

5th Annual Business and the SDG's Conference

The Global Goals in an Uncertain World

6 November

9:00 – 12:30 GMT

Attlee Suite, Portcullis House, Westminster

The UN Global Goals reflect a visionary pact forged to embrace a comprehensive and ambitious development agenda for the well-being of both people and planet, steering us collectively towards 2030. The agenda is a compelling vision of what the future could look like that addresses environmental, economic and social development. It is a blueprint for multi-stakeholder cooperations and partnerships.

Amidst a complex geopolitical landscape, businesses are instrumental partners in achieving the Global Goals. Businesses are not only aligning their strategies with the SDGs but are also catalysts for innovation, sustainability, and positive social impact. Nonetheless, as we move past the halfway point for the SDGs, the global community is falling short of its shared and universal commitment to deliver. The challenges we face far exceed the capacity of any actor to manage alone. A multi-stakeholder approach including businesses, governments, civil society, the financial sector, academia, and so on, is critical. While businesses are often seen as contributors to environmental and social issues, they possess the potential to drive positive change and contribute to goals in face of challenges.

As we strive for implementation, fostering cooperation through a forward-looking multilateral system becomes imperative. The system must be equipped to address the evolving political, economic, environmental, and technological dynamics of our world. Adaptability to an uncertain future is key in ensuring success. It is time to remake the case for the SDGs – to evaluate our delivery and explore what can we take forward in the next agenda.

Conference Partners:

- All Party Parliamentary Group for the UN Global Goals on Sustainable Development
- International Chamber of Commerce UK
- Coalition for Global Prosperity

AGENDA

09:00-09:15 **Arrival and refreshments**

09:15-09:25 **Welcome Remarks**

Rt Hon Lord Jack McConnell, Co-Chair of APPG for the UN Global Goals for Sustainable Development

Jessica Toale MP, Chair of APPG for the UN Global Goals for Sustainable Development

09:25-09:40 **Keynote**

Minister (TBC)

09:40-10:25 **Panel I: The Global Landscape**

As we approach the halfway mark of the UN Global Goals, the world finds itself navigating a turbulent geopolitical landscape. Businesses are at the forefront of this complex reality, playing a vital role in addressing the social, economic, and environmental challenges that the Global Goals aim to tackle. However, despite their significant contributions, the global community is falling short of its 2030 ambitions.

This session will explore the current global context and its impact on the realisation of the Global Goals. We will explore how businesses can adapt to evolving geopolitical, economic, and technological dynamics while remaining key agents of change. With collaboration across sectors and a forward-thinking approach, this discussion will emphasise the importance of businesses, governments, organisations and institutions working together to create sustainable solutions for the future.

Moderator

TBC

Panellists

Andrew Wilson, Deputy Secretary General – Policy, ICC
Lars Karlsson, Global Head of Trade and Customs Consulting, Maersk
Zoe Knight, Managing Director and Group Head, HSBC

10:25-10:40 **Keynote**

Sanda Ojiambo, CEO, UN Global Compact UK (TBC)

10:40 – 11:25

Panel II: How can businesses contribute more to achieving the Global Goals?

As the world faces mounting challenges, from climate change to social inequality, the role of businesses in driving progress towards the UN Global Goals is more critical than ever. Many companies have already aligned their strategies with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), pioneering innovations and fostering sustainable practices. However, with the 2030 deadline fast approaching, the question remains: can businesses do more?

This session will explore the untapped potential of the private sector in accelerating the achievement of the Global Goals. We will discuss how businesses can enhance their contributions through innovation, partnerships, and leadership, while also addressing obstacles such as financial constraints, regulatory hurdles, and shifting political landscapes. By sharing case studies and practical examples, this session will highlight the opportunities for businesses to lead the way in shaping a more sustainable future for all.

Moderator

TBC

Panellists

Bobbie Mellor, Global Head of ESG, Vodafone
Rachel McEwen, Chief Sustainability Officer, SSE
Abyd Karmali, Managing Director - Climate Finance, Bank of America

11:25- 11:35

Closing Remarks

Rt Hon Lord Jack McConnell, Co-Chair of APPG for the UN Global Goals for Sustainable Development

11:35 – 12:30

Networking