

2024 Global Advocacy Dialogue Series – Dialogue Two

CONCEPT NOTE

26 September 2024

9:30 – 11:00 – High-level Panel Discussion, followed by

11:00 – 12:45 – Technical-level Ideas Foundry Session

Venue: 304 East 45th street; 11th Floor Doha Conference Room

UN Headquarters, New York

Hybrid format: <https://undp.zoom.us/j/84332909450>

Context:

Within the overall context of the signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) and the UN Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) in September 2023, a series of Advocacy Dialogues has been initiated with the aim to explore the latest development and partnership trends, focusing on the innovative and evolving nature of South-South and triangular cooperation.

The [first dialogue in the IsDB-UNOSSC series](#) – organized together with the Government of Portugal in March 2024 – introduced the potential for triangular cooperation to accelerate sustainable development, as an important bridge between South-South cooperation and North-South cooperation. The dialogue underscored the complex yet pivotal role of the private sector, not just as a financial contributor but as a provider of expertise and innovation, essential for addressing the multifaceted challenges inherent in achieving the SDGs. Notable examples include the support for Uganda through private sector collaboration and leveraging expertise from Singapore to aid Jordan during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Building on this, this second dialogue in the series will focus on the potential of the private sector to accelerate sustainable development. Co-organized by the IsDB and the UNOSSC, this dialogue will comprise two parts: a high-level panel discussion followed by an idea foundry session.

PART I. HIGH-LEVEL PANEL DISCUSSION (9:30 – 11:00)

Advancing Strategic Alliances: Leveraging Private Sector Strength in the Global South

Background:

The private sector plays a pivotal role in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). With its vast resources, innovative capacity, and access to finance, the private sector is uniquely positioned to drive the sustainable development agenda forward. Companies can leverage their strengths to address the world's most pressing challenges, from climate change to poverty eradication. However, the potential of the private sector to contribute to the SDGs is not fully explored or promoted. Deep partnerships between governments and the private sector are essential to unlock this potential and ensure comprehensive and sustainable progress. These collaborations can facilitate the integration of business strategies with national development plans, fostering an environment where both sectors work together to achieve common goals.

The [Pact for the Future](#), to be adopted at the [Summit of the Future in September 2024](#), presents a historic opportunity to reaffirm commitments to the SDGs and strengthen multilateral cooperation. The Pact aims to enhance global cooperation on critical challenges and address gaps in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Through partnerships with governments, civil society, and the UN, businesses can bring their expertise, technologies, and financial resources to the table to accelerate progress towards the SDGs. As the UN [notes](#), the well-being of current and future generations rests on our collective willingness to take action. The private sector is at the forefront of this effort.

For example, on renewable energy the private sector is at the forefront of developing and deploying sustainable technologies and developing new business models. Similarly, on financial inclusion, private financial institutions are working to expand access to affordable credit and banking services & products for the world's poor and marginalized communities.

The private sector's contributions to the SDGs are not limited to specific industries. Across sectors, companies are innovating, developing more efficient processes, and creating shared value through collaborations and partnerships. For example, in the healthcare sector, private firms are developing new drugs and therapies, contributing to SDG 3 on good health and well-being.

However, while the private sector holds immense potential to drive sustainable development, it also faces challenges. Many private sector companies face barriers to entering and operating in developing countries, such as regulatory hurdles, political risks, and lack of infrastructure. To unlock the private sector's full potential in achieving the SDGs, it is essential to create enabling environments that encourage investment, innovation, and collaboration.

This is where South-South and triangular cooperation (SS&TrC) becomes a powerful tool. SS&TrC represents a shift towards more equitable, collaborative models of cooperation, where knowledge, technologies, and resources flow freely between the countries of the Global South to mutual benefit. And the private sector is at the heart of this shift. By facilitating partnerships between southern businesses and organizations, SS&TrC can help overcome many of the barriers that currently hinder private sector engagement in sustainable development. Through knowledge sharing, technology transfers, and access to new markets, SS&TrC creates opportunities for southern businesses to grow and contribute to the achievement of the SDGs.

Recognizing that the SDGs can only be realized with strong global partnerships and cooperation, the IsDB and UNOSSC will organize a dialogue on the margins of the UN General Assembly in September

2024. This event will showcase concrete examples on how private sector engagements in SS&TrC can create win-win scenarios that strengthen multi-stakeholder ownership and commitment. These engagements benefit companies, the economies and communities of the countries involved, and the broader global community.

For example, the IsDB will be sharing its successes in SS&TrC private sector engagements through its homegrown SS&TrC modality called “Reverse Linkage”, as a catalyst for developing synergistic multi-stakeholder engagements. By showcasing concrete examples and lessons learned from their collaborations, the IsDB and UNOSSC are paving the way for increased private sector participation in SS&TrC.

This dialogue is pivotal in mobilizing the substantial capabilities and resources of the private sector in the Global South, which is a major provider of jobs, skills, goods, services, and trade that address specific SDGs needs. It aims to address critical gaps, such as the 51% decrease in confidence among business leaders regarding the achievement of SDGs by 2030, and to push for a more involved, confident private sector.

Duration: 90 mins

Objectives:

- The private sector plays an indispensable role in driving economic growth, innovation, and job creation – all of which are critical for achieving the SDGs. However, the potential of the private sector to contribute to sustainable development in the Global South remains largely untapped. This event will:
 - Explore innovative strategies for building alliances between the private sector and development organizations to accelerate progress towards the SDGs in the Global South and the North.
 - Identify actionable strategies for leveraging private sector (especially those from the Global South) for crowding in investment in SDG-related financing, trade and innovation, especially considering the untapped South-South trade potential and technology transfer.
 - Strengthen partnerships and foster new collaborations with a focus on mutual benefit (win-win), shared value creation, ownership, and commitment.

Expected Outcomes:

- A deeper understanding of the opportunities and challenges for private sector engagement in achieving the SDGs in the Global South and North.
- A set of actionable strategies and recommendations for leveraging the private sector to crowd in investment in SDG-related financing, trade, and innovation.
- Strengthened partnerships and new collaborations between the private sector and development organizations.
- Commitment from leading organizations, including IsDB and UNOSSC, to foster enabling environments that enhance private sector contributions to the SDGs.

Participants: Members States, private sector, UN entities, development partners.

Agenda:

Time	Description
09:00 – 09:30	Coffee and registration – Participants arrive, register, and connect with fellow attendees over coffee
09:30 – 09:40	Welcoming and opening remarks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcoming remarks by Ms. Dima Al-Khatib, UNOSSC Director (3 min) • Opening remarks by Dr. Issa Faye, Head of Delegation of IsDB to UNGA, Director General, Global Practice and Partnerships (7 min)
09:40 – 09:55	Keynote speech, moderated by Ms. Dima Al-Khatib <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H.E. Dr. Rania Al-Mashat, Minister of Planning, Economic Development and International Cooperation, Egypt (7 min) • Mr. Hattan Bin Samman, Senior Advisor and General Supervisor for International Organizations, to deliver a Statement of H.E. Mr. Faisal Alibrahim, Minister of Economy and Planning of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (7 min)
09:55 – 10:40	Panel discussion: Models of Collaboration for SDG Progress – Building Blocks of Success, Davos style to be moderated by Dr. Issa Faye <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - H.E. Amb. Tri Tharyat, Deputy Minister for Multilateral Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia (7 min) - H.E. Amb. Mr. Mohamed Methqal, Director General, Moroccan Agency for Internation Cooperation (7 min) - H.E. Amb. Ms. Esen Altuğ, Director General for Multilateral Economic Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Türkiye (7 min) - Mr. Abdallah Al Dardari, Assistant Secretary General and Director of the UNDP Regional Bureau for Arab States (7 min)
10:40 – 10:55	Discussants: Scaling Impact - Insights from the Private Sector <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ms. Amnah Shaari, Group Chief Executive Officer and Founder, Serunai Commerce Sdn Bhd (5 min) - Mr. Tarik Bourquouquou, Manager International Projects Development, MASEN (virtual) (5 min) - Mr. Sahba Sobhani, Director, UNDP International Centre for Private Sector in Development (5 min)
10:55 – 11:00	Wrap-up by Ms. Dima Al-Khatib, Director, UNOSSC

High-level speakers will depart, and the Part II session, conducted at the technical level, will provide space for participants to concretize ideas for SS&TrC projects involving the private sector.

PART II. IDEAS FOUNDRY (11:00 – 12:45)

Harnessing Private Sector Contribution through SS&TrC – IsDB Reverse Linkage Experience

Background:

The participation of the private sector, particularly from the Global South, during the 2nd Global Advocacy Dialogue (GAD) session will enrich the discussions about the potential role they can play in promoting a win-win scenario in South-South and Triangular Cooperation engagements facilitated by development partners.

The private sector is key to the actual sustainability of SS&TrC engagements and advancing the global development agenda with the reality of the dwindling resources of development partners. The added value of their participation will be an opportunity for continuity beyond the scope of the SS&TrC engagements they participate in as a positive spillover effect. Such SS&TrC intervention is often regarded as an investment by the private sector stakeholders for the long term in a certain sector or market in the beneficiary country.

To encourage the private sector's participation in this second GAD, a dedicated interactive session right after the event is needed to maintain the momentum created and provide a platform for all the stakeholders, both private sector and development institutions, to engage in substantive discussion and develop concrete actions and projects moving forward.

Ideas Foundry:

The session aims to provide a space for participants to share ideas or challenges in SS&TrC, learn from experiences of previous private sector-related SS&TrC projects and an opportunity to brainstorm on new SS&TrC projects and collaborations. Furthermore, it will be an invaluable opportunity to connect the various participants.

This session will be co-organized by the IsDB and UNOSSC. During the session, the IsDB with its in-depth experience developing SS&TrC projects through its homegrown Reverse Linkage mechanism involving private sector partners as both providers of knowledge and expertise and recipients will be facilitating. The session will be more of an informal platform for the stakeholders to interact and discuss realistic opportunities for SS&TrC collaborations. It is also an invaluable opportunity for the private sector stakeholders to network.

Duration: slightly over 90 mins

Objective:

- Identify potential SS&TrC collaborations/partnerships that will involve the private sector, which may cover among others, the following thematic areas: energy, digital transformation, health, connectivity, logistics, Halal and transport.
- Expose the private sector to the development arena (i.e., achieving SDGs) and encourage their technical and financial contributions through SS&TrC engagements.
- Enable experienced private sector partners in SS&TrC to share their projects and activities to guide and convince fellow private sector stakeholders to participate in SS&TrC engagements facilitated by development partners.
- Provide the opportunity for the private sector to expand its network of partners from member countries, development partners, and fellow private sector partners.

Expected Outcomes:

- To develop a pipeline of SS&TrC projects and activities for involving the private sector.
- Create a set of realistic action items to realize this pipeline.

Participants: Member Countries, UN entities, development partners and private sector.

Session Justification:

There would potentially be about 8-10 participants from the private sector. Among these partners, there would be those with a spectrum of experience in undertaking SS&TrC (eg, Reverse Linkage) engagement. It is hoped that the combination of such an array of stakeholders will produce seeds of potential future SS&TrC multistakeholder collaboration.

Agenda:

Moderated by Mr. Aminuddin Mat Ariff, IsDB Lead Technical Cooperation Specialist

Time	Description
11:00 – 11:10	<p>Coffee Break and Rearranging of room</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Coffee break after first half of session and tables and chairs to be arranged to enable participants to sit around in groups.
11:10 – 11:20 11:20 – 11:30 11:30 – 11:40	<p>IsDB Reverse Linkage – The Mechanism and Private Sector Experience</p> <p>Mr. Aminuddin Mat Ariff, IsDB Lead Technical Cooperation Specialist (Reverse Linkage), in charge of SS&TrC Global Private Sector Partnerships.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Brief Introduction to the IsDB SS&TrC Mechanism: “<i>Reverse Linkage</i>”. (10 min) <p>Ms. Amnah Shaari, Group CEO and Founder of Serunai Commerce Sdn Bhd.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Case Study 1: Private Sector role in strengthening the capacity of stakeholders in a growing industry (Halal Industry) in Uganda. (10 min) <p>Mr. Ho Wei Ming, Executive Director, Probase Manufacturing Sdn Bhd.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Case Study 2: Private Sector participation in SS&TrC loan-based financing projects (road construction). (10 min)
11:40 – 11:50	<p>Presentation by UNOSSC on South-South and Triangular Cooperation Solutions Lab</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Exploring potential collaboration opportunities with the private sector within the South-South and Triangular Cooperation Solutions Lab. (10 min)
11:50 – 12:40	<p>Ideas Foundry: Strategic Brainstorming, Concretizing Ideas and Networking Session</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Participants will be free to move around and discuss among themselves. – The private sector partners will be responsible to identify one or two potentially realistic SS&TrC engagements (based on their experience) that may be considered for further discussion. (30 min) – Quick reporting by the private sector partners of the potential areas of engagement that can be done through SS&TrC. (15 min) – Q&A (5 min)
12:40 – 12:45	<p>Wrap-up by Mr. Zanofer Ismalebbe, Chief, Knowledge Management, UNOSSC (5 min)</p>

Focal Points: IsDB and UNOSSC

Last update on 25 September 2024