

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGES AS OPPORTUNITIES

Business and the UN SDGs

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ICC – HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVES

- **The ICC has become the largest most representative business organization in the world. It is a unique association of companies large and small, drawn from all sectors of business.**
- **In today's global economy, ICC's advocacy has never been more relevant to the interests of companies everywhere.**
- **The ICC has been especially involved in recent intergovernmental processes and negotiations regarding agendas for international development, offering crucial private sector inputs to the important decisions being made at the United Nations.**

THE SDG'S: A NEW APPROACH

- In September 2015, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was launched to address pressing global social, environmental, and economic challenges. At its core, this agenda contains the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and provides a framework and roadmap to expand upon the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) while also addressing their shortcomings.
- However, challenges in the design and implementation of the 2030 Agenda were significantly different from the experience of the MDGs due to a changing global landscape:
 - Poverty now resides mostly in Middle Income Countries
 - Official Development Assistance (ODA) is no longer sufficient to stimulate growth
 - Technological improvements have revealed glaring gaps between and within countries
 - Climate change has worsened and increased competition over natural resources
- Cooperation and collaboration between all stakeholders – governments, the private sector, and civil society – is critical for the success of this ambitious agenda

THE ROLE OF BUSINESS

- In a historic development, the 2030 Agenda places heavy emphasis on the important role of business in the achievement of the SDGs.
- It is recognized now more than ever that economic growth, trade, investment, entrepreneurship, innovation, and sustainable job creation are fundamental for sustainable development.
 - On average, business now provides 60 percent of GDP, 80 percent of capital flows, and 90 percent of jobs in developing countries.
- For successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda in all countries, it is essential that businesses of all sizes grow and flourish in a responsible and sustainable manner.
- It is the private sector that will create decent jobs and livelihoods, and provide the technical resources to create and deploy new solutions to the sustainable development challenges the global community faces.

WHY THE SDG'S RESONATE WITH BUSINESS

- The SDGs are action oriented – they are S M A R T.
- Universality underpins the SDGs.
- The SDGs recognize that the earth is finite.
- The SDGs emphasize good governance focused on smart regulation, rule of law, and well-functioning national institutions.
- The SDGs support institutions to protect and promote human rights, gender equality, and women's empowerment.
- The SDGs provide a roadmap through the Means of Implementation
- The key ingredient for all of this to work is building trust among all actors in society.

THE ICC AND THE SDG'S

- **The ICC, which has coordinated business inputs during the two years of negotiations applauds the leadership of the UN on the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs**
- **The UN has delivered to the global community a truly transformative development agenda that will pave the way for new partnerships among governments, business, and civil society.**
- **The private sector welcomes this new era of cooperation and will readily provide the full depth of resources, expertise, and technological innovation needed for them to succeed**