



**United
Nations**



LDC5
5TH UNITED NATIONS
CONFERENCE ON THE
LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES



**PRIVATE
SECTOR
FORUM**

Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (LDC5)

Private Sector Forum

5 - 7 March 2023

Theatre

Qatar National Convention Centre (QNCC), Doha, Qatar



SUNDAY, 5 MARCH 2023

15:00 – 16:45 HIGH-LEVEL OPENING DIALOGUE

Master of Ceremony: Ms. Folly BAH THIBAUT, Broadcast journalist, host, moderator

Chair: Ms. Rabab Fatima, Under-Secretary-General and High Representative and Secretary-General of the LDC5 Conference, UN-OHRLS

Keynote speakers:

- H.E. Mr. António GUTERRES, Secretary-General, United Nations (via-video)
- H.E. Sheikh Khalifa bin Jassim AL THANI, Chairman, Qatar Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- H.E. Mr. Jochen FLASBARTH, State Secretary, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, Germany
- Mr. Brad SMITH, Vice Chair and President, Microsoft, Co-chair of the LDC5 Private Sector Forum
- Mr. Thomas ÖSTROS, Vice-President, European Investment Bank (EIB)
- Ms. Somachi CHRIS-ASOLUKA, Chief Executive Officer, Tony Elumelu Foundation

FIRE-SIDE CHAT (45 minutes)

Moderator: Ms. Folly BAH THIBAUT, Broadcast journalist, host, moderator

High-level panellists:

- Mr. Brad SMITH, Vice Chair and President, Microsoft, Co-chair of the LDC5 Private Sector Forum
- Mr. Strive MASIYIWA, Founder and Executive Chairman, Econet Group
- Ms. Doreen BOGDAN-MARTIN, Secretary-General, International Telecommunication Union (ITU)
- Mr. Sitoyo LOPOKOIYIT, Managing Director, M-PESA Africa

17:00 – 18:45 PRIVATE SECTOR FORUM SPECIAL EVENT 1

Agricultural Commodity Transformation (ACT) Fund: innovative instrument for impact investing. Organiser: Common Fund for Commodities, Room 1

17:00 – 18:45 PRIVATE SECTOR FORUM SPECIAL EVENT 2

Fostering women-led business in LDC. Organiser: APCO Worldwide, Room 2

17:00 – 18:45 PRIVATE SECTOR FORUM SPECIAL EVENT 3

Agora – A matchmaker for investors and investees. Organiser: UN Capital Development Fund (UNCDF), Changed to Exhibition Hall 6

MONDAY, 6 MARCH 2023

09:00 – 10:45 **SESSION 1: SUSTAINABLE ENERGY**

Access to energy is moving at a slower pace and falling behind actual needs to achieve structural transformation in LDCs. Energy sector in LDCs needs a transformative change to bring SDG 7 within their reach. An enabling environment, underpinned by policies and regulations to adopt least-cost pathways to electrification, enhancing socio-economic inclusiveness of energy access combined with catalytic finance both public and private, can help these countries achieve rapid progress towards 2030. This session aims to launch concrete initiatives and public private partnerships to support access to sustainable energy in LDCs to catalyse action both by public and private partners towards the goal of universal access to energy and to accelerate the energy transition in the LDCs.

Moderator: **Ms. Folly BAH THIBAUT**, Broadcast journalist, host, moderator

Keynote: **Mr. Andrew M. HERSCOWITZ**, Chief Development Officer, U.S. International Development Finance Corporation (DFC)

High-level panellists (50 mins)

- **Ms. Gauri SINGH**, Deputy Director-General, International Renewable Energy (IRENA)
- **Mr. Andrew M. HERSCOWITZ**, Chief Development Officer, U.S. International Development Finance Corporation (DFC)
- **Mr. William BRENT**, Chief Marketing Officer, Husk Power Systems
- **Ms. Camille ANDRE-BATAILLE**, Managing Director and Founder, ANKA Madagascar
- **Mr. Jalel SAGER**, Co-founder and Board Chair, New Sun Road

Comments by lead discussants from the floor (5 mins)

- **Mr. Michael KOGELER**, Chief Executive Officer, Nedamco Africa
- **Mr. Malango WASHIKALA**, Co-founder and Co-Chief Executive Officer, Altech Group

Interactive segment (20 minutes)

Session wrap-up and closing remarks by moderator (5 minutes)

11:00 – 12:45**SESSION 2: AGRICULTURE & RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

Achieving global food security and ending hunger and extreme poverty requires transformation of the agri-food systems in many LDCs, addressing the particular challenges faced by smallholder farmers and agribusinesses. Public-Private Partnerships can unlock domestic private and public investments in support of local agricultural development in LDCs, including through deploying a combination of catalytic capital, hands-on technical assistance, risk mitigation strategies, and direct engagements with the private sector, domestic banks, and local authorities that identify and develop bankable local projects. This session will explore opportunities for scaling-up existing and developing further partnerships aimed at transforming agri-food systems.

Moderator: **Ms. Femi OKE**, Moderator and Co-Founder, Moderate The Panel LLC

Keynote: **H.E. Mr. Andrzej Sebastian DUDA**, President, Republic of Poland

High-level panellists: (50 mins)

- **Mr. Mohamed Bin Ahmed AL OBAIDLY**, Board Member and Head of Food and Agriculture Committee of Qatar
- **Mr. Máximo TORERO CULLEN**, Chief Economist, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
- **Mr. Dejene TEZERA**, Director, Division of Agribusiness and Infrastructure Development, United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)
- **H.E. Sheikh Mohammed BELAL**, Managing Director, Common Fund for Commodities (CFC)
- **Ms. Hanane MOURCHID**, Chief Sustainability Officer, OCP Group
- **Mr. Alessandro CATALDO**, EMEIA Head of Agrifood Sector, EY Switzerland
- **Ms. Rose Nsereko NAMAYANJA**, Managing Director, Kanda Poultry Farm (Uganda)

Comments by lead discussants from the floor (5 mins)

- **Mr. Brad STAPLES**, Chief Executive Officer, APCO Worldwide
- **Mr. Krishnan PALLASSANA**, Country Director India, Digital Green

Interactive segment (20 minutes)

Session wrap-up and closing remarks by moderator (5 minutes)

13:00 – 15:00**Lunch break / Networking Zone**

13:00 – 14:45**PRIVATE SECTOR FORUM SPECIAL EVENT 4***Microsoft Airband Partnerships - Driving Meaningful Connectivity and Digital Transformation in LDCs. Organiser: Microsoft, Room 1***13:00 – 14:45****PRIVATE SECTOR FORUM SPECIAL EVENT 5***New instruments and partnerships for SDG Acceleration: Islamic Social Financing for the SDGs. Organiser: UN Joint SDG Fund, Room 2***13:00 – 14:45****PRIVATE SECTOR FORUM SPECIAL EVENT 6***Capacity building of smallholder farmers, especially women and youth, for sustainable agriculture in Senegal. Organiser: OCP Africa, Room 3***15:00-16:45****SESSION 3: DIGITAL CONNECTIVITY**

While three quarters of people in the LDCs are covered by a mobile broadband network, only a quarter are using it. In other words, the digital divide is not only a factor of having access to the Internet but rather also, price of services and devices, lack of awareness of the Internet and its benefits, and lack of digital skills. Furthermore, there is not enough productive use of broadband within the LDCs.

Since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, connectivity has the potential to sustain families, communities and businesses through online working, e-learning, e-commerce, online health services etc. But this connectivity cannot be fully exploited without the right skills, tools and enabling environments.

Therefore, ICTs and Internet access are key building blocks of the digital economy, and have been recognized as important drivers for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The digital connectivity session will focus on extending meaningful and affordable access to the Internet in LDCs and, enabling meaningful and productive use of the Internet in LDCs.

Moderator: **Ms. Folly BAH THIBAUT**, Broadcast journalist, host, moderator

Keynote: **H.E. Mr. Hakainde HICHILEMA**, President, Republic of Zambia

Panel 1: Infrastructure (45 mins):

- **Mr. Nic RUDNICK**, Group Deputy Executive Chairman, Liquid Intelligent Technologies
- **Mr. Mike LUBIN**, Vice President of Corporate Strategy, Viasat
- **Mr. Farouk RAMJI**, Chief Executive Officer, Mawingu Networks
- **Ms. Shamima AKHTER**, Director, Corporate Affairs, Partnerships and Communications, Unilever Bangladesh
- **Mr. Chris SHARROCK**, Vice President of UN Affairs and International Organizations, Microsoft
- **Ms. Nena SANDERSON**, Chief Customer Officer, M-KOPA

Panel 2: Skilling (45 mins):

- **Ms. Doreen BOGDAN-MARTIN**, Secretary-General, International Telecommunication Union (ITU)
- **Mr. David OSBORNE**, Head, Development Strategy, Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, UK
- **Mr. Roberto SUÁREZ SANTOS**, Secretary-General, International Organisation of Employers (IOE)
- **Ms. Celina LEE**, Chief Executive Officer, Zindi
- **Mr. Chris SHARROCK**, Vice President of UN Affairs and International Organizations, Microsoft
- **Ms. Fatou SOW KANE**, Chief Executive Officer, Expresso Sénégal

Comments by lead discussants from the floor (6 mins):

- **Mr. Brahim GHRIBI**, Head of Government Relations & Policy Affairs Middle East & Africa, Nokia
- **Mr. Kamal S. QUADIR**, Founder and Chief Executive Officer, bKash Limited

Interactive segment (20 minutes)

17:00 – 18:45**PRIVATE SECTOR FORUM SPECIAL EVENT 7**

Opportunities and Challenges in Doing Solar in LDCs. Organiser: WAIPA, Room 1

17:00 – 18:45**PRIVATE SECTOR FORUM SPECIAL EVENT 8**

Scalable solutions to SME-investability in LDCs – shared services and service-backed loans. Organiser: FCA Investments, Room 2

17:00 – 18:45**PRIVATE SECTOR FORUM SPECIAL EVENT 9**

Partner2Connect: Accelerating the Doha Programme of Action through partnerships for meaningful connectivity and digital transformation. Organiser: Partner2Connect Digital Coalition, Room 3

TUESDAY, 7 MARCH 2023**09:00-10:45****SESSION 4: CLIMATE CHANGE**

Addressing the root causes of climate change and increasing available resources for adaptation are key to the future success and resilience of the Least Developed Countries (LDCs). People in the LDCs are, on average, six times more likely to be injured, lose their home, be displaced, or evacuated, or require emergency assistance than those in high-income countries. Economic losses due to disasters are also disproportionately higher in the least developed countries. This session will launch an initiative to build up LDCs' engagement on issues of risk finance and insurance, from research and evidence, through legislating for and regulating the insurance sector, through to the development of new products, tools and services.

Moderator: **Ms. Folly BAH THIBAUT**, Broadcast journalist, host, moderator

Keynote: **Mr. Simon STIELL**, Executive Secretary, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

High-level panellists (50 mins):

- **H.E. Mr. Dan JØRGENSEN**, Minister for Development Cooperation and Global Climate Policy of Denmark
- **Ms. Delphine TRAORÉ**, Regional CEO & Regional Executive Board Member of Allianz Africa, Allianz Africa
- **Ms. Louise JAMES**, Managing Director, Accenture Development Partnerships
- **Mr. Soji OMISORE**, Deputy Director – Private Sector Finance, Green Climate Fund
- **Ms. Kirtika CHALLA**, Head of Power & Infrastructure and Member of Group Council, CrossBoundary
- **Mr. Paras PATEL**, Chief Executive Officer, E3-Capital
- **Mr. Nick HUGHES OBE**, Co-founder & Managing Director, 4R Digital

Comments lead discussants from the floor (5 mins):

- **Mr. Selwin HART**, Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Climate Action, United Nations
- **Mr. Haoliang XU**, Assistant Secretary-General, Assistant Administrator and Director of the Bureau for Policy and Programme Support (RBPPS), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Interactive segment (20 minutes)

Session wrap-up and closing remarks by moderator (5 minutes)

11:00 – 12:45 **SESSION 5: SUSTAINABLE TOURISM**

Tourism has the potential to be a key agent for sustainable development in LDCs with the sector accounting for 7 per cent of total exports, a figure that stands at 10 per cent for non-oil exporting LDCs. Tourism was among the main contributors enabling the graduation of LDCs which are also Small Island Developing States including Cabo Verde, Samoa, Maldives and most recently Vanuatu.

As the tourism sector looks to the recovery of international travellers and investments, there is an opportunity for rethinking tourism post-Covid and to build back better, putting LDC's tourism assets and unique selling points such as nature, cultural heritage and pristine environment at the core.

This session will explore opportunities to position the tourism sector as a significant driver of sustainable development in LDCs through leveraging partnerships to promote entrepreneurship and implement scalable solutions for recovery with the strong support of the private sector over the next 10-years.

Moderator: **Ms. Folly BAH THIBAUT**, Broadcast journalist, host, moderator

Keynote: **H.E. Mr. Hassan AL THAWADI**, Secretary General, Supreme Committee for Delivery and Legacy, 2022 FIFA World Cup

High-level panellists (50 mins):

- **Mr. Mossadeck BALLY**, Chief Executive Officer, Azalaï Hotels
- **Mr. Nico VISSER**, Secretary of the Board of Trustees, TUI Care Foundation
- **Ms. Zoritsa UROSEVIC**, Executive Director, World Tourism Organization (UNWTO)
- **Ms. Tiffany MISRAHI**, Senior Advisor, Ministry of Tourism of Saudi Arabia
- **Professor Geoffrey LIPMAN**, Co-Founder at The SUN^x Program and President, SUN^x Malta
- **Ms. Romiary ANDRIANARISOA**, President of the Commission for Sustainable Development and Business Ethics, Groupement des Entreprises de Madagascar (GEM)
- **Ms. Catherine MARSH**, Deputy Director General, Private Sector Operations Department, Asian Development Bank (ADB)

Comments lead discussants from the floor (5 mins):

- **Mr. Suleiman MOHAMED**, Chief Executive Officer / Founder, CHAKO Zanzibar

Interactive segment (20 minutes)

Session wrap-up and closing remarks by moderator (5 minutes)

13:00 – 15:00 **Lunch break / Networking Zone**

13:00 – 14:45**PRIVATE SECTOR FORUM SPECIAL EVENT 10***Leveraging Private Investment for LDC Graduation and the 2030 Agenda.**Organiser: UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA), Room 1***13:00 – 14:45****PRIVATE SECTOR FORUM SPECIAL EVENT 11***Launch of the Indian Ocean Private Sector Platform (ADD OI): 30 projects to reach -30 by 2030. Organiser: TF 261, Room 2***13:00 – 14:45****PRIVATE SECTOR FORUM SPECIAL EVENT 12***Supporting the next generation workforce through the power of digital economy. Organiser: EY, Room 3***15:00 – 16:45****HIGH-LEVEL CLOSING CEREMONY****Moderator:****Ms. Folly BAH THIBAUT**, Broadcast journalist, host, moderator**Special Remarks:****H.E. Sheikh Mohammed Bin Hamad Bin Qassim Al-Abdullah AL-THANI**,
Minister of Commerce and Industry, State of Qatar**Presentation of the Private Sector Outcome Document and closing**

- **Mr. Chris SHARROCK**, Vice President, UN Affairs and International Organizations, Microsoft
- **Ms. Rabab FATIMA**, Under-Secretary-General and High Representative and Secretary-General of the LDC5 Conference, UN-OHRLLS