

## PSM Partnership Forum on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

### FINAL REPORT

October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2016, FAO, Rome, Italy

### Background

**Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development** is a global plan of action for people, planet and prosperity. It has re-framed sustainable development and corporate sustainability in the context of 5 P's:

1. **People** - We are determined to end poverty and hunger, in all their forms and dimensions, and to ensure that all human beings can fulfil their potential in dignity and equality and in a healthy environment.
2. **Planet** We are determined to protect the planet from degradation, including through sustainable consumption and production, sustainably managing its natural resources and taking urgent action on climate change, so that it can support the needs of the present and future generations.
3. **Prosperity** We are determined to ensure that all human beings can enjoy prosperous and fulfilling lives and that economic, social and technological progress occurs in harmony with nature.
4. **Peace** We are determined to foster peaceful, just and inclusive societies which are free from fear and violence. There can be no sustainable development without peace and no peace without sustainable development.
5. **Partnership** We are determined to mobilize the means required to implement this Agenda through a revitalised Global Partnership for Sustainable Development, based on a spirit of strengthened global solidarity, focussed in particular on the needs of the poorest and most vulnerable and with the participation of all countries, all stakeholders and all people.

The private sector plays a central role in sustainable development and human prosperity and serves as an essential partner. In fact, a recent PwC study indicated that 92% of businesses are aware of the SDGs, 71% of businesses are planning how they will respond to SDGs and 13% have already identified the tools they need to do so.

The Private Sector Mechanism Partnership Forums in 2016 (April on Nutrition hosted by Germany and June on Livestock hosted by Argentina) have attracted participation from many representatives of member states, Rome-Based agencies officials, civil society, scientists, and private sector actors.

In this context, the UN Global Compact and the Private Sector Mechanism, with support from Emery Oleochemicals, will host the final Partnership Forum for 2016 in conjunction with the UN Committee on World Food Security (October 17 to 21).



## Objectives

- Demonstrate that food security, nutrition and sustainable agriculture cut across all 17 SDGs
- Share information with member states about concrete steps taken by the private sector to achieve Goal 2
- Highlight the value of partnerships among and with UN agencies, national governments, regional bodies and non-state actors.

## Background

The role of the private sector and the role of partnerships have been gaining recognition in the context of development strategies and international policy-making. SDG Goal 2 “By 2030, end hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round” and 17 “Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership of sustainable development”, as well as the report of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, the FAO, IFAD and WFP strategies for partnership with the private sector provide a clear call to action for delivering global partnerships for sustainable development.

## Partnership Forum Fast Facts

- 61 people attended the forum
  - 20 member states
- 23 speakers and moderators including
  - 1 Ambassador
  - FAO’s Deputy Director General for Operations
  - 8 women, 18 men

## Summary of Presentations

### Welcome and Introductions

- H.E Inge Nordang, Ambassador, Permanent Representative to the UN Organisations in Rome, Norwegian Embassy in Rome
- Daniel J. Gustafson, Deputy Director-General (Operations), FAO
- Stefano Prato, Managing Director and Editor, Development, Society for International Development (SID)



## Rapid Fire Presentations

One speaker presented a case-study on each of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals. This interactive session with CFS participants was moderated by Jaine Chisholm Caunt, Director General of the Grain and Feed Trade Association (GAFTA) and Chair of the Private Sector Mechanism and the International Agri-Food Network

### **SDG 1: End poverty in all its forms**

Dyborn Chibonga, CEO, The National Smallholder Farmers' Association of Malawi (NASFAM)

#### *Tackling Poverty by Empowering the Poorest*

The 2030 Agenda has placed the eradication of poverty and hunger at the top of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). As we seek to implement these goals, it is important that we underscore the fact that investment in agriculture and rural development is fundamental to achieving these Goals.

It is essential for us not to forget how important agriculture is. Quite simply, agriculture is the primary driver to abate hunger and reduce poverty. Throughout history, agricultural prosperity has led to successful economies. And food security has a direct impact on national and political security. Thus making it essential to tackle poverty by empowering the poorest.

Let me give just one example of dozens of programmes happening in order to help achieve the SDGs. This programme is helping to tackle poverty and encourage development in my own country. To address a severe shortage of agri-warehousing in Malawi, our smallholders association is tackling this with a trade hub, including an agro-processing complex that will link smallholders to markets and value chains.

This programme has concrete goals including reduce post-harvest losses from 20% to less than 1% through rapid evacuation of crops immediately after harvest to the rural warehouses, proper storage and hygienic handling in the warehousing, thus improving food safety and nutrition.

To achieve the ambitious SDGs we must encourage increased agricultural development for all, by ensuring we empower smallholder farmers, and by ensuring that economic development supports both local production and the purchase of imports. One of the things I love best is, as a farmer, I am helping farmers. It is a great model to deliver the SDGs. This is the future of food security, improved nutrition and sustainable agriculture.



**SDG 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture**

Steve Godfrey, Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN)

*Food Systems: Building Bridges between Nutrition and Agriculture*

Partnerships are important, but will be successful to the extent that the public policy goals are clear and are aligned with the CFS vision, are transparent, and open to scrutiny.

The best example of partnership in the food sector in the past decade is hiding in full sight: it is the thousands of companies, mainly local and national, which are adding essential vitamins and minerals to commonly consumed staples and condiments. Core to fortification and its partnership model is government leadership to set regulations and apply health and food standards of WHO, Codex etc.; facilitators such as MI, UNICEF and GAIN which have helped to provide guidance, training and consumer awareness to support the introduction of these fortified foods; and the companies themselves which have adapted – and sometimes voluntarily adopted – this approach because they see the importance of reducing VMDs for improving intelligence and educability among hundreds of millions of children, and tackling many disorders and diseases ranging from preventable birth defects and blindness, to weak immune systems leading to infections which kill millions of vulnerable children.

It was estimated that 35,500 birth defects were prevented last year due to flour fortification. However, this is only 13% of preventable birth defects which we could achieve if we scale up flour fortification. The good news is that the evidence of direct benefits to vulnerable people, women and children is strong and growing as new partnerships are formed and existing ones mature resulting in access to fortified foods increasing among rural communities. These partnerships took time, often 3 years+ to develop and put in place.

The models of reengineering the food system to expand access to safe, affordable and nutritious foods are market, product and value chain specific. But we know that SDG2 cannot be delivered unless we set the bar high in terms of harnessing the power and innovation of markets to build a human friendly and sustainable food system.

**SDG 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote wellbeing for all at all ages**

Loraine Derville, UN Partnership Development, Nutriset

*Create adequate nutritional solutions for all vulnerable populations to ensure healthy lives and promote well-being*

Optimal nutrition is a powerful lever for both motor and cognitive development, and economic and social growth in the long term. Since 2005, almost 35 million children have benefited from Nutriset & PlumpyField's nutritional products aimed at treating and preventing various forms of malnutrition. Our mission -nutritional autonomy for all- is fully embedded in the Sustainable Development Goals and their nutrition-related indicators. In addition to children, young and adolescent girls, and pregnant and lactating women,





people living with specific diseases such as HIV/AIDS and the elderly have specific nutritional needs and therefore require particular attention. We are committed to developing products adapted to each specific case, thereby increasing by 25% the number of beneficiaries reached by 2020.

**SDG 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all**

Steve Ngunyi, Managing Partner, ICON

**SDG 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls**

Audrae Erickson, Mead Johnson Nutrition

*Women's Empowerment Case Study*

This public-private sector partnership model consists of a supplemental feeding program organized in collaboration with government agencies, NGOs and private sector organizations to address malnutrition, help eradicate hunger and improve mothers' ability to improve the standard of living for their families.

As part of the program, nutritionally balanced meals for young children are provided in schools and community settings over a six month period, organized by mothers. In addition, mothers attend workshops on proper diets, health, sanitation, parenting, family planning and financial management. Under an alternative livelihood program, the mothers create and sell handicrafts through a nationwide retail chain. The program is a social entry point for mothers and provides life skills classes, as well as enrichment programs.

The community-based program supports children and mothers and since its inception:

- More than 200,000 malnourished children aged 6 and younger have emerged from a stunted state;
- 98 percent of the children achieved normal nutritional levels after entering the program severely malnourished;
- 80 percent of the children achieved a normal weight;
- The standard of living for each of the families was improved by empowering their mothers.

**SDG 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all**

Geoffrey Mbugua Kamau, Inaya Group Ltd

*Sustainable Water Management in a Rapidly Urbanizing Country*

- Kenya has a population of 40 million with approx. 40% of Kenyans with no access to clean water. In fact, 10% of deaths in Kenya are as a result of water and sanitation related diseases





- Water and sanitation cut across all 17 SDGs and in particular, correct management can have great impact on building sustainable cities and communities
- There are macro and micro ways of weaving sustainable water management into property management and development:
- When you think macro, think laws, policies and financing frameworks:
  - ✓ Policies that consider the provision, use, disposal and sustainability of water
  - ✓ Incorporate water management into the curriculum of engineers, architects and building courses
  - ✓ Develop water rights laws that resolve long term issues like the availability and cost of desalination technology, control of pollution and curtail reckless real estate development
  - ✓ Frameworks that catalyze change through external forces that focus on evidence based action and not sector based folklore
  - ✓ Establish private and public funding for projects that meet sustainable criteria
  - ✓ Create innovative governance structures to enable project implementation
- When you think micro think about how agriculture competes with industry and municipal users for safe water supplies, while traditional water sources are becoming polluted with urban wastewater. Consider transforming rapid urbanization scenarios with integrated urban water management

**SDG 7: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all**

James Cogan, Technology, Industry and Policy Analyst, Ethanol Europe Renewables Limited

*Ethanol: clean energy, secure local incomes, independence and food resilience*

Ethanol is made in Europe by fermenting the starch in cereals. An equal amount of protein feed is made in the process. The ethanol is used as a gasoline substitute, displacing fossil oil and associated CO2 emissions during the decades it will take for green powered electric cars to kick-in. The protein goes mostly to dairy farmers.

A tonne of corn grown on a 30 by 30 metre area makes enough ethanol for the low carbon petrol of 3 cars for a year and enough protein for a milking cow for half a year. Europe's ethanol currently - though only accounting for 4% of cereals - provides long term income security for the equivalent of a hundred thousand average farm holdings, allowing farmers invest in innovation and resource efficiency and allowing their children imagine a future at home. Ethanol is mostly made close to farmers, so it is distributed, democratic and empowering.

Ethanol makes petrol cleaner, and in doing so makes petrol an even better car fuel than diesel for our city air. At around 45 cents a litre right now it is a refreshingly economical way to reduce both the greenhouse gas emissions and the air quality emissions of fossil petrol, while bringing security and progress to rural regions. In an imperfect world ethanol is a pretty good option.





**SDG 8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all**

Karla Canavan, Director, Bunge

*Decent work for all and Economic growth, Bunge Citizenship Global Safety and Health*

Our Sustainability approach at Bunge is called Citizenship. Our purpose is to improve the food production chain from end to end. We have 4 main pillars in our effort: Sustainable Ag supply chains, Resource management, Climate Change and governance and transparency.

We are over 35000 employees working from more than 40 countries. Our global Safety and health initiative makes all of us accountable. In any case Safety goes first. Whether we are on the road, an office or an industrial facility, Safety is always present. The key to the success of Bunge citizenship is our people. We have a zero incident goal which is continuously monitored. Bunge is committed to promoting a safe, fair and collaborative working environment. We seek out people who embody our company values of Integrity, Teamwork, Openness and Trust, Entrepreneurship and Citizenship. Everyone of us stands up for Safety.

In regards to labor Bunge has a global labor policy and a Global code of conduct. The company requires that its operations and employees comply with all applicable laws, rules and regulations in the countries where it is engaged in business. Bunge's employees also shall abide by company policies, including Bunge's Code of Conduct and the principles contained in this Global Labor Policy. In addition, Bunge expects its subcontractors' and suppliers' compliance with this Policy and laws designed to protect their workers. We condemn child and forced labor.

Part of our effort also entails the engagement we have with the communities Bunge is an active and engaged member of the communities where we work and live around the world. Our involvement takes many forms. We assist in disaster and hunger relief efforts, work on community projects, contribute to environmental preservation, improve farm safety, promote education and literacy, and support arts and culture. For more information please refer to [Bunge.com](http://Bunge.com) citizenship.

**SDG 9: Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation**

Yvonne Hartz-Pitre, Director of Communications and Public Affairs, International Fertilizer Association

*Changing the fertilizer industry through Protect & Sustain certification*

The International Fertilizer Industry (IFA) is the only global association representing all actors along the fertilizer supply chain from producers to the end-user. IFA's mission is strongly rooted in the efficient and responsible production, distribution and use of plant nutrients, which play a vital role in achieving global food security.





As part of the fertilizer industry's commitment to the SDGs, sustainable industrialization and good manufacturing practices are taking shape through the "Protect & Sustain" initiative, which has been developed by IFA industry members for IFA members to ensure that the products are responsibly developed, sourced, manufactured, stored and transported. It is a voluntary partnership initiative as it was developed by IFA with independent auditing firms and has become the de facto global product stewardship standard for fertilizer production over the past two years. What sets Protect & Sustain apart from other, similar industry initiatives, is its point-based measurement tools that allow companies to improve individual scores over time and become better in maximizing their efficiency, sustainability, safety and product security while minimizing their environmental impact.

**SDG 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries**

Ayak Chol Deng Alak, Consultant, Vestergaard Frandsen

*Reducing inequalities through increasing resilience of small scale farmers: the case of ZeroFly insecticide incorporation technology in Africa.*

Due to expansive fertile lands, the African continent has the potential to not only feed itself but the world as a whole. However, political strife, wars and economic crises pose challenges to farmers hindering them from accessing innovative ways of farming which coupled with poor or no storage facilities and competitive markets puts them at a disadvantage.

Insect infestation is the number one challenge to storage for small scale farmers and national reserves alike, Reducing the quantity and quality of stored grain between 20-40% which in this setting is the margin between profit and loss. This has forced farmers to sell their products soon after harvest at non-favourable prices, rather than capitalizing on the benefit of storage.

To address this challenge, Vestergaard Frandsen, which is the number one producer of mosquito nets, adopted the same insecticide (Deltamethrin) incorporated technique which has proven effective in Malaria control, to develop the so called Zero fly storage bag. The slow release insecticide effects last's for over two years, giving the farmer the option of reusing the sack in numerous harvest cycles, maximizing on storage and ultimately generating better returns in favourable markets for the farmers.

In a case-Control study conducted in Zambia, in collaboration with the National Research Institute on the efficacy of the Zero Fly in twelve storage site, It was proven than the ZF storage bag protects the grain from insect infestation, saving on the cost for repeated chemical treatment fumigation hence giving to poor small scale farmers more and better chances to maximize their profit through cheap, safe and prolonged storage solutions equally than large equal commercial farmers as well as farmers in more developed countries.





**SDG 11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable**

Cheong Qing Yang, Analyst, Duxton Asset Management

*Strengthening links between urban and rural planning through agricultural planning and investments*

To achieve the goal of making cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable requires looking beyond urban centers. Cities often maintain strong linkages with rural areas and share a symbiotic relationship. One cannot thrive without the other. In the case of Duxton Asset Management, our investments are focused on primary agriculture production, most of which are in the rural areas. We believe that agricultural investments and sound planning have an important role in strengthening the social and economic linkages between urban and rural areas.

An example would be our investments in the tea sector in Darjeeling, which produces 30% of Darjeeling tea. Significant investments were made to rehabilitate and convert tea estates in Darjeeling, over 14 tea estates employing 10,000 direct employees and 60,000 dependents. A comprehensive economic and social program was introduced to improve living and economic conditions for the employees and their dependents. These include upgrading of housing facilities, and income augmentation programs which allowed employees to grow crops such as turmeric, ginger, and honey for sale into the local markets. We found that by improving social and economic conditions for the employees, it greatly improved the staff turnover rate and reduced migration into the city of Kolkata. We believe that by creating good conditions for work in the rural agricultural space, pressure from rural migration into cities can be relieved. On the other hand, agricultural activities in the rural sector also contributes to the creation of jobs in urban areas where processing and value addition are typically made, making these cities more inclusive and sustainable.

**SDG 12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns**

Eric Trachtenberg, Director Food and Agriculture Sector, McLarty Associates

*The Alliance for Food & Health (AFH) – Finding New Ways Forward on NCDs*

The negative global economic impact from obesity is roughly \$2.0 trillion, or 2.8% of world GDP. As the problem continues to grow, the debate continues to be dominated by tensions between stakeholders. We need to find a better way. One potential approach is the Alliance for Food Health (AFH). AFH is a new multi-stakeholder initiative designed to develop better ways to address non-communicable disease challenges. AFH will providing solutions to obesity-related problems from collaboration between highly diverse actors that now include more than 150 participants from civil society, the private sector, international organizations, universities, scientific bodies and others. In addition to its strength through stakeholder diversity, AFH offers a highly interdisciplinary approach including public health, economics, nutrition, public administration, marketing and many other fields. AFH's actionable and innovative ideas will be highly data-driven, backed by sound science, and are expected to take the form of actionable suggestions to government, industry, and others. AFH is committed to a maintaining balance between actors as we





look to address critical global public health issues. We expect that our written first products will be available in mid-2017 and look forward to finding a way forward – together.

**SDG 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts**

Randy Duckworth, Executive Director, Global Pulse Confederation

*It's Time to Eat Pulses for the Planet*

One food source which bridges being both healthy for people and the planet are pulses. Pulses are a vital source of plant-based proteins for people around the globe and help prevent chronic diseases such as diabetes, coronary conditions and cancer. Chickpeas, beans, lentils, and other pulses have nitrogen-fixing properties which can contribute to increasing soil fertility and have a positive impact on the environment. Pulses also have numerous other environmental benefits including a low carbon footprint. New more resilient strains of pulse seeds, like the White Gold Bean, which has been so successful in Ethiopia, have been developed to help farmers fight the impact of climate change.

The UN Food and Agriculture Organization has declared 2016 the International Year of Pulses (IYP) to further global production of pulses, increase the efficiency of crop rotations, and address trade challenges. The Global Pulse Confederation (GPC) has been a proud contributor to FAO and the work on the International Year. GPC has partnered with the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) of Canada. Together with leading researchers from all over the world, a new 10-Year Pulse Research Strategy has been drafted to advocate for accelerated pulse research investments and focus funding for pulses where it is needed.

**SDG 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development**

Wayne Dredge, Executive Director, Piscari Fisheries Ltd.

*Co-management - our key to ensuring renewable food security from our oceans*

Oceans and aquatic ecosystems naturally produce around 15%-16% of all animal meat protein consumed globally, combined with aquaculture which relies on healthy oceans and waterways this figure jumps to over 30% which is the largest animal meat protein group and is of critical importance to world food security. Given the oceans and their contents are essentially a public resource how best do we manage their sustainable utilization and conservation?

The answer is Co-Management but what exactly does that mean?

Co-Management is essentially a multi stakeholder approach of strategic partnerships between local, regional and international fisheries management authorities, the private sector, governments, academic and research institutions and constructive civil society organizations.





One of the primary pillars of co-management is in the ownership and transferability of scientifically assessed fishing rights or quotas. This critical element gives the private sector a stake in the resource and a measurable interest in ensuring its longevity for all generations to come.

Using Australia as a case study we can now gladly say that out of 96 Commonwealth managed fish stocks, none are currently being overfished. This has only been possible through the ongoing participation of the private sector in managing those fisheries. It's a model I've been proud to part of and a model that can and should be exported to the rest of the world.

**SDG 15: Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss**

Juan Gonzalez-Valero, Head Public Policy and Sustainability, Syngenta  
*Syngenta's commitment to improving "Life on Land"*

Under SDG 2030 #15 – Life on the Land the UN seeks “to conserve and restore the use of terrestrial ecosystems such as forests, wetlands, drylands, and mountains.” The goal is supported by the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) that has set the Zero Net Degradation goal, as part of SDG 15.

**Our commitment:** As part of The Good Growth Plan Syngenta has commitment to:

- Improve the fertility of 10 million hectares of farmland – this will help to halt and reverse land degradation, and combat desertification; and
- Enhance biodiversity on 5 million hectares of farmland – and thus support the halt of biodiversity loss.

**How:** Syngenta is promoting conservation practices based on minimum soil disturbance, crop rotation, permanent ground cover, and biodiversity enhancing landscape management through e.g. multifunctional field margins. These are aimed at preventing, halting, and reversing land degradation by contributing to organic carbon storage, water retention and soil biological activity, and on planting rich habitats on marginal and less productive farmland alongside fields and waterways to create interconnected habitat infrastructures.

**Specific Action:** Our concrete action is to embed soil and biodiversity enhancing protocols in our commercial offer, use demonstration farms in partnership with universities and local stakeholders, and to engage decision makers and other stakeholders in our partnership with the UNCCD Soil Leadership Academy for policy and decision makers and with commercial partners.

**Progress:** Two years into our Good Growth Plan, we have a fully transparent and audited system of measuring and reporting on progress. The progress made today is 4 million hectares, about 25% of our 2020 target of 15 million hectares. We have projects in over 30 countries in Europe, Latin America, North America and Asia. These encompass a variety of local partnerships and environmental and cultural approaches to soil





conservation, create multifunctional field margins, managed forests, and biodiversity-friendly farming, directly contributing to the objective of SDG 15, to halt biodiversity loss and zero net land degradation.

**SDG 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels**

Flaminia Battistelli, Senior External Relations Officer, International Development Law Organization (IDLO)

*How Rule of Law can support the implementation of the SDGs*

As the only intergovernmental organization with an exclusive mandate to promote the rule of law, at IDLO we believe that to tackle the challenge of the SDGs effectively, the rule of law with its basic principles of equal protection, accountability and transparency, is a building block without which development cannot be sustained.

- In a ground-breaking move, the 2030 Agenda has put justice firmly at the heart of development, with a dedicated goal and related targets.
- Strong rule of law is essential as a foundation for economic and social development. There are great benefits to business, and other stakeholders, in respecting and supporting the rule of law. Where the rule of law is weak, it is harder for responsible businesses to function, to meet their legal obligations and have their legal rights protected.
- That is why we believe in innovative Partnerships where all stakeholders have a key role to play in the implementation of Goal 16 and the entire Agenda.
- At the policy level, IDLO is founding member of the UN Global Compact 'BUSINESS FOR THE RULE OF LAW' Framework, which seeks to advance justice by engaging responsible business to support the strengthening of legal frameworks and accountable institutions – serving as a complement to, not substitute for, government action.

The implementation of the SDGs won't be possible unless the private sector is at the table. The kind of work we do is critical for investment and creating the confidence of the private sector to invest and create jobs. IDLO is open to collaboration - we already involve the private sector in our policy work, and we are now open to more engagement.

**SDG 17: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development**

Bernhard Stormyr, Head of Sustainability Management, Yara International  
*Sharing knowledge to create inclusive growth for Tanzanian smallholders*





## Conclusions

- Ramesh Kana, CEO, Emery Oleochemicals
- Anna Burzykowska, European Space Agency
- Adrienne Gardaz Cuendet, Senior Manager, UN Global Compact

With the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the world has in hand a comprehensive and integrated blueprint for global sustainability in economic, social, environmental – and ethical – terms. It is widely accepted that all global and local stakeholders will need to mobilize and work together to achieve the ambitions set by this agenda. And this will require the active engagement of the business community itself as well as constructive partnerships across sectors, public and private, to design and deliver effective, scalable and practical solutions together.

The UN Global Compact's vision and priority is to mobilize a global movement of responsible companies and organizations to create the world we want. It is very encouraging and inspiring to hear about all the examples that have been presented during this event. Business is already contributing the realization of the SDGs through their own activities and through collective action.

While we see increasing engagement and action from business, it is important to highlight two important points. First, the long-lasting solution to development challenges lies in the core business activities of companies. Companies need to transform the way they think of and do their business. They need to align their strategies with the SDGs, engaging their Board and fully integrating sustainability across all business functions. Business contribution to sustainable development is not about what activities business undertakes but it is about how it conducts its own activities. Core business is the most powerful vehicle of change and success with regards to the SDGs. Secondly, collaboration and partnerships will be key to achieve the SDG targets. The SDGs set very ambitious goals and propose to address the most complex global challenges. And it cannot be achieved in isolation. Typically, ensuring that everyone has nutritious and healthy food every single day calls for all businesses, large or small, to conduct responsible business. But it also calls for enhanced collaboration and partnerships with the public sector and the civil society to craft and realize the innovative solutions that will make healthier choices possible, regardless of the region, culture and budget, and to ensure that no one is left behind.