

Business and Industry Major Group (B&IMG) to the UN in NY
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BI&MG Comments for Addition to the SDG Summit Elements Paper

Our Shared Resolve

Businesses and employers are committed to the SDGs, and are taking steps to address our many shared development and sustainability challenges to ensure delivery of the UN 2030 agenda.

The Business and Industry Major Group is dedicated to greater collaboration on the ground, mobilizing the private sector inclusive of businesses and business associations in tandem with Resident Coordinators, government representatives and other UN partners.

The business community is ready to advance needed solutions with a special focus on the opportunities identified in the UN SG's report, Our Common Agenda, and to share our wide and diverse expertise in science and technology, data management and impact, and most importantly, our plans for the next generation of innovations to advance sustainability.

Our Changed World

Even before the pandemic, economies and societies were not sufficiently leveraging the wealth of opportunities offered by globalization and connectivity, technological progress and innovation to advance the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Too many governments have been unable to sufficiently strengthen governance systems to address corruption and improve access to essential public services such as health, infrastructure, water and sanitation, education, and social protection.

Human rights policies and legislation in several cases are not effectively implemented and enforced and are, in many instances, openly violated.

Poverty and hunger are having a devastating impact on hundreds of millions of people.

Labour markets are not future-proofed and need to be more dynamic to expand job opportunities, particularly for marginalized groups.

Education and skill-building systems have not kept up with changing labour market needs, failing to suitably equip job seekers for entry into the labour market and businesses with a skilled labor force.

Many MSMEs operating in non-enabling business environments particularly those in developing and emerging economies face challenges in attaining a minimum level of productivity, competitive advantage and the creation of sustainable jobs. These challenges need to be urgently addressed to accelerate action on the SDGs.

Turning Our World toward 2030

The President of the General Assembly has called for solutions in 3 catalytic areas: sustainability, science, and solidarity. All stakeholders need to join forces to accelerate implementation across these three (3) fronts to achieve the SDGs.

Food Systems transformation is key to the advancement of many of the Sustainable Development Goals. Towards this end, the Private sector has, and continues to make serious efforts towards sustainable and resilient food systems. For these efforts to create lasting impact at scale, it is essential that Governments intensify collaboration with the Private Sector, and other stakeholders, to tackle the varying layers of disadvantages faced by rural and urban poor, including chronic poverty and hunger, lack of access to health care, lack of infrastructure and connectivity.

Business has played a central role in many ways to advancing the SDGs, but we need and are ready to do more. To this end, there is an urgent need to strengthen problem-solving dialogue between the private sector and the United Nations system at national, regional and global levels

Addressing the ongoing crises and inter-related challenges requires international cooperative actions that mobilize not only governments and IGOs, but also the private sector in all its diversity, such as.

- Greater inclusivity and ongoing meaningful engagement of business as urgent and essential to a strengthened and collaborative effort towards and beyond 2030 requiring stronger and more formal cooperation between the private and the public sector.
- Enhanced international solidarity to address inequities between countries and ensure the weakest and least developed nations get the necessary support to meet the economic, environmental and developmental needs of their societies.
- Inclusive multilateralism that promotes cooperation among and between states and ensures collective responses to global challenges that fully include and respect social partners and social dialogue.
- Strengthened tripartism and social dialogue and relevant institutions to promote trust, improve decision making and build social stability, peace, and security.
- Improved High-Level Political Forum governance to invite and integrate business views more systematically. *The Voluntary National Reviews (VNR) process at national and international levels needs to be more inclusive and engaging and enable greater recognised substantive input from business and civil society.* Moreover, VNRs need to be more action-oriented and provide concrete achievable recommendations that can be monitored and evaluated.
- Accelerating action to achieve the SDGs depends substantially on political will in and implementation by UN Member States, working with business, including with respect to:
 - More effective and efficient public policies, services and governance systems , characterised by transparency, responsibility, accountability, participation and responsiveness, accompanied by concrete and impactful efforts to combat corruption.
 - Comprehensive strategies to tackle informality and promote the transition to the formal economy.

- Strengthened promotion, protection and respect for internationally recognised human rights, particularly all five categories of the Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work.
- Expansion of sustainable social protection, including health and education systems:
- Increased efforts to tap the potential of digitalisation for all.
- Better skills development systems in line with labour market needs.
- Enabling environments for business that foster entrepreneurship, access to education, job creation, economic growth, and sustainable development.
- Promotion of the *Just Transition* of companies, workers, and societies to a low-carbon economy.
- Expanded trade and market openness as major drivers for better economic performance, job creation, innovation, and societal progress.