



Opening Session

A new phase for global development: How global trends will affect progress on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

2015 marked a pivotal year for the international community with the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Addis Ababa, New York and Paris. As we move into the critical new phase of implementation, the SDGs provide an unprecedented opportunity to chart a more inclusive and sustainable future and devise coordinated, horizontal and “localised” policies. In addition to policies, the global community also will need relevant data together with the right levels and blends of development finance for successful implementation.

All three elements are the focus of discussions at this year’s Global Forum on Development. Translating the ambitions of the 2030 Agenda into bold and transformative projects on the ground depends on the global enabling environment and the ability of stakeholders to factor it into policies and dedicated implementation efforts. For instance, the sharp slowdown in emerging market economies is weighing on global activity and trade. Subdued investment and productivity growth is affecting the recovery of advanced economies. These macroeconomic trends may jeopardise attempts to secure adequate and predictable financing to support national development strategies.

The increasing vulnerability of institutions in some fragile and conflict-ridden areas as well as societal tensions also pose growing challenges for governments. Climate change represents a serious concern particularly in Africa and Asia, where economies are vulnerable to a range of climate effects, such as heat stress and crop yield losses. Terrorism, health pandemics and the refugee crisis also are among the most pressing current global trends.

Consequently, governments at all levels, international organisations, donors, philanthropic actors, civil society and the private sector are changing gears to anchor their development approaches to reflect both global challenges and local realities and needs. In other words, they are working to make sure the global and universal SDGs are “localised” and country-owned.

Panellists will offer their insights on how global trends affect the strategies undertaken by their institutions towards on-the-ground implementation of the SDGs. The opening session will spark discussion on the following questions. A session follows the opening on early efforts to “localise” the SDGs and on how governments and institutions at the sub-national level are re-shaping policies to promote more inclusive and cohesive societies so as to “leave no one behind.”

Questions for discussion:

- How will global trends impact your institution’s efforts to implement the SDGs beyond 2015?
- How do governments and international stakeholders plan for available knowledge and financial resources to reach scale in light of emerging global trends?
- How does the current global economic slowdown affect financing sources for development? How can non-state actors scale-up their contributions in a low-investment scenario?