

**Special Event on SDG Acceleration Actions
On the Margins of 2020 HLPF**

“SDG Acceleration Actions to Build Back Better”

14 July 2020, 8:00 - 8:50 AM

Concept Note

In the lead up to, and during the 2019 SDG Summit, a number of governments and non-state actors presented new commitments and plans to speed up SDG implementation, either by announcing new initiatives, or by scaling up existing policies and efforts. This is echoed in the Political Declaration of the Summit, which stresses the urgent need for concerted, accelerated action by all stakeholders at all levels to achieve the 2030 Agenda.

In an effort to gather information about new efforts by national governments and all non-state actors to implement the SDGs and to inspire others to take action, UN DESA has created an online **SDG Acceleration Action platform** (<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdgactions>) which currently features over 150 registered initiatives from around the world. Moving ahead on the Decade of Action to Deliver the SDGs by 2030, this platform continues to be used to mobilize action by governments and other stakeholders alike.

In her letter to Member States on the upcoming 2020 session of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF), the President of the Economic and Social Council, H.E. Mona Juul (Norway) has encouraged all Member States to use the HLPF session as an opportunity to register and share new SDG Acceleration Actions that their governments may be undertaking to speed up SDG follow-up and implementation and to build back better in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Similarly, the HLPF related special events, including the Local and Regional Governments Forum, and the events with the Chief Sustainability Officers and Higher Education Institutions and Universities, will seek to solicit new SDG acceleration actions by representatives of these key sectors as well.

In effort to showcase new SDG Acceleration Actions and to galvanize and inspire more ambition and commitments, the UN DESA is organizing a special event on the margins of the 2020 High-level Political Forum titled, “SDG Acceleration Actions to Build Back Better” with the following format and programme:

Format

The event will be held as a virtual event via webex on 14 July, from 8-8:50 a.m., immediately before the opening of the ministerial segment of the 2020 HLPF.

Draft Programme

Welcoming remarks:

- H.E. Ms. Mona Juul, President of ECOSOC
- Mr. Liu Zhenmin, Under-Secretary-General of DESA
- Ms. Vera Songwe, Executive Secretary, Economic Commission for Africa

Examples of SDG acceleration actions

- H.E. Mr. Amitabh Kant, Secretary Government of India / CEO of National Institution for Transforming India (NITI)
- Mrs. Gemma Santana, Director-General for the 2030 Agenda, Office of the Presidency, Mexico
- H.E. Ms. Baroness Sugg, Minister of Department for International Development / Special Envoy for Girls' Education, United Kingdom
- Mr. Michael Froman, Chairman of the Mastercard Center for Inclusive Growth; Vice Chairman and President of Strategic Growth for Mastercard
- Local or regional government (TBC)

Closing remarks:

- SDG advocate (TBC)