

Sustainability Business Forum

Beyond Export, Across the Supply Chain

Introducing the Initiative

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Citizen's Platform for SDGs, Bangladesh

এসডিজি বাস্তবায়নে নাগরিক প্ল্যাটফর্ম, বাংলাদেশ

“Sustainability” has now become the name of the game!

Context

The Challenge

- Bangladesh aspires to achieve *upper-middle-income status* and must prepare for a smooth transition following its *exit from the LDC group*.
- *Multilateral rule-based institutions* are being rendered dysfunctional at a time when demands for stricter *compliance standards* continue to increase.
- The prevailing situation has become more complex due to *disruptive global developments*, underpinned by *direct and proxy conflicts*, and this may lead to a *global recession*.
- These factors are **intensifying demands for systemic and sustained structural and policy reforms** in Bangladesh.

Context

The Gaps

- It appears that both the government and industries are *not fully equipped* to face the transitional challenges ahead.
- **Gaps persist** in professional awareness, as well as in knowledge and capacity, not to talk about productive interventions
- There had been **a few collective initiatives** in Bangladesh addressing the “*Sustainability domain*”.
- Past sustainability initiatives have remained **limited** to a handful. These are typically banking, telecom, multinationals, and export-oriented sectors.
- These efforts were not adequately linked to monitoring the domain of structural and policy changes

Context

THE RESPONSE

Given the above, the Citizens' Platform for SDGs, Bangladesh, is planning to launch a "Sustainability Business Forum" drawing on the network's social commitment, *convening power*, and *analytical capacity*.

INTENDED OUTCOME OF TODAY'S MEETING

01

Consolidation of the ideas behind the initiative to define what it wants to achieve

02

Identifying the modalities, activities and participation of the initiative

03

Designing a governance structure for the initiative

Operational Framework

Scope of the Forum

To move beyond compliance and unlock sustainability as a business opportunity.

a) Measurement & Reporting

Serving as a governance checkpoint for readiness and emerging sustainability risks.

b) Tracking the Domain

Tracking implementation progress of reforms relevant to sustainable business practices.

c) Fostering Deliberation

Fostering deliberation and exchange of best practices and lessons across sectors in the country and beyond.

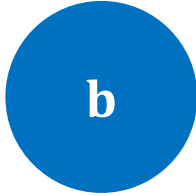
Operational Framework

Three Key Areas for Effective Implementation



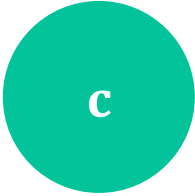
a

**Research & Analysis on
the “Sustainability”
concept, measurement
and related issues**



b

**Strategic Stakeholder
Collaborations - Beyond
Private Enterprises**



c

**Pursuing Public Policies
& Reforms Needed for
Supporting
Sustainability**

a. Research & Analysis on the “Sustainability” Concept and Equivalent Issues

For strengthening global competitiveness through addressing compliance challenges.

The Forum will-

Track risks, trends, and opportunities

Generate timely policy and institutional signals

Enable a policy environment that **aligns business incentives** with sustainable development

b. Strategic Stakeholder Collaboration

The Forum will actively engage with key stakeholders from the private sector and global partners, including IDPs, FDIs, INGOs, and Labour Organisations for generating common strategies

- Business Leaders

- International brands

- SMEs, including Young & Women Entrepreneurs

- BIDA & BSEC

- IDPs & IFIs

- Labour bodies

- ESG bodies

- SDG Coordinator's Office

- Relevant Ministries & Government Regulatory Bodies

- Issue Experts, Academics & Think Tanks

C. Tracking Reforms through Bangladesh Reform Tracker

The [*Bangladesh Reform Tracker*](#)¹ will be utilised to track commitments across the following domains, which fall within the gamut of the Forum-

01

Data Challenges

02

Post-LDC Issues

03

**Compliance with social
clauses- Labour and
Environmental Standards**

04

**Access to Finance and
Power and Energy**

05

Regulatory Issues

06

**Efforts Against Corrupt
Practices**

1. The Bangladesh Reform Tracker is an independent, citizen-led platform that tracks, monitors, and shares progress on reform commitments across key areas in Bangladesh.

Issues for Discussion

1. Are the Forum's objectives and operational framework aligned with the needs of the private sector for transitioning to sustainable business practices?
2. Which priority areas should guide the Forum's work plan?
3. What commitments and actions are expected from FDIs, IDPs, and international brands/ agencies?
4. What roles should government regulators and relevant Ministries undertake within the Forum?
5. What roles should labour bodies play within the Forum?
6. How the Forum should be financed?
7. What should be the Forum's first public event?

Thank You



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