Business and Sustainable Development

Expert Group Meeting – HLPF
30 April 2014
Growing Convergence

UN + Governments

- Human Rights
- Labour
- Environment
- Anti-Corruption
- MDGs/SDGs

Civil Society

Business

United Nations Global Compact
UN Global Compact: Overview & Update

• UN’s Corporate Sustainability Initiative

• “Sustainability”: deliver economic/environmental/social/ethical value

• 8000+ companies in 140 countries committed to:

  - Implementing the core UNGC 10 Principles
  - Undertaking partnership projects to advance UN priorities

• Accountability via Disclosure: “Communication on Progress”
The Development Dimension

• Companies as agents for sustainable development

• From narrow “CSR” → broader global role

• Partner with public sector, UN, civil society

• Business embracing “UN Issues”

• Engagement in Rio+20 and Post-2015

• Setting longer-term goals and commitments
Post-2015 Business Engagement Architecture

- **Sustainable Development Goals**
  - Inclusive growth
  - Social equity and progress
  - Environmental protection

- **Long-term Business Goals**
  - Revenue growth
  - Resource productivity
  - Risk management

**Drivers and Incentives**
- Market-based
- Society-based

**Corporate Sustainability**
- LEADERSHIP
- SUPPORT
- ENGAGE

**Platforms for Action and Partnership**
- Issue platforms
- Local initiatives and networks
- Business sector initiatives
- Technology-powered partnership hubs

**Transparency and Accountability**
- Public records of commitments to principles and goals
- Measurement practices
- Reporting standards
- Certification schemes
‘Sustainable Development Goals’?

1. End poverty & increase prosperity via inclusive economic growth
2. Quality education for all
3. Achieve women and girl’s empowerment
4. Universal health coverage
5. Good nutrition for all through sustainable food and agricultural systems
6. Water and sanitation for all
7. Sustainable energy for all
8. Build peaceful and stable societies
9. Modernize infrastructure and technology
10. Good governance and realization of human rights

Source: UN Global Compact, LEAD
Implementation

• From Global to Local Action and Partnerships

• Aligned to new corporate sustainability issues
  - water/sanitation
  - food/ag
  - energy/climate
  - women/children
  - good governance, peace and security

• Anchored in principles with accountability
Final Thoughts: Role of Business

• Essential and natural partner in achieving goals

• Connect UNGC Local Networks with National Councils

• Contribute/encourage long-term goals with accountability

• Involve both MNCs and SMEs

• Utilize new implementation platforms: action hubs, etc.
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