



The Growth We Want

Solutions for Sustained, Inclusive and Sustainable Economic Growth

22 MARCH 2019, 10:00-11:25

Room 3, International Conference Centre Geneva (CICG)

Interpretation in English, French and Russian



OBJECTIVES

The objectives of this round table are:

- to provide a mutual learning space where participants from governments can interact with their peers and other relevant stakeholders to exchange experiences and propose solutions to address identified problems, and anticipate future developments;
- to identify main lessons and compile a set of key messages that can be shared with a wider audience; and
- to promote a multi-stakeholder dialogue aiming at advancing sustained and inclusive economic growth through diversification, technological upgrading and innovation (SDG8.2), entrepreneurship, creativity and the empowerment of micro-small and medium-size enterprises (SDG8.3), while enhancing resource efficiency in consumption and production patterns (SDG8.4), and promoting trade and economic integration as an engine for sustainable economic development, particularly in less advanced economies (SDG 8.A).



GUIDING QUESTIONS

1. Inclusive growth in technology-driven and digital economies

How to harness the potential of advanced technologies and innovation to achieve sustained and inclusive economic growth? What are the potential challenges? What is the right policy mix to promote a digital transformation that accelerates human progress and bridges the digital divide, while ensuring that no-one is left-behind?

2. Fostering entrepreneurship, innovation and micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises

What are the right policies to promote innovative high-growth enterprises? How can impact investing and other forms of private investment that finance them be mobilized? How to encourage innovative entrepreneurship in fields that are critical for sustainable development? What measures can governments put in place to enhance cooperation between industry and the academic community? What is the role that international cooperation can play?

3. Trade and innovation as an engine of growth

How can digital tools and sustainable trade facilitation approaches help less advanced economies and rural economic communities better integrate into regional and global value chains?

What is the right policy mix to sustain export diversification and ensure that benefits from trade are shared more widely?

4. Fostering the transition towards a green economy

How strategies to green the economy can decouple growth from environmental degradation in our region? How to promote sustainable financing instruments in order to advance more sustainable



CO-MODERATORS, RAPPORTEUR AND SPEAKERS

This roundtable will be co-moderated by **Ms. Marion Jansen, Chief Economist at the International Trade Centre (ITC)**, and **Ms. Maria Rosaria Ceccarelli, Director (OIC) Economic Cooperation and Trade Division at UNECE**.

The rapporteur for SDG 8 will be **Ms. Nena Dokusov, Head of Project Group for New Economy and Blockchain Technologies at the Ministry of Economic Development and Technologies of Slovenia**.

Distinguished speakers for this roundtable include (by order of intervention):

- **Italy:** Mr. Stefano Firpo, Director General, Industrial Policy, Innovation and Competitiveness, Ministry of Economic Development *National strategy industry 4.0 for sustainable growth*
- **France:** Ms. Laurence Monnoyer-Smith, General Commissioner for Sustainable Development, Ministry for the Ecological and Inclusive Transition *Green finance for sustainable production*
- **Georgia:** Mr. Teimuraz Janjalia, Director of International Economic Relations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs *National strategy for digital and sustainable trade facilitation for exports diversification*
- **Germany:** Dr. Clemens Helbach, Deputy Head of Division IK I 2 – United Nations, 2030 Agenda, Cooperation with Newly Industrialised and Developing Countries, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety *The German Resource Efficiency Programme (ProgRes)*
- **The Netherlands:** Dr. Ad Kroft, Programme Director, Dutch Blockchain Coalition for Sustainable Development *Advanced technologies for sustainable development: PPPs building the virtual barcode for financial inclusion*
- **CEFTA:** Mr. Emir Djikic, Director, CEFTA Central European Free Trade Area, Secretariat *Regional integration under Trade and Innovation*

Ms. Emmanuelle Ganne, Senior Analyst at the Economic, Research and Statistics Division of the WTO, and **Mr. Jan Hoffman, Chief of Trade Logistics Branch, Division on Technology and Logistics at UNCTAD** will be discussants for this Roundtable.

Mr James Gomme, Director, SDGs at WBCSD will join as the private sector discussant. **Mr. Nick Meynen, European Environmental Bureau**, will represent civil society organisations in the discussions.



PARTICIPANTS

This round table is of particular relevance for Policymakers (Ministries of Finance/Economic Development/Trade/Environment/Labour), Business associations, Trade unions, Civil Society and Academia with an interest on the promotion of inclusive green growth, including by harnessing the potential of trade.



ORGANIZERS

This round table is organized by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), in cooperation with the International Trade Centre (ITC), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and the International Telecommunication Union (ITU).

production patterns?



BACKGROUND

Achieving sustained, sustainable and inclusive economic growth is a complex effort. It requires putting in place [policy approaches](#) that foster prosperity, through economic progress that is environmentally sustainable and socially inclusive. This involves incentivizing and promoting investments and trade to support development that is more equitable and decoupled from environmental degradation. The resulting preservation of natural capital, ecosystems and their services will improve people' quality of life and contribute to shared prosperity, while reduced environmental stress will lower human health risks and increase well-being.

Promoting green and inclusive growth

The shift towards green and inclusive economic development patterns can be accelerated by the dissemination of green knowledge and technologies that promote clean and resource-efficient production processes and infrastructure. At the same time, the application of the [circular economy](#) principles of reuse, repair, upgrade, remanufacture and recycle can incentivize a shift to [clean technologies](#) and encourage closed-loop material cycles and eco-design of products, as well as resilience and low-carbon infrastructure design. It can promote synergies between sectors and between economic activities aimed at curbing resource use.

Access to capital for [investment](#) in research and [innovation](#), including for MSMEs, green technology transfer to less advanced economies is critical for the emergence and dissemination of more sustainable and inclusive growth models. In such connection, cooperation between industry, the academic community and [government bodies](#) needs to be strengthened to foster the [innovative capacity and competitiveness](#) of MSMEs, including social enterprises and start-ups.

Promoting sound business and trade solutions is key

A green and inclusive growth approach requires fair trade that is respectful of the environment. This involves the standardization of products and processes so as to enhance circularity, support for market transparency and development, and the simplification of regulations to [facilitate](#) the access of locally produced green goods to markets. The role of certification needs to be appropriately considered in order to avoid any potential for “greenwashing” and promote investment in sound business practices, while supporting responsible consumers’ choices. In this way, transition and developing economies, and rural communities can better connect to and integrate in regional and global value chains. E-commerce, in particular, could contribute to advance inclusion and foster development.



SDG LINKAGES

Solutions for sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth also contribute to the implementation of other several other SDGs and targets.



Goal 5: by promoting the empowerment of women and girls at all levels



Goal 9: by promoting innovation for inclusive and sustainable industrialisation



Goal 12: by facilitating the emergence of more sustainable consumption and production patterns



Goal 13: by facilitating public-private partnerships to sustain climate action



Goal 15: by helping to mobilize resources for sustainable management of natural resources and the preservation of terrestrial ecosystems



Goal 17: by harnessing the potential of digital transformation to help less advanced economies better integrate in the multilateral trading system