



Permanent Mission
of Armenia to the UN



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INVITATION

THURSDAY 13 JULY 2017

10:00-13:00

UN HQ CONFERENCE ROOM 11

PANEL DISCUSSION

IMPACT INVESTMENT AND INNOVATION FOR SDGS

ON THE MARGINS OF THE ECOSOC HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM



ORGANIZED BY

THE PERMANENT MISSION OF ARMENIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH

THE UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (UNDP)

Please RSVP to:

Mr. Haebichan Jung at haebichan.jung@undp.org

THE EVENT WILL BE WEBCAST



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Impact Investment and Innovation for SDGs

Side Event on the Margins of the ECOSOC High-level Political Forum

13 July 2017, 10:00-13:00 at UN HQ Conference Room 11

AGENDA

10:00

Welcome and opening remarks

H.E. Ambassador Zohrab Mnatsakanyan, Permanent Representative of Armenia to the United Nations and

Ms. Cihan Sultanoğlu, Assistant Secretary General and Director, UNDP Regional Bureau for Europe and the CIS

Outcomes of the Impact Investment for Development Summit in Yerevan

Mr. Bradley Busetto, UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative in Armenia and video from the IID Summit

*Panel Presentations and discussion moderated by **Mr. Hans Wahl**, Director of Social Entrepreneurship Programme at INSEAD*

10:30

Showcasing innovation and impact investments in Armenia

- **Mr. Alex Khachatryan**, Director, Center for Strategic Initiatives of the Government of Armenia
- **Mr. Garo Armen**, Founder and Chairman of Children of Armenia Fund
- **Mr. Souren Aloyan**, Founder, Chairman and CEO, Dasaran Educational Program
- **Ms. Marie Lou Papazian**, Managing Director, Tumo Center for Creative Technologies
- **Mr. Pierre Gurdjian**, Philanthropy Partner, RVVZ Foundation (TBC)

11:20

Innovation and impact investing for Sustainable Development Goals: a global perspective

- **Mr. Banny Banerjee**, Director, Stanford ChangeLabs
- **Mr. Kevin Jones**, Co-founder & Convener, Social Capital Markets, SOCAP
- **Mr. Mika Pyykkö**, Project Director, Impact Investing, Sitra

12:00

Open discussion

12:30

Concluding remarks

Background

Innovation has been increasingly recognized as a driving force for sustainable and inclusive growth. Innovation is at the heart of implementing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Social entrepreneurship and impact investment are important vehicles to make innovation happen, in developed and developing countries alike.

A mix of transformative co-created development solutions (for example, using the power of Information and Communication Technology) and of non-conventional approaches to financing will define the depth and pace of implementing the SDGs. At the core of both lie the concepts of decentralized decision making, bottom-up initiatives, broad partnerships and scaling.

In its work around the world the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is promoting platforms for ideas and creativity with the use of new tools and technologies, towards more transparent and participatory forms of governance and development. As part of this work, UNDP is increasingly engaged with the world of impact investment. UNDP's Bureau for Europe and CIS is among the corporate leaders on innovation including the broader social innovation work and specifically innovation in alternative financial mechanisms and technologies. It also features the first ever Alternative Finance Lab in the UN system.

Armenia is one of the pioneers of innovation, impact ventures and social entrepreneurship, thanks to its highly educated workforce, growing ICT sector and strong linkages with the Armenian diaspora in the Silicon Valley and other global innovation hotspots.

Impact ventures presenting fresh solutions for the SDGs have been showcased at the first **Impact Investment for Development Summit** held in Yerevan, Armenia, on March 21-22, 2017. The summit, hosted by UNDP in Armenia and INSEAD's Social Impact Initiative brought together some of the world's leading social entrepreneurs and impact investors, high-ranking officials, representatives of the academia and development practitioners for interactive thematic discussions on how to achieve the SDGs and push the global development narrative to a new level.

Objective

The primary objective of the Side Event is to brief on the outcomes of the global Impact Investment for Development Summit 2017 held in Yerevan in March 2017 and elaborate on the approaches to leverage impact investment and social enterprise to achieve the SDGs.

Using Armenia as a case in point, the Side Event will focus on the role that innovation, social entrepreneurship and impact investment could play in sustainable development, with special profile given to the Europe and CIS (ECIS) region, and with Armenia as a case in point. It will further elaborate on the key partnerships and the need for a platform bringing together impact investors, impact ventures, development players, supporting structures and governments – an ecosystem of advancing innovation through impact investment. The following major topics will be discussed during the event:

- **Impact Investment and Social Entrepreneurship as an emerging sector** in the developing countries targeting sustainable development: the role of the government, international organizations and philanthropy.
- **From social innovation to impact:** the future of innovations addressing public sector: social services, education, health (social impact and development impact bonds and other instruments of outcome buying).

- **Effective models of collaboration:** aligning incentives, roles and resources for an effective mix of “Impact Investment for SDGs”.

Format

The Side Event hosted by the Permanent Mission of Armenia to the United Nations will be held on the margins of the United Nations High-level Political Forum (HLPF)¹ **on July 13, 10:00-13:00**, at UN HQ, and will feature presentations, interactive panels and collaborative discussion formats.

Participants

Representatives of the government of Armenia, senior officials of UNDP and other UN agencies, leading philanthropists and impact investors, civil society, diaspora organizations and other relevant stakeholders will be invited to attend and participate in the panel discussions.

Member States are invited to participate and to express their interest in co-chairing an interactive panel discussion. Invitations to this side event, as well as the program and the details on the issues to be addressed will be sent at a later stage.

Organizers

Permanent Mission of Armenia to the UN. Armenia represents a laboratory for an overt and strategic collaboration between international development players, innovators and impact investors. Its culture is characterized by entrepreneurial spirit and a vibrantly engaged Diaspora that creates a natural momentum for impact investment. A wave of innovative start-ups in technology, growing community of young social entrepreneurs and innovators, remarkable venture philanthropy projects, several globally renowned SE initiatives – all are bringing about considerable impact that is relatively outsized vis-à-vis the size of the country. This is complemented by an ambitious reform agenda oriented towards private investment, and plans to establish the world’s first national SDG Innovation Lab.

UNDP is the United Nation’s development arm, working in over 170 countries of the world and delivering over \$4.5 billion annually in grant assistance in such areas as sustainable development, governance and peacebuilding, climate resilience and post-crisis response and recovery. Focused on supporting countries in achieving the SDGs, UNDP seeks to instill innovation in every aspect of its work and to partner with the private sector in seeking innovative financing solutions.

¹ HLPF will take place under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council in New York on 10-19 July 2017 and is the UN’s central platform for follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals. For more details see [here](#)