

# Youth Entrepreneurship: A Force Towards Inclusive and Sustainable Growth

22 – 26 October 2018 Geneva, Switzerland

## PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

APPLICATIONS  
START ON  
1 JUNE 2018



# UNCTAD Youth Forum

# 2018





## ABOUT THE UNCTAD YOUTH FORUM

Every two years, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) organizes a Youth Forum. This year's Forum will take place as part of a larger event, the UNCTAD 2018 [World Investment Forum](#).

The 2018 theme is *Youth Entrepreneurship: A Force Towards Inclusive and Sustainable Growth*.

The UNCTAD Youth Forum 2018 offers the opportunity for youth to

- exchange views and experiences and strengthen a network of future leaders from different places in the world ;
- have an interactive dialogue with global players involved in the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals where youth can raise awareness on issues they consider of major concern and that they want to see included in the international agenda ;
- learn more about UNCTAD's work and projects with youth and have a discussion on how to get youth further involved.

The first ever UNCTAD Youth Forum took place during the fourteenth Ministerial Conference (UNCTAD 14) in Nairobi, Kenya in July 2016 where 250 youth from over 70 countries participated. During the closing session of the Ministerial Conference, youth presented a Youth Declaration on more and better jobs, education and state accountability to the member States of UNCTAD, which is integral part of UNCTAD 14 outcome documents.

### Venue and Date

The 2018 Youth Forum will take place at the Headquarters of UNCTAD, at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland as part of the UNCTAD 2018 World Investment Forum **from 22 to 26 October 2018**.

### Programme

The 2018 UNCTAD Youth Forum will feature primarily topics that relate to youth empowerment across entrepreneurship, with a focus on investing in digital youth, youth at the negotiation table, what is on the mind of millennials and how youth can think globally and act locally.

The Forum will gather around 200 youth from all around the world, aged between 18 and 30, and passionate about trade and development issues, to learn and exchange local and global-focused experiences, ideas and best practices and bring the youth perspective in the general debate throughout the week joining workshops, TED-style plenary sessions, breakout sessions and networking events. UNCTAD Youth Forum participants will be able to attend public sessions of the World Investment Forum. Further information on social activities and logistics will be available at a later stage.

### Participation

Students or young professionals between the age of 18 to 30 who are interested in trade and development issues, can participate in the Youth Forum for which 250 seats are available. Participation is subject to a competitive application and selection process. The application link will be activated on **1 June 2018**.

Check our website [unctad.org/youth](http://unctad.org/youth)

For any enquiries: e [unctadyouth@unctad.org](mailto:unctadyouth@unctad.org)

Twitter : @UNCTADYouth

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#UNCTADYouth #ShapingTheWorldWeWant



## PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME AT A GLANCE

Badge Collection	
Friday, 19 – Sunday, 21 October 4:00 – 17:00	Monday 22, 8:00 – 9:00
Monday, 22 October - Way to The Future	
<p>→ <b>UNCTAD YOUTH FORUM EVENTS</b></p> <p><b>09:00 – 10:30</b> Welcoming session with Group Photo</p> <p><b>10:40 – 11:50</b> Workshops (pre-registration is required)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Pitching creatively</li> <li>▪ Cybersecurity</li> <li>▪ Bee <i>the</i> Future</li> <li>▪ Blockchains</li> <li>▪ The Right to Fail</li> </ul> <p><b>12:00 – 13:00</b> Way to the Future</p> <p><b>13:00 – 14:00</b> Lunch time</p>	<p>→ <b>WORLD INVESTMENT FORUM</b></p> <p><b>15:00 – 16:00</b> Grand opening</p> <p><b>16:00 – 18:00</b> Global Investment Game Changers Submit</p> <p><b>18:30</b> Welcome Reception and Cultural Performance</p>
Tuesday, 23 October - Investing in Digital Youth	
<p>→ <b>UNCTAD YOUTH FORUM EVENTS</b></p> <p><b>09:00 – 9:30</b> Warming-up</p> <p><b>09:30 – 10:30</b> Champions of the New Digital Economy</p> <p><b>10:40 – 11:50</b> Workshops (pre-registration is required)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Pitching creatively</li> <li>▪ Cybersecurity</li> <li>▪ Bee <i>the</i> Future</li> <li>▪ Blockchains</li> <li>▪ The Right to Fail</li> </ul> <p><b>12:00 – 13:00</b> Youth o'Clock with Group Photo</p> <p><b>13:00 – 14:30</b> Lunch time</p> <p><b>17:30 – 18:30</b> Financing Youth Entrepreneurship</p>	<p>→ <b>WORLD INVESTMENT FORUM &amp; YOUTH FORUM</b></p> <p><b>10:00 – 13:00</b> Global Leaders Investment Summit I</p> <p><b>14:30 – 17:30</b> Investment and the Digital Economy</p> <p><b>18:30</b> Reception Sustainable Stock Exchanges Awards</p>

### Wednesday, 24 October - Youth at The Negotiating Table

#### → UNCTAD YOUTH FORUM EVENTS

**09:00 – 09:30**

Warming-up

**09:30 – 10:50**

Youth for Sustainable Development Goals

**11:00 – 12:00**

Workshops (pre-registration required)

- SMART Goals

**12:00 – 12:45**

Youth o'Clock  
with Group Photo

**13:00 – 14:00**

Lunch time

**14:00 - 15:00**

Linking Rural Markets to the Global Economy

**15:00 – 18:00**

Data.Me

#### → WORLD INVESTMENT FORUM & YOUTH FORUM

**10:00 – 13:00**

Global Leaders Investment Summit II

**10:00 – 13:00**

Blockchains for Sustainable Development

**15:00 – 17:30**

Entrepreneurship, Migration and the SDGs

**16:00 – 18:00**

LDC Ministerial and Business Executive  
Roundtable

**18:30**

Hospitality Event  
Investment Village Award

### Thursday, 25 October - #Millennials

#### → UNCTAD YOUTH FORUM EVENTS

**09:00 – 09:30**

Warming-up

**09:30 – 10:30**

The Changing Job Market Landscape; why  
should I care?

**10:35 – 11:50**

Beyond Education and Skills

**12:00 – 13:00**

Youth o'Clock  
with Group Photo

**12:45 – 14:00**

Lunch time

**14:00 – 15:00**

Mindset MakeOver

**15:00 – 16:00**

Youth Crossing the Border

**16:00 – 17:00**

Global Initiative on Decent Jobs for Youth

**17:00 – 18:00**

#### → WORLD INVESTMENT FORUM & YOUTH FORUM

**09:00 – 10:00**

Interactive Breakfast Encounter

**10:00 – 13:00**

Ministerial Roundtable on Entrepreneurship

**14:30 – 17:00**

Women for Sustainable Development

**15:00 – 18:00**

Ministerial Roundtable  
21st Century Global Investment Policymaking

**18:00**

EMPRETEC Women in Business Awards 2018

**19:00 – 20:00**

Reception



Young Women in Business	
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**Friday, 26 October - Thinking Globally, Acting Locally**

<p><b>→ UNCTAD YOUTH FORUM EVENTS</b></p> <p><b>09:00 – 10:00</b> Outlining the Role of the Entrepreneurs of 2030</p> <p><b>10:00 – 11:00</b> We are UNCTAD Youth</p> <p><b>11:00 – 11:30</b> Clue Reveal</p> <p><b>11:30 – 12:30</b> Closing Session with Group Photo</p>	<p><b>→ WORLD INVESTMENT FORUM &amp; YOUTH FORUM</b></p> <p><b>09:00 – 16:00</b> Multi-Disciplinary Academic Conference</p> <p><b>10:00 - 13:00</b> Creating More and Better Jobs Through Investment</p> <p><b>10:30 – 13:00</b> Using Blended Capital to Finance the SDGs</p> <p><b>16:00 – 17:00</b> Forum Outcome and Closing</p>
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## DETAILED PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

### MONDAY, 22 OCTOBER – WAY TO THE FUTURE

#### → UNCTAD YOUTH FORUM EVENTS

09:00 – 10:30

##### Welcoming session

Official opening of the Youth Forum that will be followed by a group photo. The opening session will be preceded by the presentation of an overview of the activities and objectives of the Forum.

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10:40 – 11:50

##### Workshops (pre-registration for each workshop is required):

###### (1) Pitching creatively

Being able to unite others around your vision and values is a key skill not only for entrepreneurs but for anyone thriving to turn ideas and projects into reality. This workshop will provide youth with the opportunity to develop the ability towards positive and successful engagement. Theoretical examples will be given, combined with real-life cases that showcase the thinking process and presentation of an idea or a project.

###### (2) Cybersecurity

Nowadays it is very important to learn how to protect computer systems from hackers, be it from the theft and damage of hardware and software to data breaches. Different aspects of cybersecurity will be discussed such as functions, encryption and digital signatures and how youth can use these tools to their advantage.

###### (3) Bee *the* Future

It can be difficult to think about how high-level discussions can be translated into actions on a more local level. The issue also exists of how youth from all backgrounds can be broadly engaged to understand their perspectives on matters within UNCTAD's mandate. This workshop will look at how the UNCTAD Youth Hives work and explain the underlying framework of their operation. Experiences will be shared from some of the recently started Youth Hives from which we can learn best practices to apply in our local settings.

###### (4) Blockchains

When people invest in Bitcoin or Ethereum, are they cognizant of the blockchain technology beauties? The digital currencies sphere is enormous, and many people are talking about this topic worldwide, but do we really understand what lays under the name? This workshop will focus on creating awareness around blockchain technologies and its connection with the global economy in the fourth industrial era.

###### (5) The Right to Fail

At the closing ceremony of UNCTAD's 2018 eCommerce Week, UNCTAD Youth included in its statement the recognition of the Right to Fail. That is, the right for youth to make mistakes, learn from them, and get back on their feet without judgement. Youth face a lot of pressure to be instantly successful in their endeavors that is further accentuated on social media. This can lead to low self-esteem and strain on mental health. In this session, the importance of the Right to Fail for youth will be addressed and how, through self-development and support from conducive environments, youth can better cope in today's world.

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12:00 – 13:00

##### Way to the Future

This interactive session will set the scene for the events taking place during the Forum. What are future trends that greatly impact the lives and work of people and that youth should take into consideration in their decision making?

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#### → WORLD INVESTMENT FORUM



15:00 – 16:00

### Grand opening

The opening ceremony will take place in the presence of the highest-level representation from the host country, Switzerland, UNCTAD member States, the global business community, as well as other investment stakeholders and international organizations.

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16:00 – 18:00

### Global Investment Game Changers Submit

#### Pioneering solutions for a better world

New ideas can transform the world we live in and rewrite the rules and policies that govern it. Mobilizing investment and channeling it towards the SDGs require above all new ideas that can be translated into concrete solutions for a better future for all. The Summit of Global Investment Game Changers will gather pioneers, leaders and visionaries who have successfully remodeled established business and industry practice in their respective fields to create innovative business models that reconcile economic success and sustainable objectives.

#### Issues for the debate:

- Innovative business models to address global and local challenges
  - Disruptive or disrupted: challenges and opportunities to embrace change
  - Impact investment: the present and the future
  - Circular economies: optimizing resources for a better world
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18:30

### Welcome Reception and Cultural Performance

## TUESDAY, 23 OCTOBER – INVESTING IN DIGITAL YOUTH

### → UNCTAD YOUTH FORUM EVENTS

09:00 – 9:30

#### Warming-up

Short re-cap session to share big takeaways of Day 1 while briefly introducing the activities to be covered on Day 2.

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09:30 – 10:30

#### Champions of the New Digital Economy

The fast development of cutting-edge technologies allows for new ways in doing business that brings along opportunities for developing countries. An eCommerce ecosystem, bringing together industry sectors such as an eCommerce platform, e-payment, logistics and big data, offers the ability of businesses to expand from local to regional or global markets, develop rural areas and involve vulnerable groups such as women and youth in trade. It also brings market knowledge allowing for the formulation of sound economic policies, among many more features. The session is related to a smart partnership of UNCTAD with Alibaba Business School where 1000 young entrepreneurs from developing countries will follow a programme on what an eCommerce ecosystem is about and how such an ecosystem can be set up.

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10:40 – 11:50

#### Workshops (pre-registration for each workshop is required):

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### **12:00 – 13:00 Youth o'Clock**

An informal and interactive session with a leader who believes in and inspires youth, followed by a group photo.

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### **17:30 – 18:30 Financing Youth Entrepreneurship**

Financial services offer youth the opportunity to turn an idea or a project into a business. However, barriers to financial inclusion are wide, with high-interest rates, low geographical and youth coverage, low trust in new technologies and lack of financial education. New technologies offer innovative solutions to expand access to loans, insurance and investment. How can the international community help advance the use of new technologies to enhance access to financial services, including through traditional investors, for youth entrepreneurship?

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## **→ WORLD INVESTMENT FORUM**

### **10:00 – 13:00 Global Leaders Investment Summit I Investment in a new era of globalization**

The Summit convenes Heads of State and government and CEOs of global companies to share their vision for the future. Their insights will set the tone for the rest of the Forum and inform its outcomes.

The first part of the Summit will consider the backlash against globalization stemming from its unequal developmental impact, the risks in protectionism in both trade and investment, and related challenges to



multilateralism. The international community needs to ensure that this backlash does not impede the advancement of the SDGs.

**Issues for the debate:**

- How will the globalization backlash affect international investment and its impact on development?
- What would be viable remedies in the investment policymaking area?
- How can more people benefit from globalization and how can the United Nations contribute?

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14:30 – 17:30

**Investment and the Digital Economy**

Tackling the development challenges arising from the digital economy will require proactive policies to engage the private sector. Investment policymaking needs to cater for digital development and vice versa. This conference, organized in cooperation with the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), will gather policymakers, investors, and other stakeholders of the digital economy to brainstorm and exchange experience on the promotion of investment in digital development.

**Issues for the debate:**

- What kind of investment is needed for digital development?
- What are the challenges to mobilizing and channeling investments towards digital development?
- How can policymakers better link investment policy with digital development strategy?

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18:30

**Reception**

**Sustainable Stock Exchange Awards**

**WEDNESDAY, 24 OCTOBER – YOUTH AT THE NEGOTIATING TABLE**

**→ UNCTAD YOUTH FORUM EVENTS**

09:00 – 9:30

**Warming-up**

Short re-cap session to share big takeaways of Day 2 while briefly introducing the activities to be covered on Day 3.

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9:30 – 10:50

**Youth for Sustainable Development Goals**

Young pioneers and leaders of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development will talk about their projects and how they contribute to a better world. The interactive session will allow the sustainable development goals to come to life through concrete examples of what can be done so as to inspire other youth.

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11:00 – 12:00

**Workshops**

**SMART Goals (breakout session)**

This workshop will empower youth how to contextualize their projects as a realistic plan for a long-term implementation.

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12:00 – 13:00

**Youth o'Clock**

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An informal and interactive session with a leader who believes in and inspires youth, followed by a group photo.

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**14:00 – 15:00**

### **Linking Rural Markets to the Global Economy**

Developing rural markets' ecosystems is central to addressing societal and environmental challenges towards reducing poverty and enhancing sustainable production and consumption practices. How can youth businesses contribute to connecting (offline) rural markets to the global economy? How can rural population be sensitized to the opportunities new technologies offer?

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**15:00 – 18:00**

### **Data.Me**

New technologies and business models turn a lot around trust and people willing to share personal information. Lately, we hear a lot about data collection, such as artificial intelligence, big data, Internet of things or cloud computing and the ways they impact personal life and work. In this interactive session, we will discuss new policies that are being put in place on data protection and the take of youth.

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## **→ WORLD INVESTMENT FORUM**

**10:00 – 13:00**

### **Global Leaders Investment Summit II**

#### **Investment in a New Era of Industrialization**

The second Summit will look into the impact of new industrialization. New industrialization (based on digitalization, robotics and big data) is bound to affect all aspects of the way in which goods and services are produced and consumed globally, with profound implications for trade, investment and development. The international community needs to ensure that new industrialization supports, not impedes, the advancement of the SDGs.

#### **Issues for the debate:**

- How will new industrialization affect international investment and its relation to development?
  - What are the best possible scenarios for new industrialization to support the SDGs, and what are the main means to realize them?
  - What can the United Nations contribute to maximize the positive and minimize the negative impact of new industrialization on investment for development?
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**10:00 – 13:00**

### **Blockchains for Sustainable Development**

Blockchain technologies may have a profound impact on development-oriented investment, not only by revolutionizing global payment systems but also through improvements to access to finance, supply chain management, digital identities or land registries (through decentralized applications). This impact goes beyond traditional financial services and business processes and extends to other industries important for the SDGs, such as agriculture, healthcare and transportation. Organized with the Institute for Leadership and Sustainability (IFLAS), University of Cumbria, the event will seek to develop ideas on how to increase the positive impact and minimize the negative effects of blockchain technologies on investment for development.

#### **Issues for the debate:**

- The application of blockchain technologies in enterprise and finance
  - The risks and opportunities of blockchain for sustainable development
  - Regulatory and policy precedents, concerns and responses
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**15:00 – 17:30**



## Entrepreneurship, Migration and the SDGs

### Promoting the social and economic inclusion of migrants and refugees in host countries

Entrepreneurship can be a means to integrate migrants and refugees into local economies and bolster their positive contribution to economic and social development in host countries. Policies have an important role to play to support entrepreneurial activity by and for refugees and migrants. The session, organized in collaboration with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), will host the launch of the joint UNCTAD, IOM and UNHCR Policy Guide on Entrepreneurship for Migrants and Refugees. The guide comes in the form of policy options and possible measures and initiatives that can be adopted by governments or other relevant stakeholders in host countries, depending on local needs and circumstances.

#### Issues for the debate:

- What are the main challenges migrants and refugees face when starting and scaling enterprises in new host countries?
- How can entrepreneurship development programmes help refugees and migrants, and foster sustainable livelihoods?
- How can the Entrepreneurship for Refugees and Migrants initiative contribute to the attainment of the SDGs?

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16:00 – 18:00

## LDC Ministerial and Business Executive Roundtable

### Mobilizing Investment in Least Developed Countries (LDCs)

Organized in collaboration with the United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (UN-OHRLLS), the high-level meeting of LDC ministers and business executives will seek to advance ideas on how to strengthen the investment climate of these economies and the role of the private sector in development. These efforts are in pursuit of the high-level mid-term Review of the Istanbul Programme of Action for LDCs (2011–2020).

#### Issues for the debate:

- Ways to improve the capacity of LDC governments to promote and facilitate investment
- Initiatives to diversify investment in LDCs
- SDG-focused investment promotion strategies

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18:30

## Hospitality Event

### Investment Village Award

## THURSDAY, 25 OCTOBER – #Millennials

### → UNCTAD YOUTH FORUM EVENTS

09:00 – 09:30

#### Warming-up

Short re-cap session to share big takeaways of Day 3 while briefly introducing the activities to be covered on Day 4.

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09:30 – 10:30

#### The Changing Job Market Landscape; why should I care?

The job market landscape with the new technologies era is shifting considerably. Existing jobs will undergo changes, new ones will be created and geographical shifts of jobs and production chains will occur. Education and skills, as well as continuous learning becomes more and more key for youth to succeed. During the interactive session, a discussion will be held how youth can best prepare for the future.



**10:35 – 11:50**

### **Beyond Education and Skills**

New technologies are shaping the way job-seekers connect with labour markets to access opportunities and how entrepreneurs scale-up their businesses. Linkages between educational development and skills training on the one hand and requirements on the job market on the other do not match. How can stakeholders contribute equipping young men and women with the right skills and prepare them for the labour challenges that lie ahead? How can they contribute to overcome the rural versus city education divide? What are best practices youth can share?

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**12:00 – 13:00**

### **Youth o'Clock**

An informal and interactive session with a leader who believes in and inspires youth, followed by a group photo.

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**14:00 – 15:00**

### **Mindset MakeOver**

Youth are under constant pressure to kick-start their professional career. Youth unemployment is high as well as the percentage of youth living in poverty. This impacts the self-esteem of youth and their ability to plan a career path. What can be done to change the game and create a conducive environment in which youth can prosper?

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**15:00 – 16:00**

### **Youth Crossing the Border**

In our interconnected world, the notions of global and local have become more fluid concepts. The emergence of new technologies, for example, has been one of the driving forces behind the erosion of the idea of borders. Although there appears to be a shift away from multilateralism in global trade and rising nationalistic sentiments, millennials have grown up and been shaped by a world far more globalized than at any time in the past. Many millennials do not see borders; they see people and they see humanity. This session will allow young people to learn more about the current trends regarding multilateralism and will provide a forum for youth to express their views on this matter with one another. Some issues to consider would be how millennials envision trade and the movement of people in the future, how can youth address concerns around multilateralism, and how can new technologies be used to not only connect more people around the world but to also more widely distribute the benefits produced by this hyper-connected world?

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**16:00 – 17:00**

### **Global Initiative on Decent Jobs for Youth**

Youth are strongly overrepresented among those unemployed globally and face distinct challenges to seeking employment. Furthermore, youth suffer greatly from casualization and underemployment. International organizations, including UNCTAD, set up a large global initiative on decent jobs for youth to scale up action and impact on youth employment under the sustainable development goals. Together with the ILO, ITC, UNCDF, UNIDO and partners the session will focus on success stories and best practices in the area of youth entrepreneurship and self-employment and how can these best practices be implemented more widely.

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**17:00 – 18:00**

### **Young Women in Business**

The participation of women in business brings along enormous opportunities for sustained, inclusive economic growth. Innovative ways need to be set in place that close the gender gap in entrepreneurship and allow for the full integration and empowerment of women. Youth are known to be creative when it comes to shaping an



inclusive economy and this session will allow for a conversation on how to move the needs of young female entrepreneurs on the international agenda and what initiatives should be strengthened that help them thrive in business. This session will touch upon the different challenges a youth woman can face when starting a new business.

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## → WORLD INVESTMENT FORUM

09:00 – 10:00

### Interactive Breakfast Encounter

#### Investment Policies and Practices for Global Value Chain Upgrading

Co-organized with the World Economic Forum (WEF), in collaboration with the International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development (ICTSD), the interactive dialogue will share examples of successful investment policy and practice interventions that improved the host country's participation in global and regional value chains and boosted sustainable development impacts of investment for the local economy and society.

#### Issues for the debate:

- What barriers do small firms and developing country firms face in joining global and regional value chains and in upgrading?
  - What are examples of successful investment policy and practice interventions that facilitated upgrading? SDG-focused investment promotion strategies
  - What can related policies and practices – including in the areas of taxation, intellectual property, education, services and data/technology – do to support?
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10:00 – 13:00

### Ministerial Roundtable on Entrepreneurship

#### Part I: Entrepreneurship Policy: Challenges and Results

Developing entrepreneurship is a key element of strategies that support the attainment of the SDGs, particularly SDG9, to build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation. In this high-level event, organized with the Global Entrepreneurship Network and i4Policy, ministers will share lessons from various strategies, including innovative solutions, with a view towards developing models that can be adopted and adapted to individual countries' needs.

#### Issues for the debate:

- Key elements of successful entrepreneurship development strategies
- Innovative solutions for strategy development and implementation
- Special needs dimensions

#### Part II: Celebration of 30 years of Empretec

UNCTAD's Empretec programme has been engaged in entrepreneurs' motivation and skills development in 40 countries since 1988, using a behavioral approach to entrepreneurship. Its impact has proved effective for a vast range of target audiences in advanced and less developed economies. Over the past three decades, Empretec has continuously demonstrated high impact by contributing to sustainable development and inclusive growth.

#### Issues for the debate:

- Key success factors of Empretec and comparative advantages vis-à-vis other entrepreneurship programmes
  - Measuring Empretec impact
  - Way forward to further strengthen Empretec
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14:30 – 17:00

### Women for Sustainable Development

#### Women economic empowerment to transform the investment and entrepreneurship landscape



Women's economic empowerment has been identified as a key means for development and attaining the SDGs. Investment by MNEs can be a powerful tool to empower women, particularly in labour intensive, largely export-oriented industries and services. In many developing countries, MNEs have enabled women to enter the formal labour market for the first time – within their own companies or linked companies – through business opportunities generated in local, regional or global supply chains. At the same time, MNE investment poses several risks, as it can increase gender inequality and undermine work-life balance. Enhancing benefits of MNE investment for women's economic empowerment requires grassroots action, a change in corporate strategies, inclusive government policies and a societal mind shift. Organized with UN Women, the Commonwealth and the Francophonie, this high-level meeting will weigh these issues and formulate new strategies for the public and private sector.

**Issues for the debate:**

- Are MNEs agents of change for women economic empowerment?
- How to empower a new generation of women in business leaders to act as feeders of sustainable development?
- What are the key policy considerations to mainstream women economic empowerment in investment and entrepreneurship policies?

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14:30 – 17:30

**People-First Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs)**

Public-private partnerships (PPPs) have been mooted as viable vehicles to involve private investment in advancing SDG objectives in public sectors. However, PPPs not only present opportunities but also risks for countries using them. People-First PPPs were introduced to ensure that the interests of people take precedence over other considerations in the execution of a PPP project. The meeting, organized in collaboration with the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) will provide a unique, multi-stakeholder platform for an inclusive discussion of policy tools to deal with this dilemma, allowing member State representatives, experts, and other stakeholders (including private sector and affected communities) to share experience and lessons learned and exchange best practice.

**Issues for the debate:**

- What are key expectations for People-First PPPs?
- What are initial experiences with People-First PPPs? What lessons have been learned?
- What is the investment policy dimension of People-First PPPs and what can be gauged for national and international investment policymaking?

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15:00 – 18:00

**Ministerial Roundtable**

**21st Century Global Investment Policymaking**

A global policy environment that effectively mobilizes investment in sustainable development is more important than ever. In response to this challenge, more than 160 countries have used UNCTAD policy tools for formulating “new generation” investment policies. The Ministerial Roundtable will share experiences with modern, sustainable development-oriented investment policies and identify best practice based on UNCTAD policy tools: The Investment Policy Framework for Sustainable Development (2012, updated 2015); Action Plan for Investment in the SDGs (2014); Global Action Menu for Investment Facilitation (2016), and Reform Package for the Global Investment Policy Regime (2017).

**Issues for the debate:**

- What are countries' key priorities in national and international investment policymaking in the coming years?
- What are their recent experiences and lessons learned in “new generation” investment policymaking”?
- What approaches are countries adopting specifically to stimulate investment in SDG-relevant sectors?



18:00 – 18:00

### **EMPRETEC Women in Business Awards**

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19:00 – 20:00

### **Reception**

## **FRIDAY, 26 OCTOBER – THINKING GLOBALLY, ACTING LOCALLY**

### **→ UNCTAD YOUTH FORUM EVENTS**

09:00 – 10:00

#### **Outlining the Role of the Entrepreneurs of 2030**

In 2016, world leaders agreed to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development that contains 17 sustainable development goals. Youth are passionate about taking part in the discussion on how to implement these goals. Developing inclusive and sustainable ecosystems, bridging divides to create and enable access to labour and business opportunities for youth as well as facilitating access to finance to youth entrepreneurship are among the clear and realistic actions youth call for. What does this mean in terms of setting the international agenda and how can youth, in a focused and driven way, contribute to national and business SDG related strategies.

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10:00 – 11:00

#### **We are UNCTAD Youth**

When youth gather together, it is inevitable that there will be great excitement, engaging and in-depth discussions as well as a growing sense of urgency that action needs to be taken. Recognizing that this youth forum is merely a bi-annual gathering, this session will look at culminating what youth have learnt during the youth forum and translating that into more tangible terms to be acted upon at global and local levels. Some issues to be addressed are how can youth contribute to UNCTAD's research work and meetings, how can youth contribute that governments and the private sector are accountable to their commitments to young people, what actions would young people like to take upon their return home, what were significant insights you experienced around a particular issue relevant to youth?

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11:00 – 11:30

#### **Clue Reveal**

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11:30 - 12:30

#### **Closing Session**

Official closing of the Youth Forum followed by a group photo.

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### **→ WORLD INVESTMENT FORUM**

09:00 – 16:00

#### **Multi-Disciplinary Academic Conference Setting the Future Investment Research Agenda**

The UNCTAD Academic Network on Investment convenes scholars of international business, economics, law and other relevant fields for a day-long multi-disciplinary academic conference. Co-organized in partnership with the Academy of International Business (AIB) and the Society of International Economic Law (SIEL), discussions will explore emerging trends for future research in investment and multinational enterprise. The conference event will produce a "Future Investment Research Agenda" and identify a list of opportunities for collaboration between researchers and UNCTAD's Investment and Enterprise Division. It will centre on key



themes that are expected to shape the international business and development landscape in the coming years.

#### Issues for the debate:

- The digital economy and the new industrial revolution are fundamentally changing the way firms operate internationally. Can existing theories of international business, from OLI to GVCs, still fully explain current trends in international production?
- What is the latest thinking among scholars on the implications of the new era of globalization for global investment patterns and financial flows? What is their prognosis for policy directions?
- What are the key emerging challenges and opportunities for research and policy analysis on investment and development?

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10:00 - 13:00

### Creating More and Better Jobs Through Investment

Investment contributes most effectively to achieving the SDGs when it maximizes the creation of more and better jobs. Investors can actively seek to expand their backward and forward linkages with local enterprises, support the improvement of working conditions and the inclusion of vulnerable groups, and contribute to sustainable enterprise development in a more encompassing way. One of the key objectives of IPAs is to grow employment through investment that is also sustainable investments. These considerations are also a key factor to advance the SDGs. In this session, organized with the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the World Association of Investment Promotion Agencies (WAIPA) experienced IPAs will share their matchmaking strategies to boost linkages with local producers and overcome capacity and skills gaps.

#### Issues for the debate:

- What policies and strategies have helped to foster linkages with local producers?
- How has your IPA addressed capacity and skills gaps?
- What other challenges have you faced in facilitating matchmaking?

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10:30 – 13:00

### Using Blended Capital to Finance the SDGs

Blended finance uses a mix of public and private finance to fund projects with high development impact. Public finance is used to crowd in private sector financing that would otherwise not be available to such projects. Thus, blended finance acts as a multiplier for public funds by drawing in private finance through strategies that lower the risk of private investment. This session, jointly organized with the Global Impact Investing Network (GIIN) and Principles for Responsible Investment (PRI), will provide an overview of the growth and development of blended finance in recent years, the policy dimension that facilitates the use of blended finance, and the opportunities for blended finance to contribute to the financing of the SDGs.

#### Issues for the debate:

- How can blended finance help to mobilize and scale up private and commercial resources for sustainable development and climate action in developing countries?
- Which types of blended finance instruments are currently in use?
- What are lessons learned from different approaches to blending, monitoring and evaluation?

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16:00 – 17:00

### Forum Outcome and Closing

The Forum's Closing Session will bring together high-level officials from UNCTAD and the partner organizations to report on the outcomes of the various sessions, presenting the immediate deliverables list and the medium- to long-term follow-up issues emanating from the Forum.