



# UN India Business Forum

## Powering a dynamic partnership for change

India's phenomenal economic growth, fuelled by its vibrant business community, is at the heart of the global agenda for 2030: the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Innovative solutions and partnerships, in close collaboration with the private sector, not only catalyze sustainable development in India, but have the potential to scale up for impact globally.

Currently, it is estimated that up to US\$ 5 trillion a year are needed to implement the SDGs worldwide. At the same time, sustainable development has the potential to open up markets worth US\$ 12 trillion. Returns on investments generated by the implementation of the SDGs could be approximately US\$ 30 billion per year. The business case for investing in the SDGs is clear.

### The Forum

The UN India Business Forum (UNIBF) is a groundbreaking alliance of India's key economic influencers, aimed at accelerating progress towards rapid growth and achieving the SDGs. It is led by committed business leaders who, together with the government, can play a significant role in addressing the country's most urgent development challenges, and unlock opportunities to innovate at scale.

Today, India is one of the most attractive markets for renewable energy, and ambitious flagship schemes such as 'housing for all' offer immense opportunities for smart business solutions. As home to one-sixth of humanity, nowhere is the business opportunity larger than in India. Unlocking it will require new cooperative models, and a platform like UNIBF can facilitate this collaboration.

Since its launch in 2017, the UNIBF has evolved from a dialogue forum into a tangible partnership. It has helped steer innovative and disruptive partnerships as well as action for the SDGs. Some of the Forum's policy recommendations have served as inputs in important flagship initiatives like the National Urban Housing and Habitat Policy 2017, and a number of catalytic financing instruments have emerged from this collaboration. Four of UNIBF's thematic groups, focused on India's key development priorities, have made significant progress in the last year: affordable housing, access to clean and affordable energy, women's economic empowerment, and health and nutrition.

### Funding to Financing

This year, the UNIBF will focus on the growing recognition that philanthropy and siloed approaches to 'funding' the SDGs are no longer enough. Global business engagement is now shifting to innovative 'financing' instruments, joint public-private initiatives, a focus on measurable outcomes, and full supply chain approaches for sustainable businesses. Innovative finance could take the form of guarantees, social impact bonds, social insurance, and impact investments, that address specific market failure, generate momentum to enhance government resources, and reduce risk, thereby offering contractual certainty to investors.

The UNIBF CEO Roundtable 2018 will facilitate an important conversation on these themes, shaped by business leaders themselves. The discussion aims to introduce concrete new ideas, pioneering partnerships, and financing tools for the SDGs that can be taken up by the Forum in the coming year.