



## Sustainable Investment for the Decade of Action

20-22 April 2020

*Programme*

Private finance and investment are essential for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Yet, to date, private investment in areas critical for implementation of the SDGs is vastly insufficient. It is estimated that achieving the SDGs by 2030 in developing countries alone will require investment in the order of trillions of dollars annually, mainly in infrastructure (power, telecommunications, transport, and water and sanitation).

The overarching objective of the SDG Investment Fair is to facilitate direct interaction and connections between representatives of governments of developing countries, the private sector and multilateral agencies with a view to scaling up the mobilization of private investment for the SDGs. In this regard, the 2020 SDG Investment Fair will address ways to better channel investment to countries and sectors where they are most needed and to enhance its impact on sustainable development. Follow-up and specific results will depend on specific actions taken by governments and potential investors.

In order to achieve these objectives, the 2020 SDG Investment Fair will comprise three types of sessions aimed at generating appropriate interactions and partnerships between relevant actors from public and private sectors to tackle challenges to generating adequate investment for the SDGs. These are as follows:

- **Country presentations:** Countries will present their investment projects to investors in a moderated session. The sessions will build on the country investment workshops that have taken place during the preceding months.
- **Policy spotlights:** These constitute moderated discussions on a specific issue pertaining to SDG-related investments with 4-5 speakers and a strong focus on direct interaction with the audience.
- **Café conversations:** Café conversations will have a flexible format with the focus on arriving at solutions to challenges pertaining to scaling and channeling impactful investment. There will be a series of small group discussions, each lead by a moderator or expert, which will allow for more in-depth, detailed discussion and problem solving.

The 2020 SDG Investment Fair will build on the work undertaken by the recently established Global Investors for Sustainable Development (GISD) Alliance. The event will take place over three days and will be organized by DESA in collaboration with partners from the GISD Alliance Core Group (UNCTAD, UNDP, UNCDF, Global Compact, PRI, WBG, SIDA), as well as external partners (ICC, GIIN).

**Monday, 20 April**

**1:15-2:45**

**Scaling investment for the SDGs in the Decade of Action  
Opening session luncheon (Delegates Dining Room - by invitation)**

Remarks:

- Mr. António Guterres, Secretary-General, United Nations (TBC)
- Ministers of Finance
- A member of the Global Investors for Sustainable Development Alliance

**3:00-4:00**

**Decade to act on boosting investment in the SDGs  
(Trusteeship Council Chamber)**

Despite growing momentum for investment in sustainable development, five years since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, we have not seen investment at scale in sustainable development, particularly in the most critical sectors and in countries in special situations where investment is needed the most. Against the backdrop of a sluggish global outlook, stronger domestic and international public policy measures are needed to increase the supply of long-term investment for sustainable development and channel it to where it is needed, including in infrastructure.

***Guiding questions:***

*How can public policy actions increase the supply of long-term investment and promote investment opportunities in developing countries?*

*What steps need to be taken by the private sector towards this objective?*

*How can international investments from the private sector in infrastructure be accelerated, particularly in developing countries?*

**4:30-6:00**

**Policy spotlight: Aligning business to the SDGs (Organizer: Sida)**

This policy spotlight will explore the role and possibility of asset owners and managers in aligning businesses to the SDGs. It will cover the various dimensions of corporate governance, engagement, investing, transparency and reporting. Discussion will focus on new investment vehicles for investing that encourage aligning business with SDGs, i.e., SDG-Bonds and new SDG-indexes. Participants will also discuss the preliminary findings and accomplishments of the Global Investors for Sustainable Development (GISD) and explore the future of SDGinvesting. The session will provide concrete examples of investors working to align business with the SDGs, including examples from individual companies and the Swedish Investors for Sustainable Development (SISD) platform as well as explore developing markets and regulatory frameworks.

Tuesday, 21 April

Theme: Channeling investment toward the SDGs

**10:00-11:30** **Country presentations**

Countries will present investment-ready project pipelines to investors to identify appropriate financing instruments. The sessions also enable countries to learn from each other about what works and what doesn't for mobilizing domestic and international investments.

**11:30-1:00** **Policy spotlight: Scaling-up long-term investment for sustainable infrastructure (Organizer: UNCTAD, TBD)**

Risks for private investment in sustainable infrastructure in developing countries remain high. Without action to reduce risk perceptions, private capital will not flow to developing countries. The session will focus on critical policies and regulations that shape the enabling environment for investment in sustainable infrastructure, thereby making a critical contribution to addressing real and perceived risks.

**1:00-2:30** **Cafe conversation: Advancing innovative financing vehicles, tools and platforms to facilitate sustainable investment (Organizers: WBG, UNCDF, BNP Paribas)**

The session will discuss how innovative financing vehicles, tools and platforms can facilitate scalability of investment opportunities at the country and regional levels. It will also elaborate on the role of international finance institutions and development agencies in this context. For example, efforts could be made to create bond structures that draw on the provisioning of development impact bonds and commercial bonds to finance SDG investments.

**2:30-3:00** **Networking**

**3:00-4:30** **Country presentations**

Countries will present investment-ready project pipelines to investors to identify appropriate financing instruments. The sessions also enable countries to learn from each other about what works and what doesn't for mobilizing domestic and international investments.

**4:30-6:00** **Policy spotlight: Realizing investment opportunities in LDCs (Organizers: UNCDF, Bamboo Capital, Meridiam)**

The session will focus on innovative tools and instruments to realize investment opportunities in LDCs. The session will focus on pioneering project structures, the production of credit ratings and risk-mitigating measures.

**Wednesday, 22 April**

Theme: Business and the SDGs - Ensuring positive impact

**8:30-10:00** **Cafe conversation: Enhancing the impact of private investment on sustainable development (Organizer: GIIN)**

The UN's Sustainable Development Goals have catalyzed engagement toward solving the world's largest problems across industries and fields, including impact investing. But there is still confusion about how to measure performance in a comparable way so as to understand collective progress at addressing global goals. In this session, leading impact investors will share how they have built portfolios that respond to the SDGs and measured progress towards targeted impact using IRIS+.

**10:00-11:30** **Country presentations**

Countries will present investment-ready project pipelines to investors to identify appropriate financing instruments. The sessions also enable countries to learn from each other about what works and what doesn't for mobilizing domestic and international investments.

**12:00-1:30** **Cafe conversation: Sustainable investment for the Decade of Action - with lunch and refreshments served (Organizers: ICC and partners)**

ESG investing has gone mainstream, with retail and institutional clients demanding reporting and action on issues ranging from climate change to the gender pay gap and executive remuneration— resulting in growing concerns about integrity and so-called “SDG-washing.” Against this background, this session will review promising approaches to enable integrity and standardisation in the reporting of ESG risks and SDG impact, including (a) sustainable finance taxonomies; (b) industry benchmarks; (c) harmonised metrics; and (d) standardised and assurable reporting requirements.

**Guiding questions:**

*What are the key features of these approaches and how can they enable integrity in sustainable finance?*

*How do these various initiatives fit together to support the scaling of finance in line with the SDGs?*

*What systems are in place to facilitate convergence in the sustainable financing market?*

**2:00-3:30**

**Policy spotlight: Solutions for reporting and managing global impact (Organizers: UNDP and Global Compact)**

The session will discuss how principles and standards can help corporates and investors authentically demonstrate their contributions to the SDGs, while also driving SDG considerations into strategy and capital allocation decisions. Drawing from experiences in both the corporate and investment sectors, panelists will introduce how the SDGs can be integrated into different asset classes and financial processes. They will also highlight new market building and facilitation activities designed to mobilize investment at scale.

**3:30-4:00**

**Closing**