



2nd UN Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries

BUSINESS AND INVESTMENT FORUM

4 November 2014 | 10:15 – 17:30

Vienna, Austria



Overview

The Business and Investment Forum is organized as an integral part of the 2nd United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs). The event will bring together business leaders, government officials from LLDCs and transit countries, as well as development partners and senior officials from major international organizations, to exchange views on the challenges and opportunities faced by LLDCs and to discuss possible partnerships and strategies in regards to the role of the private sector in the overall sustainable development of LLDCs. The discussions should be considered in the context of the emerging post-2015 development agenda where the private sector is expected to play a key role in successfully implementing anticipated sustainable development goals (SDGs).

The event aims to leverage the inspiration and insights from attendees in order to continue strengthening the contribution of business and investors to implementing a new Programme of Action for LLDCs¹.

¹ The overall conference also serves to review the former programme of action – the Almaty Programme of Action – which was adopted in 2003 as the United Nations' response to the growing recognition by the international community of the special needs and challenges faced by LLDCs in achieving their development goals. For further information, please refer to: <http://www.lldc2conference.org/>



Objectives

- Inspire greater action by business and Government.
- Discuss possible partnerships and strategies in regards to the role of the private sector in the overall sustainable development of LLDCs.
- Enable a synergetic transfer of knowledge and expertise between the private and the public domains.
- Provide a platform for best and emerging practices by sharing and reviewing lessons learned – with an emphasis on moving beyond anecdotal examples.
- Produce a call to action on business engagement in supporting sustainable development in LLDCs for companies and investors based in and/or operating in LLDCs.

Format

- Opening Plenary (10:15-10:45)
- Interactive Thematic Sessions² (11:00-12:30)
- A High-level Luncheon (13:15-14:45) (space permitting)
- Interactive Thematic Sessions² (15:15-16:45)
- Closing Plenary (17.00-17.30)

² Thematic sessions will be organized in collaboration with key partners from within and outside the UN.

Featured Speakers



H.E. Mr. Ban Ki-moon
Secretary-General,
United Nations



H.R.H. Princess Abze Djigma
Chief Executive Officer,
AbzeSolar S.A



Ms. Brigitte Dumont
Chief CSR Officer,
Orange



Mr. Umberto de Pretto
Secretary General,
International Road Transport Union



Ms. Helen Hai
Chief Executive Officer,
Made in Africa Initiative

Agenda

10:15-10:45

Opening Plenary

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Centre | M Building | M3

The opening of the plenary will focus on welcoming participants to the Forum and highlighting the expectations that the Forum is expected to accomplish.

Welcome Address: H.E. Mr. Gyan Chandra Acharya, United Nations Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States

Opening Remarks: Mr. Ole Hansen, Head, UN Global Compact LEAD, UN Global Compact

Introduction to Business and Investment Forum: Dr. Louise Kantrow, Permanent Representative to the UN, International Chamber of Commerce

11:00-12:30

Thematic Sessions

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Enabling Environments for Businesses through Good Governance and Rule of Law

Good governance enables the purposeful stewardship of local and foreign resources. Higher standards for the rule of law are associated with favorable business environments and investment climates as well as greater efficiency in the implementation of development projects. This session focuses on the role of good governance and the rule of law in creating an enabling environment for Governments, businesses and civil society to collaboratively address the structural and procedural challenges faced by LLDCs and transit countries.

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Transit Transport, Infrastructure and ICT

Transit transport is a core concern of LLDCs. Due to their lack of territorial access to the sea, LLDCs bear high transport costs that act as a restrictive barrier to trade. Development and maintenance of transit transport infrastructure and transit-related information communication technology (ICT) is crucial for LLDCs to reduce high trading costs and become fully integrated into the global market. This session will focus on how the private sector could play a key role through public-private partnerships in developing transit transport, infrastructure and ICT.

13:15-14:45
High-Level Luncheon: Business Solutions to Development Challenges

Austrian Chamber of Commerce | Sky Lounge

The High-Level Luncheon aims to demonstrate the positive role of responsible business in development and how this may be scaled up in LLDCs. Participants will discuss possible strategies and partnerships, as well as explore how to strengthen impactful drivers, in order to accelerate transformative efforts and maximize the business contribution to sustainable development in LLDCs.

Following an opening address by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and brief keynote remarks over lunch, participants will engage in roundtable discussions. Participants will be seated at tables of 10 with leaders from business, investors, Government and the UN for the duration of the meeting. The event includes a report-back plenary session. It concludes with keynote remarks by corporate representatives. A separate discussion has been prepared for the luncheon.

15:15-16:45
Thematic Sessions

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Turning Commodity Dependence into Sustainable and Inclusive Growth

LLDCs are sometimes characterized by being among the most commodity-dependent economies in the world, typically based on a single commodity. As a result, commodity-based development and industrialization is key to expanding the technological and labour capital in LLDCs. This session focuses on how the private commodity sector can drive economic growth in LLDCs contributing to alleviating poverty and reducing inequality. The session will also examine the role commodity exchanges can play in fostering economic inclusiveness in LLDCs.

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Sustainable and Responsible Investments

Making investments that contribute to sustainable development in LLDCs can create opportunities for structural change, employment and social equity, enhance productive capacities, and address environmental challenges – all of which help to create conditions conducive to reliable and open infrastructures, business environments and intergovernmental frameworks. This session will explore ways to direct financial investments toward LLDCs, and ensure that environmental, social and governance performance standards are met, in order to increase levels of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) to LLDCs and improve their international economic interdependence.

17:00-17:30

Closing Plenary

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Representatives from the thematic sessions will be invited to report back on main findings. The Forum will be closed with keynote address and concluding remarks from a corporate representative.

Moderator:

- **Dr. Louise Kantrow**, Permanent Representative, International Chamber of Commerce

Closing Keynote:

- **H.E. Mr. Martin Sajdik**, President of ECOSOC and Permanent Representative of Austria to the United Nations, New York

Rapporteurs:

- **Ms. Olive Kigongo**, President, Uganda Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- **Mrs. Gisa Fuatai Purcell**, Head, LSE Division of the Development Sector, ITU
- **Mr. Henrik Skovby**, Founder, Dalberg Group
- **Mr Taffere Tesfachew**, Director, Division for Africa, LDCs and Special Programmes, UNCTAD

Concluding Remarks:

- **Professor Muyenga Atanga**, Chief Executive Officer, Zambia Railways LTD.