



This year — five years after the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the start of the Decade of Action and Delivery of the SDGs — has presented a new set of unforeseen challenges. The social and economic cost of the COVID-19 pandemic have been exacerbated in many countries by environmental stressors and social unrest. As companies struggle to maintain their footing in a COVID-19 world, some commentators have suggested the outlook for the global economy may have a chilling effect on the adoption of sustainable business practices. But, to the contrary, a new form of leader has emerged in this crisis – a generation of executives and rising professionals who understand that there are no successful businesses in a failed world. In this context, the private sector – in partnership with governments and civil society leaders – is leveraging the framework of the Sustainable Development Goals to respond to immediate threats in their communities, prepare for long term sustainability, and remedy the three critical fragilities which have been exposed by events of 2020: climate change and nature loss; social inequality; and economic exclusion.

As the largest and most globally representative UN convening of business leaders, the SDG Business Forum – co-hosted by UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA), UN Global Compact and International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) – highlights companies that are using their influence as a positive agent of change in their local communities and across the world. The 2020 SDG Business Forum will be held virtually on 23 September, 2020, 7:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., on the margins of the 75th UN General Assembly. It will continue to serve as a platform for all stakeholders to come together for meaningful dialogue on the role of the private sector in addressing the current economic landscape and to co-create lasting solutions for a more sustainable future.

How to register? This year, the SDG Business Forum will be hosted on the HopIn platform as the third day of the UNGA special event Uniting Business Live, following the Private Sector Forum on 21 September and the Global Impact Forum on 22 September. Interested participants can register here. Registration is complimentary to representatives from Member States, UN System, Major Groups and Other Stakeholders, UN Global Compact participant and signatory companies and non-business stakeholders, ICC participant companies and non-business stakeholders.

Know of any SDG Acceleration Action involving the private sector? The 2020 SDG Business Forum aims to generate a Compendium of SDG Acceleration Actions for the Decade of Action and Delivery from its participants. Forum participants who would like to register an initiative in the SDG Acceleration Action database could submit an application here.

For more information about the SDG Business Forum, please visit sdgbusinessforum.org.

High regards,

Division for Sustainable Development Goals

11.9.2020 / 31715