

WIF Ambassadors' Roundtable on Investing in the SDGs

Friday, 26 October 2018

Intervention by the Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of the Netherlands

- The many events at the World Investment Forum this week highlight the diversity and the size of the challenges we have to address, but also our joint willingness to act. In addition, they underline the necessity to act: in order to reach the SDG's – and mitigate climate change – it is essential to unlock financing for sustainable investment. And this needs to happen soon. This WIF certainly hit home that clear message.
- UNCTAD plays an essential role in this space, which is why The Kingdom of The Netherlands signed a 4-year, 6 million USD Strategic Partnership Agreement with UNCTAD this week, which focuses on:
 1. mobilizing international investment for sustainable development;
 2. helping developing countries unlock the potential of e-commerce and advance digital opportunities for women; and
 3. building capacity in developing countries to improve their business and investment climate and strengthening local economic governance.
- This week, we have witnessed discussions on a host of issues such as migration; decent work; health; infrastructure and climate. An overall conclusion of the Forum for me would be that: to address these many and diverse challenges, it is essential that both the overall perspective as well as the interlinkages between the different issues are duly taken into account. For this, we need to ensure that the momentum of all the enthusiasm and creative thinking that has characterized many of the meetings this week, is maintained, and turned into action.
- We are open to exploring how this continued momentum could take shape. But whatever the shape will be, to us this process should be: 1) inclusive; 2) enable us to take advantage of our individual and joint knowledge and expertise; 3) avoid overlap; and 4) stimulate us to collaborate with the many different stakeholders that operate in the Geneva context.
- I have a practical suggestion. An obvious example of such a stakeholder would be the World Business Council for Sustainable Development, a long-term partner of the Kingdom of the Netherlands. With the WBCSD, and with other private sector and civil society stakeholders, we

could aim to identify practical follow up and actions to jointly address a number of the constraints that hinder sustainable investment.

- Let me conclude by taking the opportunity to thank UNCTAD for organizing the 10th WIF, and congratulate all staff for bringing this enormous task to a successful close. I also want to thank the Investment Division for organizing this round table, which I see as a first pillar of the bridge to the 11th WIF in 2020.