

# CONCEPT NOTE: SESSION 6

## Engaging the Private Sector Where It Matters

Tuesday, 13 December 2022, 15:30 – 17:00 CET

### Background

Session 6 will lead a frank, insightful dialogue about how to strengthen partnerships with the private sector to inspire leadership, build trust and deliver better and more sustainable development outcomes. Since the 2016 GPEDC High-Level Meeting in Nairobi -- where debate about the role of the private sector in development cooperation surfaced at the highest political level -- all stakeholders continue to acknowledge the opportunities and challenges of using international public resources to work with and through the private sector. There is clear recognition that the private sector in its diversity -- multinationals, investors, domestic firms, MSMEs and the informal sector -- remains the main engine for economic growth.

A unique multi-stakeholder dialogue facilitated by the GPEDC Business Leaders Caucus and Working Group on Private Sector Engagement (PSE) resulted in the formulation of the “[Kampala Principles](#)” as building blocks for private sector engagement in development cooperation and launched at the GPEDC 2019 Senior Level Meeting in New York. Since then, many new approaches of partnering have been tested, and there are evolving good practices, insights and tools to strengthen collaboration with the private sector. However, concerns remain as to how public, private and civil society sectors are delivering in areas that matter most -- such as how to expand partnerships in high-risk and hard-to-reach communities where no single partner would invest alone. This is occurring within a context of a widening SDG funding gap, with only a fraction of blended finance being mobilised for Least Developed Countries, and ongoing issues related to partnering with the private sector on a practical level in terms of aligning interests, procedures and systems.

Yet in today’s global context, confronted with massive social and economic disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and conflict, the *new normal*<sup>1</sup> will require a mindset shift. This will entail the global community accelerating its collective effort to step up all forms of resource mobilisation and innovative partnerships to engage with the private sector to deliver on the promise of the SDGs.

### Purpose of the Session

The purpose of the session is to convene a multi-stakeholder dialogue on how to strengthen partnerships with the private sector to inspire leadership, build trust and accelerate the use of the Kampala Principles. The session addresses both challenges and opportunities and highlights the importance of a strategic mindset shift that is needed to more effectively harness private sector engagement for achieving the SDGs.

### Objectives

- Provide insights on pathways to accelerate the transformative power of private sector engagement on people’s lives.
- Explore challenges and solutions to partnering with the private sector to leave no one behind.

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<sup>1</sup> The “new normal” after Covid-19 will be about change, reorientation, and sustainability. A sustainable society requires access to successful strategies, agile and flexible leadership, digital platforms, partnerships, and the ability to respond to rapid change.

- Mobilize commitment to adopt the Kampala Principles across multiple constituencies, including the private sector, development partners, civil society, trade unions and country level governments.

## Expected Outcomes

- A high-level political commitment that endorses the Kampala Principles, with a recommendation to incorporate the Principles into relevant policy frameworks of stakeholders.
- Business networks and development partners can serve as amplifiers and spearhead learning through the GPEDC and beyond and governments in developing countries can use this to align private sector engagement to national development priorities.
- Civil society and trade unions can play an important role in bringing the voices and interests of marginalized groups to the fore.
- Related ambitions and commitments will also be conveyed when developing the outcome document of the Summit.

## Deliverables

- A Call to Action to all stakeholders to accelerate implementation of the Kampala Principles as a basis for private sector engagement in development cooperation and as a critical enabler of achieving the SDGs.

## Format

This is a plenary session to be held in the style of a Davos armchair discussion format. The co-moderators will open the session and introduce a high-level speaker to set the context. They will then lead a “hot chair” conversation format amongst the high-level panel members with three discussion “pairings” and encourage the audience to participate in constructive interaction in the session through virtual live-polling and a Q&A.

## Moderator

The current Business Leaders Caucus Co-Chair will co-moderate the session:

**HE Saber Chowdhury**, Business Leaders Caucus Co-Chair & Member of Parliament, Bangladesh  
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## Session Contacts

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