

UN Reform and Business: New Pathways for Collaborative Impact and Resilience

## Second Roundtable on Business and UN80 Reform

with UN Under-Secretary-General for Policy, Mr. Guy Ryder, and Director for the UN Pact for the Future Implementation, Mr. Themba Kalua

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Kindly hosted by Salesforce at its New York City office

## Multistakeholder Roundtable



### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- In what ways can the business community serve as a constructive resource to inform the UN80 Initiative reform deliberations, both with the UN Secretariat and Member States?
- How can business expertise and experience be effectively integrated into the new arrangements emerging from UN80 reforms to support a UN that is resilient, inclusive, and effective?
- What is the most compelling approach to advocate for a standing interface with business, ensuring that considerations such as budgetary implications, benefits for the Global South, inclusivity, transparency, open dialogue, and measurable impact are fully recognized?

### DISCUSSION SUMMARY AND NEXT STEPS

*The USCIB Foundation* convened its Second High Level Roundtable, “Business Pact for the Future: UN Reform and Business,” with UN Under-Secretary-General Guy Ryder and Director for the UN Pact for the Future, Mr. Themba Kalua. *The USCIB Foundation* has supported the UN Pact for the Future and launched a complementary Business Pact for the Future, to identify and prioritize the most impactful areas for private sector partnership in implementation.

A central element of UN revitalization emerging from UN80 is the recognition of meaningful access and partnership with business. During this second roundtable, *The USCIB Foundation* presented a Thought Starter Paper on strengthening UN impact through business engagement, highlighting potential contributions across all three dimensions of UN80: efficiency, implementation impact, and structural reinforcement.

The discussion explored a range of concrete opportunities for business to add value within the six Pact Implementation working groups. We examined how UN interfaces with business can be distinct, inclusive, and substantive, while complementing engagement with other constituencies.

Building on this momentum, *The USCIB Foundation* is preparing a Third Roundtable to deepen dialogue with Member States and further refine the Thought Starter Paper. The next months, leading to the Informal Ad-Hoc Working Group on UN80’s recommendations by March 2026, present a crucial window to shape outcomes. USCIB members are encouraged to contribute their expertise and insights, demonstrating the unique value that business engagement brings to advancing the UN’s mission.

**A Business Pact**  
FOR THE FUTURE

NEW PATHWAYS FOR IMPACT

## ROUNDTABLE OBJECTIVES

- Identify how the private sector can provide actionable insights and practical resources to support UN Secretariat and Member State deliberations, enhancing UN efficiency, inclusivity, and impact.
- Explore mechanisms for a recognized, transparent, and inclusive platform for business engagement, including options for a designated envoy, office, or multi-organization consultative mechanism.
- Gather perspectives to shape actionable recommendations, ensuring that private sector contributions are meaningfully integrated into UN reform processes.

## THOUGHT STARTER PAPER: PURPOSE AND SCOPE

- The Thought Starter Paper on “Strengthening UN Impact with Business Engagement” was developed to explore opportunities within the UN80 reform process to reinforce business partnership and expertise as a resource for the UN and its Member States.
- It summarizes key themes from BPF discussions and identifies considerations that should be addressed by Member States, the UN, and business in shaping mutually beneficial and recognized consultative interfaces.
- The overarching objective is to ensure that business expertise, partnership, information, and dialogue are incorporated both during and as an outcome of the UN80 reform deliberations.
- The report strengthens business-UN interfaces by proposing a designated envoy or office, recognizing business as a distinct essential partner, promoting inclusive participation from the Global South and SMEs, and enabling business involvement throughout the full “life cycle”—from issue identification to implementation—while preserving the UN’s intergovernmental nature.

## TAKEAWAYS

- USCIB members were invited to provide input on the draft Thought Starter Paper, “Strengthening UN Impact with Business Engagement.”
- Member feedback will be incorporated into continued discussions with UN Member State representatives, through which positions and concerns regarding the role of business in strengthening UN effectiveness and impact will be further understood.
- These contributions will also support ongoing dialogue with governments and UN institutions aimed at identifying opportunities for the integration of business expertise within UN80 reform processes.
- Monitoring of the General Assembly Informal Ad-Hoc Working Group on UN80 reform will continue, and preparations are underway for a USCIB Foundation BPF High Level Roundtable with the Permanent Representatives of Jamaica and New Zealand, co-chairs of the working group. This Roundtable is intended to facilitate further elaboration of the Thought Starter Paper and advance dialogue on strengthening UN impact through structured engagement with business.
- Broader participation by additional Member State representatives in leadership roles will be sought in future Roundtables to ensure inclusive perspectives are reflected in subsequent discussions.