ABOUT THE WORLD INVESTMENT FORUM

The UNCTAD World Investment Forum is the pre-eminent global platform for investment and development. The Forum devises strategies and solutions for global investment and development challenges. It facilitates multi-stakeholder collective action to stimulate investment in development. The Forum offers a unique opportunity to influence investment-related policymaking, shape the global investment environment, and to network with global leaders in business and politics.

2018 marks the 10th anniversary of the Forum. Previous editions took place in Accra (2008), Xiamen (2010), Doha (2012), Geneva (2014) and Nairobi (2016). The Forum was set up to fill the investment institutional gap in the international economic governance architecture. Since inception, it has served as the leading forum to leverage investment policy for sustainable development.

The Forum biennially gathers more than 4,000 investment stakeholders from 160 countries. The stakeholder landscape encompasses high-level participants from the global investment community, including Heads of State and Government, ministers, executives of global companies and stock exchanges, sovereign wealth fund managers, investment treaty negotiators, heads of investment promotion agencies, international investment location experts, heads of international organizations, parliamentarians, civil society representatives, eminent scholars, and the international media.

THE WORLD INVESTMENT FORUM 2018

Organized under the overall theme Investing in Sustainable Development, the Forum will address global challenges for international investment in the new era of globalization and industrialization. Investment stakeholders will gather to brainstorm solution-oriented initiatives and build global partnerships to advance prosperity for all.

In 2018 the World Investment Forum will bring more actors to the table, including philanthropists, impact fund heads and other sustainability pioneers. More than 5,000 investment stakeholders are anticipated to converge in Geneva for the event.

Programme

The 2018 Forum will consist of some fifty events, including a grand opening, the Global Leaders Investment Summit, the Global Investment Game Changers Summit, ministerial roundtables, conferences, private sector-led sessions, TED-style presentations, high-profile stakeholder roundtables, networking events, award ceremonies and an Investment Village.

Key background documents
- Investment Policy Framework for Sustainable Development (IPFSD)
- Reform Package for the International Investment Regime
- Global Action Menu for Investment Facilitation
- Entrepreneurship Policy Framework (EPF)

Venue and date

From 22 to 26 October 2018, at the Palais des Nations in Geneva, the United Nations Headquarters in Europe and an international business, economic development and diplomacy hub.

Website and registration

Registration is open on the website worldinvestmentforum.unctad.org

Enquiries: wif@unctad.org
# Programme at a Glance

## Monday, 22 October

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>14:00 – 14:15</td>
<td>Official Opening of the Investment Village</td>
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<tr>
<td>15:00 – 16:00</td>
<td>Grand Opening</td>
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<td>16:00 – 16:30</td>
<td>Award Ceremony</td>
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<td></td>
<td>► 2018 United Nations Investment Promotion Awards</td>
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<tr>
<td>16:30 – 18:30</td>
<td>Global Investment Game Changers Summit</td>
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<tr>
<td>18:30</td>
<td>Welcome Reception and Cultural Performance</td>
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## Tuesday, 23 October

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10:00 – 13:00</td>
<td>Global Leaders Investment Summit I</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Investment in a new era of globalization</td>
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<tr>
<td>13:15 – 14:45</td>
<td>Leaders Luncheon: Meeting of the Investment Advisory Council</td>
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<td>(by invitation only)</td>
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<tr>
<td>13:15 – 14:45</td>
<td>Sustainable Stock Exchanges (SSE) Executives Luncheon</td>
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<td>(by invitation only)</td>
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<tr>
<td>13:15 – 14:45</td>
<td>Talking Business Eastern Europe and Central Asia</td>
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<td>14:30 – 17:30</td>
<td>Fostering Investment in the Development of New Antibacterial Treatments</td>
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<td>14:30 – 17:30</td>
<td>Investment and the Digital Economy</td>
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<tr>
<td>14:45 – 18:00</td>
<td>Sustainable Stock Exchanges (SSE) Global Dialogue</td>
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<td>Followed by Award Ceremony</td>
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<td></td>
<td>► Sustainable Stock Exchanges (SSE) Awards</td>
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<td>15:00 – 18:00</td>
<td>Investing in Sports for SDGs</td>
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<tr>
<td>15:00 – 17:00</td>
<td>Ministerial Roundtable: The African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (ACP)</td>
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## Tuesday, 23 October (continued):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15:00 – 17:00</td>
<td>Legislating for Sustainable Development</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Tripartite between Parliamentarians, Government and Business Leaders</td>
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<tr>
<td>15:00 – 18:00</td>
<td>Investment Promotion Conference 2018</td>
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<td></td>
<td>► Promoting investment in the Sustainable Development Goals – connecting the actors</td>
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<td>► Building sustainable cities</td>
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<td>15:00 – 18:00</td>
<td>Empretec Director’s Meeting (by invitation only)</td>
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<td>16:00 – 18:00</td>
<td>The Investment, Trade and Development Nexus</td>
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<td>16:00 – 18:00</td>
<td>Main Obstacles and Solutions to Investment in Africa</td>
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<td>18:30</td>
<td>Reception</td>
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## Wednesday, 24 October

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>08:00 – 09:45</td>
<td>Talking Business Africa I</td>
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<tr>
<td>09:00 – 10:00</td>
<td>Interactive Breakfast Encounter (by invitation only)</td>
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<td>Investment policies and practices for global value chain upgrading</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:00 – 13:00</td>
<td>Global Leaders Investment Summit II</td>
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<td>Investment in a new era of industrialization</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:00 – 13:00</td>
<td>Blockchains for Sustainable Development</td>
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<td>11:00 – 13:00</td>
<td>The Global i-Guides Meeting</td>
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<td>How the online investment guides can help promote and facilitate investment</td>
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<tr>
<td>13:15-14:45</td>
<td>Nordic IPAs Luncheon (by invitation only)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Organized in collaboration with the World Association of Investment Promotion Agencies</td>
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<tr>
<td>13:15 – 14:45</td>
<td>Leaders Luncheon Meeting of the Investment Advisory Council (by invitation only)</td>
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<tr>
<td>13:15 – 14:45</td>
<td>Talking Business Africa II</td>
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</table>
Wednesday, 24 October continued:

15:00 – 17:30
Entrepreneurship, Migration and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): Providing Options for the Social and Economic Inclusion of Migrants and Refugees in Host Countries

15:00 – 17:30
Investing in Peace and Security
High-level Colloquium in the context of UN Day

15:00 – 18:00
High-Level International Investment Agreements (IIA) Conference 2018
Going beyond International Investment Agreements (IIAs): Fostering coherence in phase 3 of reform

15:15 – 17:45
Responsible Agricultural Investment

15:30 – 18:00
Sovereign Wealth and Pension Funds Dialogue

16:00 – 18:00
Ministerial Roundtable: LDCs and Business Executives
Mobilizing investment in Least Developed Countries (LDCs)

16:00 – 18:00
Sustainability, Commodities and Derivatives

17:15 – 18:00
ISAR Honours 2018

18:30
Hospitality and Cultural Event
 ► Global Enterprise Registration (GER) Awards

Thursday, 25 October (continued):

10:30 – 13:00
Roundtable on Regional Integration and Investment Policy

13:15 – 14:45
Talking Business Middle East and North Africa

13:15 – 14:45
Mobilizing Investment for Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development in Africa

13:15 – 14:45
Ministerial Luncheon: Promoting Foreign Investment to LLDCs (by invitation only)

14:30 – 17:00
Women for Sustainable Development: Women Economic Empowerment to Transform the Investment and Entrepreneurship Landscape

15:00 – 17:00
Family Businesses as a Force for Long-Term Good
 ■ FBN welcome refreshments at 14:30

15:00 – 18:00
Ministerial Roundtable: 21st Century Global Investment Policymaking

15:30 – 18:00
Smart Beta: Passive Investment Strategies for Sustainable Development

18:00
Empretec Women in Business Awards 2018

19:00 – 21:00
Reception

Thursday, 25 October:

09:00 – 10:00
Interactive Breakfast Encounter (by invitation only)
 ■ Sustainable investment facilitation policies and practices

10:00 – 13:00
Ministerial Roundtable: Entrepreneurship for Sustainable Development
 ■ Entrepreneurship policy: Challenges and results
 ■ Celebration of 30 Years of EMPRETEC

10:00 – 13:00
People-First Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs)

10:30 – 13:00
Sustainability Bonds: Innovative Tools for financing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Friday, 26 October:

8:30 – 10:00
Interactive Breakfast Encounter (by invitation only)
Blended Capital: SDG Aligned Investment Opportunities in Developing Countries

09:00 – 16:00
Multi-Disciplinary Academic Conference
Setting the Investment Research Agenda

10:00 – 13:00
Special Economic Zones: Challenges and Opportunities

10:00 – 13:00
Creating More and Better Jobs through Investment
Women Entrepreneurship and the SDGs
Friday, 26 October continued:

10:30 – 13:00
Using Blended Capital to Finance the SDGs

13:15 – 13:45
► Investment Village Award 2018

14:00 – 16:30
Role of Central Banks in Greening the Financial System

14:00 – 17:00
Ambassadors Roundtable on Investing in the SDGs

17:00 – 18:00
Forum Outcome and Closing

18:00
Reception

Side Events

Monday, 22 October
10:00 – 13:00; 16:00 – 18:00
Workshop for Parliamentarians
Financing the SDGs: How can parliaments bridge the gap?

10:00 – 13:00
Investment Promotion Agencies (IPA) Workshop
Showcasing Investment Promotion and Facilitation in SDG Projects

10:00 – 13:00
International Standards of Accounting and Reporting (ISAR) Workshop
Digital currencies and blockchain: implications for accounting

Wednesday, 24 October
09:00 – 10:00
Presentation of Publication: Energy Investment Risk Assessment (EIRA)
Energy Charter Secretariat

10:30 – 14:30
CAIPA Meeting

Thursday, 25 October
18:15 - 19:45
The Future of Corporate Income Taxes: Lessons for the emerging and low-income countries

Friday, 26 October
08:00 – 09:00
TNC Journal Advisory Board Meeting

13:00 – 14:30
Inter-Agency Technical Committee Meeting on LDCs

Parallel Events

Wednesday, 24 – Friday, 26 October
10:00 – 13:00 and 15:00 – 18:00, Friday 10:00 – 13:00
Thirty-fifth anniversary session of the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting (ISAR)

Monday, 22 – Friday, 26 October
2018
UNCTAD Youth Forum 2018
Youth Entrepreneurship: A Force Towards Inclusive and Sustainable Growth

Monday, 22 – Wednesday, 24 October
Special Programme for Parliamentarians

Investment Village

14:00, Monday, 22 October
Official Opening of the Investment Village

09:00 – 18:00, Tuesday, 23 - Friday, 26 October
► Country and Organization exhibition
► Private Sector Solutions for Sustainable Development
► Investment Village Award 2018
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Badge Collection</th>
<th>Monday 22, 08:00 – 17:00 and Tuesday 23 October, 08:00 – 12:00</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Friday, 19 – Sunday, 21 October</strong></td>
<td><strong>Badge Collection</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>14:00 - 16:00</strong></td>
<td><strong>Advance Badge Collection (Palais des Nations, Pregny Gate)</strong></td>
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Advance Badge Collection (Palais des Nations, Pregny Gate)
Detailed Programme

MONDAY, 22 OCTOBER

14:00 – 14:15
OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE INVESTMENT VILLAGE

15:00 – 16:00
GRAND OPENING

The opening ceremony will take place in the presence of the highest-level representation from the host country, Switzerland, UNCTAD member States, the global business community, as well as other investment stakeholders and international organizations.

16:00 – 16:30
2018 UNITED NATIONS INVESTMENT PROMOTION AWARDS
Investment in the Sustainable Development Goals

Held since 2002, the United Nations Investment Promotion Awards celebrate the exchange of best practice in investment promotion. The Awards will be presented to investment promotion agencies for excellence in promoting investment in the SDGs.

16:30 – 18:30
GLOBAL INVESTMENT GAME CHANGERS SUMMIT
Pioneering solutions for a better world

New ideas can transform the world we live in and rewrite the rules and policies that govern it. Mobilizing investment and channelling it towards the SDGs require above all new ideas that can be translated into concrete solutions for a better future for all. The Summit of Global Investment Game Changers will gather pioneers, leaders and visionaries who have successfully remodelled established business and industry practice in their respective fields to create innovative business models that reconcile economic success and sustainable objectives.

Issues for the debate:
- Innovative business models to address global and local challenges
- Disruptive or disrupted: challenges and opportunities to embrace change
- Impact investment: the present and the future
- Circular economies: optimizing resources for a better world

18:30
WELCOME RECEPTION AND CULTURAL PERFORMANCE
TUESDAY, 23 OCTOBER

10:00 – 13:00
GLOBAL LEADERS INVESTMENT SUMMIT I
Investment in a new era of globalization

The Summit convenes Heads of State and government and CEOs of global companies to share their vision for the future. Their insights will set the tone for the rest of the Forum and inform its outcomes.

The first part of the Summit will consider the backlash against globalization stemming from its unequal developmental impact, the risks in protectionism in both trade and investment, and related challenges to multilateralism. The international community needs to ensure that this backlash does not impede the advancement of the SDGs.

**Issues for the debate:**
- How will the globalization backlash affect international investment and its impact on development?
- What would be viable remedies in the investment policymaking area?
- How can more people benefit from globalization and how can the United Nations contribute?

13:15 – 14:45
LEADERS LUNCHEON: MEETING OF THE INVESTMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL
(by invitation only)

Launched in 2001, the UNCTAD-International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) Investment Advisory Council brings together global leaders from the public and the private sphere to brainstorm on innovative means to increase the contributions of private investment in sustainable development.

**Issues for the debate:**
- How to better leverage public funds for increased private sector investment in developing countries?
- How to target technical assistance and capacity building to help these economies attract more investment?
- How can UNCTAD and the ICC operationalize these ideas?

13:15 – 14:45
TALKING BUSINESS: EASTERN EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA

“Talking Business” are interactive sessions between governments and business. They provide a platform to showcase investment opportunities in countries, explore new investment horizons and interact with high-level country representatives.

**Participant countries:**
- Armenia
- Belarus
- Kazakhstan
- Mongolia
- Tajikistan
14:30 – 17:30
**FOSTERING INVESTMENT IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF NEW ANTIBACTERIAL TREATMENTS**

Antimicrobial resistant infections (AMR) are on the rise and pose a significant global risk. Developing countries, in particular, are vulnerable because they often lack key medical resources. The development of new antibacterial treatments is costly while the return on investment is low. Organized in cooperation with the World Health Organization (WHO), the conference will explore solutions to this dilemma, seeking to facilitate cooperation between biotech firms, potential investors and governments for AMR investment. It will present some innovative technologies that need financial support and provide a matchmaking platform to connect impact investors with researchers and developers of treatments against AMR.

**Issues for the debate:**
- What is the role of governments?
- What are the needs of the industry?
- Which innovative means of investment can help address the AMR problem?

14:30 – 17:30
**INVESTMENT AND THE DIGITAL ECONOMY**

The rapid rise of the digital economy is reshaping global investment and ensuring that every country can participate and benefit from the digital economy will require proactive policies engaging the public and private sector. This conference, organized in cooperation with the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), will gather policymakers and investors of the digital economy – from infrastructure providers, financial backers, to ecommerce and developers - to discuss their interconnectedness and exchange best practices in supporting digital economy development.

**Issues for the debate:**
- What kind of investment is needed for digital development?
- What are the challenges to mobilizing investments towards digital development?
- Which kind of policies can help facilitate investment in the digital economy?

14:45 – 18:00
**SUSTAINABLE STOCK EXCHANGES (SSE) GLOBAL DIALOGUE**

The Sustainable Stock Exchange (SSE) initiative – launched by UNCTAD, the United Nations Global Compact (UNGC), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Principles for Responsible Investment (PRI) – is a global platform for promoting responsible investment for sustainable development. Bringing together its 70 partner exchanges, securities regulators, investors, companies and other stakeholders, the SSE Global Dialogue is the largest global gathering of stock exchange leaders exclusively devoted to sustainable development.

The 2018 Global Dialogue, organized in partnership with the World Federation of Exchanges (WFE), will strengthen consensus and action among capital market leaders on their contribution to sustainable development.

**Issues for the debate:**
- Bringing a stock exchange perspective to the SDGs: The experience with promoting Environmental, social, and governance (ESG) transparency among listed companies and innovative sustainability-themed products (e.g. ESG indices, green bonds, etc.).
- What is the appropriate role for regulators and policymakers and what should be left to stock exchanges, investors and issuers?
- What practical steps are exchanges and regulators taking to integrate sustainable development into securities markets?
15:00 – 18:00

INVESTING IN SPORTS FOR SDGs

The United Nations have long recognized the contribution of sport to human and social progress and its member states reaffirmed the role of sport in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by stressing that: “Sport is an important enabler of sustainable development. We recognize the growing contribution of sport to the realization of development and peace in its promotion of tolerance and respect and the contributions it makes to the empowerment of women and of young people, individuals and communities as well as to health, education and social inclusion objectives” (A/RES/70/1, paragraph 37). Beyond promoting values of fairness, teamwork and tolerance, sport initiatives can empower individuals and communities, promote personal well-being and encourage social inclusion.

During this high-level interactive discussion, co-organized with the International Olympic Committee (IOC), UNCTAD will convene the key stakeholders in promoting sports for sustainable development, including UN Member States, renowned athletes, private investors as well as agencies and programmes of the UN family. The discussion will focus on concrete policies and initiatives to further enhance the contribution of sport and sport-related investment to achieving the SDGs.

Issues to be addressed:

- The levers through which sport empowers individuals and communities, particularly among the youth and women, and successful government policies to support them;
- Best practice sport-based initiatives to mobilize resources for sustainable development;
- Policies, initiatives and practices to enhance the development impact of sport events and sport tourism on host countries and cities.

15:00 – 17:00

MINISTERIAL ROUNDTABLE: THE AFRICAN, CARIBBEAN AND PACIFIC GROUP OF STATES (ACP)

Trade and Investment policies for Development

Trade and investment policies often work in silos. In the context of global value chains (GVCs) they can have unintended and counterproductive reciprocal effects. To avoid this, ACP policymakers – where necessary, with the help of international organizations – should carefully review those policy instruments that simultaneously affect investment and trade in GVCs; i.e. trade measures affecting investment and investment measures affecting trade. Furthermore, at the institutional level, the trade and investment links in GVCs call for closer coordination and collaboration between trade and investment promotion agencies.

The relevance of regional value chains underscores the importance of regional cooperation. Regional industrial development compacts could encompass integrated regional trade and investment agreements focusing on liberalization and facilitation and establishing joint trade and investment promotion mechanisms and institutions. In as far as investment policies and agreements are concerned, ACP countries can find inspiration in the ACP Guiding Principles for Investment Policymaking jointly developed with UNCTAD which calls for better policy coherence at the national and international levels and greater regional cooperation.

Issues for the debate:

- The evolving relationship between trade and investment policies in ACP countries
- The implications for industrial policy and GVCs
- Enhancing synergies between trade and investment policies for development in ACP countries
- What can the ACP Secretariat and UNCTAD do in this regard
15:00 – 17:00

LEGISLATING FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
Tripartite between Parliamentarians, Government and Business Leaders

As national legislators, parliaments have a vital role to promote investment in sustainable development and set appropriate regulatory frameworks. This role extends to a broad range of policy areas, including investment, trade, competition and tax rules, environmental and social protection, as well as labour and safety regulations. Important considerations in this context are; first, to ensure that sustainable development objectives meet the needs of the people, are adequately discussed and taken into account in legislative action; second, the need for strong parliamentary oversight of governance issues, notably concerning issues related to investment regulation, and third, the relationship between legislators and different stakeholders – in this respect policy makers need to ensure that the needs of their constituents are equally balanced with the need to attract investment.

In this session, organized in cooperation with the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), 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 the means in which legislators can work with the private sector to help channel investment into sustainable sectors.

Issues for the debate:
- How can the interaction between parliaments, policy makers and the private sector be improved to better deliver on sustainable development?
- What are the main challenges for the implementation of SDGs at national level and how can this partnership contribute to overcome them?
- What are the global policy imperatives in this context, and how can international organizations contribute?

15:00 – 18:00

INVESTMENT PROMOTION CONFERENCE 2018

Session 1: Promoting Investment in the SDGs – Connecting the Actors

Bridging the enormous SDG financing gap (estimated at $2.5 trillion annually in developing countries) will require increased private investment. The Investment Promotion Conference, organized in partnership with the World Association of Investment Promotion Agencies (WAIPA) and the Caribbean Association of Investment Promotion Agencies (CAIPA), will bring together heads of outward investment agencies (OIAs) and investment promotion agencies (IPAs) to present ways in which bankable SDG-projects can be prepared, promoted and financed, and discuss how different institutions and companies can partner to realize SDG projects.

Issues for the debate:
- Preparation of bankable SDG project proposals by IPAs and OIAs
- Marketing tools for SDG projects and solutions to finance SDG projects with relatively low returns and high risks
- Benefits of partnerships between institutions such as OIAs and IPAs and with the private sector

Session 2: Building Sustainable Cities

With two-thirds of the world population set to live in urban areas by 2050, sustainable urban development is a fundamental component to the successful implementation of the SDGs. Developing accessible infrastructure, affordable housing and suitable facilities will not be possible without private sector involvement. At the same time, private engagement in the provision of public services is highly sensitive and poses a challenge to city policymakers. This session, in cooperation with the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), will join city leaders, developers, investors, and architects in discussion on the role of urban development in achieving the SDGs, and how cities and IPAs can better promote and facilitate private investment for this purpose.

Issues for the debate:
- Opportunities and challenges for investment in sustainable urban projects in developing countries
- Means for cities and IPAs to improve the promotion and facilitation of investment
- Key lessons from best practice, and effective multi-stakeholder coordination arrangements
15:00 – 18:00
**EMPRETEC DIRECTOR’S MEETING (by invitation only)**

16:00 – 18:00
**THE INVESTMENT, TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT NEXUS**

Organized together with the World Trade Organization (WTO), the high-level event will shed light on the evolving relationship between trade, investment and development in the new era of globalization and industrialization. The event will also discuss how the mounting trade tensions and the resurgence of trade and investment protectionism affect global trade, global value chains and investment prospects. Taking the Global Leaders Investment Summit outcome as basis, the event will focus on formulating strategies for developing countries to deal with ongoing and emerging challenges within the context of the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development and their commitment to meeting the SDGs.

**Issues for the debate:**
- What strategies should developing countries design and adopt to cope with the new era of globalization and industrialization?
- How to translate such coping strategies into national and international policies?
- What can international organizations do to assist developing countries deal with the issues arising from the resurgence of unilateralism and strengthen cooperation in trade and investment to meet the SDGs?

16:00 – 18:00
**MAIN OBSTACLES AND SOLUTIONS TO INVESTMENT IN AFRICA**

Accelerating private sector engagement and investments in Africa is a priority to achieve sustainable development and inclusive growth in the continent. There is a need to develop new strategic ties and partnerships between foreign investors and African Governments. Such partnerships should be based on new generation investment policies that guarantee a balance between investment protection and the right of African countries to regulate for public policy objectives. The event will shed light on the challenges and opportunities for investment in Africa. It will highlight recent efforts pursued by the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) and UNCTAD to create an environment conducive to attracting more and better foreign investments in Africa and will present the proposed OIC - UNCTAD Guiding Principles for investment Policies that can be used to assist OIC and African countries create more modern and balanced investment rules at the national and international levels.

**Issues for the debate:**
- OIC and IDB cooperation with African countries on investment-related issues and projects.
- Main obstacles to investment in Africa.
- Towards a new generation of investment policies in Africa and beyond: the OIC - UNCTAD Guiding Principles for investment policymaking.
Wednesday, 24 October

08:00 – 09:45
Talking Business Africa I
“Talking Business” are interactive sessions between governments and business. They provide a platform to showcase investment opportunities in countries, explore new investment horizons and interact with high-level country representatives.

09:00 – 10:00
INTERACTIVE BREAKFAST ENCOUNTER (by invitation only)
Investment Policies and Practices for Global Value Chain Upgrading

Connecting to global and regional production networks can provide SMEs and developing country firms significant opportunities to cater to new markets and improve quality and productivity. To enable firms to absorb these benefits and upgrade their position in value chains, host countries must enact policy reforms and programmes, including in areas of investment, services, taxation, education and training. Organized by the World Economic Forum (WEF), in collaboration with the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) and UNCTAD, this interactive dialogue will share examples of successful investment policy and practice interventions that improved host countries’ participation in global and regional value chains and boosted sustainable development impacts of investment for local economies.

Issues for the debate:
- What barriers do small firms and developing country firms face in joining global and regional value chains and in upgrading to higher value-added stages?
- What are examples successful investment policy interventions for facilitating value chain upgrading? How can related areas of policy also support upgrading?
- What can leading firms and investors do to improve sustainable development impacts of GVC operations? Which policies incentivize and facilitate these contributions?

10:00 – 13:00
GLOBAL LEADERS INVESTMENT SUMMIT II
Investment in a New Era of Industrialization

The second Summit will look into the impact of new industrialization. New industrialization (based on digitalization, robotics and big data) is bound to affect all aspects of the way in which goods and services are produced and consumed globally, with profound implications for trade, investment and development. The international community needs to ensure that new industrialization supports, not impedes, the advancement of the SDGs.

Issues for the debate:
- How will new industrialization affect international investment and its relation to development?
- What are the best possible scenarios for new industrialization to support the SDGs, and what are the main means to realize them?
- What can the United Nations contribute to maximize the positive and minimize the negative impact of new industrialization on investment for development?

10:00 – 13:00
BLOCKCHAINS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Blockchain technologies may have a profound impact on development-oriented investment, not only by revolutionizing global payment systems but also through improvements to access to finance, supply chain management, digital identities or land registries (through decentralized applications). This impact goes beyond traditional financial services and business processes and extends to other industries important for the SDGs, such as agriculture, healthcare and transportation. Organized with the Institute for Leadership and Sustainability (IFLAS), University of Cumbria, the event will seek to develop ideas on how to increase the positive impact and minimize the negative effects of blockchain technologies on investment for development.
Issues for the debate:
- The application of blockchain technologies in enterprise and finance
- The risks and opportunities of blockchain for sustainable development
- Regulatory and policy precedents, concerns and responses

11:00 – 13:00
THE GLOBAL i-GUIDES MEETING
How the Online Investment Guides Can Help Promote and Facilitate Investment

The online investment-guides have proven to be helpful tools for investment promotion agencies to attract better quality investment to these countries and develop their capacity for investment promotion. At the event, representatives of investment promotion agencies from implementing countries will first present their experience with the guides. This will be followed by a discussion open to all participants on how the online investment guides can be further improved and aligned with countries’ investment facilitation agenda, as well as how international and regional organizations can contribute to implementing the guides. The meeting is organized with the UN Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and is aimed at investment promotion officials and practitioners from the public and private sectors.

Issues for the debate:
- How can i-Guides be further improved?
- How can i-Guides be aligned with countries’ investment facilitation agenda?
- What can international organizations contribute?

13:15 – 14:45
LEADERS LUNCHEON MEETING OF THE INVESTMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL (by invitation only)

13:15-14:45
NORDIC IPAs LUNCHEON (by invitation only)
Organized in collaboration with the World Association of Investment Promotion Agencies

13:15 – 14:45
TALKING BUSINESS: AFRICA II

“Talking Business” are interactive sessions between governments and business. They provide a platform to showcase investment opportunities in countries, explore new investment horizons and interact with high-level country representatives.

Participant countries:
- Botswana
- Côte d’Ivoire
- Kenya
- Lesotho
- Nigeria
- The United Republic of Tanzania
15:00 – 17:30
**ENTREPRENEURSHIP, MIGRATION AND THE SDGs**
Promoting the social and economic inclusion of migrants and refugees in host countries

Entrepreneurship can be a means to integrate migrants and refugees into local economies and bolster their positive contribution to economic and social development in host countries. Policies have an important role to play to support entrepreneurial activity by and for refugees and migrants. The session, organized in collaboration with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), will host the launch of the joint UNCTAD, IOM and UNHCR Policy Guide on Entrepreneurship for Migrants and Refugees. The guide comes in the form of policy options and possible measures and initiatives that can be adopted by governments or other relevant stakeholders in host countries, depending on local needs and circumstances.

**Issues for the debate:**
- What are the main challenges migrants and refugees face when starting and scaling enterprises in new host countries?
- How can entrepreneurship development programmes help refugees and migrants, and foster sustainable livelihoods?
- How can the Entrepreneurship for Refugees and Migrants initiative contribute to the attainment of the SDGs?

15:00 – 17:30
**INVESTING IN PEACE AND SECURITY**
High-level Colloquium in the context of UN Day

Foreign direct investment can play a vital role in fragile and conflict-sensitive regions, thereby ensuring that peace and security lay the foundation for sustainable development. The combination of infrastructural disrepair, economic rout and lingering political uncertainty, however, act as a powerful disincentive to investment. At the same time, investment is indispensable to anchor down peace efforts and prevent conflict escalation. This presents a veritable conundrum: investors need to be coaxed to set up in an environment they would normally eschew as a crucial step to improve the environment for further investment. Policy planning and sequencing are of the essence to achieve this. Shoring up institutions is key to establishing the transparent and predictable business environment requisite for investment. Restoring confidence and rebuilding infrastructure are equally important contributors to swaying investor sentiment.

Co-organised with the United Nations Office in Geneva in the context of UN Day, the colloquium will discuss the role of investment – and how to attract it – to promote peace.

**Issues for the debate:**
- Institutions, infrastructure, investment: getting the mix right for peace and security.
- How can aid be turned into investment in unstable social and political environments?
- What are the policy priorities to ensure optimal inclusivity in reconstructive efforts?
- Limited budgets, boundless needs: how to prioritize sectoral and social needs in post-conflict situations.

15:00 – 18:00
**HIGH-LEVEL INTERNATIONAL INVESTMENT AGREEMENTS (IIA) CONFERENCE 2018**
Going beyond IIAs: Fostering Coherence through Phase 3 of Reform

Mobilizing investment and channelling it towards the SDGs require adequate policy frameworks, at both the international and national levels, and in the investment and other policy fields. Countries have been working on reforming their international investment treaty networks. But there is also a need to consider national investment laws reform and ensure that investment policies are coherent with and supportive of other public policies. These challenges are taken up in Phase 3 of Reform. Based on UNCTAD’s Reform Package for the International Investment Regime (2017), the 2018 IIA Conference will take stock of Phases 1 and 2 of IIA Reform and chart the way forward for the third phase of reform.
Issues for the debate:

- What progress has been made on different reform areas and the modernization of old-generation treaties?
- What are countries’ priorities for the third phase of reform?
- What can be done to improve overall investment policy coherence?

15:15 – 17:45

RESPONSIBLE AGRICULTURAL INVESTMENT

Achieving Zero Hunger (SDG2) requires significant increases in investment in agricultural value chains. At the same time, international investment in agriculture comes with a broad range of social, economic, and environmental challenges. The inter-agency working group (IAWG) of UNCTAD, the World Bank Group, the Food and Agriculture Organization, and the International Fund for Agriculture Development has worked together for a decade to improve understanding and provide recommendations on how to maximize the benefits of international investment in agriculture while minimizing the risks. The high-level meeting will present the lessons learned from the application in the field of responsible agricultural investment principles, and assess relevant policy dimensions and future policy-oriented research and work directions.

Issues for the debate:

- How can private investment in agricultural value chains best contribute to the SDGs?
- What are the main challenges to ensuring a positive contribution and what solutions are most effective?
- How can the lessons from the IAWG’s experience be used to improve the outcomes of private investment in agricultural value chains?

15:30 – 18:00

SOVEREIGN WEALTH AND PENSION FUNDS DIALOGUE

Partnering for Long-term Sustainable Development

Sovereign wealth funds (SWFs) manage assets of over $6 trillion, and public-sector pension funds (PPFs) worldwide almost triple this figure. With a long-term investment horizon, these funds play a growing role as investors in SDG sectors, particularly in infrastructure, renewable energy, public health and education. However, only a small portion of their financial assets is currently dedicated to direct investment. This roundtable will bring together ministers, executives of SWFs and PPFs, other development financing partners, and investment experts to examine collaboration opportunities to mobilize more investment into SDG sectors.

Issues for the debate:

- What role can SWFs and PPFs play in promoting sustainable development through investment, particularly in infrastructure?
- How can governments create a more conducive environment to encourage sustainable investment by these funds and maximize development benefits?
- What role can international organizations such as UNCTAD play in facilitating investment by SWFs and PPFs in sustainable development?

16:00 – 18:00

Ministerial Roundtable: LDCs AND BUSINESS EXECUTIVEs

Mobilizing Investment in Least Developed Countries (LDCs)

Organized in collaboration with the United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (UN-OHRLLS), the high-level meeting of LDC ministers and business executives will seek to advance ideas on how to strengthen the investment climate of these economies and the role of the private sector in development. These efforts are in pursuit of the high-level mid-term Review of the Istanbul Programme of Action for LDCs (2011–2020).

Issues for the debate:

- Ways to improve the capacity of LDC governments to promote and facilitate investment
- Initiatives to diversify investment in LDCs
- SDG-focused investment promotion strategies
16:00 – 18:00

**SUSTAINABILITY, COMMODITIES AND DERIVATIVES**

Commodity producers and users are increasingly focused on specific sustainability aspects of commodities and are exploring ways to address these across the value chain, including in the products they use to hedge their exposure. Organized with the World Federation of Exchanges (WFE), the session will bring together key players such as commodities exchanges, market intermediaries, commodity users, investors and market regulators to discuss sustainability in the context of commodities and commodity derivatives.

**Issues for the debate:**
- What can various actors in the commodities ecosystem do to address the challenges of addressing sustainability concerns?
- Are there certain commodities that better lend themselves to the incorporation of sustainability elements?
- If one were to embed sustainability elements into a derivatives contract, what might that look like?

17:15 – 18:00

**ISAR HONOURS 2018**

The ISAR Honours ceremony will award key new developments in the area of sustainability reporting and the SDGs, while celebrating 35 years of the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts in International Standards of Accounting and Reporting (ISAR). The objective of the ISAR Honours is to raise awareness and facilitate dissemination of national best practice on sustainability and SDG reporting. The ISAR Honours will recognize policy, institutional or capacity-building initiatives in member States that encourage and assist enterprises to publish data on their contribution to the implementation of Agenda 2030.

**Issues for the debate:**
- What are the key criteria to identify national best practice on sustainability and SDG reporting?
- How do these practices address issues in the global monitoring framework of the SDGs, particularly indicator 12.6.1 on sustainability reporting?
- What means, and tools could raise awareness and facilitate dissemination of good practice?

18:30

**HOSPITALITY AND CULTURAL EVENT**
THURSDAY, 25 OCTOBER

09:00 – 10:00
INTERACTIVE BREAKFAST ENCOUNTER (by invitation only)
Sustainable Investment Facilitation Policies and Practices

In order to attract foreign direct investment, many countries have recognised the importance of focusing on domestic reforms in the area of investment facilitation - including regulatory transparency, streamlining administrative processes and dispute prevention. However, investment facilitation efforts should not just be designed to attract more investment, but also the right kind of investment, which contributes to the long-term development of the local economy, preserves the environment and improves societal outcomes. Organized by the World Economic Forum (WEF), in collaboration with the International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development (ICTSD) and UNCTAD, this interactive dialogue will identify and share policies and practices that have facilitated investment for sustainable development in the host economy.

Issues for the debate:
• What challenges prevent developing countries from successfully attracting and retaining long-term, sustainable investment?
• What are successful and failed examples of investment facilitation policies and how can impacts on the host community be improved?
• What policy recommendations should be prioritised at the regional and international levels to facilitate more sustainable investment flows for value chain upgrading?

10:00 – 13:00
MINISTERIAL ROUNDTABLE: ENTREPRENEURSHIP FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Part I: Entrepreneurship Policy: Challenges and Results
Developing entrepreneurship is a key element of strategies that support the attainment of the SDGs, particularly SDG9, to build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation. In this high-level event, organized with the Global Entrepreneurship Network and i4Policy, ministers will share lessons from various strategies, including innovative solutions, with a view towards developing models that can be adopted and adapted to individual countries’ needs.

Issues for the debate:
• Key elements of successful entrepreneurship development strategies
• Innovative solutions for strategy development and implementation
• Special needs dimensions

Part II: Celebration of 30 years of Empretec
UNCTAD’s Empretec programme has been engaged in entrepreneurs’ motivation and skills development in 40 countries since 1988, using a behavioural approach to entrepreneurship. Its impact has proved effective for a vast range of target audiences in advanced and less developed economies. Over the past three decades, Empretec has continuously demonstrated high impact by contributing to sustainable development and inclusive growth.

Issues for the debate:
• Key success factors of Empretec and comparative advantages vis-à-vis other entrepreneurship programmes
• Measuring Empretec impact
• Way forward to further strengthen Empretec
10:00 – 13:00
PEOPLE-FIRST PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS (PPPs)

Public-private partnerships (PPPs) have been mooted as viable vehicles to involve private investment in advancing SDG objectives in public sectors. However, PPPs not only present opportunities but also risks for countries using them. People-First PPPs were introduced to ensure that the interests of people take precedence over other considerations in the execution of a PPP project. The meeting, organized in collaboration with the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) will provide a unique, multi-stakeholder platform for an inclusive discussion of policy tools to deal with this dilemma, allowing member State representatives, experts, and other stakeholders (including private sector and affected communities) to share experience and lessons learned and exchange best practice.

Issues for the debate:
- What are key expectations for People-First PPPs?
- What are initial experiences with People-First PPPs? What lessons have been learned?
- What is the investment policy dimension of People-First PPPs and what can be gauged for national and international investment policymaking?

10:30 – 13:00
SUSTAINABILITY BONDS: INNOVATIVE TOOLS FOR FINANCING THE SDGs

Sustainability bonds, or “SDG bonds”, are fixed-income investments that can help bridge the SDG financing gap in developing countries. Specifically developed (and explicitly labelled) to fund projects that have positive social or environmental benefits, SDG bonds to date have mostly comprised green bonds (bonds with an environmental or climate-related focus) – with more than USD$100 billion issued in 2017. With the 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 used. Lessons learned in the green bond space are being applied to other SDG bonds, such as water bonds and gender bonds. This high-level session, organized with the Climate Bonds Initiative (CBI), the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI), the Climate Disclosure Standards Board (CDSB) and Carbon Tracker, will contribute to peer learning.

Issues for the debate:
- What role can stock exchanges play in the SDG bond space? Experiences promoting sustainability bonds or developing-listing segments for sustainability bonds.
- What roles do reporting and assurance play in the further development of an SDG-oriented debt market?
- Beyond green bonds, what opportunities exist for other SDG bonds? Experiences from the development of gender bonds and water bonds.

10:30 – 13:00
ROUNDTABLE ON REGIONAL INTEGRATION AND INVESTMENT POLICY

Promoting FDI for regional integration

Most regional economic cooperation organizations consider FDI an important factor for sustainable economic development and regional integration. Some regional organizations and cooperative frameworks have been more active than others in rolling out collective initiatives in support of a conducive investment environment, or in joint investment promotion. And results vary. What policy lessons can be drawn from the different experiences across regions?

In this High-Level Roundtable, panellists from various regional organizations and cooperative frameworks will discuss the main challenges of regional integration in investment policy. They will review regional investment trends and share experiences in investment policy and regional cooperation in investment promotion. They will discuss potential future investment trends in light of current developments in the world economy, and outline prospects for future regional cooperation.

Issues for the debate:
- What are the main challenges of regional integration in investment policy?
- How has regional integration in different parts of the world shaped global and regional investment trends and how will they affect them in the future?
- What are good investment-policy practices and lessons learned that can be replicated across regional groupings?
13:15 – 14:45
TALKING BUSINESS: MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

“Talking Business” are interactive sessions between governments and business. They provide a platform to showcase investment opportunities in countries, explore new investment horizons and interact with high-level country representatives.

Participant countries:
- Lebanon
- Oman
- Saudi Arabia
- The United Arab Emirates
- The Republic of Iraq

13:15 - 13:45
INVESTMENT VILLAGE AWARD CEREMONY 2018

13:15 - 14:45
MOBILIZING INVESTMENT FOR INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA

The 2018 World Investment Report identifies the challenges that developing countries will be facing to attract international investment for inclusive and sustainable industrial development. These challenges – as the report underscores - are particularly pronounced in Africa, where the level of economic transformation remains low despite a period of strong economic growth and abundant opportunities. The share of manufacturing in GDP of African countries is still small, and it has further declined or stagnated to 10% over the past decade.

Against this background, and with a view to advancing towards the objectives of the Third Industrial Development Decade for Africa (IDDA III), proclaimed by the UNGA in 2016, this session, co-organized by the African Union (AU), the United Nations Development Organization (UNIDO) and UNCTAD, will bring together global thought leaders in the investment and finance domain, to discuss new approaches towards mobilizing investment for Africa’s manufacturing sector to strengthen productive capacity development. The roles of industrial policy, industrial parks and the recently established African Continental Free Trade Area will be at the center of the discussion. The outcome of the discussion will be key for policy makers and entities involved in policy analysis, technical assistance and resource mobilization. They will also be taken on board in the implementation of the IDDA III road map.

Issues for debate:
- Which new approaches are warranted to channel (international) investment to manufacturing and related sectors - and what is the role of modern industrial policy in this regard?
- How do we de-risk investment in Africa?
- What prospects does the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) hold for attracting (intra-African) investment into manufacturing?
- What is the role of development partners – and how can they best support the process?
13:15 - 14:45
MINISTERIAL LUNCHEON: PROMOTING FOREIGN INVESTMENT TO LLDCs
(by invitation only)

Organized in collaboration with the United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed
Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (UN-OHRLLS), this high-level
event of Ministers and Ambassadors from Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs) will share success stories
as well as measures and priorities to boost foreign investment in LLDCs.

Issues for the debate:
- Successful initiatives that have attracted investment and diversified economic activities in LLDCs
- Policies, strategies and investment promotion practices that can help LLDCs attract more quality
  investment
- Priority actions to include in the Midterm Review of the Vienna Programme of Action

14:30 – 17:00
WOMEN FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
Women economic empowerment to transform the investment and entrepreneurship landscape

Women’s economic empowerment has been identified as a key means for development and attaining the SDGs.
Investment by MNEs can be a powerful tool to empower women, particularly in labour intensive, largely export-
oriented industries and services. In many developing countries, MNEs have enabled women to enter the formal
labour market for the first time – within their own companies or linked companies – through business opportunities
generated in local, regional or global supply chains. At the same time, MNE investment poses several risks, as it
can increase gender inequality and undermine work-life balance. Enhancing benefits of MNE investment for
women’s economic empowerment requires grassroots action, a change in corporate strategies, inclusive
government policies and a societal mind shift. Organized with UN Women, the Commonwealth and the
Francophonie, this high-level meeting will weigh these issues and formulate new strategies for the public and
private sector.

Issues for the debate:
- Are MNEs agents of change for women economic empowerment?
- How to empower a new generation of women in business leaders to act as feeders of sustainable
development?
- What are the key policy considerations to mainstream women economic empowerment in investment and
  entrepreneurship policies?

15:00 – 17:00
FAMILY BUSINESSES AS A FORCE FOR LONG-TERM GOOD
Preceded by welcome refreshments 14:30 – 15:00

The Sustainable Development agenda is deeply aligned with the raisons d’être of values-based, impact-driven
family businesses. Through quality job creation, fair contracts and ethical investments, responsible family
businesses have earned the social license to operate and have had a profound influence on society across
generations. Organized in collaboration with Family Business Network (FBN) International and the Polaris
Initiative, the interactive dialogue examines why and how family businesses with their intrinsic inter-generational
nature and responsibility for the next generation can take the lead in championing a business model that benefits
people, communities, the environment and future generations.

Issues for the debate:
- What is the role of businesses in delivering on the SDGs, particularly in emerging markets?
- What are the challenges faced by family businesses in aligning Purpose and Profit?
- How can family businesses more effectively partner with policy makers, the investment community and
civil society to build an eco-system that eschews short-termism and empowers purpose-driven long-term
  thinking and practice?
MINISTERIAL ROUNDTABLE: 21st Century Global Investment Policymaking

A global policy environment that effectively mobilizes investment in sustainable development is more important than ever. In response to this challenge, more than 160 countries have used UNCTAD policy tools for formulating “new generation” investment policies. The Ministerial Roundtable will share experiences with modern, sustainable development-oriented investment policies and identify best practice based on UNCTAD policy tools: The Investment Policy Framework for Sustainable Development (2012, updated 2015); Action Plan for Investment in the SDGs (2014); Global Action Menu for Investment Facilitation (2016), and Reform Package for the Global Investment Policy Regime (2017).

Issues for the debate:
- What are countries’ key priorities in national and international investment policymaking in the coming years?
- What are their recent experiences and lessons learned in “new generation” investment policymaking?
- What approaches are countries adopting specifically to stimulate investment in SDG-relevant sectors?

SMART BETA: PASSIVE INVESTMENT STRATEGIES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Portfolio investment that track one or more market indices is expected to cover 22 per cent of global assets by 2020. Within this “passive investment” space there is increasing talk of so-called “smart beta” strategies, which seek to deliver a better risk-return trade-off than conventional indices, while opening innovative options for integrating environmental and social risk. This multi-stakeholder session, organized in collaboration with Carbon Tracker and the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI), will bring together key market actors involved in the development of equity indices and asset management including stock exchanges, institutional investors, big financial data and index companies. In an interactive dialogue, experts will explore how technological improvements, big data, and improved corporate reporting can allow passive investors to better support the SDGs.

Issues for the debate:
- What are the trends in passive investment and how can these be applied to investing in sustainable development?
- What role does corporate ESG data play in the further development of investment in the SDGs?
- What opportunities exist for sustainability indices? What lessons have been learned from the development of gender indices, fossil-free indices and other pioneering products?

EMPRETEC WOMEN IN BUSINESS AWARDS 2018

Organized together with UN Women and the Commonwealth Women Business Forum, the Empretec Women in Business Award are granted to women-owned businesses that have benefited from the business development services of the Empretec programme – a pioneering UNCTAD programme for the promotion of entrepreneurship that operates in 40 developing countries. In line with this year’s World Investment Forum theme, the Award will focus on the crucial role of women entrepreneurship in advancing the SDGs. The awards presentation will give women entrepreneurs the stage to share how they contribute to sustainable development in different sectors.
FRIDAY, 26 OCTOBER

8:30 – 10:00
INTERACTIVE BREAKFAST ENCOUNTER (by invitation only)
Blended Capital: SDG Aligned Investment Opportunities in Developing Countries

SDG aligned investing, a form of impact investing, incorporates social and environmental considerations front and centre in the decision-making criteria for investors. Globally, investors are increasingly financing instruments including blended-capital public-private initiatives, SDG aligned impact funds and innovative mechanisms such as social impact bonds. Such investments overcome traditional market failures, help to multiply the impact of limited government resources, provide attractive risk-adjusted returns and deliver measurable sustainability outcomes. The participants at the investment breakfast will deliberate on potential opportunities in this space and collectively explore potential partnerships being guided by several examples from the developing world.

Organized by UNCTAD in collaboration with United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) and Global Impact Investing Network (GIIN), this interactive dialogue will identify and share policies and practices that have facilitated investment for sustainable development in the host economy.

Areas of discussion:
- What kind of products and investment vehicles are investors seeking in SDG aligned projects?
- How can public financing and technical assistance be leveraged to mobilise private investment?
- How important is impact measurement to financial investors?

09:00 – 16:00
MULTI-DISCIPLINARY ACADEMIC CONFERENCE
Setting the Future Investment Research Agenda

The UNCTAD Academic Network on Investment convenes scholars of international business, economics, law and other relevant fields for a day-long multi-disciplinary academic conference. Co-organized in partnership with the Academy of International Business (AIB) and the Society of International Economic Law (SIEL), discussions will explore emerging trends for future research in investment and multinational enterprise. The conference event will produce a “Future Investment Research Agenda” and identify a list of opportunities for collaboration between researchers and UNCTAD’s Investment and Enterprise Division. It will centre on key themes that are expected to shape the international business and development landscape in the coming years.

Issues for the debate:
- The digital economy and the new industrial revolution are fundamentally changing the way firms operate internationally. Can existing theories of international business, from OLI to GVCs, still fully explain current trends in international production?
- What is the latest thinking among scholars on the implications of the new era of globalization for global investment patterns and financial flows? What is their prognosis for policy directions?
- What are the key emerging challenges and opportunities for research and policy analysis on investment and development?

10:00 – 13:00
SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONES: OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES

Special economic zones (SEZ) have been mushrooming over the past decades. UNCTAD estimates that there are over 4800 SEZs worldwide. Special Economic Zones can be important incubators to support SDG initiatives and could play a role in the digitalization of the economy. In this conference, organized in collaboration with FEMOZA, lessons learned for designing the right infrastructure, facilitation services, and incentives, creating economies of scale and promoting transfer of technology in the zones will be shared and synthesized to develop zone models that can be adopted and adapted to individual countries’ needs.

Issues for the debate:
- SEZs and the SDGs: best practice
- The role of SEZs in the digitalization of the economy
- Lessons for policymaking
CREATING MORE AND BETTER JOBS THROUGH INVESTMENT

Investment contributes most effectively to achieving the SDGs when it maximizes the creation of more and better jobs. Investors can actively seek to expand their backward and forward linkages with local enterprises, support the improvement of working conditions and the inclusion of vulnerable groups, and contribute to sustainable enterprise development in a more encompassing way. One of the key objectives of IPAs is to grow employment through investment that is also sustainable investments. These considerations are also a key factor to advance the SDGs.

In this session, organized with the International Labour Organization (ILO), Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and the World Association of Investment Promotion Agencies (WAIPA) experienced IPAs will share their matchmaking strategies to boost linkages with local producers and overcome capacity and skills gaps.

Issues for the debate:
- What policies and strategies have helped to foster linkages with local producers?
- How has your IPA addressed capacity and skills gaps?
- What other challenges have you faced in facilitating matchmaking?

WOMEN ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND THE SDGS

This interactive session, organized in collaboration with UN Women, shares views on policies and good practices to develop an effective ecosystem to support women entrepreneurship, which is an essential part of the Sustainable Development Goals. Experts will review the initiatives taken by the G7 and the G20 aimed to support women and girls to harness digitalization and reinforcing efforts to reduce the gender gap in participation by 25% by 2025. The discussion will aide policy formulation and implementation to embed women entrepreneurship as one of the key ways to promote sustainable and inclusive growth.

Issues for the debate:
- The “eSkills4Girls” initiative
- The ‘Women’ Entrepreneurship Facility”
- Good practices in “bridging the digital gender divide”
- The activities of the G20 “Women’s Business Council”

USING BLENDED CAPITAL TO FINANCE THE SDGS

Blended finance uses a mix of public and private finance to fund projects with high development impact. Public finance is used to crowd in private sector financing that would otherwise not be available to such projects. Thus, blended finance acts as a multiplier for public funds by drawing in private finance through strategies that lower the risk of private investment. This session, jointly organized with the Global Impact Investing Network (GIIN) and Principles for Responsible Investment (PRI), will provide an overview of the growth and development of blended finance in recent years, the policy dimension that facilitates the use of blended finance, and the opportunities for blended finance to contribute to the financing of the SDGs.

Issues for the debate:
- How can blended finance help to mobilize and scale up private and commercial resources for sustainable development and climate action in developing countries?
- Which types of blended finance instruments are currently in use?
- What are lessons learned from different approaches to blending, monitoring and evaluation?
14:00 – 16:30
ROLE OF CENTRAL BANKS IN GREENING THE FINANCIAL SYSTEM

Central banks are becoming increasingly involved in green finance. Indicators of this growing interest include the creation of the Central Bank and Supervisors Network for Greening the Financial System (established at the Paris “One Planet Summit” in 2017 by eight central banks and supervisors) and the Task Force on Climate Related Financial Disclosure, (established by the Financial Stability Board). Environmental factors are increasingly seen as material issues by investors who are incorporating such factors into portfolio allocation and risk analysis.

This panel, organised in co-operation with the Official Monetary and Financial Institutions Forum (OMFIF), will gather central banks, regulators and experts from around the world to discuss the role that central banks can play in greening the financial system and prospects for harmonised international approaches.

The session will facilitate dialogue among central banks and regulators to improve clarity on the role central banks can play in green finance, as well as review progress to date and identify future challenges.

Issues for the debate:
- The role central banks can play in mobilising 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

14:00 – 17:00
AMBASSADORS ROUNDTABLE ON INVESTING IN THE SDGS

Investment is a key driver for sustainable development: attaining the SDGs will not be possible without investment. As the same time, investment is a matter that cuts across various issues, including in particular those that are being dealt with by the various international organizations headquartered in Geneva (such as trade, labour, intellectual property, human rights, health, climate, migration, etc). The Permanent Representatives attend to these various issues in their day-to-day responsibilities and are aptly situated to see and operationalize these cross-cutting elements from a global perspective. The Permanent Representatives can take advantage of their strategic positioning to effectively promote private sector contributions to the SDGs and spearhead the role of Geneva as a global SDG implementation hub. The World Investment Forum provides an opportunity and platform for PRs to interact with investment stakeholders worldwide, and to formulate an Action Agenda that translates the WIF2018 deliberations and outcomes into an SD action agenda for the Geneva development community.

The event will bring together 30 to 40 PRs (representative for all regions and with a gender dimension) in an interactive discussion that wraps up the WIF2018. It is expected to result in the establishment of a Geneva Group of Friends of investing in the SDGs which will meet periodically to dialogue with private sectors and follow-up on the SD action agenda of the Geneva development community.

Issues for discussion:
- How to further enhance the role of Geneva PRs in the pursuit of the SDGs?
- How to improve and further facilitate interactions between PRs and the private sector to promote Geneva as a global SDG implementation hub?
- How to improve and further facilitate interactions between the various Geneva-based international organizations in the pursuit of making investment work for development and the attainment of the SDGs?

17:00 – 18:00
FORUM OUTCOME AND CLOSING

The Forum’s Closing Session will bring together high-level officials from UNCTAD and the partner organizations to report on the outcomes of the various sessions, presenting the immediate deliverables list and the medium- to long-term follow-up issues emanating from the Forum.

18:00
RECEPTION
INVESTMENT VILLAGE

Monday 22 October
14:00
Official Opening of the Investment Village

Tuesday, 23 - Friday, 26 October
09:00 – 18:00
COUNTRY AND ORGANIZATION EXHIBITION

The World Investment Forum will offer member States the possibility to showcase their countries’ investment opportunities in the Investment Village. The Village, located in the proximity of the main meeting rooms of the Forum, will feature public investment exhibitions, ensuring visibility and interaction.

The official opening, involving high-level UN and partner country officials, will take place on 22 October at 14:00.

Friday 26 October
13:15 – 13:45
Investment Village Award Ceremony 2018

Monday, 22 – Friday, 26 October
PRIVATE SECTOR SOLUTIONS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The private sector will be a vital partner to public efforts to direct more investment effectively towards sustainable development. This session, organized in the format of investment stakeholders networking breakfasts or luncheons, will be the opportunity for private sector entities – global TNCs, SMEs and Foundations – to present their existing programmes and initiatives in support of sustainable development to the international community.
PARALLEL EVENTS

Wednesday, 24 – Friday, 26 October
10:00 – 13:00 and 15:00 – 18:00

THIRTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY SESSION OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL WORKING GROUP OF EXPERTS ON INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS OF ACCOUNTING AND REPORTING (ISAR)

The Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting (ISAR) promotes high quality and internationally comparable financial and environmental, social and governance (ESG) reporting by enterprises. This enhances the role of accounting and reporting in assessing the private sector contribution to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and can facilitate financial inclusion. The 35th session of ISAR will review recent trends in this area and deliberate on the selection of core SDG indicators for company reporting to facilitate the harmonization of sustainability reporting and the integration of sustainability information into companies’ reporting cycles. In the area of financial reporting the meeting will address the issue of the practical implementation of international standards of accounting and reporting into the public and private sectors. The session will also discuss further progress on the implementation of the Accounting Development Tool of UNCTAD and its impact on strengthening the regulatory and institutional foundations for high quality reporting by enterprises.

Issues for the debate:
- How do recent developments in enterprise reporting contribute to the implementation of Agenda 2030 and its monitoring mechanism?
- How can the SDG indicators be used to factor private sector contributions into countries reporting on their progress with the SDGs? What baseline indicators for companies could help to facilitate this process?
- What are the key results, lessons learned, and major challenges with respect to practical implementation of International Financial Reporting Standards and International Public-Sector Accounting Standards? What needs to be done to enhance their impact on financial stability and the mobilization of financial resources for development?

Monday, 22 – Friday, 26 October

UNCTAD YOUTH FORUM 2018
Youth Entrepreneurship: A force towards inclusive and sustainable growth globalization

The UNCTAD Youth Forum 2018 aims to encourage a dialogue between youth and global leaders from governments and the private sector involved in the achievement of the sustainable development goals. Under the theme of youth entrepreneurship as a force towards inclusive and sustainable growth, over 200 young men and women from around the world will gather to talk about the future employment landscape and the role of the entrepreneurs of 2030. Convened in parallel with the World Investment Forum 2018, the Youth Forum also provides an opportunity for the participants to interact with the high-level investment-development stakeholders from around the world.

Issues for deliberation:
- How can policy reforms and new technologies transform challenges into opportunities for youth and unlock their potential?
- How can skill building prepare youth for the labour challenges ahead?
- What are existing initiatives for the empowerment of youth that should be scaled up?

Monday, 22 October – Wednesday, 24 October

SPECIAL PROGRAMME FOR PARLAMENTARIANS
SIDE EVENTS

Monday, 22 October
10:00 – 13:00
INVESTMENT PROMOTION AGENCIES (IPA) WORKSHOP
Showcasing Investment Promotion and Facilitation in SDG Projects

The workshop will provide IPAs basic knowledge and skills to engage effectively in narrowing the SDG-related investment gap and contribute to the achievement of Agenda 2030. Organized in cooperation with the World Association of Investment Promotion Agencies (WAIPA), the workshop will systematize best practice, feedback and insights from IPAs and be incorporated in UNCTAD’s investment promotion technical cooperation programme as an outcome of this session.

Issues for the debate:
• FDI global trends and investment in SDG-related projects (WIR 2018), UNCTAD
• The role of IPAs in promoting and facilitating the SDGs, WAIPA
• UNCTAD’s Guide for IPAs to promote/facilitate SDGs-related projects, UNCTAD

Monday, 22 October
10:00 – 13:00
INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS OF ACCOUNTING AND REPORTING (ISAR) WORKSHOP
Digital Currencies and Blockchain: Implications for Accounting

The workshop will address emerging issues in the area of blockchain, digitalization and digital currencies, and in particular the implications of these phenomena for financial reporting. It will allow a range of reporting stakeholders to take stock of this technological revolution, which brings both opportunities and risks for the quality of reporting, the accounting profession and financial stability. The first roundtable will introduce emerging issues, focusing on the broader implications of blockchain technology and the digitalization revolution for accounting stakeholders. The second roundtable will delve into the subject of digital currencies, and how they relate to the existing financial reporting infrastructure.

Issues for the debate:

Keynote
• Digitalization and accounting: the current context

Round table 1
• What is the impact of digitalization on accounting practice?
• What are some of the risks and opportunities of blockchain technology in accounting?
• What are the main implications for the accountancy profession? What are some emerging good practices in harnessing the digital revolution for high-quality accounting?

Round table 2
• What is the current context for digital currencies from an accounting perspective?
• What are the main technical developments that occurred over recent years in the area of accounting standards for cryptocurrencies? What are some emerging frameworks?
• What are the main challenges to devising standards and practice in financial reporting in response to digital currencies?
Wednesday, 24 October

09:00 – 10:00
PRESENTATION OF PUBLICATION: Energy Investment Risk Assessment (EIRA)

Organized by the Energy Charter Secretariat, this high-level session introduces the first public edition of the Energy Investment Risk Assessment (EIRA) publication, a regulation driven policymaking instrument for governments. EIRA assesses policy, legal and regulatory risks for investment in the energy sector. The publication aims to assist governments in closing the investment gap, meeting the world’s rising energy demand, providing access to energy and making the energy system sustainable. Governments are welcome to take part in the next editions of the EIRA publication.

- How can the interaction between Parliaments, policy makers and the private sector be improved to better deliver on sustainable development?

10:30 - 14:30
CAIPA MEETING

Launched in 2007, the Caribbean Association of Investment Promotion Agencies (CAIPA) brings together Caribbean Investment Promotion Intermediaries from 23 Caribbean economies to collaborate in promoting the region as a location for investment. Each year, the members of CAIPA meet to discuss and agree on the work programme for the upcoming year.

Issues for deliberation:

- Plans for a Regional Investment Policy Review and an iGuide for the Caribbean
- Strategies for the continued promotion of the Caribbean to attract quality investment
- Initiatives to enhance the capacity of CAIPA members to execute their country specific mandates

Thursday, 25 October

18:15 - 19:45
THE FUTURE of CORPORATE INCOME TAXES

Lessons for the Emerging and Low-Income Countries

Are corporate income taxes currently designed as “fit for purposes”? Should policymakers be engaging in a fundamental review of the structures of these taxes which goes beyond the current focus on the international dimension? What are the options for reform and what political, economic and transitional barriers would need to be overcome? These are some of the questions which will be addressed in this lecture.

Friday, 26 October

08:00 – 09:00
TNC Journal Advisory Board Meeting

13:00 – 2:30
INTER-AGENCY TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING ON PROMOTING INVESTMENT IN LDCs (by invitation only)
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Contacts

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