

## **UN Women SDG5 Summit**

***“Gender equality today for a sustainable tomorrow”***

**March 9, 2022**

### **1. Overview and background**

The summit will take place over the course of one day at the Dubai Exhibition Center (DEC) at Expo 2020 Dubai and will highlight opportunities on how to accelerate action on SDG5 implementation with a focus on the ***Role of the Private Sector in Overcoming Barriers and Advancing Opportunities for Women’s Economic Empowerment***.

The Summit will gather senior level officials from the public and private sectors, academia, media, and civil society and women organizations including signatories of the Women Empowerment Principles (WEPs), members of the Unstereotype Alliance, partners of UN Women throughout the world in an effort to drive engagement and dialogue on opportunities moving beyond the celebrations of March 8<sup>th</sup> to concrete actions and commitments to deliver progress on SDG5. It will offer a platform for the sharing of best practices and co-creation and acceleration of solutions for a more equal and balanced world for all.

Women have been at the forefront of many transformational initiatives around the world. They have been exemplary leaders during the pandemic, and have demonstrated that women’s leadership matters and that a recovery from COVID 19 should be an inclusive one where women are at forefront, designing, deciding and shaping all efforts for a better recovery in the future.

#### **Objectives:**

- 1) Address the need to remove barriers for women in terms of access to finance and achieving economic empowerment
- 2) Present the different types of financial mechanisms for women entrepreneurs and for supporting women led businesses
- 3) Discuss gender lens investments and its evolution in MENA
- 4) Address cultural barriers and shifting mindsets to enable gender equality and women empowerment with a focus on the elimination of stereotypes
- 5) Highlight the important role of men in advancing gender equality and women empowerment
- 6) Advance the economic empowerment of women with a focus on the role of the private sector primarily and extending to the role of different actors in advancing SDG5
- 7) Identify solutions for the stagnating progress on gender equality and women economic empowerment

- 8) Drive greater commitment for women’s economic empowerment and advancing the role of women as agents of sustainable development

## Tentative Agenda

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#### *Role of the Private Sector in Advancing SDG5: Overcoming Barriers and Advancing Opportunities for Women’s Economic Empowerment*

Time	
10:00-10:15 15 minutes	Registration
10:15-10:20 5 minutes	Introduction by Master of Ceremony (5 minutes)
10:20-11:20 1hour (15 minutes opening speeches & 45 minutes high level panel)	<p><b>Session 1: Opening Ceremony</b></p> <p><b>Part 1: Opening Speeches</b></p> <p><i>Two Senior Government Officials</i></p> <p><i>Anita Bhatia, Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations and Deputy Executive Director of UN Women (5 minutes)</i></p> <hr/> <p><b>Part 2: High-Level Panel: Enhancing collaboration between the public and private sector to accelerate action on SDG5</b></p> <p>The panel gathers officials from international organizations, public sector and women organizations, to discuss approaches on enhancing collaboration between public and private sector organizations to accelerate progress on SDG5.</p>
11:20-11:35 15minutes	Coffee Break
11:35-12:20 45 minutes	<p><b>Session 2: Powered by a collaboration between UN Women, UNGC and Societe Generale</b></p> <p><b>CEO High-Level Panel- Accelerating Progress on SDG5: Perspectives on the Future of Women in Workplaces &amp; Communities</b></p>

	<p>CEO's from different industries will share their perspectives on actions required to accelerate progress on SDG5, they will highlight key learnings, insights and views on how the future can be shaped to enable progress for women in workplaces and in communities leaving no one behind. They will share future actions and commitments they have made to support women and men in their organizations, reinventing their workplaces to adapt to learning from the COVID19 pandemic. This panel discussion sheds light on how to address the challenges and remove the barriers for women's economic empowerment and future actions that can move the needle on gender equality in organizations.</p>
<p><b>12:20-12:40</b> <b>20 minutes</b></p>	<p><b>Session 3: Keynote Presentation</b></p> <p><b>Global economic outlook and the impacts of Covid 19 on sustainable development from a social, economic and environmental standpoint.</b></p> <p>This session will focus on insights and analysis on the global economic situation and the impacts of COVID 19 on women and sustainable development from a social, economic and environmental perspective.</p>
<p><b>12:40-1:30</b> <b>50 minutes</b></p>	<p><b>Lunch Break</b></p>
<p><b>1:30-1:50</b> <b>20 minutes</b></p>	<p><b>Session 4: Keynote Presentation- Advancing women's leadership and representation in senior management roles within the private sector</b></p>
<p><b>1:45-2:30</b> <b>45 minutes</b></p>	<p><b>Session 5:</b></p> <p><b>Panel Discussion: Facilitating Access to Finance &amp; Market Opportunities for Women Entrepreneurs</b></p> <p>Gathering leaders from the banking sectors, international finance organizations, investors and government representatives to discuss opportunities to facilitate the access to finance for women entrepreneurs. The discussion will focus on opportunities to improve the environment and current mechanisms including loans, investor funding and gender bonds.</p> <p><b>Informed by a study conducted by UN Women and NAMA on Financing Women-Led Businesses</b></p>
<p><b>2:30-3:00</b> <b>30 minutes</b></p>	<p><b>Session 6: Panel Discussion</b></p> <p><b>Gender-lens investment: Challenges and Opportunities for MENA and beyond</b></p> <p>The session will bring together representatives of gender-lens investments funds from diverse regions to discuss the future prospects of gender-lens</p>

	investments, strategies for the future and means for strengthening collaboration and increasing funding for small and medium enterprises.
<b>3:00-3:15</b> <b>15 minutes</b>	<b>Session 7: Presentation on Women Entrepreneurship Accelerator (WEA) Call to Action for Accelerating Support for Women Entrepreneurship</b>
<b>3:15-3:35</b> <b>20 minutes</b>	<b>Session 8: Fireside Chat on Leadership and Culture</b>  <b>“What kind of transformation is needed on culture and leadership to realize progress on gender equality?”</b>  Culture and leadership models have a significant impact on women’s leadership, retention, and engagement. In this session, we will host a seasoned senior executive and expert on leadership and organizational culture to shed light on the type of transformation required to accelerate progress on gender equality in workplaces.
<b>3:35-3:55</b>  <b>20 minutes</b>	<b>Session 9: <i>Powered by the members of the UAE National Chapter of the Unstereotype Alliance convened by UN Women</i></b>  Presentation 1- Presenting the Unstereotype Alliance UAE National Chapter IWD 2022 Campaign highlighting the stories of women leaders and role models and the impact of stereotypes on their journey.  Presentation 2- “Unstereotyping Advertising”- Presenting the outcomes of a campaign produced by students at Zayed University on how to eliminate stereotypes from media and advertising in the GCC.
<b>3:55-4:25</b> <b>30 minutes</b>	<b>Session 10:</b>  <b>Measurement and Evaluation of Gender Equality in the Workplace</b> A measurement and evaluation session highlighting key metrics linked to business performance and aligned with the WEPs framework to enable organizations to advance a data-centric approaches to progress on gender equality
<b>4:25-4:40</b> <b>15 minutes</b>	<b>Break</b>
<b>4:40-5:10</b>  <b>30 minutes</b>	<b>Session 11: UN Women He for She Campaign- Advancing the role of men in championing gender equality</b>
<b>5:10-5:25</b> <b>15 minutes</b>	<b>Closing remarks-Dr Mouza Al Shehhi, UN Women UAE Liaison Office Director for the GCC</b>