

CEO Forum on Sustainable Finance & SME Roundtable

Thursday, 9 February 2023 | 09:00 -16:30 hrs. (GMT+7)

Conference Room 1, United Nations Conference Center, Rajdamnern Nok Avenue, Bangkok

Programme	
8.30 - 9.00	Registration for all attendees
9:00 - 10:30	<p>CEO Forum on Sustainable Finance:Scaling Up Sustainable Finance Solutions for Accelerating Progress on the SDGs Venue: Conference Room 1, United Nations Conference Center</p> <p>Organized by UN Global Compact Network Thailand in collaboration with the United Nations Resident Coordinator's Office, the CEO Roundtable Forum on Sustainable Finance: Scaling Up Sustainable Finance Solutions for Accelerating Progress on the SDGs will focus on the intersection between sustainable finance and investing in the SDGs. The high-level Forum will convene select CEOs, UN leaders, financial institutions, investors and regulators from Thailand to explore how business leaders are transitioning towards sustainability and how their internal investment decisions and financial strategies are driving this transition. With Thailand adopting the Green Taxonomy, the Forum will also seek to discuss how the Green Taxonomy can be operationalized and the role of the UN Global Compact in mobilizing business leaders to move from commitment to action towards sustainable finance.</p> <p>Format: The Roundtable will be kicked off with on-stage podium keynotes followed by interventions and an interactive discussion with select speakers representing diverse actors from the sustainable finance space. The moderated discussion will focus on specific themes. Brief interventions will be welcomed from the floor. Please do not prepare slides. The dialogue should be interactive and discussion based. Speakers are requested to limit their interventions and remarks to no more than 3 minutes.</p> <p>Full Agenda on Page 3-5</p>
10:30 - 11:00	<p>Coffee Break Venue: Front foyer of Conference Room 1, UNESCAP</p>
11:30 - 12:30	<p>Outreach & Engagement Breakout with Prospects (Companies) Led by Sue Allchurch, Chief, Outreach, Engagement, UN Global Compact</p>

<p>14:00 - 15:10</p>	<p>SME Roundtable - SMEs for SDGs: Unlocking Potential, Pivoting to Sustainability Venue: Conference Room 1, United Nations Conference Center</p> <p>Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) represent 90% of the business and more than 50% of the employment worldwide. They also contribute to up to 40% of GDP in emerging economies. The ASEAN region is no exception with SMEs being recognized as integral to the growth of the region's economy including in Thailand. Any discourse on achieving the SDGs in the country and the broader region needs to take into account the vast network of supply chains comprising SMEs within the region.</p> <p>The SME Roundtable will convene select SMEs from Thailand with an aim to introduce the SME strategy to them and hear their views on how SMEs and sustainable supply chains can lead to improvement in the sustainability landscape of the country.</p> <p>Format: Discussion with SME and MNC speakers on how SMEs can integrate sustainability in their operations and improve ESG performance to unlock market opportunities. This will be followed by a presentation from Sue Allchurch on the SME strategy and from Thanyaporn Krichtitayawuth on Network Thailand's work with the SMEs.</p> <p>Full Agenda on Page 6-7</p>
<p>15:30 - 16:30</p>	<p>Outreach & Engagement Session with Prospects (SMEs)</p> <p>Led by Sue Allchurch, Chief, Outreach, Engagement, UN Global Compact</p>

CEO Forum on Sustainable Finance: Scaling Up Sustainable Finance Solutions for Accelerating Progress on the SDGs

Background

The UN Secretary-General has said, “*It’s abundantly clear that a much deeper, faster and more ambitious response is needed to unleash the social and economic transformation needed to achieve our 2030 Goals.*” This is also true for the private sector where the company leadership will play a critical role towards integrating the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the strategic management of companies as they transition towards more sustainable businesses with implications on their internal investment decisions and financial strategies.

All actors in the investment value chain have a central role to play to ensure that private capital flows to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and that companies make the necessary investments for the sustainability transition and raise the necessary capital. New sustainability-aligned strategies require substantial corporate investment and new tools to embed sustainability in corporate finance. Issuers, Regulators, CEOs and CFOs can turn ambitious commitments and well-articulated sustainability strategies into credible investments, and can improve the impact and ambitions of SDG finance:

- from process-based to outcome-based impact measurement;
- from project-based to corporate-wide accountability.

All these actors are essential to scale up these aspects and ensure credibility and accountability while pushing to ensure that the highest level of ambition is reached.

For more insights into how corporates and especially CFOs can integrate the SDGs in Corporate investments and finance, please refer to the [Blueprint for implementation of the CFO Principles. Blueprint: Guidance | CFO Coalition for the SDGs](#)

Objectives

Organized by UN Global Compact Network Thailand in collaboration with the United Nations Resident Coordinator's Office, the **CEO Roundtable Forum on Sustainable Finance: Scaling Up Sustainable Finance Solutions for Accelerating Progress on the SDGs** will focus on the intersection between sustainable finance and investing in the SDGs. The high-level Forum will convene select CEOs, UN leaders, financial institutions, investors and regulators from Thailand to explore how business leaders are transitioning towards sustainability and how their internal investment decisions and financial strategies are driving this transition. With Thailand adopting the Green Taxonomy, the Forum will also seek to discuss how the Green Taxonomy can be operationalized and the role of the UN Global Compact in mobilizing business leaders to move from commitment to action towards sustainable finance.

Format

The Roundtable will be kicked off with on-stage podium keynotes followed by interventions and an interactive discussion with select speakers representing diverse actors from the sustainable finance space. The moderated discussion will focus on specific themes. Brief interventions will be welcomed from the floor. Please do not prepare slides. The dialogue should be interactive and discussion based. Speakers are requested to limit their interventions and remarks for 3 minutes.

Agenda

Opening	
8:30 - 9:00	Registration of all attendees MC: Announcements and introduction to the agenda
9:00 - 9:05	Welcome Remarks by Mr. Suphachai, Chearavanont, Chairperson, UN Global Compact Network Thailand
9:05 - 9:10	Opening Remarks by ASG Sanda Ojiambo, Executive Director & CEO UN Global Compact
9:10 - 9:15	Introductory Remarks by Gita Sabharwal, UN Resident Coordinator, Thailand
9:15 - 9:20	Setting the scene: Thematic keynote by Ms. Ruenvadee Suwanmongkol, Secretary-general of the Securities and Exchange Commission
CEO Perspectives on Transitioning to Sustainability - Next steps in SDG focused investment decisions and financial strategies	
9:20 - 10:20	<p>Moderator: Renaud Meyer, Resident Representative, UNDP in Thailand</p> <p>Following questions will be posed to the CEOs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Do you see financial sense in going green or transitioning towards sustainable business?• Can you share any specific examples of how sustainability initiatives have had a positive financial impact on your company?• What functions of company leadership are pivotal to effectively integrating sustainability into corporate strategies, investments, and finance? How do you think your company could enhance its credibility among investors?• As a CEO, what has been your role in leading company-wide SDG-linked KPIs and targets that reflect – and provide credibility to – the company’s sustainability strategies?• What challenges have you faced? What would you identify as the biggest barrier for companies in pivoting to sustainability linked financial decisions?• What are the mechanisms to put together an investment plan to ensure the reach of SDG-related targets? And how are these investments put in place?

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What factors need to be considered if investing or seeking capital in emerging markets? • What are the types of SDG focused investment and financial decisions that have helped in effective transition to sustainability? • How can banks and investors help in mobilizing private capital towards transition to Net Zero?
Interactive discussion from the floor	
10:20 - 10.30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interactive discussion with business speakers and speakers from the Sustainable Finance ecosystem
Wrap up and Group Photo	

Guiding questions

For all

- Does going green or sustainable make financial sense for business?

For private sector

- Do you see financial sense in going green or transitioning towards sustainable business?
- Can you share any specific examples of how sustainability initiatives have had a positive financial impact on your company?
- What functions of company leadership are pivotal to effectively integrating sustainability into corporate strategies, investments, and finance? How do you think your company could enhance its credibility among investors?
- As a CEO, what has been your role in leading company-wide SDG-linked KPIs and targets that reflect – and provide credibility to – the company’s sustainability strategies?
- What challenges have you faced? What would you identify as the biggest barrier for companies in pivoting to sustainability linked financial decisions?
- What are the mechanisms to put together an investment plan to ensure the reach of SDG-related targets? And how are these investments put in place?
- What factors need to be considered if investing or seeking capital in emerging markets?
- What are the types of SDG focused investment and financial decisions that have helped in effective transition to sustainability?
- How can banks and investors help in mobilizing private capital towards transition to Net Zero?

For Regulators and Financial Institutions

- How much of sustainability is driven by investors vs regulators vs necessity?
- How are you assessing and evaluating KPIs used in Sustainability-Linked instruments

For Investors

- How do social-related investments contribute to the transformation of the business?
- *Which are the most important objectives in the social sphere for an entity like yours?*

SME Roundtable

SMEs for SDGs: Unlocking Potential, Pivoting to Sustainability

Background

Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) account for 90% of businesses, 60 to 70% of employment and 50% of GDP worldwide. The International Labour Organization (ILO) reports that in developing economies, seven out of 10 jobs are created by SMEs. Their most prominent impact is felt on sustainable growth and employment (SDG 8) and sustainable industrialization and innovation (SDG 9), although clear linkages and contributions can be defined across all 17 SDGs. ASEAN region is no exception with SMEs being recognized as integral to the growth of the region's economy, including in Thailand. As the bedrock of economic activity, employment generation and innovation, any discourse on achieving the SDGs in Thailand and in fact, in the world, needs to have meaningful engagement avenues with SMEs.

Currently, there is a significant gap in SME readiness for undertaking sustainability-based initiatives, due to both capability and resourcing challenges. Generally SMEs possess lesser resources and are struggling with everyday business realities, especially in the aftermath of COVID-19. While the challenges faced by SMEs are formidable, there are also opportunities to overcome them with the right approach by all actors. By creating enabling environments for SMEs to adopt sustainability practices, implementation of future-looking policies and regulations, support from large companies committed to creating sustainable value chains and easy access to capacity building materials and guidance to embark on their sustainability journey, SMEs have the potential to become changemakers when it comes to accelerating progress towards SDGs.

Objective

The SME Roundtable will convene select SMEs from Thailand for a discussion on how enhancing sustainability practices within SMEs and creating resilient, sustainable supply chains can lead to progress in the sustainability landscape of Thailand. Large companies will discuss challenges and opportunities in integrating sustainability in their Supply Chains. Participants will also get an opportunity to learn more about UN Global Compact's SME Strategy and its operationalization plans in emerging economies, such as Thailand.

Agenda

Opening	
13:30 - 14:00	Registration of all attendees
14:00 - 14:05	Opening Remarks by Gita Sabharwal, UN Resident Coordinator, Thailand
14:05 - 14:11	SMEs and UNGC Ten Principles: Video
14:11 - 14:16	Sustainability and the Business Case for SMEs Sanda Ojiambo, Assistant Secretary General Sanda Ojiambo, Executive Director and CEO, UN Global Compact
14:16 - 14:55	Moderated discussion with SMEs Moderator: Sue Allchurch, Chief, Outreach and Engagement, UN Global Compact Questions for discussion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are some of the main challenges in incorporating sustainable practices within SMEs? • With the many challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, it has also provided us with an opportunity to build more resilient, sustainable supply chains and develop SME capacity on delivering on the SDGs. Do SMEs and large companies see this opportunity and its benefits? What can governments and businesses do, individually and together, to enhance sustainability within SMEs? • UN Global Compact has an SME strategy that is aimed at pivoting SMEs to SDGs. How do you think the UN and the Local Network here in Thailand can play a stronger role in supporting SMEs on their corporate sustainability journey? • What can be done at a policy level in terms of building supply chains that will be more resilient and sustainable?
14:55 - 15:05	UN Global Compact's SME Strategy Sue Allchurch, Chief, Outreach and Engagement, UN Global Compact
15:00 - 15:10	Closing remarks by Thanyaporn Krichtitayawuth, Executive Director, UN Global Compact Network Thailand
Wrap up and Group Photo	