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Resilient nations.*

The Permanent Mission of Armenia to the United Nations

In Partnership with the United Nations Development Programme

Invite you to a Side Event  
On the Margins of the ECOSOC High-Level Political Forum

## **Innovation, Impact Investment and the SDGs Tools for Advancing Reforms**

**Tuesday, 17 July 2018, 13:15  
UN HQ Conference Room 2**

**Kindly R.S.V.P by Thursday, 12 July 2018  
to [armenia@un.int](mailto:armenia@un.int) and [anna.sinelnikova@undp.org](mailto:anna.sinelnikova@undp.org)**

## CONCEPT NOTE

The Sustainable Development Goals call for new approaches and innovative solutions for social change, beyond traditional mainstream development cooperation. Smart and strategic use of resources to leverage private capital is a growing priority defining the depth and pace of implementation of the global goals.

Social entrepreneurship and impact investment provide mechanisms that aim to intentionally generate specific benefits of social or environmental effects along with financial gains – this way creating a mechanism to scale up financing for SDGs beyond resources of governments and donors. Importantly, at the core of such innovative ventures lies the concept of decentralized decision making, bottom-up initiatives, citizen engagement and partnerships that help co-create development solutions to social challenges.

This concept is central to the vision and the reform agenda of the new Government of Armenia, which sees the citizen driven solutions as key to sustainable development, while emphasizing the importance of enhancing investments into the economy and the social sector.

The event, co-hosted by the Permanent Mission of Armenia and UNDP will, among other, build up on the first global summit on impact investment for development held in Armenia in 2017 (the IIDO Summit) and on the HLPF Side Event hosted by Armenia and UNDP in July 2017.

### **Key Objectives**

The event will highlight Armenia's experience in advancing SDG implementation through innovation and partnerships with the private sector, also in the context of the country's rapid transformation following the Velvet Revolution in April 2018. The side event will review and discuss the following aspects of SDG implementation:

- The country's approach for SDG Acceleration as part of the government's vision for all-encompassing reforms putting the interest of the citizen in focus and tapping on the unique resources and knowledge of the Diaspora.
- The experience of the national SDG Innovation Lab, in operation since November 2017 and potentially serving as a model for innovation and evidence-based policy making for SDGs.
- The experience of UNDP in Armenia in linking the SDG agenda and the private sector action, through impact investment as a key tool.

## **Format**

The side event will be held in the form of a panel discussion, with a Q&A following the presentations by the panelists.

## **Speakers and Participants:**

### *Opening remarks:*

- Mr. Ararat Mirzoyan, First Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia
- Mr. Zohrab Mnatsakanyan, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia
- Ms. Cihan Sultanoğlu, UNDP Assistant Administrator and Director of the RBEC

### *Panelists:*

- Mr. Shombi Sharp, UN Resident Coordinator/UNDP Resident Representative in Armenia
- Mr. Babken Der-Grigorian, Deputy Minister of Diaspora
- Mr. Hakob Arshakyan, First Deputy Minister of Transport, Communication and IT
- Mr. Armine Saidi, CEO and Co-founder of Wicatr

## **Organizers**

### **Permanent Mission of Armenia to the UN**

Armenia represents a laboratory for an overt and strategic collaboration between international development players, innovators and impact investors. Its culture is characterized by entrepreneurial spirit and a vibrantly engaged Diaspora that creates a natural momentum for impact investment. A wave of innovative start-ups in technology, growing community of young social entrepreneurs and innovators, remarkable venture philanthropy projects, several globally renowned SE initiatives – all are bringing about considerable impact that is relatively outsized vis-à-vis the size of the country. Armenia has volunteered to present its first national review on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda at the HLPF in 2018.

### **The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)**

UNDP is the United Nation's development arm, working in over 170 countries of the world and delivering over \$4.5 billion annually in grant assistance in such areas as sustainable development, governance and peacebuilding, climate resilience and post-crisis response and recovery. Focused on supporting countries in achieving the SDGs, UNDP seeks to instill innovation in every aspect of its work and to partner with the private sector in seeking innovative financing solutions.