

Youth Entrepreneurship: A Force Towards Inclusive and Sustainable Growth

22 – 26 October 2018 Geneva, Switzerland

PROVISIONAL



YOUTH ENTREPRENEURSHIP:

A FORCE TOWARDS INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE GROWTH

PROGRAMME





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., including in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

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 becoming 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.

Check our website unctad.org/youth

For any enquiries: e unctadyouth@unctad.org

Twitter : @UNCTADYouth

Facebook : @UNCTADYouth

Instagram : @UNCTADYouthForum

#UNCTADYouthForum18 #ShapingTheWorldWeWant

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME AT A GLANCE

Badge Collection

Monday 22 October, 8 a.m. onwards

Monday, 22 October - Way to The Future

→ UNCTAD YOUTH FORUM SESSIONS

9 – 10.30 a.m.

Welcoming session – Closed session

10.30 – 11.30 a.m.

Cybersecurity Starts with You ...
with Prof. Solange Ghernaouti

11.30 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Youth Debate – Closed session
UN Youth Strategy 2030

12 – 12.45 p.m.

Youth o'Clock
Way to the Future with Tiago Mattos

12.45 – 1.30 p.m.

Youth Debate – Closed session

1.30 – 2.30 p.m.

Lunch time

4 – 6.30 p.m.

Alternative programme is available

→ WORLD INVESTMENT FORUM

3 – 4 p.m.

Grand opening

4 – 4.30 p.m.

2018 United Nations Investment Promotion Awards

4.30 – 6.30 p.m.

Global Investment Game Changers Summit: Pioneering Solutions for a Better World

6.30 p.m.

Welcome Reception and Cultural Performance

Tuesday, 23 October - Investing in Digital Youth

→ UNCTAD YOUTH FORUM SESSIONS

9.00 – 9.30 a.m.

Warming-up – Closed session

9.30 – 10.30 a.m.

Champions of the New Digital Economy
Meet the Netpreneurs

10.30 – 11.30 a.m.

Blockchains
with Francesco Abbate, Nicholas Kee & Arnaud Salomon

11.30 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Presentation of the Iberoamerican Report of the Youth Entrepreneurship
by Alejandra Saenz

12 – 12.45 p.m.

Youth o'Clock
The New Economy with Brian Wong & Arlette Verploegh

→ WORLD INVESTMENT FORUM & YOUTH FORUM

10.00 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Global Leaders Investment Summit I : Investment in a New Era of Globalization

2.30 – 5.30 p.m.

Investment and the Digital Economy

6.30 p.m.

Reception

<p>1 – 2 p.m. Lunch time</p> <p>2 – 5.30 p.m. Alternative programme is available</p> <p>5.30 – 6.30 p.m. Youth Debate – Closed session Blockchains Business Models</p>	
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Wednesday, 24 October - Youth at The Negotiating Table

→ UNCTAD YOUTH FORUM SESSIONS	→ WORLD INVESTMENT FORUM & YOUTH FORUM
<p>9 – 9.30 a.m. Warming-up – Closed session</p> <p>9.30 a.m. – 11.00 a.m. Youth for Sustainable Development Goals Panel session</p> <p>11 – 12 p.m. Youth Debate– Closed session 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development</p> <p>12 – 1 p.m. Youth o'Clock A conversation with H.E. Mrs. Neo Masisi, First Lady of Botswana</p> <p>1 – 2 p.m. Lunch time</p> <p>2 – 3 p.m. Linking Rural Markets to the Global Economy Keynote address by H.E. Mrs. Neo Masisi, First Lady of Botswana Panel Session</p> <p>3 – 4 p.m. Youth Debate– Closed session SMART Negotiating</p> <p>4 – 5 p.m. Data.Me with Eva Kaili (tbc), Zanna van Dijk, Mathias Haas</p> <p>5 – 6 p.m. Youth Debate – Closed session UN Youth Strategy 2030 & 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development</p>	<p>10 a.m. – 1 p.m. Global Leaders Investment Summit II</p> <p>10 a.m. – 1 p.m. Blockchains for Sustainable Development</p> <p>3 – 5.30 p.m. Entrepreneurship, Migration and the SDGs</p> <p>6:30 p.m. Hospitality and Cultural Event</p>

Thursday, 25 October - #Millennials

→ UNCTAD YOUTH FORUM SESSIONS

9 – 9.30 a.m.

Warming-up – Closed session

9.30 – 10.30 a.m.

The Changing Job Market Landscape; why should I care?

Panel session

10.30 – 10.55 a.m.

Youth Debate – Closed session

International Geneva with a Youth Perspective

10.55 – 11.30 a.m.

Youth Debate – Closed session

UN Youth Strategy 2030 & 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

11.30 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Launch of the Blue and Green Entrepreneurship Report

by UNCTAD and Commonwealth Secretariat

12 – 12.45 p.m.

Youth o'Clock

Leadership, what does it take in today's world? A conversation with Dona Bertarelli

12.45 – 1.15 p.m.

Youth Debate – Closed session

What is Sustainable Development?

1.15 – 2.15 p.m.

Lunch time

2.15 – 3 p.m.

Youth Debate – Closed session

UNCTAD City Hubs with Arthur Mclean

3 – 4 p.m.

Youth Debate – Closed session

Youth Crossing the Border

4 – 5 p.m.

Beyond Education and Skills

Panel session

5 – 6 p.m.

Young Women in Business

Isabelle Durant, Dorothy Tembo, Jessica

Ng Nancy Amunga

→ WORLD INVESTMENT FORUM & YOUTH FORUM

10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Ministerial Roundtable: on Entrepreneurship for Sustainable Development

2:30 – 5 p.m.

Women for Sustainable Development: Women Economic Empowerment to transform the investment Entrepreneurship Landscape

6 p.m.

EMPRETEC Women in Business Awards 2018

7 – 9 p.m.

Reception

Friday, 26 October - Thinking Globally, Acting Locally



→ UNCTAD YOUTH FORUM SESSIONS

9 – 10 a.m.

Outlining the Role of the Entrepreneur of 2030

10 – 11 a.m.

We are UNCTAD Youth – Closed session
with Arthur Mclean

11 – 11.30 a.m.

Clue Reveal

11.30 a.m.– 12.30 p.m.

Closing Session

→ WORLD INVESTMENT FORUM & YOUTH FORUM

9 a.m.– 4 .m.

Multi-Disciplinary Academic Conference

10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Creating More and Better Jobs Through Investment

10..30 a.m.– 1 p.m.

Using Blended Capital to Finance the SDGs

5 – 6 p.m.

Forum Outcome and Closing

6 p.m.

Reception

DETAILED PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

MONDAY, 22 OCTOBER – WAY TO THE FUTURE

→ UNCTAD YOUTH FORUM SESSIONS

9 – 10:30 a.m.

Welcoming session – Closed session

10.30 – 11:30 a.m.

Cybersecurity Starts with You ...

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.

11:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Youth Debate – Closed session

United Nations Youth Strategy 2030

“A world in which the human rights of every young person are realized; that ensures every young person is empowered to achieve their full potential; and that recognizes young people’s agency, resilience and their positive contributions as agents of change”. A presentation will be made that sets the scene for discussions by youth throughout the week. How does the UNCTAD Youth Forum 2018 fit into the strategy?

12 – 12.45 p.m.

Youth o’Clock

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?

12.45 – 1.15 p.m.

Youth Debate – Closed session

Team building

4 – 6.30 p.m.

Youth Debate – Closed session

Alternative programme is available.

→ WORLD INVESTMENT FORUM sessions

3 – 4 p.m.

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.

4 – 4.30 p.m.



2018 United Nations Investment Promotion Awards

Investment in the Sustainable Development Goals

Held since 2002, the United Nations Investment Promotion Awards celebrate the exchange of best practice in investment promotion. The Awards will be presented to investment promotion agencies for excellence in promoting investment in the SDGs.

4.30 – 6:0 p.m.

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

6.30 p.m.

Welcome Reception and Cultural Performance

TUESDAY, 23 OCTOBER – INVESTING IN DIGITAL YOUTH

→ UNCTAD YOUTH FORUM SESSIONS

8:30 – 9 a.m.

Warming-up – Closed session

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

9:30 – 10:30 a.m.

Champions of the New Economy

Meet the Netpreneurs

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.

10:30 – 11:30 a.m.

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.

11:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Presentation of the Iberoamerican Report of the Youth Entrepreneurship

12 – 12.45 p.m.

Youth o'Clock

The New Economy

This interactive session will build upon the Meet the Netpreneurs session and discuss the investments made in youth to empower them towards inclusive entrepreneurship, its relevance in today's world and relation with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

2 – 5.30 p.m.

Youth Debate – Closed session

Alternative programme is available.

5.30 – 6.30 p.m.

Youth Debate

Blockchains Business Models

Get to know what blockchains are about in a practical and businesses minded manner.

→ WORLD INVESTMENT FORUM

10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

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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2.30 – 5.30 p.m.

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?

6.30 p.m.

Reception

WEDNESDAY, 24 OCTOBER – YOUTH AT THE NEGOTIATING TABLE

→ UNCTAD YOUTH FORUM SESSIONS

9 – 9:30 a.m.

Warming-up

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

9:30 – 11 a.m.

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.

11 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Youth Debate – Closed session

2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

The session will be a continuation of the previous panel session with a practical focus on how youth can and contribute towards the Sustainable Development Goals.

12 – 12.45 p.m.

Youth o'Clock

A conversation on the mind set makeover for youth and the right to fail; inspiring the youth.

2 – 3 p.m.

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?

3 – 4 p.m.

Youth Debate – Closed session

SMART Negotiating

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

4 – 5 p.m.

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.

5 – 6 p.m.

Youth Debate – Closed session

UN Youth Strategy 2030 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Continuation of the group discussions.

→ WORLD INVESTMENT FORUM

10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

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?

10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

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

3 – 5.30 p.m.

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?

6.30

Hospitality Event Investment Village Award

THURSDAY, 25 OCTOBER – #Millennials

→ UNCTAD YOUTH FORUM sessions

9 – 9.30 a.m.

Warming-up

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

9.30 – 10.30 a.m.

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.

10.30 – 10.55 a.m.

Youth Debate – Closed session

International Geneva with a Youth Delegate

What does it stand for “International Geneva” and a perspective by a young delegate.

10.55 – 11.30 a.m.

Youth Debate – Closed session

United Nations Youth Strategy 2030 & 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

A continuation of the group discussions.

11:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Launch of the Blue and Green Entrepreneurship Report

Joint UNCTAD and Commonwealth Secretariat report

12:00 – 12:45 p.m.

Youth o’Clock

Leadership, what does it take in today's world?

What does it take to be a leader, how to stay innovative when being at the top and how can the Sustainable Development Goals be successfully incorporated in a business model?

12.45 – 1.15 p.m.

Youth Debate – Closed session

What is Sustainable Development?

Pitching exercise for the Sustainable Development Goals.

2.15 – 3 p.m.

Youth Debate – Closed session

UNCTAD City Hubs

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 session 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.

3 – 4 p.m.

Youth Debate – Closed session

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?

4 – 5 p.m.

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?

5 – 6 p.m.

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.

→ WORLD INVESTMENT FORUM

10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Ministerial Roundtable: Entrepreneurship for Sustainable Development

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

2.30 – 5 p.m.

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?

6 p.m.



EMPRETEC Women in Business Awards

Organized together with UN Women and the Commonwealth Women Business Forum, the Empretec Women in Business Award are granted to women-owne businesses that have benefited from the business development services of the Empretec programme – a pioneering UNCTAD programme for the promotion of entrepreneurship that operates in 40 developing countries. In line with this year’s World Investment Forum theme, the Award will focus on the crucial role of women entrepreneurship in advancing the SDGs. The awards presentation will give women entrepreneurs the stage to share how they contribute to sustainable development in different sectors.

7 – 8 p.m.
Reception

FRIDAY, 26 OCTOBER – THINKING GLOBALLY, ACTING LOCALLY

→ UNCTAD YOUTH FORUM SESSIONS

9 – 10 a.m.
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.

10 – 11 a.m.
We are UNCTAD Youth

When youth gather together, it is inevitable that there will be great excitement, engaging and in-depth discussion 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?

11 – 11.30 a.m.
Clue Reveal

11.30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Closing Session

Official closing of the Youth Forum

→ WORLD INVESTMENT FORUM

9 a.m. – 4 p.m.
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?

10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

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?

10:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.

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?

5 – 7 p.m.

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.