

SECOND AMBASSADORS' ROUNDTABLE ON INVESTING IN THE SDGs

Monday, 11 November 2019, 15:00 – 18:00
Room XVIII

Planning note

Investment is a key driver for sustainable development: attaining the SDGs will not be possible without investment. At the same time, investment is a matter that cuts across various issues, including those that are being dealt with by the various international organizations headquartered in Geneva (such as trade, labor, intellectual property, human rights, health, climate, migration, etc.). The Permanent Representatives (PRs) 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 Geneva Ambassadors' Roundtable on Investing in the SDGs provides the platform to discuss key and emerging issues in the area of investing in the SDGs, allowing Geneva-based Permanent Representatives to take full 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 First Ambassadors' Roundtable was held on the occasion of the World Investment Forum 2018 in Geneva.

The event will bring together ambassadors and leading private sector executives in an interactive discussion to take stock of current Sustainable Development Goals investment trends, progress made and solutions towards the implementation of the Agenda 2030. The discussion will be informed by the new [SDG Investment Trends Monitor](#), launched at the occasion of the 74th United Nations General Assembly, and the [Guidance on Core Indicators for Entity Reporting on Contribution towards the SDGs](#). It will also be the opportunity to discuss a new UNCTAD initiative, [Investing in the Sustainable Development Goals: The Role of Diplomats](#). The session will close with the presentation of UNCTAD Investment Promotion Awards to the best-performing agencies in promoting sustainable investment in special economic zones.

Issues for the debate:

- 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 further improve SDG investment monitoring and company SDG reporting?
- How to optimize the role of diplomats in SDG investment promotion?
- How can international platforms like the World Investment Forum help increase public and private sector commitments to the SDGs?

Format: The Ambassadors' Roundtable is planned as a plenary with speaking interventions from all participating Ambassadors.

Expected number of ambassadors: 25 to 30.

Chairs: The Roundtable will be co-chaired by three Ambassadors, representing developed, developing and transition economies respectively. The co-chairs will preside over the proceedings of the session. Co-chairs will also participate in the Roundtable in their individual capacity as Permanent Representatives of their country.

Speaking interventions: Ambassadors are encouraged to address one or more of the "Issues for the debate" listed above.

Speaking time: The speaking time is limited to a maximum of five minutes.

Speaking order: Speaking slots will be allocated by the presiding co-chairs, with assistance from the Secretariat, in accordance with individual Ambassador's requests for the floor.

Seating arrangement: Ambassadors will be seated in a round table format, in alphabetical order by country.

Guideline for ambassadorial presence: Ambassadorial representation at the Round Table is envisaged throughout the debate (i.e. from 15:00 to 18:00). If it is not possible for the Ambassador to be present beyond the time of the specific intervention, the senior aide is requested to take his/her place at the table during that time. Please let the Secretariat know about relevant scheduling issues in advance.

Timekeeping: Ambassadors are strongly encouraged to keep within the allocated time. A time-keeping device, visible to all, will inform about the allocated and used time, and indicate when the time is up. Ambassadors are encouraged to abbreviate their statements accordingly and provide the Secretariat with their full statements in writing before the meeting. These statements will be uploaded on the event's website and serve to inform the chair's summary.

Outcome: The outcome of the Ambassadors' Roundtable will be a chairs' summary that will be based on all written contributions received and the statements made from the floor. The summary will be part of the Report of the Commission of its 11th session.

Provisional programme

15:00 – 15:05	Introductory remarks by Mr. James Zhan, Director, Division on Investment and Enterprise, UNCTAD, followed by Opening remarks by the presiding Co-chair
15:05 – 15:20	Keynote address Mr. Mark Schneider, Chief Executive Officer, Nestlé

15:20 – 17:40	Statements by Ambassadors <ul style="list-style-type: none">Up to 28 speakers at 5 minutes each (140 minutes) [countries' delegations and International Chamber of Commerce]
17:40 – 17:45	Closing remarks
17:45 – 18:00	UNCTAD IPA Awards Ceremony <ul style="list-style-type: none">Three awards will be presented to investment promotion agencies and special economic zones for Excellence in Promoting Sustainable Investment in Special Economic Zones.



Optional elements

- Live tweeting of the event

Event details

- Event type: Ambassadorial Round Table
- Date: Monday, 11 November 2019
- Time: 15:00 – 18:00
- Venue: Room XVIII
- Audience: 200 participants (ambassadors, other high-level officials, business executives, international organizations, civil society organizations)
- Technical: Microphone for each speaker
- Interpretation: All six official United Nations languages
- Photographer: During the three hours of the event

Contact persons

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