

EMnet global meeting
Business in a Post-COVID World
 Virtual meeting | 15-16 December 2020

15 December 2020 [Day 1]	
13:30 – 13:40	Opening remarks
13:40 – 14:30	Global economic outlook: COVID-19 and the disruption of global trade and investment
	<p><i>The global economy collapsed in 2020 as the COVID-19 pandemic took hold, with economic turbulence set to continue as worst-case predictions for a ‘double hit’ recession are confirmed. Declines in trade and investment globally have hit many emerging economies particularly hard. The value of global trade is expected to contract by 7% to 9% and foreign direct investment is projected to decrease by 30% to 40%. This session will explore global economic and business scenarios in this unpredictable context, and discuss the key role of public policies in determining the path to a sustainable recovery.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How can public policies impact global economic and business scenarios? - What lessons do the disruptions of trade and investment hold for emerging markets?
14:30 – 15:20	Breakout sessions: Paving the path to recovery
	<p>Multilateralism in times of crisis: Global governance and the future of business</p> <p><i>COVID-19 has laid bare the current crisis of multilateralism, whilst its impact has simultaneously strengthened the case for global co-ordination of policy actions. Multilateral initiatives under the auspices of the G20 together with those of development finance institutions and regional bodies aim to revive multilateralism in support of resilient growth post-COVID. This session discusses how to maximise their potential to support the private sector in building back better and in meeting the challenges ahead.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How can multilateral co-operation support economic recovery post-COVID? - What are the main challenges faced by multilateral initiatives to support a resilient recovery?
	<p>Digital technologies and the path to economic recovery</p> <p><i>Digital technologies have been an essential tool the global response to COVID-19. They have enabled the provision of essential services; allowed businesses and employees to operate remotely; and provided ongoing access to public services and education even at the height of global lockdowns. Post-COVID, digital technologies offer ways to support a revival of trade, encourage investment, and improve overall economic fortunes, whilst reducing inequalities provided policies are geared towards greater digital inclusion.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How can digital technologies fulfil their potential to revive trade and encourage investment? - What are the principal challenges to a digitally-enabled and inclusive recovery?
15:20 – 15:30	Closing remarks [Day 1]

<p>[Participants are subsequently invited to join the 12th International Economic Forum on Latin America and the Caribbean]</p>
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16 December 2020 [Day 2]	
14:00 – 14:10	Opening remarks
14:10 – 15:00	Is sustainability at risk in a post-COVID world?
	<p><i>Governments are focused on ‘building back better’ and the language of business and sustainability increasingly refers to risk mitigation and climate resilience in making its business case. Yet, businesses are struggling across the globe while boards and shareholders tend to be more risk averse and less keen to consider the triple bottom line. Across emerging markets, public policies will be key to moving the dial on private sector efforts, from circularity to sustainable mobility, and to attracting investment in support of a resilient and inclusive recovery.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Has COVID-19 bested sustainability or will ESG commitments measure up to the crisis? - How can emerging market governments create a conducive enabling environment for sustainability that supports resilience in emerging markets?
15:00 – 15:50	Breakout sessions: Shaping the future post-COVID
	<p>The future of work: Jobs and skills for the new economy</p> <p><i>According to OECD estimates, 14% of existing jobs could disappear as a result of automation in the next 15-20 years, and another 32% are likely to change radically. New technologies have transformed ways of working and have the potential to create new jobs. The International Energy Agency calculates that a green recovery can create 9 million jobs per year over the next three years. This session will discuss the future of the job market and the skills required in the post-COVID economy.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What does the future job market look like in emerging markets? - How can companies and governments collaborate in matching skills demand and supply? <p>The future of energy: Supporting the energy transition</p> <p><i>Across emerging markets, reliance on fossil fuels remains a reality even as investments in clean energy increase. Economic recovery measures proposed so far have mostly scored poorly on environmental metrics and emerging economies most dependent on environmentally-intensive sectors. Without strong regulatory oversight, they have the biggest task to turn their stimulus green. Technological advances and falling prices make renewable energy more attractive, although the transition requires further investments and the adaptation of the energy ecosystem. This session will explore how to incentivise these investments in times of crisis, to meet the climate challenge ahead.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What are the key challenges to a managed and timely transition to a clean energy future? - How are companies investing in the energy transition in emerging markets?
15:50 – 16:40	Connectivity: Unlocking the potential of regional integration
	<p><i>In the wake of COVID-19, the importance of investing in connectivity cannot be overstated. Investments in infrastructure play a critical role in supporting economic recoveries by generating sustained employment and long-term productivity. COVID-19 has also made the case for deepening regional integration. This session will examine how multimodal, cross-sectoral, and smart infrastructure – from mobility to digital and energy – can be operationalised in emerging markets in support of higher connectivity and regional integration to unlock a sustainable recovery.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How can the business community contribute to making smart multi-modal, cross-sectoral infrastructure a reality in emerging markets? - What is the role of regional and multilateral institutions in determining the future of connectivity?
16:40 – 16:45	Closing remarks