

TRADE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FORUM 2019

Sustainability: The New Normal in a Post-2030 World

7-9 October 2019, Geneva, Switzerland

As the world spins faster and faster towards a climate emergency, maintaining the status quo is no longer an option. And in a shifting global context where multilateralism is under threat, the need for swift, collaborative action has never been greater. The 2018 IPCC report is clear: stopping further climate change damage requires transforming the world economy at a great speed. Yet this transformation can only be achieved if sustainability stops being a “nice to have” and starts becoming the cornerstone of every organizational strategy – and every supply chain.

In that light, the sixth edition of the Trade for Sustainable Development Forum will focus on sustainability mainstreaming – the process of embedding sustainability into the DNA of every organization and every business. The three-day event will look at sustainability mainstreaming from every angle: from its policy implications to its implementation on the ground, from its environmental dimension to its social dimension, from SMEs to large corporations.

Participants will hear from high-level officials, small business owners, senior corporate leaders and young entrepreneurs to witness how these initiatives are supporting the shift to a greener, more humane and inclusive economy.

The T4SD Forum 2019 “Sustainability: The New Normal in a Post-2030 World” will provide a unique platform for a diverse range of actors to exchange views, share good practices and catalyse solutions that will help deliver a shared vision for a more inclusive and sustainable future.

Forum’s objectives:

- Introduce participants to the notion of “sustainability mainstreaming” and its different actors
- Increase awareness on the opportunities for global value chain actors to foster innovation and increase competitiveness by adopting more sustainable business models
- Share experiences and best practices of projects and initiatives that contribute to the achievement of sustainability mainstreaming
- Lead by example by hosting a sustainable event (reduced use of plastics, reduced paper and trash).

About the Trade for Sustainable Development (T4SD) Forum

Organized by the International Trade Centre, the annual Trade for Sustainable Development Forum is one of the leading global events focused on major trends in sustainable value chains and voluntary sustainability standards. The Forum is a unique global event, providing a platform for all value chain stakeholders to discuss innovative approaches to improve sustainability while better connecting developing country small and medium-sized enterprises to international buyers.

PROGRAMME AT A GLANCE

Monday, 7 October, ITC headquarters – Panel sessions

Interactive panels: The forum will provide a rich, inspiring and interactive experience for participants. The panels will include a fireside chat, a fishbowl style discussion, a one-on-one interactive session, and high-level keynotes.

Networking cocktail

Tuesday, 8 October, ITC headquarters – T4SD & Partners Day

Day 2 of the Forum will offer participants the chance to explore, discuss and debate sustainability mainstreaming through sessions organized around T4SD projects.

ITC Project “How-to” sessions: interactive sessions to present T4SD’s projects through the lens of sustainability mainstreaming. Session speakers are project partners, beneficiaries, ITC managers and donors. Participants will be asked to brainstorm solutions, share their thoughts, and generally engage with the speakers in a variety of ways.

Technical Working Group Meeting, ITC HQ: per invitation only

Wednesday, 9 October, WTO Public Forum

High-level panel at the WTO Public Forum

Monday 7 October – ITC HQ

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| 8:15-9:15 | REGISTRATION |
| 9:15-9:30 | OPENING ADDRESS |
| 9:30-10:00 | SPECIAL KEYNOTE CONVERSATION |
| 10:00-11:20 | <p>SESSION 1: NO PLANET B – MAKING SUSTAINABILITY THE NORM</p> <p>As the spectre of climate change looms larger on the horizon, the need for mainstream sustainability becomes ever more pressing. But what exactly <i>is</i> sustainability mainstreaming, and why is it needed? And most of all, where does one start?</p> <p>This first session will lay the foundation for the Forum by bringing together experts and champions of sustainability mainstreaming – from high-level officials to SME owners – who will address climate change directly and explore why environmental considerations need to influence every future private and public sector decision.</p> |
| 11:20-11:40 | Coffee and networking break |
| 11:40-13:00 | <p>SESSION 2: BUILDING AN ECOSYSTEM FOR SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES</p> <p>SMEs are important drivers of economic growth in developing countries; and as such, are well placed to adopt green business practices and accelerate the transition to the green economy. In order for SMEs to develop green business practices, though, they need to be supported in reducing their environmental and climate risks, increasing their resource efficiency and the social inclusiveness of their business models.</p> <p>This session will explore how to conduct sustainability mainstreaming on the ground and discuss how to build nurturing ecosystems for green enterprises, including ITC’s</p> |

own efforts to develop an institutional ecosystem for the adoption of sustainability practices in Peru, Kenya, Vietnam, Ghana, Laos and Nepal.

13:00-14:00 Lunch break (light lunch provided)

14:00-14:30 **KEYNOTE ONE-ON-ONE INTERACTIVE SESSION**

14:30-15:45 **SESSION 3: HEALTHY PLANET, HEALTHY PEOPLE – SUSTAINABILITY MAINSTREAMING IN FOOD SYSTEMS**

The food sector is a prime candidate for sustainability mainstreaming: Intensive production methods stretch the environment to its limits, while excessive food waste continues to contribute to greenhouse gas emissions. In that light, how can we firmly integrate sustainability considerations into food production and consumption processes? How can we limit or prevent supply chain waste? And how can technology be leveraged to effect change?

This solution-oriented session will bring together producers, non-profit experts and innovators – various stakeholders of the food value chain – to explore practical examples of mainstreaming and touch upon the possible synergies between sustainability and technology in food systems, including in regards to supply chain waste.

15:45-16:05 Coffee and networking break

16:05-17:20 **SESSION 4: FROM LEGISLATION TO IMPLEMENTATION – THE SOCIAL DIMENSION OF SUSTAINABILITY MAINSTREAMING**

A key component of sustainability mainstreaming involves social responsibility: a truly prosperous and sustainable world cannot be achieved without fair practices in global supply chains.

This session looks at the social dimension of sustainability mainstreaming, using the practical example of the textile sector and discussing the French law of due diligence. How can we make sure that principles of human rights and gender equality be respected by businesses, especially in female-dominated industries like textile? What is the role of regulation, and how can technology be leveraged to effect change? This session will bring together leading experts on the topic to explore these questions.

17:20-17:30 **WRAP-UP REMARKS OF DAY 1**

17:30–19:00 **COCKTAIL RECEPTION**

Tuesday 8 October - ITC HQ

8:15-9:30 **REGISTRATION**

9:30-12:30 **OPEN HOUSE: T4SD Project “How-To” Sessions**

9:30-10:45 **Project “How-to” session 1: MEASURING THE EVOLUTION OF SUSTAINABLE MARKETS**

It is no surprise that consumers increasingly seek products that reflect the ethical treatment of workers and are environmentally conscious – but how do retailers

respond and adapt to these demands? And how can we gather market data on fair and ethical trade markets?

This Project session will discuss the making – and main findings – of a brand-new study on sustainable sourcing in the European Union. The one-of-a-kind study – carried out by ITC for the European Commission – aimed to identify trends in consumer demand for sustainable products, as well as retailer strategies for sustainable sourcing in the EU.

9:30-10:45 **Project “How-to” session 2: STRENGTHENING RESOURCE EFFICIENT AND CIRCULAR PRODUCTION PROCESSES**

How can SMEs become more competitive while switching to greener business practices? This Project “How-to” session will highlight the different ways the private sector can improve its competitiveness through reduced consumption of resources used in production processes. The session will offer insights from special T4SD projects that aim to enable SMEs to implement resource efficient and circular production processes through a customized coaching programme. The team will facilitate a dynamic and interactive session between the audience and speakers to promote the dialogue on resource efficient and circular production and its potential for increased international competitiveness

10:45-11:15 Coffee and networking break

11:15-12:30 **Project “How-to” session 3: CITIES AS DRIVERS OF SUSTAINABLE TRADE**

With more than half the world’s population residing in urban centres and urbanization expected to increase sharply, it is no wonder that cities are poised to be key drivers of change for sustainability. How can cities lead the shift towards sustainable consumption and production, and which cities are leading the way in sustainable trade?

This Project “How-To” session will look at the “EU Cities for Fair and Ethical Trade Award”, an initiative of the European Commission, implemented by ITC and T4SD with a non-traditional partner and audience – the EU cities and their citizens. This “How-to” will showcase the newly established platform – the Network of EU Cities for Fair and Ethical Trade, aiming to inspire and foster the exchange of knowledge and experiences between local authorities, and highlight the sustainable trade stories of the winner of the Award and the runners-up.

Find out more about the project: www.trade-city-award.eu

11:15-12:30 **Project “How-to” session 4: GOOD BENCHMARKING PRACTICES**

As the number of standards has increased, so has the use of sustainability benchmarks. Governments have started using benchmarks to ‘qualify’ sustainability standards for use in public procurement, while companies and industry platforms use them to identify which standards or tools are most appropriate for their production needs. As benchmarking activities increase, questions of quality, consistency and credibility need to be addressed.

In that light, this session will address ISEAL’s new benchmarking guidance and the consultation process behind it.

- 12:30 -13:45 Lunch break (light lunch provided)
- 13:45-14:00 **KEYNOTE SPEECH**
- 14:00-15:20 **Project “How-to” session 5: TRUST, TRANSPARENCY AND TECHNOLOGY FOR GOOD TRADE**
- In order to benefit everyone, good trade depends on transparency and trust – both of which can be achieved with technology. Several tools exist to bring transparency to trade, including ITC’s own Sustainability Map.
- Sustainability Map is a free online platform offering access to wide-ranging information related to sustainability initiatives and standards, allowing users to better understand the sustainability landscape and connect with business partners.
- This project session aims to introduce participants to the new version of Sustainability Map and its features, including the Standards Module, the Community Module, the Network Module and the Trends module.
- 15:20-15:50 Coffee and networking break
- 15:50-17:10 **Project “How-to” session 6: INCREASING TRANSPARENCY AND TRACEABILITY IN GARMENT VALUE CHAINS**
- Clothing is one of the largest industries in the world economy, generating annual revenues of around USD 3 trillion, producing 80 billion garment pieces, and employing 60 to 75 million people with direct jobs worldwide. Known for its widespread social and environmental impacts, the fashion industry has worked on improving traceability, leading to a need for an internationally consistent approach to public regulations in this sector.
- In that light, this “How-to” will discuss the creation of the SLCP Distribution Gateway, the key platform in the SLCP system for data hosting and sharing, and a customized tool for traceability and transparency in the apparel sphere.
- 15:50-17:10 **Project “How-to” session 7: TRADE SUPPORT INSTITUTIONS AS AGENTS OF CHANGE**
- Trade and Investment Support Institutions, from chambers of commerce to sector associations, play a crucial role in facilitating global trade – so what happens when these same institutions act as drivers for more sustainable trade?
- This Project “How-to” session will explore how trade promotion agencies – from Peru to Vietnam –leverage ITC’s services to give visibility to their members, boost international trade linkages, and promote greener trade. Participants will get to hear from different trade support institutions representatives about their experience and the way forward.
- 17:10-17:30 **HIGH-LEVEL CLOSING REMARKS**

Wednesday 9 October – WTO HQ, Room W

08:30-10:00 **HIGH-LEVEL SESSION – YOUNG VOICES ON GREEN TRADE**

What will the future of trade look like? With environmental considerations becoming front and centre and young people everywhere sounding the alarm, it's time to rethink global trade and make room for innovative solutions everywhere. How can entrepreneurship and innovation be leveraged for sustainable trade? And how can we build bridges between policymakers, entrepreneurs and students to reach a shared vision for greener and more inclusive trade? This session will bring together young eco-entrepreneurs, activists and policymakers affected by climate change to discuss the shift to a greener and more sustainable future.