



SDG Business Hub

Connecting Business with the Sustainable Development Goals

Briefing – August 2016

As we approach the one year anniversary of the launch of the SDGs in September, we continue to see an array of increasingly sophisticated resources emerging to help business understand and integrate the SDG agenda into its core operations.

In this briefing we take a look at some of the latest developments on the UN stage, centered on the High Level Political Forum in New York in July. We also take the opportunity to showcase some of WBCSD’s recent initiatives around the SDGs, while also highlighting some of the emerging sector-specific tools which are featured on our [SDG Business Hub](#).

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SDG Events

High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development

Overview

The annual High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) is a United Nations platform dealing with a wide landscape development issues. Following the adoption of the Global Goals for Sustainable Development in September 2015, the HLPF is now the central mechanism within the UN for following up on the implementation of the 2030 agenda. It is tasked with providing political leadership, guidance and recommendations on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as keeping track of progress and addressing any emerging issues. The 2016 session of the HLPF was convened from 11 to 20 July 2016 at the UN Headquarters in New York and was attended by nearly 1,500 members of state, UN representatives and other stakeholders.

A key focal point of the forum was the delivery of a series of voluntary national reviews (VNRs) regarding the current status of the implementation of the SDGs. Prior to the event 22 member states had submitted summaries and reports on how they are working to implement the SDGs in their respective regions, including details such as lessons learned and key opportunities and challenges identified. The Forum provided ministers with the opportunity to showcase the findings of these reports and to share their experiences first hand. Details of the content of each respective VNR are available [online](#) and have also now been synthesized into a [draft summary](#) by the UN Department of Economic & Social Affairs. On the whole, disclosures were indicative of a drive among participating member states to embrace the SDGs and to put in place the institutional frameworks necessary for their long-term implementation.

Release of key reports

During the course of the HLPF, the UN also launched its inaugural [SDG Report](#) which provides a detailed evaluation of where the world currently stands with regard to the achievement of the Goals. It also serves as a useful reference point for business in terms of understanding the scale of the challenge posed by the wider SDG agenda. Also released was the UN’s annual [Global Sustainable Development Report](#) which this year has adopted the SDGs as its key focus.

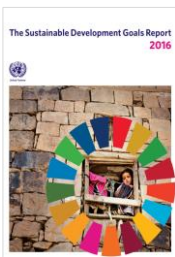


Assembled delegates at the ministerial session of the High Level Political Forum



UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon during his opening address to the Forum.





On the fringes of the UN proceedings, the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) and Bertelsmann Stiftung also used the occasion of the HLPF to unveil their new [Sustainable Development Goal Index and Dashboard](#). This comprehensive resource offers a country-level SDG analysis for 149 of the 193 UN member states, assessing the performance of each country in relation to representative indicators for each of the Global Goals and compiling the data into a global index as well as a series of easily digestible country dashboards – a useful tool for business in terms of assessing SDG engagement priorities in terms of geography.

Business at the Forum

The HLPF also incorporated a wide range of side events which delved deeper into specific sectoral challenges. The global business community was substantially represented at a parallel [SDG Business Forum](#) which attracted some 400 private sector representatives and shared some of the business efforts to address the SDGs which have already been embarked upon since the launch of the Goals.

One of the sessions during this Business Forum featured [17 presentations](#) from 17 different business representatives each detailing a particular initiative that their organization has put in place to tackle a specific Global Goal. A useful [summary](#) of other topics covered during the forum can be found on the Business 2030 website.

WBCSD Updates



WBCSD's Filippo Veglio takes part in a panel discussion on business & the SDGs at the International Forum for Sustainable Asia and the Pacific.

Business & Sustainable Development Commission Webinars

The [Business and Sustainable Development Commission](#) was set up in January this year with a view to articulating and quantifying a compelling economic case for business to advance the SDGs by 2030. It is scheduled to produce a detailed report to this effect in early 2017. Central to this report will be research into: how the corporate landscape could have shifted by 2030 in an SDG-compatible world; the specific business opportunities that could emerge from the SDGs; and what the key levers for business participation in achieving the SDGs will be. As part of this wider research piece, the Commission has engaged strategy consultants AlphaBeta to conduct analysis on three key industry systems: [food](#); [cities](#); and [energy & materials](#). In a recent series of webinars WBCSD showcased the preliminary findings of this research and gave member companies the opportunity to submit comments and feedback.

Webinar on the SDGs hosted by the Confederation of Indian Industry

In June, WBCSD collaborated with its Indian Global Network Partner, the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), as part of a [webinar introducing the SDGs](#) and highlighting key drivers for business engagement. The session also delved into a number of case studies regarding ways in which companies are beginning to align themselves with the Global Goals.

Japanese Business & the SDGs

During a visit to Tokyo and Yokohama in July, WBCSD took part in a series of events focused on furthering discussions around the engagement of Japanese business across the SDGs. Of particular note was the [International Forum for Sustainable Asia and the Pacific \(ISAP\)](#), convened by Japan's Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES) which is playing a leading role in promoting the SDG agenda in Japan. The forum welcomed over a thousand attendees from a variety of sectors and provided a platform for WBCSD's Managing Director, Global and Social Impact, Filippo Veglio, to present on the role of business in achieving the SDGs. [English](#) and [Japanese](#) video recordings of this session are available online.

WBCSD also played a central role in an [SDG workshop](#) convened by its Japanese member company Fujitsu which focused on the potential of the SDGs to create value for business, from both a market opportunity and a risk management perspective. The event was attended by 130 representatives, predominantly from the private sector, and underlined a clear appetite from Japanese business to engage strongly with this agenda. There was substantial discussion on human rights, with WBCSD's James Gomme highlighting how business can make a significant contribution to the SDG agenda by addressing its human rights impacts. Presentation materials used by WBCSD during this visit to Japan are available in both [English](#) and [Japanese](#).

Launch of Chinese Translation of the SDG Compass

July also saw the launch of the [Chinese translation](#) of the SDG Compass, a comprehensive toolkit, jointly developed by WBCSD, the UN Global Compact and GRI, which provides guidance to companies on how to align themselves strategically with the SDGs. This new Chinese language resource was launched on the occasion of the Eco Forum Global (EFG) 2016 Annual Conference in Guiyang China, with WBCSD's President and CEO Peter Bakker in attendance.



Attendees gather at the Eco Forum Global 2016 Annual Conference in Guiyang to promote the launch of the Chinese translation of the SDG Compass.



WBCSD President and CEO Peter Bakker, joins the Founder and President of EAT Foundation, Gunhild Stordalen, on stage at the 3rd annual EAT Stockholm Food Forum.

Inclusive business and the SDGs: A view from the WBCSD's Latin American Global Network partners

WBCSD has now released a [Spanish language version](#) of its [issue brief](#) which outlines how inclusive business solutions can contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals. This new resource also contains a preface which outlines a joint vision statement signed by 13 leaders from WBCSD's Global Network partners based in Latin America, underscoring a clear commitment to advance the cause of inclusive business as part of the SDG agenda in this region.

WBCSD partners with the EAT Foundation

WBCSD has entered into a [groundbreaking new partnership](#) with the EAT Foundation which stands to make a significant contribution across a wide range of SDGs. This partnership will be founded upon a joint-mission to set clear science-based targets and priorities, and to develop a strong portfolio of scalable business solutions that will accelerate the transformation towards a sustainable and healthy global food system.

SDG Business Hub Highlights



Sector Specific Tools

A welcome trend that the SDG Business Hub has identified of late is the continued emergence of sector-specific guidelines to help companies understand particular ways in which their individual industry has the potential to interact with the SDGs and accelerate global development. We highlight a few of these tools below:

SDG Industry Matrix

Jointly conceived and led by the United Nations Global Compact and KPMG, the SDG Industry Matrix provides industry-specific ideas for action and practical examples for engagement around each relevant SDG. So far this initiative has finalized detailed reports relating to the following sectors: [Financial Services](#); [Food, Beverage & Consumer Goods](#); [Healthcare & Life Sciences](#); and [Industrial Manufacturing](#).

ICT Sector Resources

There is widespread recognition that information and communications technology will have a crucial role to play in tackling many of the global challenges encapsulated by the SDGs. A joint [report](#) by Ericsson and the Earth Institute explores in detail the ways in which ICT can accelerate action on the Global Goals, highlighting a number of case studies and making a series of industry recommendations. Meanwhile, another new report, titled [#System Transformation](#), which has been released by Accenture and the Global e-Sustainability Initiative, seeks to identify digital solutions that will drive progress towards the SDGs.

Mapping Mining to the SDGs: An Atlas

A new study titled [Mapping Mining to the SDGs: An Atlas](#), which was finalized in July by a number of partners including the Sustainable Development Solutions Network and the World Economic Forum, draws linkages between mining and the SDGs, providing examples of how companies in this field can integrate the Goals into their core business while also highlighting examples of best practice.

For more information visit the SDG Business Hub



<http://www.wbcd.org/sdghub.aspx>



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