



# LDC5 Private Sector Forum

The world's 46 Least Developed Countries (LDCs) are in a race against time to deliver progress towards the 17 Sustainable Development Goals. Climate change, COVID-19 and a global economic slowdown have put their development progress in jeopardy. The next decade needs to usher in a new global partnership, bringing government, business and civil society together.

**The 5th United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (LDC5) is a once-in-a-decade opportunity to accelerate sustainable development in countries where change is needed the most.**

The LDC5 Conference will convene Heads of State and Government of the full UN Membership of 193 countries with over 5,000 expected in-person participants at this unique Conference in Doha, Qatar.

The combined population of the LDCs is over 1.1 billion. LDCs will account for 46% of the expansion in the global workforce between 2021 to 2030. LDCs also qualify for preferential treatment in world trade – including duty-free and quota-free market access in many trading partners. And with the youngest populations on the planet, the LDCs have all the energy, dynamism and ideas needed to reach their full potential – putting them firmly on the road to prosperity. The private sector has a vital role to play in creating opportunity to realise this potential and in accelerating sustainable growth in the LDCs over the coming decade.

## From Potential to Prosperity

Against this backdrop, the Private Sector Forum will run from 5–7 March 2023, to promote engagement with the private sector and mobilise partnerships, innovation along with investments in the LDCs. The Forum is co-organised by UN-OHRLLS and Microsoft in partnership with the Qatar Chamber of Commerce & Industry.

Private Sector Forum business opportunities:

- A **high-level Opening Dialogue** (5 March afternoon) attended by the UN Secretary-General (invited), leaders from politics, business and civil society, Heads of UN system organisations and international financial institutions, and beyond.
- **Five high-level, multi-stakeholder thematic sessions** (5–7 March) around **sustainable energy, agriculture and rural development, digital connectivity, climate change and sustainable tourism**, to showcase corporate practices and announce new partnerships in support of sustainable development in the LDCs.
- A **high-level meeting (TBC) on investment and partnerships** (5 March) convening Heads of State and Government, chief executives and other top leaders. The meeting will provide a unique opportunity for the private sector to engage in a high-level dialogue with Heads of Government from around the world.
- A series of private sector-focused side events and exhibition areas.
- Bilateral meetings and networking opportunities with government officials, development banks, multilateral institutions, the private sector and NGOs.

The Private Sector Forum will take place at the Qatar National Convention Centre, a premier state-of-the-art venue in the Middle East. The global gathering at this scale will provide a unique environment for the private sector to convene meetings at ease with government officials, UN system representatives and business leaders from around the world. Private meeting rooms, internet wireless and a Private Sector Forum lounge space over two floors will be available for business networking.

## Who will be there?

United Nations Secretary-General, António Guterres is confirmed to participate in the LDC5 Conference as well as Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for UN-OHRLS, Rabab Fatima, and Vice Chair and President of Microsoft, Brad Smith. A high number of confirmations have already been received from Heads of State and Government, Heads of UN system organisations and International Financial Institutions, in addition to C-suite business leaders of global, regional, and local companies.

## Outcome

The Private Sector Forum will launch concrete partnerships and initiatives by governments, the private sector and other non-state actors. The Forum will act as a marketplace for partnerships and initiatives focusing on financial commitments, capacity building, technology and knowledge transfer. In addition, there will be a focus on policy development and reform to promote enabling environments for the private sector in LDCs. The Forum will result in a co-chair's summary of the key takeaways and deliverables from the 3-day event.

The Private Sector Forum will provide opportunity for direct interaction between private sector representatives and ministerial-level delegations from the Least Developed Countries, International Financial Institutions, donor countries, multilateral organisations and more.

Please find the draft programme and detailed information about the Private Sector Forum here:

>> [un.org/ldc5/private-sector-forum](http://un.org/ldc5/private-sector-forum)

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