wide appeal of the Forum has proved effective at shaping investment-for-development outcomes.

The Forum was established in 2008 in response to a need for a big push in investment for sustainable development. Over the past decade, the Forum has made a [significant contribution](#) to investment-for-development policymaking. Previous editions took place in Accra (2008), Xiamen (2010), Doha (2012), Geneva (2014, 2018) and Nairobi (2016).

## INVESTING IN SUSTAINABLE RECOVERY

This 2021 World Investment Forum, its seventh edition, comes at a critical time for global investment and can help address the key challenges facing the investment-for-development community worldwide. Recovering from the COVID-19 crisis and building forward better will not be possible without reigniting investment as an engine of growth. We need a big push for investment in sustainable and inclusive recovery. Towards this end, the Forum will tackle the challenges and opportunities arising from the triple mega-drivers: the new industrial revolution, the sustainability imperative, and the enhancement of economic resilience.

All of the almost 100 high-level events at this year's Forum address key emerging issues and policy solutions. Among the Forum's events, highlights include: the World Leaders' Investment Summits, the Global Investment Game Changers Summit, ministerial round tables, the Investment Promotion Conference, the International Investment Agreements Conference, the Global Sustainable Stock Exchanges Dialogue, the Institutional Investors for Sustainable Development Round Table, and the Family Business Conference. It will also include minister-business executive dialogues, multi-stakeholder sessions on key themes, and prestigious United Nations award ceremonies, as well as the launch of several global initiatives on investment for development.

The Forum is organized in collaboration with 70 international partners and international media (print, TV and social).

For further information: [worldinvestmentforum.org](http://worldinvestmentforum.org) | [diaeinfo@unctad.org](mailto:diaeinfo@unctad.org) | @unctadwif

James Zhan, Lead, World Investment Forum and  
Director, Investment and Enterprise, UNCTAD

## PROGRAMME IN DETAIL

MONDAY, 18 OCTOBER 2021

10:00–12:30

### WIF OPENING SUMMIT

#### Investing in sustainable recovery

The summit segments of the World Investment Forum, the Global Leaders' Investment Summits, are the headline events of the Forum. They give a platform to global leaders from government, business and the international community to present their vision for the future of investment and sustainable development. The summits discuss the immediate challenges and opportunities in investment and interrelated trade, technology and sustainability issues, and longer-term developments that we should become aware of.

This first 2021 Global Leaders' Investment Summit will address the challenge of restarting the investment engine of growth for a sustainable recovery and of mobilizing global investment to meet the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It will pay particular attention to the role that global investment governance needs to play in this regard. At a time when the global pandemic has had a severe impact on investment flows in general, and investment in the SDGs in particular, with some of the achievements made during the years 2015–2019 now being reversed, it is essential for the global investment community to remobilize investment, channel it into SDG sectors, particularly in poverty-ridden countries, and redouble efforts to ensure that it generates sustainable development impact. The realignment of global investment governance towards increased regionalism and protectionism, and the shift in national economic policies from liberalization to regulation and intervention, poses an additional challenge in this regard.

#### Issues to be addressed:

- What national, regional, and global policy approaches are best suited to restart the engine of international production and restore supply chains?
- How can governments, the private sector and the international community remobilize and reinvigorate investment in the SDGs, particularly in the poorest countries?
- What can the United Nations contribute to support these efforts?

Event manager: Mr. Joerg Weber

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12:00–13:30

### UNCTAD–WORLD ASSOCIATION OF INVESTMENT PROMOTION AGENCIES EXCHANGE PLATFORM (knowledge partner Ernst and Young)

#### Gearing up the digitalization of investment promotion: Strategies, good practices and lessons learned

Investment promotion agencies, economic development boards and special economic zones have been confronted with major operational challenges due to the disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Some did well, others faced serious challenges, much dependent on the extent and level of digitization within their organization. During the pandemic, resilience has ruled and most organizations in charge of investment promotion are back in business.

This workshop will deal with the changes and improvements that digitalization in investment promotion and facilitation can bring, from enhanced use of social media, numerical platforms and online one-stop-shops to virtual reality site visits.

#### Issues to be addressed:

- The speed and nature of digitalization of investment promotion organizations.
- UNCTAD business facilitation platform: e-regulations and e-registration.

Event manager: Ms. Natalia Guerra

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12:30–13:30

### TOWARDS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE WORLD INVESTMENT FOR DEVELOPMENT ALLIANCE (in partnership with the World Economic Forum)

This session will discuss the possibility of launching a new global alliance for sustainable investment, the World Investment for Development Alliance (WIDA), to support greater collaboration on investment issues. Leading actors who can help shape this new initiative will be invited to share their perspectives.

The backdrop to this project is that the world has been undergoing a series of profound changes, brought on by industrial transformation, technological shifts, societal evolution, geopolitical competition and the COVID-19 pandemic. International investment can tie together and strengthen economies throughout these changes, making the global community stronger rather than weaker. However, international investment flows have changed form, and in many cases declined – with FDI falling globally by 35% in 2020 – putting their contribution to sustainable development at risk.

At the same time, there are trillions of dollars in sustainable finance waiting to capitalize a rebound in greenfield FDI if enabling policies and measures are put in place. We see this potential with the burst of recent mergers and acquisitions around the world, which in the first half of 2021 alone surpassed all of 2020.

Many intergovernmental organizations, business entities, academic initiatives and civil society groups are working to support international investment and its sustainable development outcomes through enabling frameworks. Yet there is potential to better leverage these efforts, so that individual activities lead to more than the sum of the parts.

This can include collaboration on public–private projects to enable action on sustainable investment (EASI projects) that identify – and address – limiting factors to growing sustainable investment flows.

**Issues to be addressed:**

- How can organizations best work together to achieve the shared objective of growing sustainable investment?
- What are the elements to consider, moving forward, to create a mechanism for collaboration?
- How should public–private collaboration be designed, including to help achieve sustainability goals?

Event manager: Mr. Alexandre Dabbou  
Contact email: Alexandre.Dabbou@unctad.org

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12:30–14:00

## **PROMOTING ENTREPRENEURSHIP FOR MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES FOR INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

The objective of this round table is to inspire the formulation, implementation, and evaluation of inclusive entrepreneurship policies aimed at migrants and refugees for socioeconomic integration, social cohesion and sustainable development. The event will build on the work of the partnership between UNCTAD, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the International Organization for Migration for the development and roll-out of policy guidance on promoting entrepreneurship for migrants and refugees. It will reflect on lessons learned during practical implementation in East Africa, the Andean region and the Middle East. And it will outline key elements for future inclusive entrepreneurship policies in a post-COVID-19 resurgence and in support of SDG implementation.

**Issues to be addressed:**

- What role can entrepreneurship play in supporting the integration of migrants and refugees?
- What specific entrepreneurship policy measures are needed to facilitate socioeconomic integration in local economies?
- What are some good practices as well as challenges and lessons learned in facilitating entrepreneurship for migrants and refugees?
- What initiatives at national, regional and global levels can be pursued to promote entrepreneurship for migrants and refugees?

Event manager: Mr. Lorenzo Tosini  
Contact email: Lorenzo.Tosini@unctad.org

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13:45–15:00

## **FAMILY BUSINESS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: BEYOND THE BOTTOM LINE (in partnership with the Family Business Network (FBN))**

## How can family business advance the sustainability agenda?

To deliver on the SDGs by 2030, an ambitious global effort is required over the next decade to accelerate sustainable solutions to the world's economic, and also environmental, social and governance (ESG) challenges. Two thirds of businesses worldwide are owned or managed by families, employing 60% of the world's workforce and contributing over 70% of global GDP. Family businesses are key actors in ensuring a transformative and sustainable future to create a shared prosperity for all, mobilize investment in sustainable development and define success across generations. Increasingly, family-owned enterprises around the globe are embedding sustainability in their business practices.

Family businesses need to be empowered to maximize their potential and seize the untapped opportunities associated with embracing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. As a first-of-its-kind partnership between the United Nations and the global family business community, UNCTAD and FBN jointly developed the global initiative Family Business for Sustainable Development (FBSD). Its ambitious package of deliverables aims at mobilizing business families and their firms to embed sustainability into their business strategies, thereby committing to concrete, measurable contributions towards the SDGs.

Key components of the FBSD initiative include, among others, the family business sustainability pledge and the adoption of transparent and comparable core sustainability indicators for family firm reporting and a capacity-building programme.

A high-level panel of speakers will explore how family business can advance the sustainability agenda and provide lead examples of business families that are addressing ESG challenges.

### Issues to be addressed:

- What are the key drivers for family firms to adopt the sustainability agenda?
- Is there a business narrative for adopting sustainability practices in privately held firms?
- Are the SDGs a fitting blueprint for fostering sustainability among family businesses?

Event manager: Ms. Christiane Stepanek-Allen  
Contact email: [Christiane.Stepanek@unctad.org](mailto:Christiane.Stepanek@unctad.org)

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14:00–16:00

## ACADEMIC TRACK OPENING PLENARY: SETTING THE FUTURE RESEARCH AND POLICY AGENDA ON INTERNATIONAL INVESTMENT AND DEVELOPMENT (in partnership with the United Nations University World Institute for Development Economics Research, Academy of International Business, Oxford University Press, and New York University Abu Dhabi)

For more than three decades, UNCTAD has contributed to advance thinking, policy analysis and technical assistance on FDI, the activities of multinational enterprises (MNEs) and international production. The year 2020 marked 30 years of UNCTAD's *World Investment Report*, each edition covering the latest trends in FDI globally and analysing fundamental topics related to FDI and development.

Academic Track is organized in collaboration with leading academic institutions and associations in disciplines related to investment and development. The Track will consist of a series of events with the aim of providing a platform for discussions, as well as integrating research and opinions from leading scholars, researchers, executives from global companies and senior policymakers. The programme will cover issues related to foreign investment, MNEs and development in a global context, across multiple disciplines.

Event manager: Ms. Amelia U. Santos-Paulino  
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14:30–16:00

## INTERNATIONAL SUSTAINABLE INVESTMENT FUND CONFERENCE

An important development in sustainable finance in recent years is the proliferation of sustainable investment funds as a potential mass market financial tool that can make a positive contribution to sustainable development. This session will bring together asset owners, asset managers and regulators to discuss the latest development in the global sustainable

investment fund market and possible measures to make sustainable funds work better for sustainable development in the post-pandemic era, in particular in developing countries.

**Issues for discussion:**

- How can sustainable investment funds contribute to the post-pandemic recovery? What are the challenges and opportunities?
- How can regulators and other stakeholders work together to improve the quality and maximize the development impact of sustainable investment funds?
- How can developing economies tap into the potential offered by the sustainable fund market?

Event managers: Mr. Yongfu Ouyang and Mr. Joseph Clements

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15:30–17:00

**FAMILY BUSINESS CONFERENCE (organized by the Family Business Network)**

The first Family Business Conference, organized in the context of the seventh World Investment Forum, features thematic partnership sessions that address key and emerging issues for the family business community, identify strategies, and showcase innovative approaches to ensure impact and a sustainable future across generations.

**Accelerating impact through families**

As families think and act beyond their legacy businesses, the family office has become an important vehicle both for investment and education for families to reinvent themselves and transfer value and assets across generations. Family offices can also be a game changer in transforming business models that drive impacts beyond the traditional bottom line in line with the SDGs.

**Issues to be addressed:**

- Thinking in generations, not quarters, can transform business practices in the long term.
- How can families have an impact on the ecosystem by adopting new practices?
- How are “next generations” (NxGs) influencing the change?

Event manager: Ms. Natsuda Minder

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16:00–18:00

**GLOBAL INVESTMENT GAME CHANGERS SUMMIT**

**Investment and NIR4.0: Development implications**

The Global Investment Game Changers Summit will provide a platform to global leaders from business and government to present their vision for the future of investment and sustainable development with a special focus on the new technologies and business models that will shape the post-COVID-19 era. The Game Changers Summit will shed light on how businesses and policymakers are reimagining investments in key sectors of tomorrow including digital health and pharmaceuticals, EdTech, retail digitalization, clean energy, and telecommunications; and how they plan to build forward better, while they cope with the immediate disruptions caused by the pandemic.

The Summit will focus on “out of the box” thinking that can transform the world we live in and rewrite the rules and policies that govern it. Mobilizing investment and channelling it towards the SDGs is more urgent than ever before and requires bold and concrete solutions for a better future for all. The event will gather pioneers, leaders and visionaries who have successfully remodelled established policy, business and industry practice in their respective fields to create innovative business and governance models that reconcile economic success and sustainable objectives in the post-pandemic world.

**Issues to be discussed:**

- Technological change: harnessing AI and blockchain for boosting productive capacities in developing countries.
- Health change: ensuring equal and sustainable access to health care.
- Environmental change: accelerating the shift to renewable energy, sustainable production and consumption.
- Social change: reducing inequality and creating economic value through decent work and labour rights.
- Business change: making the case for the company as a social enterprise, from philanthropy to b-corps.

- Governance change: reimagining the role of regulation in a new era of globalization.

Event manager: Mr. Massimo Meloni and Mr. Hamed El-Kady

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## TUESDAY, 19 OCTOBER 2021

08:00–9:00

### INVESTMENT PROMOTION AGENCIES EXECUTIVE MEETING (in partnership with the World Association of Investment Promotion Agencies)

#### **New investment strategies in the post-pandemic era**

The COVID-19 crisis has revealed the value of investment promotion agencies (IPAs) as intermediaries between governments and their business communities, as many agencies played a critical role in helping investors through the crisis. With the recovery gaining pace, investment promotion is retaking a front seat. But how can a tainted location's image be restored? How can new investment be attracted to sectors hit by the crisis and how can sustainability be built in?

Event manager: Mr. Paul Wessendorp

Contact email: Paul.Wessendorp@unctad.org

08:00–12:30

### ANNUAL INVESTMENT MEETING 2021 (organized by AIM)

#### **Investments in digitalization**

According to the International Data Corporation, direct digital transformation investments are expected to total \$6.8 trillion between 2020 and 2023, and 65% of the world's GDP is set to be digitalized by 2022. This will be driven by the accelerated adoption of digitalization and the heightened demand for contactless solutions and cloud services.

The adoption of AI, big data, the internet of things, cloud computing and 5G are disrupting and streamlining industries. The impact of COVID-19 has led to accelerated adoption of digital infrastructure, which is reflected in the private sector and embraced by governments worldwide.

In this session, we will invite leading government officials, private sector representatives, academic scholars and tech investors to discuss the future opportunities that lie with digitalization and discuss the roadmap to outline a model that will attract FDI successfully.

#### **Investments in technology holds the reins of future manufacturing**

Industry 4.0 established the adoption of digital twins, the internet of things, additive manufacturing, AI, robotics, automation, and the like, to name but a few. The onset of the pandemic forced manufacturers to reduce the gap between humans and machines. This accelerated the adoption of and investment in "smart systems" and "intelligent factories". Can we say we have moved from Industry 4.0 to Industry 5.0? The pandemic has only forced corporations towards their increasing reliance on machines and digital platforms.

This session will bring together leaders, experts, industrialists, business owners and investors on one platform to discuss the importance of manufacturing technology and the need to invest in upgrading manufacturing infrastructure for higher productivity and economic interconnectedness.

Event managers: Mr. Walid Farghal and Mr. Prashant Odhrani

Contact emails: walid.farghal@aimcongress.com, prashant.odhrani@aimcongress.com

09:00–10:00

### FAMILY BUSINESS CONFERENCE (organized by the Family Business Network)

#### **Quantum leadership**

Today's world requires new leadership. A paradigm shift is required for family business leaders to learn in new ways and pursue complex concepts and thoughts in many directions. Aimed at expanding the horizons of family business leaders, it is hoped the session will inspire existing and emerging leaders on their journeys towards a more conscious leadership.

**Issues to be addressed:**

- Transformation starts with a personal journey.
- How can leaders adopt new practices to unleash the power of the “we”?
- “If you want to go fast go alone, if you want to go far, go together.”

Event manager: Ms. Natsuda Minder

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09:00–11:00

**GLOBAL INVESTMENT PROMOTION CONFERENCE (in partnership with the World Association of Investment Promotion Agencies)**

**Session 1: Promoting investment in the health sector**

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused a global health crisis, with over 225 million confirmed cases worldwide and more than 4.6 million deaths (WHO, September 2021), health systems collapsing and, in many countries, regular lockdowns, travel bans and curfews. The economic consequences have also been devastating, with a global growth contraction of -3.5% in 2020 (IMF, January 2021), particularly affecting low-income countries that were unable to put in place economic support measures.

The pandemic has revealed large deficiencies in health-care systems in developed and developing countries. As a response, national governments are seeking finance for investment to address the current problems in the health sector, but also potential and projected challenges, such as a prolonged pandemic, virus variants, and aging populations. FDI can play a critical role in bringing funding, but also the needed technology and expertise.

This session will examine the role of investment promotion agencies (IPAs), special economic zones (SEZs) and other successful instruments to promote investment in the health sector. Key points from this session will be summarized in a brief note for dissemination to investment promotion stakeholders, including IPAs, SEZ authorities, and investment policymakers.

**Issues to be addressed:**

- What role could IPAs play in attracting investment in the health sector? Which subsectors are key for countries to be better prepared for future health-care challenges?
- How effective are SEZs that target health-care services or medical cities in attracting investments that strengthen national health-care systems?

**Session 2: Attracting and retaining investment in tourism**

The COVID-19 crisis has impeded economic activity across the world and tourism has been one of the most affected industries. For countries that are heavily dependent on tourism, such as small island developing States in the Caribbean, Indian Ocean and Pacific, the loss of revenues and jobs has been particularly devastating. Other countries that are developing this sector, such as those in the Middle East, are also affected and need to develop new business models not only to retain investments in times of lockdowns and travel restrictions, but also to adapt post-pandemic to subsectors in tourism that have been transformed, for instance the conventions and events industry.

This session will examine the role of governments and IPAs in helping to retain and attract new investments in tourism, and ways to mitigate risks related to pandemics or similar crises. Key points from this session will be summarized in a brief note for dissemination to investment promotion stakeholders, including IPAs and investment policymakers.

**Issues to be addressed:**

- When confronted with a crisis such as the COVID-19 pandemic, what can governments and IPAs do to retain investment in the tourism industry?
- How can new investment in tourism be attracted and the risks related to pandemics or similar crises be mitigated?



Event manager: Mr. Paul Wessendorp  
Contact email: Paul.Wessendorp@unctad.org

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09:30–11:00

## SCALING INNOVATION IN THE NEW HEALTH ECONOMY (in partnership with FutureProofing Healthcare)

### Lessons from the Asia–Pacific region

The Asia–Pacific (APAC) region is enjoying strong growth in telehealth, digital therapeutics, diagnostics, remote patient monitoring, and analytics and personalized health care. The Personalised Health Index, by FutureProofing Healthcare, a platform founded by the Copenhagen Institute for Future Studies and Roche, shows that personalized health care is gaining significant momentum in Asia.

The objective of this session is to discuss the role of various ecosystem partners in shaping the new health economy of the Asia–Pacific region. Experts will share practical experiences and insights on challenges and opportunities facing the health sector, including in responding to the current pandemic crisis. They will also debate on policy reforms needed to scale innovation and bring significant system efficiencies, better patient outcomes and population health through personalized health care.

#### Issues to be addressed:

- What health-care challenges does APAC face that require innovative, scalable and sustainable approaches to health system reforms?
- What are your observations on the state of readiness of health systems in APAC for advanced innovations in health?
- What is the role of health innovators and start-ups in the current evolving health-care ecosystem in the region?
- How can governmental institutions and policy support the enablement of these innovations, and even reward or recognizes the value of innovations? What structural frameworks need to be in place to keep pace with innovation?
- Given the scale and multitude of the challenges post COVID-19, how can APAC ensure a coherent life science strategy and policy approach to promote investment as an engine of growth, and ensure that the recovery is inclusive, and its benefits extend to all countries?
- How can pharma support health-care entrepreneurs and innovators to succeed in accelerating personalized health care?

Event manager: Mr. Philippe Rudaz  
Contact email: Philippe.Rudaz@unctad.org

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09:30–11:00

## SOVEREIGN WEALTH AND PENSION FUNDS DIALOGUE

### Leveraging institutional investment for the post-pandemic recovery

The COVID-19 pandemic has once again demonstrated that environmental and sustainability issues constitute material risks for institutional investors such as public pension and sovereign wealth funds. As "universal owners" with large investment in companies across a huge range of sectors and markets, these funds are in a unique position to drive sustainability along the investment chain and channel more capital into key sectors that can contribute to post-pandemic recovery and long-term sustainable development, in particular in developing countries.

This session will bring together international institutional investors and policymakers to discuss the challenges and opportunities for investing in sustainable development in the post-pandemic era, with a focus on developing economies where capital for sustainable development is much needed.

#### Issues for discussion:

- How can sovereign wealth funds, pension funds and other institutional investors contribute to post-pandemic recovery?

- How can institutional investors from developed and developing regions work together to channel more investment to sustainable development in developing countries?
- How can governments facilitate long-term institutional investment in sustainable and inclusive development and maximize its development benefits?

Event managers: Mr. Yongfu Ouyang and Mr. Joseph Clements  
 Contact emails: Yongfu.Ouyang@unctad.org, Joseph.Clements@unctad.org

11:00–11:30

## UNITED NATIONS INVESTMENT PROMOTION AWARDS

### Promoting investment in health care

The COVID-19 crisis has caused major changes in the work of investment promotion agencies (IPAs) worldwide, not only in their modus operandi but also in their strategic focus. Already early in the crisis some agencies took swift action to support government efforts to boost the national production of personal protective equipment. When the pandemic prolonged, more IPAs started to include health care as a target sector, building new knowledge and expertise and helping the government in improving investment conditions in the sector.

In 2021, UNCTAD has been monitoring the online promotion by IPAs of investment opportunities in health care and has conducted an IPA survey on the promotion of investment in the health sector. Based on UNCTAD research and the survey, this year's edition of the United Nations Investment Promotion Awards recognizes the work of IPAs in attracting investment in health-care projects, with consideration of innovative and targeted approaches to investment promotion, outreach and engagement.

During the award ceremony, three awards will be announced for:  
 "Excellence in promoting investment in health care".

In addition, two special awards will be announced for:  
 "Promoting investment in the blue economy".

Event manager: Mr. Paul Wessendorp  
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11:00–12:00

## THE ROLE OF DERIVATIVE EXCHANGES IN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (in partnership with the World Federation of Exchanges )

### Embedding sustainability into derivatives

In order to achieve the SDGs and move the world to a more sustainable pathway, it is important to work with derivative exchanges as a key leverage point for establishing critical risk hedging and pricing instruments and standardized products that embed sustainability principles.

This multi-stakeholder session – jointly organized by the United Nations Sustainable Stock Exchanges (SSE) initiative and the World Federation of Exchanges – will bring together key derivatives exchange actors and industry participants to assess what is happening currently and to address opportunities and challenges for incorporating sustainability considerations into derivatives markets more broadly.

The session will also feature discussions of the joint SSE–WFE report "How Derivatives Exchanges can Promote Sustainable Development", with a focus on supporting the further development of derivatives that embed sustainability principles. Exchanges and market participants will benefit from discussions on the opportunities and challenges involved in including sustainability considerations in the derivatives ecosystem.

#### Issues to be addressed:

- What role can derivative exchanges play in promoting sustainable development?
- What is the appropriate balance between transparency/allowing the user to choose versus setting the benchmark standard?

- At what point does it become necessary for purposes of price discovery for sustainability issues to be included in the contract specification?

Event manager: Mr. Anthony Miller  
Contact email: Anthony.Miller@unctad.org

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11:30–13:00

### TALKING BUSINESS: EASTERN EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA (in cooperation with the Joint Chamber of Commerce Switzerland–Eastern Europe, Central Asia and the South Caucasus)

An interactive session in which representatives of private sector entities investing and/or operating a business in Eastern Europe and Central Asia share their experiences and highlight the opportunities and challenges they encounter, in particular in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic and for the recovery. They will also present how their activities can contribute to the SDGs. The session provides a chance for business to explore new investment horizons and interact with country representatives through Q&As.

#### Issues to be addressed:

- What are the opportunities and challenges in investing in and operating a business in the region?
- What investment policy reforms should be considered priorities by your host governments?
- Which recent investment policy reforms have enabled you to improve your business perspectives?
- How has the COVID-19 pandemic affected these priorities?
- What contribution can your business make to the SDGs in the countries you are operating in?
- What measures will allow your business to grow and increase its contribution to the SDGs?

Event manager: Ms. Chantal Dupasquier  
Contact email: Chantal.Dupasquier@unctad.org

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12:00–13:00

### FAMILY BUSINESS CONFERENCE (organized by the Family Business Network )

#### Enabling next generation legacies

Building an enterprising family and a thriving family business across generations is one the most challenging task any family faces. Much advice has been given and best practices transmitted to the senior generation, yet the questions and needs of the following generation may have been ignored. In their ground-breaking new book, *Enabling Next Generation Legacies*, Professors Peter Jaskiewicz and Sabine B. Rau fill this void. They give the next generation a voice by listening to their most pressing questions and drawing on 90 leading academics, practitioners and enterprising families to provide clear, relevant and succinct answers. The responses tackle pertinent questions in four areas – family, business, ownership and wealth – enabling “next gens” to build their legacies in their families and enterprises.

Jaskiewicz, Rau and FBN – in the context of the twentieth anniversary of FBN’s NxG community – have partnered to provide best practices and real-life experiences and testimonies to address the most pressing questions faced by next gens in enterprising families. Join this session to learn more about the questions that keep next gens awake, and the answers that will empower them to thrive.

#### Issues to be addressed:

- What are key questions of today’s new generation of owners?
- How can the younger generation be prepared to assume leadership in a new uncertain world?
- How can next generation legacies be empowered?
- How can the family be kept together?
- How can one become a responsible owner?

Event manager: Ms. Natsuda Minder  
Contact email: natsuda.minder@fbn-i.org

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12:00–13:30

## PROMOTING INVESTMENT IN MEDITERRANEAN COUNTRIES (organized by ANIMA)

### The power of networking

ANIMA Investment Network is a membership-based organization founded in 2006 by 11 investment promotion agencies (IPAs) from Europe and the South and East Mediterranean countries. Today it comprises 70 organizations from 20 countries and more than 400 professionals in the areas of FDI and economic development topics. With the support of international development and finance institutions, ANIMA assists in enhancing the cooperation between the Euro-Mediterranean countries by promoting inward and outward investments in these countries, exchanging technical expertise and best practices among the organizations, and contributing to improve the business and investment framework in the Mediterranean region.

ANIMA invites IPAs from Mediterranean countries attending the World Investment Forum to find out why networking and building long-term relationships are key to their interests. Join us and discover ANIMA's community of investment promotion and economic development actors, and how they collaborate within the network to achieve both their own objectives and also those of the Mediterranean region.

The workshop will be hosted by ANIMA president, board and members who will present how they are using the network to gain access to new partners abroad, promote their economies and access to the resources of international cooperation to feed their core missions.

An exchange with the audience will follow to discuss the benefits of networking to promote economic growth and sustainable development.

Event manager: Ms. Manon Spina  
Contact email: manon.spina@anima.coop

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13:00–14:00

## FAMILY BUSINESS CONFERENCE (organized by the Family Business Network)

### FBN NxG Lombard Odier Award – meet the finalists and discover the winner!

FBN's NxG Lombard Odier Award was created in 2009 to champion young family business members who initiate entrepreneurial or intrapreneurial ventures. For the past 12 years the award has supported young innovators and created a thriving community of NxG entrepreneurs within FBN's global network. Based on strict criteria, from contribution to family business renewal to sustainability and impact, the jury of senior family business members, entrepreneurs and academics has again chosen three outstanding finalists.

Event manager: Ms. Natsuda Minder  
Contact email: Natsuda.Minder@fbn-i.org

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13:00–15:00

## GLOBAL LEADERS' INVESTMENT SUMMIT

### International production and productive capacity: National strategies and global collaboration

The second 2021 Global Leaders' Investment Summit will address the challenges arising from new technologies, the new industrial revolution and their impact on international production and productive capacity-building. Their consequences are potentially far-reaching for the configuration of global value chains with important implications for development and growth, including the risk of premature deindustrialization in low-income countries. While the changes that this will bring about in international production create many challenges, they can also provide profound opportunities for development and integration in emerging value chains provided countries are prepared for the changes in a holistic manner. National adaptation strategies need to work hand in hand with global efforts aimed at harnessing their full development potential, ensuring that no one is left behind.

#### Issues to be addressed:

- How is international production likely to be configured in 2030 and what challenges and opportunities are likely to arise?

- How can governments, the private sector and the international community best prepare economies to take advantages of the opportunities for development emanating from the changing international production landscape and to counter the main challenges?
- What can the United Nations contribute to support these efforts?

Event manager: Mr. Joerg Weber  
 Contact email: Joerg.Weber@unctad.org

14:30–16:30

## **SYMPOSIUM ON FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT STATISTICS AND DEVELOPMENT IMPACT**

### **Better data for better policy advice and policymaking**

Reliable data are essential for analysing the process of globalization in all its dimensions, including its impact on sustainable economic development, and, on this basis, for formulating development-oriented policies. Although recent years have seen progress in this respect, the scope and quality of FDI data in a number of developing countries, especially least developed countries, are still not adequate for the purposes of policy analysis and formulation.

The FDI statistics symposium will focus on the issues of FDI data compilation and analysis and its role in the formulation of FDI policies from a development perspective. In view of globalization and digitalization, it will explore issues relating to the nature of data and the problems arising from them, as well as data compilation methodologies and difficulties in their implementation.

The session will discuss ways and means to answer the specific needs of developing countries in data compilation and analysis to enable them to make informed policy decisions in the area of FDI. It will also raise the awareness of member States regarding internationally accepted standards relating to FDI data collection and reporting systems, including with respect to the activities of foreign affiliates in host countries.

In addition, the massive data gap on investment in SDGs calls for a better planning and cooperation among all stakeholders, including in the area of FDI statistics to develop harmonized data on investment in relevant SDG sectors.

#### **Issues to be addressed:**

- The relationship between statistics, impact assessment and policy formulation in the area of FDI. The types of data available and their advantages and deficiencies in view of policymakers' needs, especially in developing countries.
- Leading problems faced by developing countries, especially least developed countries, in compiling statistics on FDI data and on the activities of multinationals.
- How globalization and digitalization have an impact on FDI data including treatment of conduit FDI and special purpose entities, ultimate investors and recording of intangibles.
- Ways and means to improve the availability and harmonization of FDI-related data (including through regional and international cooperation) and their usefulness to policymakers, particularly in developing countries.
- Can we make the existing FDI data more relevant to the SDGs to improve monitoring of investment and financial flows into developing economies?

Event manager: Mr. Astrit Sulstarova  
 Contact email: Astrit.Sulstarova@unctad.org

15:00–16:00

## **SUSTAINABLE STOCK EXCHANGES GLOBAL DIALOGUE (in partnership with the United Nations Global Compact, United Nations Environment Programme and Principles for Responsible Investment )**

The Sustainable Stock Exchanges (SSE) initiative is a peer-to-peer learning platform for exploring how exchanges – in collaboration with policy makers, investors, regulators and companies – can promote responsible investment to accelerate sustainable development. Launched by the United Nations Secretary-General in 2009, the SSE is a United Nations Partnership Programme, co-organized by UNCTAD (Investment and Enterprise Division), the United Nations Global Compact, UNEP (Finance Initiative) and the United Nations-supported Principles for Responsible Investment. Today the SSE counts over 100 stock exchanges around the world as partner exchanges. In addition, the SSE welcomes participation from securities regulators, investors, issuers and other key stakeholders.

For over a decade, the SSE flagship event has been its biennial Global Dialogues – the largest global gathering of stock exchange CEOs exclusively devoted to responsible investment. This year the Global Dialogue will take place as a discussion among members of the SSE Independent Advisory Committee, composed of capital market leaders whose role is to provide

the SSE Governing Board advice and feedback on the work of the Partnership Programme. This high-level gathering will identify key global challenges in sustainable finance and the role exchanges can play in addressing them.

**Issues to be addressed:**

- What role can stock exchanges play in accelerating action to address climate change? The role of disclosure guidance, market education and new products (green bonds, green equity indices, carbon credit trading, among others).
- What are the latest developments among securities regulators in promoting sustainability? What are the key challenges (for example, issuer disclosure, asset management greenwashing, ESG ratings and data providers)?
- What opportunities lie ahead for sustainability-themed products in the areas of bonds, equities and derivatives?
- What are the main challenges for financing sustainable development? What are the priorities for SSE and its partner exchanges?

Event manager: Mr. Anthony Miller

Contact email: Anthony.Miller@unctad.org

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15:30–17:30

**TRIPARTITE DIALOGUE OF PARLIAMENTARIANS, POLICYMAKERS AND BUSINESS LEADERS (in partnership with the Inter-Parliamentary Union)**

**Channelling investment into sustainable development**

The COVID-19 pandemic will have a long-lasting impact on the socioeconomic environment. In particular, it will pose considerable challenges to sustainable development, especially as the need for investment in development increases. As national legislatures, parliaments have a vital role to play in enabling, promoting and channelling investment in sustainable development and in setting appropriate regulatory frameworks. This extends to a broad range of sectors and policy areas.

Important considerations in this context are:

- The need to ensure that the implementation of nationally agreed sustainable development objectives is adequately financed and meets the needs of the people;
- The need for strong parliamentary oversight of governance issues, notably concerning issues related to investment regulation.

In this session parliamentarians from around the world will join in a multi-stakeholder dialogue with business executives, ministers and heads of international organizations to discuss and debate how legislators can help create an enabling environment for sustainable private investment for sustainable development in the post-crisis era.

**Issues to be addressed:**

- How can the interaction between parliaments, government leaders and the private sector be improved to better deliver on sustainable development?
- What are the main challenges for investment for sustainable development at national level and how can this partnership contribute to overcome them?
- What are the global policy imperatives for sustainable financing for development in the post COVID-19 pandemic context?

Event manager: Mr. Alexandre Dabbou

Contact email: Alexandre.Dabbou@unctad.org

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16:00–17:30

**SUSTAINABILITY REPORTING**

**Enterprise reporting as the basis for sustainable investment**

Enterprise reporting on sustainability is an important prerequisite for the promotion of sustainable investment relevant for the achievement of the SDGs. Efforts are being exerted at a global level to promote meaningful disclosure on the contribution of enterprises towards sustainable development and the SDGs by harmonizing sustainability accounting and reporting frameworks and standards.

The round table will enable participants to review the latest developments on this topic. The event will bring together key players in this field with a view to promoting further harmonization and consistency and comparability in measurement and reporting.

**Issues to be addressed:**

- What is the present status of global efforts aimed at harmonizing frameworks and standards on sustainability reporting?
- What needs to be done to further promote more consistent measurement and reporting?
- What are the main challenges in linking sustainability reporting with reporting on progress on the SDGs?
- How can governments be assisted in improving the sustainability reporting infrastructure in their countries?

Event manager: Mr. Richard Bolwijn

Contact email: Richard.Bolwijn@unctad.org

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16:30–18:30

**HIGH-LEVEL PANEL ON MULTINATIONAL ENTERPRISES AND WOMEN EMPOWERMENT**

The policies and practices of multinational enterprises (MNEs) affect gender equality in the workplace in host countries of foreign affiliates. Depending on MNE home country norms and values, and those of its customer and stakeholder bases, outcomes in developing countries can be positive, although this is not automatic. This high-level panel will examine the various mechanisms through which MNEs transfer gender policies and practices to local firms, and the impact on gender outcomes, notably female employment and the gender wage gap, with the aim of individuating the best policy measures and initiatives that can ensure foreign investment translates into real benefits for women.

The discussion will build on recent research and policy analysis on the topic, including that discussed in UNCTAD's report *Multinational Enterprises and the International Transmission of Gender Policies and Practices*.

**Issues to be addressed:**

- Do the benefits associated with FDI also translate into more gender-equal labour market outcomes?
- Which policies can enable gender equality in FDI host countries?
- What is the role of domestic labour market legislation in promoting women's participation in the economy?
- How can responsible investment principles and corporate social responsibility standards influence MNE practices?
- Does the inclusion of gender equality in international trade and investment agreements help to prevent the lowering of relevant labour market standards for the purpose of promoting investment?
- How can the adoption of reporting standards help drive a change in corporate gender policies and practices?

Event managers: Ms. Amelia U. Santos-Paulino and Ms. Claudia Trentini

Contact emails: Amelia.Santos-Paulino@unctad.org, Claudia.Trentini@unctad.org

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16:30–18:30

**IMPACT INVESTING IN EMERGING MARKETS (in partnership with The Blended Capital Group)****Scaling up impact investing in emerging markets**

This event will be a dynamic, moderated round table of policymakers, investors and thought leaders seeking to scale up impact and sustainability-aligned investment into emerging and frontier markets. It will feature examples of break-through impact investing projects, including innovative business models where private and public capital is fusing to drive social purpose drawn from, inter alia, Brazil, India, Kenya, Senegal and South Africa.

**Issues to be addressed:**

- Getting the blend right: Mobilizing blended finance towards businesses and projects that are replicable, scalable and can achieve the SDG objectives of localization based on high-quality governance and collaboration along the whole investment chain. Successful examples of SDG 17 "Partnership" will be presented.
- Systemizing impact: Escaping the "project by project" mentality to forge new pathways that systemize and accelerate the scaling up of impactful business models. Align investable impact models and businesses with the SDGs and make them fit for purpose for larger investment investors including pension funds, family offices and sovereign wealth funds.
- Reinventing public-private collaboration: How can we bring multilateral, developmental and broader public finance together with private families, institutional asset owners and sovereign entities to deliver in the final decade on the promise of the SDGs?

Event manager: Mr. Anthony Miller

Contact email: Anthony.Miller@unctad.org

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16:30–19:00

## HIGH-LEVEL INTERNATIONAL INVESTMENT AGREEMENTS CONFERENCE 2021

### International investment treaty-making in the new era of global economy

International investment agreement (IIA) reform remains a daunting task for all United Nations member States, with challenges exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. Policymakers, IIA practitioners, civil society and legal scholars need urgently to take stock of ongoing reform efforts during the pandemic, both in terms of what IIA reform measures countries and regional organizations have undertaken or are considering undertaking in response to the crisis, and how to maintain and strengthen the reform momentum in light of the increased fragility of economies around the world that places added emphasis on the importance of FDI as a means of development finance. The 2021 IIA Conference will aim to pave the way for further inclusive, transparent and synchronized IIA reform processes in the pursuit of sustainable development in the post-COVID-19 era.

Forward-looking IIA reform is well under way. All treaties concluded in 2020 contain several reform features that are in line with those outlined in *UNCTAD's Reform Package for the International Investment Regime* (2018) or *Investment Policy Framework for Sustainable Development* (UNCTAD, 2015). These features address five areas: (a) safeguarding the right to regulate, while providing protection; (b) reforming investment dispute settlement; (c) promoting and facilitating investments; (d) ensuring responsible investment; (e) enhancing systemic consistency. UNCTAD policy tools have also spurred action to modernize old-generation treaties. Countries are increasingly interpreting, amending, replacing or terminating outdated treaties (phase 2 of IIA reform).

Given that, to date, such reform actions have addressed a relatively small number of IIAs, there is broad scope and urgency to pursue them further. Currently, the stock of old-generation treaties is 10 times greater than the number of modern, reform-oriented treaties, and the majority of known investor–State dispute settlement cases have to date been based on old-generation treaties.

UNCTAD's newly launched *International Investment Agreements Reform Accelerator* offers a practical tool for intensifying IIA reform efforts. Based on a stocktaking of recent reform efforts, the 2021 High-level IIA Conference will offer the platform for accelerating IIA reform and taking concrete steps towards a more coherent and consolidated process for modernizing old-generation IIAs.

#### Issues to be addressed:

- Taking stock of IIA reform efforts.
- Procedural reform: Investment dispute settlement.
- Accelerating IIA reform in the public interest.

Event managers: Mr. Hamed El-Kady and Ms. Diana Rosert

Contact emails: Hamed.El.Kady@unctad.org, Diana.Rosert@unctad.org

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17:00–18:30

## SHOWCASING REFORMS TO PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL INVESTMENT

### Experiences from Côte d'Ivoire and Ecuador

This will be an interactive session during which top government officials from selected countries showcase how they are dealing with investment policy reforms to achieve the SDGs and their national development objectives.

#### Issues to be addressed:

- High-level policymakers will present their countries' investment policy reform initiatives, emphasizing the key actions undertaken to improve the business climate and highlighting strategic policy decisions to increase potential contribution of domestic and foreign investment to achieve the SDGs and their national development objectives.
- Policymakers will be able to explore new investment policy perspectives and interact with other countries' representatives through Q&As.

Event manager: Ms. Chantal Dupasquier

Contact email: Chantal.Dupasquier@unctad.org

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17:00–18:30



## **ALIGNING MULTINATIONAL FIRMS FOR THE “DECADE OF ACTION”: A REAL PROSPECT OR WISHFUL THINKING?** (organized by the Academy of International Business)

Achieving the SDGs requires the deep engagement of multinational firms. However, the business sector still lacks clarity and consistency on what SDG alignment looks like for the business sector itself. This panel will discuss what role multinational enterprises (MNEs) can play in pursuing the SDGs and how MNE–government collaboration can further enhance this.

Event manager: Ms. Amelia U. Santos-Paulino  
Contact email: [Amelia.Santos-Paulino@unctad.org](mailto:Amelia.Santos-Paulino@unctad.org)

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17:30–19:00

### **ISAR HONOURS**

#### **Promoting good practices and initiatives in reporting by companies on their contributions to the SDGs**

ISAR Honours aims to raise awareness and facilitate the dissemination of national and international best practices on sustainability and SDG reporting. It supports the public and private sector efforts on enhancing the quality and comparability of companies’ reporting on their contribution to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and its usefulness for monitoring the implementation of the SDGs. The Honours recognize policy, institutional or capacity-building initiatives, publicly available at the national and international levels, that encourage and assist enterprises to publish data on their contribution to SDG implementation; and that assist governments in collecting such data for their SDG-monitoring needs. The Honours especially encourage proposals from developing countries to recognize their efforts in the area and facilitate improvements in companies’ reporting on sustainability issues, including by promoting the integration of sustainability information, such as environmental, social and corporate governance issues, into companies’ reporting cycle.

#### **Issues to be addressed:**

- Highlighting new developments as well as existing national, regional and international best practice in the area of sustainability and SDG reporting.
- Acknowledging honourees in the national and international assessment categories, as well as recognition of leading initiative by the special nomination from UNCTAD.
- Addressing the measurement of SDG indicator 12.6.1, which is related to sustainability reporting as part of the global monitoring framework of the SDGs.
- Celebrating the honoured initiatives as well as raising awareness of their profiles and achievements.

Event manager: Ms. Elena Botvina  
Contact email: [Elena.Botvina@unctad.org](mailto:Elena.Botvina@unctad.org)

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18:30–20:00

### **ACADEMIC TRACK DAILY ROUNDUP** (Academy of International Business and academic partners)

The daily roundup sessions will address, through an academic lens, the key issues and themes debated at the Forum.

Interactive networking opportunities to share, collaborate and benefit from peer learning will be provided during and between sessions.

Event manager: Ms. Amelia U. Santos-Paulino  
Contact email: [Amelia.Santos-Paulino@unctad.org](mailto:Amelia.Santos-Paulino@unctad.org)

## **WEDNESDAY, 20 OCTOBER 2021**

09:00–10:00

### **FAMILY BUSINESS CONFERENCE** (organized by the Family Business Network)

#### **Global governance initiative**

FBN is working to build capacity by codifying family business governance lessons over the past 30 years, ranging from succession to writing a family constitution. This new multi-year project is spearheaded by FBN board member Omar Alghanim.

#### **Issues to be addressed:**

- What are the best practices of family and business governance for the new generation of business families?

Event manager: Ms. Natsuda Minder  
 Contact email: Natsuda.Minder@fbn-i.org

09:00–10:30

### **FACILITATING THE SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE–CITY LINK** (in partnership with UN Habitat)

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought to light some of the challenges associated with increased urbanization, including densely populated and poorly planned areas. Urban centres have not only been epicentres for the transmission of the COVID-19 virus, but also proved to be particularly challenging settings within which to respond effectively to the pandemic. Existing inter-urban inequalities are likely to be exacerbated, with the most vulnerable sectors of society, including urban informal sectors, being the hardest hit by the negative economic consequences of the crisis.

Special economic zones (SEZs) can play an important role in fostering more sustainable, resilient cities and urban centres. This specialized event will allow participants to exchange experiences about how the “SEZ–city link” has been successfully developed across countries and to discuss its role in achieving a resilient recovery post-pandemic and contribute to sustainable development. Specific attention will be given to the important facilitating role of local economic actors, including investment promotion agencies (IPAs) and city-level leaders, in collaborating and working together with SEZs.

#### **Issues to be addressed:**

- The role of SEZs, IPAs and city-level actors in contributing to sustainable urbanization.
- How can linkages between SEZs and the city-level domestic private sector be facilitated?
- Ways that SEZs, IPAs and city-level actors can facilitate investment in key SDG-related sectors post-pandemic.

Event manager: Ms. Stephania Bonilla-Feret  
 Contact email: Stephania.Bonilla@unctad.org

09:00–10:30

### **TALKING BUSINESS: MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA** (in cooperation with the Arab–Swiss Chamber of Commerce and Industry)

An interactive session in which representatives of private sector entities investing and/or operating a business in the Middle East and North Africa share their experiences and highlight the opportunities and challenges they encounter, in particular in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic and the recovery period. They will also present how their activities can contribute to the SDGs. The session will provide a chance for business to explore new investment horizons and interact with country representatives through Q&As.

#### **Issues to be addressed:**

- What are the opportunities and challenges in investing in and operating a business in the region?
- What investment policy reforms should be considered priorities by your host governments?
- Which recent investment policy reforms have enabled you to improve your business perspectives?
- How has the COVID-19 pandemic affected these priorities?
- What contribution can your business make to the SDGs in the countries you are operating in?
- What measures will allow your business to grow and increase its contribution to the SDGs?

Event manager: Ms. Chantal Dupasquier  
 Contact email: Chantal.Dupasquier@unctad.org

09:00–10:30

### **OUTWARD FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT: POLICIES TO SUPPORT FIRM INVESTMENT AND MAXIMIZE HOME COUNTRY SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT** (in partnership with the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and the World Economic Forum )

In recent years, companies from developing economies have increasingly invested abroad, seeking business opportunities outside their home countries. This is a recent trend, as until the turn of the century firms from developed economies

dominated global cross-border direct investment. Because developing economies are the source of these investments, understanding the impact of such outward FDI (OFDI) on the home economies where these firms are headquartered is of great importance. OFDI can contribute to sustainable developmental outcomes, by generating home country effects that promote trade, employment, upgrading, growth and other aspects of economic development in source economies. However, the precise nature and characteristics of OFDI home country effects remain little understood. Moreover, even less is known about the most effective policies and measures governments can introduce to leverage OFDI for sustainable development. As a result, investment policymakers in developing countries have both a limited knowledge about the links between OFDI and home country sustainable development outcomes and remain hesitant to introduce policies to harness OFDI for sustainable development.

This session will address these knowledge and policy development constraints by presenting and discussing the first draft of a ground-breaking, innovative *OFDI for Home Country Sustainable Development Policy Toolkit* that UNESCAP and WEF have jointly developed and will launch in 2021. The presentation of the Toolkit will be followed by an interactive panel discussion with investment policymakers from both developed and developing countries and the private sector. The aim of the panel discussion is to learn from the experiences of these countries in introducing OFDI policies, and the extent to which economies and firms are able to benefit from these policies and measures in support of home country sustainable development.

**Issues to be addressed:**

- How can OFDI contribute to sustainable development outcomes in the home country source markets?
- How can government policies and measures promote and maximize sustainable development outcomes from OFDI? What lessons can we learn from those countries that have successfully implemented OFDI policies targeting home country sustainable development?
- What issues are most relevant for the firms engaging in OFDI for policymakers to consider when implementing home country development OFDI strategies, and adopting policies and measures?

Event manager: Mr. Richard Bolwijn  
Contact email: Richard.Bolwijn@unctad.org

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10:00–11:00

**FAMILY BUSINESS CONFERENCE (organized by the Family Business Network)**

**Leveraging new philanthropic models to achieve the SDGs**

Business families are rethinking how they leverage philanthropy to address social and environmental issues and create lasting impacts using innovative approaches and partnerships in line with the SDGs.

**Issues to be addressed:**

- Learn key insights into the new trends in philanthropy by entrepreneurial families.
- Discover how families partner and innovate to address major social issues.

Event manager: Ms. Natsuda Minder  
Contact email: Natsuda.Minder@fbn-i.org

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10:00–13:00

**WORLD ASSOCIATION OF INVESTMENT PROMOTION AGENCIES GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING (closed session)**

The General Assembly of WAIPA precedes the WAIPA World Investment Conference (WIC) and will take place physically in the Dubai Exhibition Centre on Wednesday, 20 October 2021. A virtual platform will also be provided by WAIPA for those who cannot travel to Dubai due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The official opening ceremony of WIC as well as a high-level panel session will take place prior to the General Assembly where the elections for the WAIPA Steering Committee will be held. The General Assembly is only open for WAIPA members.

Event manager: Mr. Paul Wessendorp  
Contact email: Paulus.Wessendorp@unctad.org

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11:00–12:00

## **SUSTAINABILITY BONDS** (in partnership with Climate Bonds Initiative)

### **Innovative tools for financing the SDGs**

Achieving the SDGs by 2030 will require new investments in the order of USD 2.5 trillion per year in developing countries alone. Sustainability bonds, or “SDG bonds”, are fixed-income investments that can play a role in helping to fill this investment gap. Different from conventional bonds, SDG bonds are specifically developed and explicitly labelled to fund projects that have positive social or environmental benefits, supporting one or more of the 17 SDGs. The SDG bond universe to date has mostly been made up of “green bonds”, bonds with an environmental or climate-related focus, but other SDG-themed bonds, such as water bonds and gender bonds, are starting to enter the market. The green bond market, for example, exceeded USD 168 billion in 2018 with a five-year growth rate of 466%. Along with the high growth of this sector, there is also an increasing diversification of issuers and types of green projects for which the proceeds of the bonds are being used, and lessons learned in the green bond arena are being applied to other SDG bonds.

This multi-stakeholder session will bring together key bond market players such as stock exchanges, securities regulators, issuers and standards bodies to address opportunities and challenges for further boosting the growth of the emerging SDG bonds sector. The session will support the continued growth of domestic, regional and global green and sustainability bond markets. Exchanges and securities regulators will benefit from discussions on the opportunities and challenges involved in growing SDG bond markets. The session will also further disseminate the conclusions of the Sustainable Stock Exchanges voluntary green finance action plan for stock exchanges.

#### **Issues to be addressed:**

- What role can stock exchanges play? Experiences promoting sustainability bonds or developing listing segments for sustainability bonds.
- What is the appropriate role for regulators and what should be left to stock exchanges, investors and issuers?
- What role does reporting and assurance play in the further development of a sustainable debt market?
- What opportunities lie ahead for sustainability-themed bonds? Experiences from the development of gender and water bonds.
- What are the main challenges for taking this agenda forward?

Event manager: Mr. Anthony Miller

Contact email: [Anthony.Miller@unctad.org](mailto:Anthony.Miller@unctad.org)

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11:00–12:00

## **FAMILY BUSINESS CONFERENCE** (organized by the Family Business Network)

### **IMD Global Family Business Award**

The IMD Global Family Business Award, sponsored by Pictet, recognizes family businesses for their excellence in the following dimensions: family, business, ownership and society. It highlights the leading role that global family businesses play in the world economy. Former winners include: Lego, Hermès, Puig, Henkel, Zegna, Murugappa, SC Johnson, Bonnier, Barilla, Votorantim, Yazaki, Roca, Merck, Firmenich, Bel, JM Huber, Ayala, Bavaria N.V., Jebsen & Jessen, Pentland Group PLC, De Agostini Group, and most recently Brown-Forman.

In selecting the winner, an independent jury panel examines different aspects of the family business, in particular how the firm unites family and business interests, combines tradition and innovation while demonstrating a clear long-term commitment to local communities.

Meet this year’s IMD Global Family Business Award winning family, sponsored by Pictet. Get an inside look into a global family business, committed to pioneering solutions to the world’s climate challenges.

Event manager: Ms. Natsuda Minder

Contact email: [Natsuda.Minder@fbn-i.org](mailto:Natsuda.Minder@fbn-i.org)

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11:30–12:00

## **UNCTAD SUSTAINABLE FUND AWARDS 2021**

Sustainable funds, which integrate environmental, social and corporate governance (ESG) considerations and the SDGs into their asset allocation process, have grown rapidly in number, variety and size. UNCTAD estimates that, today, there are nearly 4,000 such funds, with assets under management of over USD 1.7 trillion. These sustainability-oriented funds have

become important instruments for institutional investors to invest in sustainable development, channelling billions of dollars into key sectors that are critical for achieving the SDGs.

Despite their rapid growth, the total assets of sustainable funds account for 3.2% of the entire fund universe, and most of them are domiciled and invested in developed economies. Meanwhile, a lack of transparency and inconsistency of standards around sustainability labelling have given rise to credibility issues and "ESG washing" concerns.

To encourage the development of high-quality, high-impact sustainable funds, and in particular those investing in SDG-related sectors and in developing countries, the UNCTAD sustainable fund awards recognize outstanding funds that demonstrate the highest standards of sustainability and impact, while outperforming their respective financial performance benchmarks.

- The **2021 UNCTAD Sustainable Fund Awards** are dedicated to all sustainable equity funds, which represent the largest share of the sustainable fund universe by both number of funds and assets under management. Four winners will be awarded.
- The **2021 UNCTAD Sustainable Emerging Market Fund Awards** will recognize the achievements and impact of sustainable equity funds that invest (solely or mainly) in emerging markets. Two winners will be awarded.

Event managers: Mr. Yongfu Ouyang and Mr. Joseph Clements

Contact emails: [Yongfu.Ouyang@unctad.org](mailto:Yongfu.Ouyang@unctad.org), [Joseph.Clements@unctad.org](mailto:Joseph.Clements@unctad.org)

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12:00–12:30

## LAUNCH OF THE UNITED NATIONS GLOBAL SUSTAINABLE FINANCE OBSERVATORY

With a vision to build a future global financial ecosystem in which sustainable development (as defined by the SDGs) is fully embedded into the business model and investment culture, at this event UNCTAD will launch a new initiative, the United Nations Global Sustainable Finance Observatory (GSFO).

The GSFO will promote and facilitate the transition of sustainable investment from market niche to market norm, leading up to 2030 and beyond. It will address the challenges of fragmentation in standards, proliferation in benchmarking, complexity in disclosure, and address sustainability-washing concerns. The GSFO will work in tandem with the standards-setting processes of the financial industry and regulatory bodies to promote the full and effective integration of sustainable development into all aspects of the global financial ecosystem.

In this session, UNCTAD will officially launch the GSFO and highlight its key activities that will help take the sustainable investment market from where it is today to where it needs to be in the future.

Event managers: Mr. Yongfu Ouyang and Mr. Joseph Clements

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12:00–13:30

## SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONES IN AFRICA (in partnership with Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH )

### Driving economic transformation in the post African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) environment

#### Official Launch of *Handbook on Special Economic Zones in Africa: Towards Economic Diversification across the Continent*

Special economic zones (SEZs) have been widely used for decades, however there is relatively little systematic research on their performance or social, economic and environmental impact, especially in the context of Africa. The UNCTAD *World Investment Report 2019* presented a comprehensive analysis on the number and types of SEZs. However, large gaps remain concerning data on their design and the benefits that they accrue to the host economy. Similarly, although the implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) agreement is set to impact SEZs on the continent significantly, there is a lack of research and policy guidance on how zones can adjust to the new regulatory environment. In this context, UNCTAD with the support of GIZ, has developed a handbook for SEZs on the continent. *Handbook on Special Economic Zones in Africa: Towards Economic Diversification across the Continent*, in addition to providing best practices and policy recommendations across a wide array of topics relevant to SEZs, also features case studies from

a number of different zones within and outside Africa. In addition to the dissemination of the findings of the handbook, UNCTAD and GIZ are also arranging a series of technical cooperation workshops in different parts of Africa. The handbook and the related technical cooperation have a particularly strong emphasis on helping SEZs adjust to the new trade and investment environment in Africa, after the full implementation of the AfCFTA.

This session aims at discussing the aforementioned issues covered by the handbook with a wide range of stakeholders, including high-level representatives from African member States, SEZ managers, SEZ associations, United Nation bodies and specialized agencies. It will provide a timely opportunity for a high-level exchange on the development of SEZs on the continent, with a focus on the opportunities and challenges in the context of the implementation of the AfCFTA.

**Issues to be addressed:**

- How have SEZs on the continent fared so far, and what are the current main challenges that impede their performance and contribution to sustainable development?
- In the wake of the COVID-19 crisis, what are the challenges faced by SEZ stakeholders, the main actions undertaken to face the crisis and the key lessons learned? What role can SEZs play to ensure a sustainable recovery post-COVID-19?
- How will the AfCFTA agreement impact SEZs? What are the main opportunities and concerns with the regards of the implementation of the agreement?
- In light of the expected changes in international trade and investment patterns, what will be the strategic focus of SEZs in Africa in the years to come?
- What can be the key guidelines for policymakers in the design and implementation of SEZ development programmes, or programmes aimed at improving existing SEZs?

Event manager: Ms Amelia U. Santos-Paulino

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12:00–14:30

### **SECURITIES MARKET REGULATORS AND SUSTAINABLE INVESTMENT (in partnership with the International Organization of Securities Commissions)**

The financial sector has a crucial role to play in helping to support the transition to a more sustainable future. Internationally, financial services firms and capital markets are deepening their consideration of sustainability-related risks, opportunities and impacts, for the benefit of investors and to help mobilize capital to support the transition. The growth of environmental, social and corporate governance (ESG) investing and sustainability-related products has led to several challenges, including concerns regarding consistency and comparability of available information, and the risk of greenwashing. Since the last World Investment Forum in 2018, regulators and policymakers worldwide have been examining issues relating to sustainable finance in their regulatory and supervisory roles in order to address these challenges and have been ramping up their efforts related to sustainable finance.

Organized in partnership with IOSCO and its Growth and Emerging Markets Committee (GEMC), this regulatory workshop is an opportunity to take stock of the most recent developments in the area of sustainable finance and to assist GEMC jurisdictions in initiating implementation of global standards in this area.

**Issues to be addressed:**

- Overview of recent developments, including IOSCO's view on sustainability-related issuer disclosures, the risk of greenwashing in asset management, and the role of ESG data providers and rating agencies.
- Discussion of expected near-future developments, such as the establishment of the International Financial Reporting Standards International Sustainability Standards Board and the path to implementation of the IOSCO recommendations.

Event manager: Mr. Anthony Miller

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13:00–14:30

### **INTERNATIONAL PROJECT FINANCE (in partnership with the Global Infrastructure Hub and Project Finance International)**

## **Boosting investment in infrastructure and the SDGs**

International project finance is a key mechanism to channel funds towards investment in infrastructure and other key sectors relevant for sustainable development, including renewable energy, water and sanitation, and hospitals. International project finance was already on a growth trajectory and increasingly on the radars of investment policymakers and investment promotion agencies worldwide due to the need to attract funds for SDG projects. The post-COVID recovery investment packages that are being adopted in many countries, which are mostly directed at infrastructure, are further increasing the relevance of this instrument. The growing use of international project finance presents an opportunity to draw in much-needed private sector capital, but also a set of new challenges for sustainability financing.

### **Issues to be addressed:**

- What are the current trends in international project finance?
- How will the huge injection of funds in infrastructure implied by post-COVID recovery packages affect international project finance trends in the coming years?
- What is needed to further boost investment in renewable energy and sustainable infrastructure?
- How can developing countries gain greater access to international project finance for sustainable growth?

Event manager: Ms. Isya Kresnadi

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13:30–15:00

## **HIGH-LEVEL INTERREGIONAL DIALOGUE ON FACILITATING INVESTMENT IN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL PROJECTS** (in partnership with the Caribbean Association of Investment Promotion Agencies, the East African Community and Southern African Development Community Secretariats)

Facilitating investment in SDG projects entails a wide range of stakeholders as different as local governments and regional integration schemes, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), development finance institutions, impact and institutional investors, and community groups whose goals are not always focused on profit maximization. Therefore, investment facilitation in SDG projects is a wider ranging and complex activity that goes beyond dealing with multinational enterprises.

Moreover, the COVID-19 pandemic has radically changed the international investment landscape and pushed investment promotion agencies (IPAs) to change their way of doing business, their sector priorities and to embrace new technologies, while in many cases facing budget cuts. This and the accruing needs for SDG project finance are critical sources of stress for IPAs, adding to the complexity.

This interregional dialogue will discuss findings, recommendations, and best practices from three different developing regions, represented by SADC, EAC and CAIPA. It will bring together high-level regional and IPA executives and private sector representatives who will discuss the opportunities in facilitating investment in SDG projects, with a focus on the role of regionalization and regional value chains as a key strategy.

### **Issues to be addressed:**

- Regional and intraregional cooperation in facilitating investment in SDG projects.
- IPAs challenges in facilitating investment in SDG projects.

Event manager: Ms. Natalia Guerra

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14:00–15:30

## **SCIENCE PARKS AND AREAS OF INNOVATION MODELS** (in partnership with International Association of Science Parks and Areas of Innovation) **Investing in innovation-based development**

Science and technology special economic zones (SEZs) are an emerging type of SEZ – moving beyond the trade- and labour-intensive manufacturing activities of traditional SEZs. Some economies use science and technology zones to build innovation clusters and advance relevant industries. Others adopt science and technology zones with the aim of promoting economic diversification and technology development. Should all countries pursue the establishment of such zones? How to incorporate such zones into countries’ development strategy and make them work for sustainable development? Such questions are relevant for policymakers, zone developers and enterprises alike.

This session will bring together SEZ associations and developers, policymakers and tenant enterprises to a discussion centred on how science and technology zones can contribute to the local economy and sustainable development.

The event will be summarized in the form of a small practical booklet for policymakers to assist them in planning science and technology SEZs.

**Issues to be addressed:**

- The role of governments, public administrations and the private sector in investing in science and technology parks (STPs) and areas of innovation (AOIs).
- Existing investment/ownership/governance models.
- Differences and similarities between the prevailing models in the developed and developing worlds.
- The emergence of mixed models (public + private) and their applicability in developing regions.
- Are STPs suitable instruments to attract FDI in developing countries?
- How STPs and AOIs help social and economic development in their regions.

Event manager: Mr. Richard Bolwijn  
Contact email: Richard.Bolwijn@unctad.org

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14:00–16:30

**DIGITAL GLOBALIZATION: THE NEW FRONTIER FOR MULTINATIONAL ENTERPRISES** (organized by the Academy of International Business)

What is the evidence for digital globalization and what direction is it taking? Is it friend or foe for sustainable post-pandemic recovery and internationalization?

**Issues to be addressed:**

- Reassessment of the “conventional role” of foreign investment and multinational enterprises for sustainable development.
- Potential impact on SDGs.
- The shifting national and international policy space in an era of digital globalization.
- Are there lessons from our international business research and evidence base to help identify smarter policies in light of opportunities and threats of digital globalization?

Event manager: Ms. Amelia U. Santos-Paulino  
Contact email: Amelia.Santos-Paulino@unctad.org

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14:30–16:30

**GENDER EQUALITY IN LISTED CORPORATIONS** (in partnership with the International Finance Corporation)

**CEO round table and expert discussion**

Join the women leading some of the world’s most influential exchanges and market infrastructures in this CEO round table on gender equality. The one-hour discussion will explore the role of women in senior leadership positions, and reflect on lessons learned and emergent themes. This session will be followed by a second panel of policy and practice experts from exchanges and organizations active on this topic. Stock exchanges are uniquely positioned to drive change in a way few other actors can and as employers in their own right, to lead by example. This session is organized in collaboration with IFC and will discuss initiatives underway, what’s worked and what hasn’t and where the opportunities are to really make a difference.

Gender equality is a top priority on the international sustainability agenda. Businesses are improving their practices, developing public–private partnerships, and investing resources to achieve gender equality. While it is increasingly recognized that advancing gender equality through business operations and value chains means better talent, higher



productivity, more customers, and better societal outcomes, progress remains slow. To achieve the United Nations SDGs, we need to move much more rapidly.

Before joining this session, take a minute to see the SSE [ranking](#) of G20 stock exchanges based on boardroom gender balance. This will form the basis for much of the discussion.

**Issues to be addressed:**

- What role can exchanges play in promoting gender parity?
- What role does regulation play in achieving gender equality?
- How can exchanges assist in building up a sufficient career pipeline for women to be promoted in companies?
- How can exchanges actively increase female participation on their issuers' boards?
- What are the main challenges that markets face when promoting diversity?

Event manager: Mr. Anthony Miller

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15:00–17:00

## MINISTERIAL ROUND TABLE ON ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND SUSTAINABLE RECOVERY POST-COVID-19

The UNCTAD Ministerial Round Table on Entrepreneurship will bring together international experts and leading authorities from the public and private sectors to discuss the future of entrepreneurship policies in a post-COVID-19 resurgence. Experts will share practical experiences and discuss new policy initiatives that could help countries and micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) surmount the current crisis and lead them towards a long-term green, inclusive and resilient recovery in support of the SDGs.

During the COVID-19 crisis many entrepreneurs have had to look for creative solutions to keep afloat. For many, the use of digital technologies has meant lower costs, greater access to markets, better coordination, higher integration and productivity gains.

While many industries have suffered, some have experienced growth since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. Examples include enterprise technology services, home entertainment, telemedicine, medical equipment suppliers, e-commerce retailing, e-learning, cybersecurity, and sanitary product manufacturing, among others.

Both the efficiency gains from the acceleration in digitalization and the shifts in the growth potential of industries have implications for policies to promote entrepreneurship and support MSMEs in developing countries.

Taking place in this context, the Ministerial Round Table will provide a forum for international experts and leading authorities from the public and private sectors to share experiences and to envisage strategies to deal with the effects of the COVID-19 crisis on MSMEs and the entrepreneurship sector.

**Issues to be addressed:**

- What policies can help MSMEs overcome the long-term effects of the COVID-19 pandemic? What is the role of regional and international cooperation?
- What institutional changes are necessary to accommodate and improve on the innovations that occurred during the pandemic?
- How will COVID-19 reshape global supply chains, and what can entrepreneurs do to adapt? What policies can help improve market access (both domestic and international) for MSMEs?
- What will the increased use of digital communication technologies (zoom, social media, teleworking, and the like) mean for entrepreneurship skills development and promotion?

### **Empretec Women in Business: Stories of resilience and success**

UNCTAD created the Empretec Women in Business Awards in 2008 as an acknowledgment of the great achievements of women entrepreneurs trained by the Empretec programme. The awards, granted every two years, have made a real impact on the lives of past recipients. They have improved the women's access to further training, widened their markets and resources and boosted their motivation to continue growing their enterprises. The awards have also helped these women

become role models in their communities. Recipients have excelled in developing innovative business ideas, providing jobs, and increasing incomes in their communities.

In the past few months, UNCTAD has gathered compelling stories from twenty women who were selected from among the over 100 finalists to the Empretec Women in Business Awards through its seven editions, since 2008 until 2020. The stories, published on UNCTAD social media and websites, are told by the finalists and reveal each woman entrepreneur's personal journey: their dreams, their passions, the obstacles and challenges they have faced and continue to face, and how they have overcome them.

The call for nominations for the 2022 Empretec Women in Business Awards will be announced on 20 October 2021.

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15:30–17:30

## **THE INTERPLAY BETWEEN INTERNATIONAL TAXATION AND INVESTMENT (in partnership with WU Global Tax Policy Center)**

### **Evaluating the Implications of changes promoted by the G20**

Digitalization has transformed the ways of doing business leading to greater mobility of capital and labour. These changes have prompted a reform in the area of international tax that is likely to have wider implications for investment, yet to be fully understood.

On 1 July 2021 the Inclusive Framework on Base Erosion and Profit Shifting agreed on a two-pillar solution to address the tax challenges arising from the digitalization of the economy that was endorsed by G20 leaders in June 2021. The second pillar of this solution includes the option for countries to introduce an effective minimum tax rate of at least 15% on the income of a multinational enterprise (MNE), signalling an intention, at least at the multilateral level, to set a floor for international tax competition. The investment and tax communities must now engage in a debate on whether it remains desirable and feasible for countries, particularly developing countries, to continue to offer tax-based investment incentives. This may now require a paradigm shift in what features of the system countries should continue to compete on.

As the international discourse on the future of taxation has gained momentum, it is an appropriate time to discuss the interactions between tax and investment since both communities are undergoing an in-depth review of the approaches embedded in the respective agreements. The discussion aims to stimulate the interaction between, in particular, tax policymakers and international investment agreement (IIA) negotiators. The joint expertise of these two policy communities could lead to a greater coherence between tax and investment policymaking that could then be connected to discourse on trade.

The session is structured in two parts. The first part of the session will focus on how the changing tax landscape may have an impact on the design and use of tax incentives to attract investment, especially to developing countries. The second part of the session will focus on the overlaps in the respective frameworks for IIAs and tax treaties and the potential for an increased number of tax-related investor–State dispute settlements if international tax reform is realized.

#### **Issues to be discussed:**

##### Session I:

- How, in this new tax environment, will countries, especially developing countries, compete for investment? What will be the broader impact on their industrial policy?
- How will MNEs react to limitations in the use of tax incentives?
- What will be the impact on overall FDI flows?
- What will be the impact on tax revenues for developing countries?

##### Session II:

- What do tax policymakers need to know about the operation of IIAs and what do investment policymakers need to know about the operation of tax treaties?
- How can we achieve greater consistency in the way taxes are dealt with within IIAs and tax treaties, particularly in the area of dispute settlements?

Event manager: Mr. Bruno Casella  
Contact email: Bruno.Casella@unctad.org

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16:00–17:00

## **GROWING DIGITAL FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT (in partnership with the World Economic Forum) Towards launching a regional initiative in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA)**

Digitalization is transforming the modern economy, gradually permeating all economic sectors and functions. It will underpin future growth and is key to COVID-19 recovery as well as future resilience.

One way to grow the digital economy and increase digital competitiveness is through attracting FDI ([UNCTAD World Investment Report 2017](#)). Just like traditional FDI, such “digital FDI” takes place to be close to customers, access local knowledge, open new markets, and more. While some digital service suppliers are relatively “asset-light”, meaning they do not require significant FDI to service a market, other digital service suppliers display a similar international asset footprint to traditional multinational enterprises.

Yet promoting and facilitating FDI in the digital economy may require specific policies, regulations and measures because these investments are based on business models that vary from traditional brick-and-mortar businesses. These business activities rely heavily on data and know-how, often involve platform economies and leverage non-traditional assets. **There is an opportunity to launch digital FDI enabling projects (DEPs) to help create “digital friendly” investment climates, as recently outlined to the G20.** Countries in the MENA region and beyond are in discussions to collaborate with the World Economic Forum to launch a DEP to identify policies, regulations and measures to attract such investment. This session will discuss these plans, as well as opportunities for others to join this effort and for other regions to also consider DEPs.

### **Issues to be addressed:**

- How can a DEP be designed and implemented (nationally and regionally)?
- What should be the goals of such projects, and can they build on existing initiatives?
- What sectors are digital enablers and should be prioritized in attracting digital FDI?

Event manager: Mr. Alexandre Dabbou  
Contact email: Alexandre.Dabbou@unctad.org

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16:30–18:00

## **SUSTAINABLE INTERNATIONALIZATION OF SMALL AND MEDIUM-SIZED ENTERPRISES – PART I (in partnership with the World Union of Small and Medium Enterprises)**

### **Leveraging the developmental impact**

Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) are the backbone of economies around the world, yet relatively few engage in international trade, and even fewer invest abroad. International trade and investment activities benefit productivity and can bring gains for both home and host economies, including the achievement of the SDGs. The new industrial revolution, the continued rise of emerging players, and the growing importance of global value chains are changing that landscape, rapidly making it imperative to take a fresh look at FDI and other forms of internationalization of SMEs directly.

This high-level session will bring together policymakers, business sector representatives, researchers and practitioners, to discuss the patterns and development impact of internationalization of SMEs at the micro and macro levels. Panellists will also explore ways to document the development impact on internationalization of SMEs, based on selected case studies. They will highlight special issues including the gender angle and the role of migrant and diaspora investors; identify the policy challenges for internationalization of SMEs in home and host countries; explore access to finance, business intelligence, digital technologies and skills, business and investment facilitation and investment promotion; and suggest ways for policy guidance, especially in terms of eliminating any policy bias favouring large multinationals. A particularly important aspect to be explored is the role of SMEs in South–South and intraregional FDI.

The session will lay the ground for a fully fledged and policy-oriented UNCTAD research project looking at the issues raised at the round table in a systematic way.

**Issues to be addressed:**

- What drives FDI and other forms of internationalization by SMEs?
- What can FDI by SMEs contribute to the development and international competitiveness of home and host countries?
- How can SMEs contribute to global or regional supply chain development via linkages?
- Are the gender, social and environmental practices of SME investors different from the practices of other investors?
- What are the main policy challenges for SMEs? Is there a policy bias towards large companies? If yes, in which areas, and how can they be dealt with? What kind of policy guidance can be provided and what role should UNCTAD play in it?
- What are the main new challenges that SME investors face during the pandemic? What kind of new policy challenges does the pandemic pose for policymakers to support SME investors?

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17:15–18:45

**TALKING BUSINESS: LATIN AMERICA** (in cooperation with the Latin American Chamber of Commerce in Switzerland)

An interactive session in which representatives of private sector entities investing and/or operating a business in Latin America share their experiences and highlight the opportunities and challenges they encounter, in particular in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic and the post-pandemic recovery. They will also present how their activities can contribute to the SDGs. The session provides a chance for business to explore new investment horizons and interact with country representatives through Q&As.

**Issues to be addressed:**

- What are the opportunities and challenges in investing in and operating a business in the region?
- What investment policy reforms should be considered priorities by your host governments?
- Which recent investment policy reforms have enabled you to improve your business perspectives?
- How has the COVID-19 pandemic affected these priorities?
- What contribution can your business make to the SDGs in the countries you are operating in?
- What measures will allow your business to grow and increase its contribution to the SDGs?

Event manager: Ms. Chantal Dupasquier  
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18:00–19:30

**SUSTAINABLE INTERNATIONALIZATION OF SMALL AND MEDIUM-SIZED ENTERPRISES PART II** (in partnership with European International Business Academy and Academy of International Business)  
**Leveraging the developmental impact**

The aim of part II of this session is to contribute to the understanding about the internationalization strategies of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), the opportunities they can seize and the challenges they face. Organized in partnership with EIBA and AIB, the round table offers cross-country perspectives on the internationalization of SMEs. The outcome of the round table will feed into a broader research project on the topic coordinated by UNCTAD. Academics, practitioners and policymakers will provide new insights on how SMEs invest in foreign markets and perform other international activities. Discussions will aim to shed new light on the essential role of SMEs in providing jobs, creating value, advancing innovation and contributing to sustainable development.

The round table will aim to identify major trends and key factors of success in the internationalization strategies of SMEs in both developed and developing countries. The insights and discussions will be based on surveys, case studies and the

international experience of selected firms. This round table will also formulate selected policy recommendations for policymakers to improve the monitoring and the facilitation of the internationalization of SMEs.

**Issues to be addressed:**

- In which regions and countries do SMEs invest? What are their objectives and strategies?
- What are the main factors that can lead to successful internationalization?
- What determines the mode of entry in individual host countries (FDI, trade, contractual arrangements, and the like)?
- What is the impact of SME investment on local communities in the host countries?
- Through which channels, and how, do SMEs contribute to the development of host economies?

Event manager: Ms. Amelia U. Santos-Paulino  
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18:30–20:00

**ACADEMIC TRACK DAILY ROUNDUP (Academy of International Business and academic partners)**

The daily roundup sessions will address, through an academic lens, the key issues and themes debated at the Forum.

Interactive networking opportunities to share, collaborate and benefit from peer learning will be provided during and between sessions.

Event manager: Ms Amelia U. Santos-Paulino  
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## THURSDAY, 21 OCTOBER 2021

08:30–9:30

**GREEN ISLAMIC FINANCE (GREEN SUKUK)**

Islamic finance has witnessed a rapid growth in recent years. In 2019, the value of Islamic banking assets was estimated to be around USD 1.99 trillion. Within this area of finance there is growing interest in environmentally themed products. "Green Sukuk" are Shari'ah-compliant investments in renewable energy and other environmental assets. Proceeds are used to finance construction, to refinance construction debt, or to finance the payment of a government-granted green subsidy. They may involve securitizing future income cash flows from ring-fenced projects or assets with specific criteria attached.

This session will feature a discussion with representatives of stock exchanges that are innovating in the area of green Islamic finance, investors and standard setters in the area. The session will chart the progress to date and seek to provide insight on the future evolution of this area of finance.

**Issues to be addressed:**

- What are stock exchanges doing to promote green Islamic finance?
- What are the key products in this area and what is the forecast for new products?
- What is needed to ensure the Islamic green finance ecosystem grows in the future and how can exchanges and regulators assist?
- What are key challenges that need to be addressed?

Event manager: Mr. Anthony Miller  
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09:30–10:30

**DECENT WORK AND SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONES: AFRICA FOCUS (in partnership with the International Labour Organization)**

**Making special economic zones (SEZs) work for decent employment in Africa**

Special economic zones in their various forms are expanding globally, especially in developing countries. According to UNCTAD estimates, there are more than 5,000 SEZs in the world with upwards of 90% of these in developing countries. Since many first-generation SEZs often pursued an investment-attraction strategy centred on low wages and lax employment conditions, zones have been criticized for enabling the violation of worker rights across a range of dimensions. Although some newly created zones are going against this trend, widespread adaptation of decent employment standards in SEZs remains elusive.

Research by UNCTAD presents the economic case for zones to switch from a narrow focus on cost advantages to becoming champions of social responsibility and sustainable development. Yet follow-up research by ILO and UNCTAD shows that significant awareness-raising and consensus-building are still needed to transform SEZs into facilitators of decent work. The *Handbook on Special Economic Zones in Africa*, developed by UNCTAD, highlights best practices and puts forward policy recommendations on how to build SEZs orientated towards development and sustainability in Africa, particularly in light of the new trade and investment environment on the continent following the full implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Agreement, which could pave the way for achieving decent work outcomes.

This session will focus specifically on the role of SEZs in Africa, with a panel discussion on how zones can create decent jobs, attract investment, support youth employment, promote gender equality in the workplace and establish strong linkages that build stable and prosperous local communities outside the zone.

The main objective of this event will be to provide a forum for experts and participants to exchange views on policy measures which enable zones to derive value from adequate labour standards and decent wages. The summary document from deliberations will steer the development of a practical guide for policymakers with tangible steps on how to incorporate decent work in SEZs.

**Issues to be addressed:**

- What are the current approaches to integrating decent work into SEZ development objectives and operations?
- How can decent work standards enhance efficiency of SEZ operations and attract more investors?
- What are some of the best practices from SEZs around the world?

Event managers: Ms. Amelia U. Santos-Paulino and Mr. Anthony Miller

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09:30–11:00

**PANDEMIC PREPAREDNESS BEYOND COVID-19 (in partnership with the World Health Organization )**

**Investing in vaccines production and supply for low and middle-income countries (LMICs)**

The current pandemic has highlighted the exposure of LMICs to global vaccine supply shortages, despite efforts by the industry to increase manufacturing capacity, including in large developing countries. This challenge extends well beyond COVID-19. Routine vaccination programmes need to be maintained in LMICs to avoid increased mortality, especially among children. Building productive capacity in developing countries for vaccines beyond COVID-19 could make an important contribution to equitable access and pandemic preparedness in LMICs. Increased global cooperation is essential to achieve this goal.

At a World Investment Forum satellite event on 3 March 2021, UNCTAD in partnership with WHO launched a series of consultations with policymakers, investors, vaccine manufacturers and technology providers on how to coordinate and promote investment in LMIC-based vaccine productive capacity. The event involved major actors in the international COVID-19 response such as, inter alia, the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations, International Finance Corporation, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, African Development Bank and Serum Institute of India. The purpose of this event is to report on these consultations, take stock of partnerships to date and discuss the way forward in intensifying partnerships for vaccine productive capacity.

**Issues to be addressed:**

- How can multilateral partnerships help mobilize impact investment in LMIC productive capacity?
- How can LMIC policy frameworks be improved to promote foreign and domestic investment in pharmaceutical production?
- Can and should the current consultations led by UNCTAD and WHO be transformed into a more formal partnership?

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10:00–11:00

## **CORPORATE GOVERNANCE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (in partnership with the International Corporate Governance Network)**

Companies and investors have a mutual responsibility to preserve and enhance long-term corporate value. In doing so they must focus not only on aspects relating to a company's long-term financial value, but also on factors impacting the health of society and the environment. In essence this is about "the governance of sustainability" and the role of the board in overseeing the integration of human and natural capital management in alignment with a company's purpose and long-term strategy.

This session will cover recent developments, including the integration of sustainability issues into the ICGN's Global Governance Principles during its recent update. The discussion will bring together key stakeholders in the area of corporate governance including regulators, issuers and investors.

### **Issues to be addressed:**

- What are the sustainability duties of corporate boards?
- How should companies clarify their responsibility to promote the success of the company to preserve and enhance share value, while also contributing to a sustainable economy, society and environment?
- How should boards expand risk oversight to include social and environmental systemic events such as ecological degradation and social inequality?
- What is the board's role in addressing climate change, and assessing business impacts and how the company can meet the needs of a net zero economy?

Event manager: Mr. Anthony Miller

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10:00–14:00

## **WORLD ASSOCIATION OF INVESTMENT PROMOTION AGENCIES WORLD INVESTMENT CONFERENCE**

The twenty-fifth World Association of Investment Promotion Agencies (WAIPA) World Investment Conference will be held alongside the virtual UNCTAD seventh World Investment Forum 2021. In the wake of COVID-19 it will discuss under the theme "Regeneration of IPAs in a new decade" the crucial importance of IPAs during and after the pandemic that has had an impact on lives and economies globally. Bringing together IPAs from all over the world, government officials, development sector leaders, decision makers from the private sector and academia relevant to FDI policy and strategy, the World Investment Conference will via several panels review the past two and a half decades of investment promotion, debate the rise of digitalization and the importance of data-driven investment promotion, and aim to examine how investors and locations alike benefit from IPAs and how IPAs are able to highlight their role further as a critical element in the promotion and facilitation of investments.

### **Session/Panel 1: A quarter century of investment promotion: Success stories and the future outlook**

An overwhelming majority of IPAs were created after 1990. This surge of institutions specializing in investment promotion in the 1990s also influenced the creation of WAIPA under the auspices of UNCTAD in 1995. Slightly over a quarter of a century later we look at how the work of IPAs has changed, with agencies emerging and disappearing over the last few years, what international institutions can do to assist agencies, how their work has been impacted by COVID-19 and how IPAs can even expand their crucial role in promoting and facilitating investments into their countries or regions.

### **Session/Panel 2: Data-driven investment promotion: How data influence the world of IPAs**

As in most areas of life, data, their management and use, are becoming increasingly important issues for investment promotion. Data help agencies to prove the value of their work by referring to numbers collected on FDI; at the same time data help agencies to take decisions more effectively and even to create leads for further investments. This panel will look how important the collection of accurate data is and how IPAs can use data to their benefit.

### **Session/Panel 3: Business-oriented IPAs: High-end services and added value for investors**

IPAs are an important link between business and governments. As agencies are usually linked to the government, they understand the dynamism within government structures; yet being in contact with investors on a daily basis at the same time, it is crucial for agencies and their employees to speak the same language as the investor. This unique position has also made IPAs of vital importance during the COVID-19 pandemic that has imposed a difficult situation on many

companies. This panel will examine how investors see the functions of IPAs, how governments may utilize IPAs more strategically and effectively, and how IPAs are able to highlight their role further as valuable elements in the promotion and facilitation of investments.

In light of the above, since the establishment of WAIPA the idea of creating a body that brings private sector expertise to the WAIPA member IPAs has been fully supported by the Steering Committee as well as the General Assembly of WAIPA. In line with the Association's strategy issued by its General Assembly, the proposal for a private sector advisory body gathered momentum and led to the decision of the Steering Committee, in April 2020, to recommend the establishment of a Business Advisory Board.

The private sector will play an important role in the work of WAIPA in establishing best practices and helping IPAs to enhance their corporate capacity and provide the best possible assistance to the private sector before, during and after their investments. The private sector understands the need to put the United Nations SDGs on its priority list, and that projects that can generate sound rates of return can at the same time have optimal socioeconomic impacts.

### **Awards ceremony: Strengthening IPA Advocacy Services 2021 Awards**

Partner: World Bank Group (WBG)

WAIPA together with WBG jointly launched a global competition to identify and award international best practices of IPAs advocating for reforms to improve the investment ecosystem for foreign investors.

Through this competition, WAIPA and WBG aim to emphasize the key benefits of IPA advocacy services. The competition aims to collect and disseminate IPA advocacy success stories and raise awareness in a way that hopefully inspires more IPAs to play a stronger role in advocating for reforms.

The winning IPAs will be selected by a jury consisting of delegates from WAIPA, WBG, UNCTAD and the World Economic Forum and awarded during the twenty-fifth WAIPA World Investment Conference.

Event manager: Mr. Paul Wessendorp  
Contact email: Paul.Wessendorp@unctad.org

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10:30–12:30

### **PANEL DISCUSSION ON FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT POLICIES AND TRENDS IN MEMBER COUNTRIES OF THE ISLAMIC DEVELOPMENT BANK (in partnership with the Islamic Development Bank and the Islamic Centre for the Development of Trade)**

Global FDI collapsed in 2020, falling by 42% to an estimated \$859 billion, from \$1.5 trillion in 2019. FDI flows have also considerably declined in member countries of the IsDB. The steep decline in greenfield announcements and international project finance in Africa and Asia is a cause for major concern. Without investment in the productive sectors of the economy, developing countries will struggle to rebuild from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

In parallel, countries implemented investment policies to tackle the devastating economic and social effects of the pandemic. Numerous countries around the globe have taken measures in support of investment or for protecting critical domestic industries in the crisis. Support measures include the speeding up of investment approval procedures, the accelerated use of online tools and e-platforms, COVID-19-related services of investment promotion agencies, incentive schemes for health-related R&D, medical supplies, the acquisition by States of equity in struggling domestic key companies as well as State loans and guarantees for domestic suppliers in value chains. To protect their health sector and industries in other sectors considered as particularly important in the crisis several countries have tightened foreign investment screening mechanisms, introduced new regulations or are planning such steps. Other State interventions in the health industry include mandatory production and export bans for medical equipment, as well as reduction of import duties for medical devices. In this context, the IsDB and ICDT have taken a number of steps to respond to the crisis and to mitigate its impact on their member countries' development objectives.

#### **Issues to be discussed:**

- What was the impact of the pandemic on FDI flows to IsDB countries?
- What are the main policy responses taken by the IsDB and ICDT?
- How can the cooperation between UNCTAD, IsDB and ICDT be strengthened on issues related to investment trends and policies?



Event manager: Mr. Hamed El-Kady  
Contact email: Hamed.El.Kady@unctad.org

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11:00–12:00

### **LEVERAGING FINANCE AND CAPITAL AND DEVELOPMENT OF POLICIES FOR CLIMATE ACTION IN EMERGING MARKETS: THE ROLE OF BANKS** (in partnership with the Official Monetary and Financial Institutions Forum (OMFIF))

As the world shifts to greener, more sustainable economic systems and infrastructures, it is crucial that emerging market financial sectors transition to sustainable finance practices, supported by developed economies. In collaboration with the UNCTAD World Investment Forum, OMFIF is convening a panel discussion on how emerging markets can leverage finance and develop policies to drive climate action while continuing to grow their economies.

This session will gather central banks, investors, regulators and experts from around the world to discuss their role in the leveraging by emerging markets of finance and capital and the development of policies for climate action. Key points of discussion will include the risks of transition, infrastructure developments, scaling capital and asset allocation, as well as the latest developments in sustainable bonds and loans.

#### **Issues to be addressed:**

- The role central banks can play in mobilizing green finance and supervising climate related risks.
- Assessing central banks' capability to influence and improve green finance: Monetary policy and enhancing supervision.
- Understanding central bank mandates in the era of climate change: How to overcome challenges of managing financial stability and promoting green investment.

Event manager: Mr. Anthony Miller  
Contact email: Anthony.Miller@unctad.org

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12:00–13:00

### **TASK FORCE ON CLIMATE-RELATED FINANCIAL DISCLOSURES IMPLEMENTATION AND CLIMATE ACTION** (in partnership with the International Finance Corporation and the Bloomberg Foundation)

Climate change is a key point on the global political agenda in 2021 and politicians, regulators and financial market actors have started to discuss how to address the issue with the means of the market and how to best help companies to become more climate resilient. As global financial markets take steps towards better integrating climate risk and opportunities into pricing mechanisms, disclosure provides the bedrock for progress in the pursuit of a more sustainable global economy.

There is a growing demand for decision-useful, climate-related financial information in annual reports and financial filings that has led to an increased need for issuers to update their knowledge on climate-related risks and reporting frameworks. Following this same trend, there are rapid advances associated with regulation and policy frameworks aiming to support climate resiliency in markets. A number of leading economists and experts see climate change as representing the greatest commercial opportunities of our time. Those companies and countries most effectively navigating the transition to net zero and identifying the opportunities in providing solutions will not only be more resilient but will also achieve more sustainable growth.

Stock exchanges are uniquely positioned to advance climate disclosure through market guidance. They can support consistency and standardization of information that enables both local and global progress in climate reporting and use of climate-related data. Stock exchanges' infrastructure, networks and experience can contribute to addressing climate change via capital markets. Working with and learning from their peers can play an essential role in achieving climate-resiliency of our markets.

A newly published United Nations Sustainable Stock Exchanges model guidance on the Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures (TCFD) adoption, assisting exchanges' markets to implement the TCFD recommendations, as well as a new action plan showing how exchanges can lead by example to make markets more climate resilient, are going to be the foundation for the session's discussion.

#### **Issues to be addressed:**

- Why is climate disclosure important?
- How can exchanges assist in implementing TCFD disclosure among their issuers?

- How can climate disclosure guidance be integrated in the wider context of exchanges' environmental, social and corporate governance guidance.
- What can exchanges do to lead by example?
- How do markets connect climate disclosure to investment?

Event manager: Mr. Anthony Miller  
 Contact email: Anthony.Miller@unctad.org

13:00–14:00

## WORKING TOGETHER THROUGH A GLOBAL ALLIANCE OF SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONES (GASEZ) (in partnership with special economic zone (SEZ) associations)

### GASEZ: A global solution to sustainability of SEZs

Special economic zones are an instrument widely used to stimulate growth, create jobs, promote exports, diversify economies, and build productive capacity. In 2019, UNCTAD undertook a global review of SEZs in its *World Investment Report* to assess the impact of 6,000 SEZs (plus an additional 1,000 science and innovation parks) as policy instruments, and examined their potential contributions to sustainable development at the national and global level. In the past few years UNCTAD has also started a number of technical assistance activities related to SEZs.

As we enter a new era of global economy, SEZs are faced with a myriad of challenges and opportunities arising from the triple mega-drivers: the new industrial revolution, the sustainability imperative, and the realignment of global economic governance. Mobilizing global support for SEZs and their endeavour to attract investment for sustainable development requires a concerted effort by the SEZ community. It is only collectively that the SEZ community can be effective in modernization and policy advocacy; and bring on board all stakeholders, including governments, the private sector, the international community and, foremost, the managers and administrators of SEZs.

Areas of orientation for working together through GASEZ include:

1. Global networking to facilitate cross-board and cross-industry collaboration in trade and investment promotion and facilitation for achieving the SDGs.
2. Collective policy advocacy for sound enabling frameworks for SEZs at national, regional and global levels.
3. Peer learning through exchange of experiences and best practices, including through the World Investment Forum and other forums.
4. Joint programmes for modernizing SEZs and building SDG model zones.

UNCTAD and SEZ associations worldwide are initiating the establishment of GASEZ. Modalities for the functioning of the Alliance will be further discussed with a view to formally launch GASEZ in 2022. The UNCTAD secretariat will facilitate meetings and activities of GASEZ in the inception stage.

The following institutions support the GASEZ initiative:

- UNCTAD, Geneva, Switzerland
- Africa Economic Zones Organization (AEZO), Tangier, Morocco
- Association of Clusters, Technology Parks and SEZs of Russia (AKTI), Moscow, Russia
- Free Trade Zones Association of the Americas (AFZA), Bogota, Colombia
- International Association of Science Parks (IASP), Malaga, Spain
- National Association of Free Trade Zones (NAFTZ), Washington D.C., USA
- Philippine Economic Zone Authority (PEZA), Pasay City, Philippines
- World Free and Special Economic Zones Federation (FEMOZA), Barcelona, Spain
- World Free Zones Organization (WFZO), Dubai, United Arab Emirates

### Issues to be addressed:

- Official launch of GASEZ for the global SEZ community

### Opening presentation of GASEZ:

- Mr. James Zhan, Director, Division on Investment and Enterprise (DIAE), UNCTAD

### Panellist discussion on common challenges faced by SEZs:

- Mr. Gustavo Gonzales de Vega, President, Free Trade Zones Association of the Americas (AFZA)
- Ms. Ebba Lund, Chief Executive Officer, International Association of Science Parks (IAPS)
- Mr. Ahmed Bennis, Secretary General, Africa Economic Zones Organization (AEZO)
- Mr. Samir Hamrouni, Chief Executive Officer, World Free Zones Organization (WFZO)
- Ms. Ekaterina Evdokimova, Member of the Board, World Free and Special Economic Zones Federation (FEMOZA)
- Ms. Melissa Irmen, Chair, National Association of Foreign-Trade Zones (NAFTZ, US)
- Mr. Andrey Shpileenko, Director, Association of Clusters, Technology Parks and SEZs of Russia (AKTI)
- Ms. Charito Plaza, Director General, Philippine Economic Zone Authority (PEZA)

### Working towards GASEZ, the way forward

- Mr. James Zhan, DIAE, UNCTAD

Moderator:

- Mr. Paul Wessendorp, Chief, Investment Promotion Section, DIAE, UNCTAD

Event manager: Mr. Paul Wessendorp

Contact email: Paul.Wessendorp@unctad.org

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13:30–16:00

## MINISTERIAL ROUND TABLE ON INVESTMENT FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

As the world slowly emerges from the COVID-19 pandemic, a significant ratcheting up of investment will be required to revert income losses, increase inequalities and vulnerabilities, and boost employment. To achieve sustainable recovery and build forward better, governments, private sector and the international community will need to boost investment not only in productive capacity but also in infrastructure and social sectors. During the session, ministers and heads of international organizations will consider appropriate policy frameworks for rebuilding resilient international production networks and global supply chains and propose an action plan for investing in sustainable recovery.

### Issues to be addressed:

- What should be countries' key priorities in national and international investment policymaking in the coming years?
- What approaches are countries adopting specifically to accelerate investment in priority sectors for a sustainable recovery?

Event manager: Mr. Joerg Weber

Contact email: Joerg.Weber@unctad.org

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14:30–15:30

## SUSTAINABLE INVESTMENT AND NATURAL CAPITAL (in partnership with Planet Tracker)

Humans often take for granted that natural elements of their environment, which are relevant to sustain their operations, remain available and unchanged. However, with a growing awareness of climate-related risks to businesses' operations, the awareness of dependencies on natural elements has grown as well. Whether it is the reliance of fishing companies on oceanic resources, the dependency on wood or clean water, most non-financial companies depend on natural resources to a greater or lesser extent. Companies also need to be aware of the impact their operations have on the natural elements around them, especially if they are using resources prone to slow regrowth or scarcity.

Nature dependency does not only have an impact on actors in the real economy and non-financial companies. Apart from being subject to their own nature-related risks, financial sector companies, through the way of their involvement with non-

financial actors and through their investments (especially in commodities, either direct or through derivatives), are also subject to the nature-related risks of the real economy.

As such, it is important for both non-financial and financial actors to become aware of these risks. Disclosure can help to inform investors and introduce a positive pressure on companies to act responsibly. In September 2020, an international financial sector-led informal working group was established to plan a Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures, with the goal of helping companies to identify, assess, manage and report their impacts and dependencies on nature.

This session will bring together key players in the research and reporting efforts on natural capital to discuss the role of investors, issues and exchanges and explore how exchanges may be able to raise awareness of these risks and opportunities in their own markets.

**Issues to be addressed:**

- What are nature-related risks and opportunities and how can companies find out theirs?
- How can exchanges assist in raising awareness for nature-related risks and opportunities among their issuers?
- How can the investment community as well as issuers be educated and informed about nature-related risks and the impact of their investments?

Event manager: Mr. Anthony Miller  
Contact email: Anthony.Miller@unctad.org

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14:30–15:30

## **G-20 AND INVESTMENT (in partnership with the Italian Institute for International Political Studies – T-20)**

### **A call for investing in people, planet and prosperity**

Following a year of unprecedented crisis, the international community has entered 2021 with a firm determination to build back, and the ambition to do it better than before.

It is in this spirit that the Italian presidency of the G-20 has been taking on and fulfilling its mandate, leading the international community towards the development of a shared vision to shape a brighter future for all. A vision that is summarized by the three pillars: people, planet and prosperity.

The role of public and private investment in this project is critical. While policies still need to remain supportive until the recovery is firmly established, the focus should gradually shift from current expenditures and tax breaks to investment, both public and private, for sustainable recovery – investing for people, planet and prosperity. The private sector is not only critical for financing sustainable recovery, it must also promote sustainable business practices to protect and enhance its human, natural and economic capital – investing in people, planet and prosperity.

This session builds on the unique body of knowledge developed by the T-20, shaping the G-20 agenda across the 3 pillars of people, planet and prosperity, 11 thematic task forces and 120 policy areas. The main objectives are:

- To take stock of the works of the G-20 and of the challenges ahead, towards the end of the term for the Italian presidency.
- To “walk the thought” and explore the policy frontier of the economic challenges covered by the T-20.
- To highlight the role that investment can play to address these challenges.

**Issues to be addressed**

- Green investments and the public–private link.
- Impact of digitalization on global value chains and services.
- New perspectives of joint public–private financing to support green and sustainable infrastructures.
- Women and the youth: Enhancing labour market access and job opportunities for vulnerable groups.

Event manager: Mr. Bruno Casella  
Contact email: Bruno.Casella@unctad.org

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14:30–16:00

## **CAN DIGITAL GOVERNMENT DELIVER DEVELOPMENT IMPACT**

COVID-19 has accelerated the shift to online government services with positive impacts on private sector growth, vulnerable populations and administrative productivity:

- Benin is now the fastest place in the world to start a business (in under two hours).
- Kenya has cut the administrative costs and time faced by its trader and exporters by more than half.
- Bhutan registers and delivers licences to cottage industries in its most remote valleys within seconds.

The data show the biggest winners to be small entrepreneurs, particularly women, young people and rural populations who no longer have to queue at multiple government offices or cope with lengthy and difficult-to-understand procedures in order to enter the formal economy.

This session will explore the latest developments, discuss how more developing countries can go digital, and identify the best way to impact vulnerable populations. It will hear from on-the-ground experiences in developing countries, understand the approaches of global players and conclude with a memorandum of understanding between UNCTAD and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research to accelerate the rollout of digital government worldwide.

Event manager: Mr. Frank Grozel  
Contact email: Frank.Grozel@unctad.org

15:30–16:30

### **FUTURE PROOFING SUSTAINABLE GLOBAL VALUE CHAINS IN THE POST-PANDEMIC ERA (organized by the Academy of International Business)**

What is the impetus of the pandemic on trends and issues of sustainability, resilience and changes in the landscape of GVCs, regional value chains and coordinated national value chains; what is the role of good international business research and what are the perspectives for this area? What is the role of GVCs for sustainable recovery; where does it leave developing countries now that banked on participation in GVCs; what possible answers can our international business research provide for policymakers and practitioners? What are the conditions that facilitate or impede the global diffusion of sustainable practices by multinational corporations?

Event manager: Ms. Amelia U. Santos-Paulino  
Contact email: Amelia.Santos-Paulino@unctad.org

16:00–17:30

### **FINANCIAL INCLUSION AND POLICY SUPPORT FOR MICRO-, SMALL AND MEDIUM-SIZED ENTERPRISES (MSMES)**

#### **Building accounting capacity to increase MSME financial literacy and facilitate their access to financing**

The COVID-19 crisis is hitting MSMEs especially hard. Access to finance is of paramount importance for the survival of firms. The promotion of accounting standards that are both aligned with good practice and take into consideration the specific challenges of MSMEs contribute to improvements in access to finance. Services or skills in setting and maintaining proper accounts and generating meaningful financial statements can enhance MSMEs' chances of accessing financial resources during a global crisis. Thus, increased financial literacy could significantly facilitate MSMEs' access to financial aid in the post COVID-19 resurgence.

To foster the development of MSMEs and to facilitate their access to finance, joint efforts of international experts and leading authorities from the public and private sectors are required. This specialized event will provide a forum for sharing experiences and envisage strategies to deal with effects of the COVID-19 crisis and MSMEs' obstacles and needs in accessing finance. The discussions will build on existing standards and tools, including those developed by the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting, such as those contained in *SMEGA – Accounting and Financial Reporting Guidelines for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises – Level 3 Guidance*, and *Accounting Training Manual for MSMEs*.

#### **Issues to be addressed:**

- Impacts of COVID-19 on MSMEs: The global pandemic has had the worst impact on MSMEs of any sector and tested their resilience, while also triggering creative solutions to keep their activities afloat.
- Facilitating access to financing and making MSMEs more resilient.
- Financial literacy and accounting for MSMEs as key factors for accessing financing and enabling MSMEs' survival and even growth during the pandemic.
- Financial inclusion and policy support for MSMEs: UNCTAD will present tools and materials to support access to financing and discuss effective and practical government policies for MSMEs.

Event managers: Mr. Richard Bolwijn and Mr. Yoseph Asmelash  
Contact emails: Richard.Bolwijn@unctad.org, Yoseph.Asmelash@unctad.org

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16:30–18:00

## **ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN THE NEW HEALTH ECONOMY** (in partnership with the Association for Private Capital Investment in Latin America)

### **The rise of medtech in Latin America**

Governments in developing countries have increasingly turned to the private sector and market instruments to enhance the efficiency and quality of health-care provision and the pandemic has accelerated this dynamic. Moreover, in response to the pandemic, new investment incentives to promote telemedicine and e-health applications, as well as incentives for the manufacturing of medical equipment have been introduced. The pandemic has also highlighted vulnerabilities in global supply chains and in productive capabilities in health, which has prompted governments to consider solutions for post-pandemic recovery and resilience.

Innovators in Latin America are now taking advantage of the technology gap between the United States and their own countries. Healthtech has become one of the fastest growing technology sectors in the region, with artificial intelligence, telemedicine and data analytics transforming health care, from managing health-care costs to improving patient diagnoses. Unsurprisingly, private capital investment in start-ups has increased.

The objective of this session is to discuss the role of entrepreneurship and micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) in the development of the health sector in Latin America. Experts will share practical experiences and insights on challenges and opportunities MSMEs face in the health sector, including in responding to the current pandemic crisis. They will also debate on policy reforms needed to enhance the role of entrepreneurship in that sector to advance the SDG agenda.

#### **Issues to be addressed:**

- To what extent do MSMEs participate in health-care services and manufacturing of medical products and equipment?
- What is the role of venture capital/private equity in supporting medical start-ups and medtech development in each region?
- How can governmental institutions and policy support the participation of start-ups and MSMEs in health care?

Event manager: Mr. Philippe Rudaz  
Contact email: Philippe.Rudaz@unctad.org

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16:30–18:00

## **TALKING BUSINESS: AFRICA** (in cooperation with the Swiss-African Business Circle)

An interactive session in which representatives of private sector entities investing in and/or operating a business in Africa share their experiences and highlight the opportunities and challenges they encounter, in particular in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic and for the recovery. They will also present how their activities can contribute to the SDGs. The session provides a chance for business to explore new investment horizons and interact with country representatives through Q&As.

#### **Issues to be addressed:**

- What are the opportunities and challenges in investing in and operating a business in the region?
- What investment policy reforms should be considered priorities by your host governments?
- Which recent investment policy reforms have enabled you to improve your business perspectives?
- How has the COVID-19 pandemic affected these priorities?
- What contribution can your business make to the SDGs in the countries you are operating in?
- What measures will allow your business to grow and increase its contribution to the SDGs?

Event manager: Ms. Chantal Dupasquier  
Contact email: Chantal.Dupasquier@unctad.org

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16:30–18:30

## ACADEMIC TRACK CLOSING PANEL: THE FUTURE OF RESEARCH ON INTERNATIONAL INVESTMENT AND PRODUCTION

The session will feature an agenda-setting academic panel that will discuss themes based on the overall World Investment Forum and the direction for future research and policy analysis.

Event manager: Ms. Amelia U. Santos-Paulino  
Contact email: Amelia.Santos-Paulino@unctad.org

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17:00–18:00

### THE EVOLVING ROLE OF TRANSPARENCY IN PRIVATELY OWNED FAMILY FIRMS (in partnership with the Family Business Network)

#### Launch of the Family Business for Sustainable Development (FBSD) Sustainability Indicators platform

While family businesses account for two thirds of all enterprises worldwide, the full scope of their impacts is largely unknown since the majority of them are privately owned and, in turn, are often not subject to the same level of scrutiny demanded of publicly traded firms. This has recently begun to change as more business families expand the concept of responsible ownership to include a deeper understanding of their impacts and an increased commitment to transparency.

To encourage sustainability reporting and higher levels of transparency, FBSD is launching its online platform to benchmark and track progress against the Sustainability Indicators for Family Business (SIFB). The SIFB build upon UNCTAD's guidance on core indicators (see *Guidance on Core Indicators for Entity Reporting on the Contribution towards the Attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals*), as well as custom family business indicators, recognizing the distinctive attributes of family business models and considering metrics that guide and help advance sustainability practices and facilitate contributions to the SDGs.

The [Sustainability Indicators for Family Business](#) platform provides an online template to guide and assess the implementation and reporting of actions by individual companies, to help spur sustainability considerations among business-owning families, and to help family businesses to champion a transparent sustainability path that they can measure and report.

#### Issues to be addressed:

- Learn from families that have taken the lead on thinking on the business imperative of transparency and reporting.
- Discover how the SIFB can help a family business to track, measure and report on key sustainability metrics.
- Explore the SIFB in detail through illustrative cases.
- Understand how to get started on your sustainability journey and measure your progress.

Event manager: Ms. Christiane Stepanek  
Contact email: Christiane.Stepanek@unctad.org

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18:30–20:00

### ACADEMIC TRACK DAILY ROUNDUP (Academy of International Business and academic partners)

The daily roundup sessions will address, through an academic lens, the key issues and themes debated at the World Investment Forum.

Interactive networking opportunities to share, collaborate and benefit from peer learning will be provided during and between sessions.

Event manager: Ms. Amelia U. Santos-Paulino  
Contact email: Amelia.Santos-Paulino@unctad.org

**FRIDAY, 22 OCTOBER 2021**

8:30–10:00

## SHOWCASING REFORMS TO PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL INVESTMENT

### Experiences from Seychelles and Uzbekistan

This will be an interactive session during which top government officials from selected countries showcase how they are dealing with investment policy reforms to achieve the SDGs and their national development objectives.

#### Issues to be addressed:

- High-level policymakers will present their countries' investment policy reform initiatives, emphasizing the key actions undertaken to improve the business climate and highlighting strategic policy decisions to increase potential contribution of domestic and foreign investment to achieve the SDGs and their national development objectives.
- Policymakers will be able to explore new investment policy perspectives and interact with other countries' representatives through Q&As.

Event manager: Ms. Chantal Dupasquier

Contact email: [Chantal.Dupasquier@unctad.org](mailto:Chantal.Dupasquier@unctad.org)

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09:00–10:00

## CAPITAL AS A FORCE FOR GOOD

### Systemic and inclusive change

Without immediate and fundamental changes, the world will fail to fund the SDGs and finance the transition to a sustainable, resilient and inclusive future. Based on the latest report from the Force for Good (F4G) Initiative, the current funding shortfall to achieve the SDGs is approximately 10% of annual global GDP for the next decade, and this amount is not something either governments or the private sector can deploy on their own. However, financial institutions as the custodians of over 85% of the world's gross liquid assets have a critical role to play in the mobilization of other key stakeholders and in the development and execution of solutions.

The F4G Initiative is hosting a series of high-impact sessions at the World Investment Forum in support of the United Nations Secretary-General's strategy and roadmap for sustainable development to 2030, exploring the challenges facing the world, the current efforts of finance industry leaders to address these, and the big ideas for the world to transition to a more sustainable and inclusive future.

In this session, leaders of institutions that are active and innovative in addressing major global challenges will discuss the systemic nature of the challenges facing the world and the need for systemic solutions to address both environmental sustainability and social factors such as financial inclusion or resilient health care. The interrelated nature of the SDGs implies the need for a holistic and multi-stakeholder effort for the targets to be achieved, which will require alignment between consumers and producers, the owners of asset and their managers, and governments and society as a whole, ultimately making the system of capital more robust and fit for purpose in meeting the challenges and opportunities of the world.

#### Issues to be addressed:

- What are the world's critical challenges that need urgent financing at scale?
- What are major initiatives leaders have launched to direct financial resources to these challenges?
- What are some of the systemic changes that will need to occur in the world for its challenges to be funded and addressed?

Event manager: Mr. Anthony Miller

Contact email: [Anthony.Miller@unctad.org](mailto:Anthony.Miller@unctad.org)

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09:00–11:00

## THE INVESTMENT, TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT NEXUS IN THE POST-COVID-19 ERA (in partnership with the World Trade Organization)

The pandemic has exacerbated the pressures on global value chains (GVCs) that have emanated from the long-term structural transformation trends arising from changes in the political, technological, and sustainability spheres. The resultant reconfiguration of GVCs for recovery and resilience will have profound implications for the interrelationship between trade and investment, and their development impact. This high-level event, organized in cooperation with WTO,



will consider this ongoing trend, and identify policy solutions for national and international action to help developing economies address the challenges and reap the benefits of the evolving GVC landscape.

**Issues to be addressed:**

- What are the most promising trade and investment strategies for developing economies to cope with the ongoing reconfiguration of GVCs in the post-COVID-19 era for their sustainable recovery and resilience-building?
- How can such strategies be translated into national and international policies?
- What are the trade and investment policy gaps that need to be urgently filled, nationally, regionally, and at the multilateral level?
- What is the role of international organizations such as UNCTAD and WTO to assist developing economies with these issues?

Event managers: Mr. Joerg Weber and Claudia Locatelli  
Contact emails: Joerg.Weber@unctad.org, Claudia.locatelli@wto.org

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10:00–11:30

## **ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN THE NEW HEALTH ECONOMY**

### **Unlocking digital health innovation in Africa**

As COVID-19 is accelerating countries' digital health reform, and governments realize the complexities of delivering health care in a decentralized market, the opportunity to improve Africa's weak state of health-care infrastructure should not be lost. Africa's health care can be greatly improved through digital innovation and the pandemic offers an opportunity for this great reset. The fastest-growing mobile ecosystem on earth should be leveraged. Indeed, 70% of the continent has mobile coverage with 3G connection and 30% with 4G networks.

The growth of e-health digital platforms, the provision of medical insurance through mobile innovation, and the adoption of new technologies by medical workers and citizens are dependent on the entrepreneurship ecosystems of the continent.

As such, the objective of this session is to discuss the role of entrepreneurship and micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) in the development of the new health economy in Africa. Experts will share practical experiences and insights on challenges and opportunities MSMEs face in the health sector, including in responding to the current pandemic crisis. They will also debate on policy reforms needed to enhance the role of entrepreneurship in that sector to advance the SDG agenda.

**Issues to be addressed:**

- How can digital health start-ups in Africa be scaled up?
- How can entrepreneurs contribute to the delivery of e-health services in rural Africa?
- How can governmental institutions and policy support the participation of start-ups and MSMEs in health care?

Event manager: Mr. Philippe Rudaz  
Contact email: Philippe.Rudaz@unctad.org

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10:30–11:30

## **CAPITAL AS A FORCE FOR GOOD**

### **Strategic capital allocation**

The world will fail to fund the SDGs and finance the transition to a sustainable, resilient and inclusive future without immediate and fundamental changes to the flow of capital. With the funding shortfall to meet the SDGs, based on the latest estimate now reaching approximately 10% of annual global GDP for the next decade, the amounts required, estimated at USD100 trillion, are not something either governments or the private sector can deploy on their own. The finance industry, which owns or manages over 85% of the world's gross liquid assets of an estimated \$400 trillion, alongside other stakeholders, has a critical role to play in the strategic allocation of capital to fund the development and execution of solutions.

The Force for Good (F4G) Initiative, in support of the United Nations Secretary-General's strategy and roadmap for sustainable development to 2030 and the transition to the future, is managing a series of high-impact sessions at the World

Investment Forum to explore the challenges facing the world, the initiatives of finance industry leaders to address these, and the big multi-stakeholder ideas that can change the game for the world's transition to a more sustainable and inclusive future.

In this session, leaders of some of the world's biggest investing institutions will discuss current and emerging capital allocation strategies seeking to address the world's challenges. The world's largest asset managers are increasingly embracing environmental, social and corporate governance, and sustainable and even impact-investing strategies as part of their core offering or as core to their missions, transforming their own organizations in the process and developing the blueprint for successful financial services businesses in the twenty-first century.

**Issues to be addressed:**

- Which major issues have been prioritized by finance industry leaders from the many that the world faces?
- What are some of the solutions deployed, and the challenges faced, in making a successful transition from a traditional model of capital allocation to one that funds sustainable development?
- What is required to allow capital to flow to solutions in a step change manner that can meet the needs of investors and the world at large?

Event manager: Mr. Anthony Miller  
Contact email: Anthony.Miller@unctad.org

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11:00–12:30

**CAPACITY-BUILDING FOR FDI PRACTITIONERS** (organized by the World Association of Investment Promotion Agencies)

The most recent WAIPA–World Bank Group Global Survey 2021 on the state of investment promotion agencies (IPAs) found that some of the most critical challenges alongside budgetary, financial and bureaucratic issues is human capital. This is particularly true for IPAs in developed countries, where staff capacity is seen as critical factor for success. In fact, 80% of IPAs claim that this factor challenges their performance, while in developing countries the number falls to 56%, as they face more challenges regarding budgets and bureaucratic procedures.

Moreover, IPAs are obliged to work with partner institutions. In the same survey, 57% of respondents claimed a lack of capacity or knowledge of partner entities. Both issues can be successfully tackled by constant capacity-building as undertaken by both WAIPA and UNCTAD.

This workshop looks at the successful strategies taken by IPAs to engage in capacity-building and how holistic approaches, allowing other entities and practitioners to benefit from capacity-building on investment promotion matters, can play critical roles in serving stakeholders and investors more effectively. We will discuss investment drivers and how they link to landing, facilitation and retention services, what investor life-time value is, how collaboration and connectedness fuels FDI, as well as the five key skills for a career in FDI.

Event manager: Ms. Natalia Guerra  
Contact email: Natalia.Guerra@unctad.org

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11:00–13:00

**LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES MINISTERIAL AND BUSINESS EXECUTIVE ROUND TABLE** (in partnership with the United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (by invitation only))

**The role of FDI in economic recovery**

FDI is an important potential source of development finance for least developed countries (LDCs) and can be complementary to official development assistance. Despite gradual improvements over the years in the legal and regulatory frameworks for investment in LDCs, the pandemic has been a shock to their economies, with FDI inflows significantly affected and existing structural weaknesses amplified.

Many LDCs are highly dependent on investment in extractive industries, which has been negatively affected by oil and commodity price shocks, while others are dependent on the travel and tourism sectors, which have been among the hardest hit by the pandemic crisis.

A lot still needs to be done to make LDC economies successful competitors for FDI projects. In line with the objective of achieving a truly inclusive and sustainable global economic recovery, it is more important than ever to provide support to institutions that promote investment towards LDCs. This high-level meeting of LDC ministers and business executives will discuss the role of FDI in economic recovery and reconstruction plans. It will seek to advance ideas on how to strengthen the investment climate of LDC economies and the role of IPAs in channelling investment towards sectors that are key for sustainable economic recovery.

**Issues to be addressed:**

- Ways to improve the capacity of LDC governments to promote and facilitate investment.
- SDG-focused strategies for investment promotion and facilitation.
- Initiatives to diversify investment in LDCs, including the targeting of investment for SDG-related projects.

Event manager: Ms. Stephania Bonilla-Feret  
Contact email: Stephania.Bonilla@unctad.org

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12:30–13:30

## **CAPITAL AS A FORCE FOR GOOD**

### **Delivering multi-stakeholder change at scale**

Achieving the SDGs and net zero carbon emissions are crucial parts of the long-term global transition to the sustainable information age, a transition that is broader and will define the global flow of funds and the creation of value for decades to come. Funding this requires multi-stakeholder alignment, and this will likely not be mobilized at the scale required if that scale is that of a charitable endeavour, or one funded by governments through taxes, or one undertaken at losses. Hence, the requirement is to fund investment themes where profits are made at sufficient levels to reward bold action and risk-taking, allowing for reinvestment in the future, while providing for employment, taxes, social security and pensions today. The estimated gap to fund the SDGs by 2030 is USD100 trillion.

Force for Good's (F4G) mission is to influence the mobilization of capital, resources and ideas as a force for good in the world at a time of profound change, supporting the United Nations Secretary-General's strategy and roadmap for sustainable development to 2030 and the transition to the future. In furtherance of this objective, F4G is hosting several sessions at the World Investment Forum to explore the world's key challenges, the efforts underway by finance industry leaders to address these, and the game-changing ideas with the potential to shift the world to a more sustainable and inclusive future.

In this session, those leaders at the front line of mobilizing their organizations for large scale sustainable investment from finance, technology and other global stakeholders will discuss the practical execution considerations for funding the SDGs and the transition to a sustainable and inclusive future. The systemic change needed requires a multi-stakeholder effort and the integration of finance, technology, civil society and policy to ensure that the world's challenges are fully met.

**Issues to be addressed:**

- What are the key initiatives that are driving change towards sustainable development in major global institutions?
- What is working well in driving capital and innovation towards solutions that make a difference to the SDGs and a broader transition to a sustainable digital future?
- What are the barriers and changes required to unlock the flow of capital to address the world's most pressing challenge?

Event manager: Mr. Anthony Miller  
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14:00–16:00

## **SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONES AS ENGINES FOR THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (in partnership with United Nations Industrial Development Organization)**

### **The concept of SDG model zones**

Special Economic Zones (SEZs) in their various forms are expanding globally, especially in developing countries. According to UNCTAD estimates, there are more than 5,000 SEZs in the world with upwards of 90% of these in developing countries. Since many first-generation zones often pursued an investment attraction strategy centred around low wages and lax employment conditions, SEZs have been criticized for not adhering to adequate social and environmental standards. Although some newly created zones are going against this trend, widespread adaptation of measures that would, in addition to unleashing the economic potential of SEZs, also make them drivers of sustainable development remains elusive. Recent research by UNCTAD presents the economic case for a “role reversal” – switching from a narrow focus on cost advantages to becoming champions of sustainability. Against this backdrop, UNCTAD recently presented the framework for the SDG model zone that functions as a menu of options for gearing SEZs towards the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, with the key objective to make SEZs work for the SDGs, from privileged enclaves to widespread benefits. Conceptually, the options are built around three key elements:

- A strategic focus on attracting investment in “SDG-relevant” activities;
- The highest level of environmental, social and corporate governance standards and compliance;
- Promoting inclusive growth through linkages and spillovers.

The proceedings of the event will be summarized in the form of a brief practical booklet for policymakers to assist them in planning SDG model zones.

**Issues to be addressed:**

- What does an SDG model zone practically entail?
- How can SDG model zones make sustainable development impact a new locational advantage?
- What role can international partnerships between financing partners, SEZ developers, host countries, investment promotion agencies (IPAs) and outward IPAs play in the transition towards sustainable development-oriented zones?

## **fDi markets global free zone of the year award**

Event manager: Ms. Amelia U. Santos-Paulino  
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14:00–16:00

### **INVESTING IN INDUSTRY 4.0**

#### **Investment policy implications of the new industrial revolution**

Industry 4.0 – the increased use of digital technologies such as automation, data analytics and the “industrial internet of things” – is transforming nations, production systems and the way goods and services are delivered to markets. This wave of transformation is ongoing with important implications for industrial development, skills requirement, global value chains and for efforts of countries to effectively attract investment in Industry 4.0. Further advancement of manufacturing technologies will continue to drive the transformation process with increasing disruptions to industries, adaptation to new ways of doing things, and participation by a growing number of start-ups and technological firms. Understanding Industry 4.0 and the types of technologies that could enhance a product’s development production systems and manufacturing is paramount to addressing future industrial challenges.

While Industry 4.0 brings opportunities to increase efficiency, it also presents significant challenges and risks that need to be carefully addressed. No country can afford to ignore the implications of Industry 4.0 and be left behind. Countries both big and small are introducing policy measures to attract technology-oriented investment to support Industry 4.0 transformation and align to digital industrial development. Some countries have been more effective at attracting technology-oriented investment through their policy measures, conducive digital ecosystem and dedicated promotion and facilitation efforts. Lessons can be learned from the experiences of these countries.

This event consists of two panellist sessions to cover (a) industry perspectives and (b) policy dimensions. It aims to facilitate deliberation on how, on one hand, Industry 4.0 affects the investment attraction prospects of countries, and how, on the other, countries can promote investment for the development of Industry 4.0.

**Issues to be addressed:**

- What is the investment landscape and technological development shaping Industry 4.0?
- How are multinationals and other firms adapting or positioning themselves to take advantage of investment opportunities and address challenges associated with Industry 4.0?
- How do countries participate, move up the value chains and attract investment from firms with digital technology advantage to support Industry 4.0 development?

Event managers: Mr. Kee Hwee Wee and Ms. Isya Kresnadi

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14:30–16:00

**SUSTAINABLE INVESTMENT CASES FOR EMERGING MARKETS**

Emerging markets increasingly offer sustainable investment opportunities. At the same time, emerging market economies often struggle to attract investment, especially through capital markets or private equity, whether because of a lack of investment products, a perception of heightened risk, or other factors. This event aims to present the practical experiences of investors and other stakeholders in emerging markets and offer lessons learned and best practice for the sustainable investment community.

The event will be organized in partnership with public and private investment institutions to showcase and highlight real-life sustainable investment opportunities in developing and transitional economies. In four 25-minute sessions, selected international institutional investors and asset managers will be invited to present investment products and ideas dedicated to emerging markets, while IPAs from developing countries will be invited to present the investment cases in their countries for international institutional investors.

The event will showcase opportunities to “do well by doing good” through long-term sustainable investment in developing countries, in particular in SDG-related sectors and areas.

Event managers: Mr. Yongfu Ouyang and Mr. Joseph Clements

Contact emails: Yongfu.Ouyang@unctad.org, Joseph.Clements@unctad.org

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14:30–15:30

**ROUND TABLE ON REGIONAL INTEGRATION AND INVESTMENT PROMOTION (in partnership with Regional Commissions of the United Nations)****Promoting FDI for regional integration**

Most regional economic cooperation organizations consider FDI to be an important pillar of sustainable economic development and regional integration. Some regional organizations and cooperation frameworks have been more active than others in rolling out collective initiatives in support of a conducive investment environment and/or in joint investment promotion, and results vary.

At this session, high-level representatives of various regional economic cooperation organizations will discuss the latest developments in the area of FDI. They will discuss how regional investment policy approaches have evolved in recent years and share experiences in investment promotion in support of regional integration. They will also outline their views on prospects for further future regional investment cooperation.

**Issues to be addressed:**

- How has regional integration in different parts of the world shaped global and regional investment trends over the past years and how will it affect them in future?
- In the context of regional economic integration, what are the main investment-for-development policy challenges?
- What good investment-related policies, practices and technical cooperation activities can be replicated across regional groupings?

Event manager: Mr. Astrit Sulstarova

Contact email: Astrit.Sulstarova@unctad.org

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14:00–17:00

**FORUM CLOSING****Ambassadors’ Round Table on Investing in Sustainable Development: The way forward**

The Ambassadors' Round Table on Investing in Sustainable Development will close the seventh World Investment Forum with a deliberation of the key takeaways from the Forum for the Geneva investment-development community and beyond. Specifically, permanent representatives will reflect on key outcomes of the Forum for the future work of UNCTAD and the broader Geneva international organization setting in reigniting the investment engine of growth and its contribution to sustainable development.

The event will close with the Secretary-General's closing remarks for the World Investment Forum 2021.

**Issues for the debate:**

- How can the role of Geneva Permanent Representatives be enhanced in reigniting investment as an engine for sustainable recovery?
- How can interactions between permanent representatives and the business community be improved and further facilitated to promote Geneva as a global hub for promoting investment in sustainable development?
- How can interactions between the various Geneva-based international organizations be improved and further facilitated in the pursuit of making investment work for sustainable development?

Event manager: Mr. Joerg Weber

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**For further information, please see: <https://worldinvestmentforum.unctad.org>**