



Ministerial round table

21 October 2025
Assembly Hall
3–4.30 p.m.



Strategic priorities and emerging directions for investment and entrepreneurship policy

Description

UNCTAD, in *World Investment Report 2025*, delivers an urgent warning: productive international investment is shrinking, with the greatest impact on developing countries. This decline is driven by rising uncertainty and geopolitical tensions, increasing trade barriers and heightened scrutiny of foreign capital. At the same time, long-term structural shifts, particularly technological change, are transforming global value chains. Investment in sectors critical to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals is decreasing. Yet opportunities are emerging, particularly in sectors driving the green and digital transitions. In this context, investment and entrepreneurship policies are central and mutually reinforcing tools with which to address these challenges.

Discussions at this round table will explore how such policies can align with sustainable development objectives; highlight strategies to unlock investment, foster enterprise competitiveness and promote scalable solutions and partnerships that direct investment to where it is most urgently needed; and aim to chart a bold, inclusive multi-stakeholder action agenda, reshaping the global investment and entrepreneurship landscape to support sustainable development for all.

Programme

Opening remarks: Rebeca Grynspan, Secretary-General, UNCTAD

Panel 1, with participation of ministers and heads of international organizations

Investing in a sustainable future: Latest trends and perspectives

Discussions at this panel will examine the latest trends in investment and entrepreneurship for sustainable development; highlight both the risks associated with declining investment flows and the emerging opportunities presented by the green and digital transitions; and explore how policymakers and development stakeholders navigate the current complex investment climate, marked by geopolitical tensions and economic fragmentation, while leveraging new growth areas, to build resilience and inclusive prosperity.

Questions

- What are the emerging trends in international investment and private sector development and their impact on sustainable and inclusive development?
- How are countries addressing emerging risks and opportunities through national and international investment and entrepreneurship policymaking?
- Which policy tools, measures and/or instruments are countries using to foster entrepreneurship and attract investment in critical areas, such as resilient supply chains, the energy transition, the digital economy and transition and other key development sectors?
- How can effective enterprise and investment policies, along with institutional frameworks, be aligned to promote inclusive economic growth and sustainable development?

Panel 2, with participation of ministers and heads of international organizations

Towards a multi-stakeholder agenda on investment and entrepreneurship for development

Despite the significant potential of sustainability finance and investment, large parts of the economy remain insufficiently funded. Discussions at this panel will focus on shaping a practical, results-driven, multi-stakeholder agenda that mobilizes investment and entrepreneurship for development' and highlight successful multi-stakeholder initiatives and replicable approaches in support of equitable, inclusive and sustainable development.

Questions

- What lessons can be drawn from successful global and regional initiatives?
- What role can multi-stakeholder collaboration play in driving investment and entrepreneurship development outcomes?
- Can policymakers and decision makers strengthen international coordination to mobilize cross-border financing in Goals-critical sectors?
- What concrete steps can be taken to build a multi-stakeholder coalition that leverages investment facilitation and promotes joint financing mechanisms at the international level?

Moderator: To be confirmed

Format: Davos-style

Interpretation

Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Spanish, Russian

Contact

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