

COVID-19 recovery: Examples of business contributions to the “new normal”

[Concept note]

Information about the session

Date and time

Tuesday 16 June

08:00 - 08:45 New York time

Background information

While some countries are still trying to slow the spread of the new coronavirus, others have started to cautiously re-open their societies. How this is done will determine what the aftermath of the pandemic is likely to look like. Structural changes, partnerships and new technological solutions will be required to recover from the virus and its social and economic consequences and set the development into a more equitable, green and resilient path going forward.

This session will explore the role of the private sector in contributing to the recovery and the path to the *new normal*. It will highlight collective action and provide examples of private sector initiatives that support governments, the UN and other stakeholders towards a in building long-term resilience.

Objectives

More specifically, the session will:

- Highlight the role of the private sector in supporting national and international recovery efforts;
- Provide concrete examples of actions that the private sector has undertaken and identify areas where further efforts could lead to broad scale impact;
- Discuss the roles and responsibilities of different actors (government, UN, private sector, civil society) in planning and moving ahead with the reopening of economies and the recovery process;
- Look at lessons and practical tips for the participants to learn from to make the recovery process easier.

Agenda [times below are in EST)

08:00 – 08:10 Opening remarks

08:10 – 08:40 Interactive panel discussion

- **David Young**, Managing Director & Senior Partner, Boston Consulting Group
- **Pelin Kihdir Öztürk**, Director, Business for Goals / CBI Member Network in Turkey
- **Jaki Mebur**, Market Engagement Manager, GSMA Mobile for Humanitarian Innovation Programme / Advisor to CBI Member Network in Kenya
- **Jeffrey N. Beckles**, Chief Executive Officer of the Bahamas Chamber of Commerce & Employers' Confederation
- **Moderator: Sahba Sobhani**, Director, Istanbul International Centre for Private Sector in Development (IICPSD), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

08:40 – 08:45 Closing remarks

Speaker biographies (in alphabetic order by surname)



Jeffrey N. Beckles

CEO, Bahamas Chamber of Commerce & Employers' Confederation

Jeffrey N. Beckles is the Chief Executive Officer of the Bahamas Chamber of Commerce & Employers Confederation. He is a twenty-three-year veteran of the tourism hospitality sector; Mr. Beckles has held several senior management positions with major hotel/casino/golf operations in the Bahamas and throughout the region. Bahamas Princes Hotels & Casino, PGA Tour Marketing,

Kerzner International, Atlantis Resort & Casino, One and Only Ocean Club., The JACHARIC Group of Companies and the National Sports Authority of the Bahamas. At the NSA, he led the national charge to position the Bahamas as a premier host destination for world-class sporting and international conference events. Including: the IAAF World Relays, FIFA Beach Soccer World Cup, Commonwealth Youth Games and the International Civil Aviation Annual Conference. As a consultant, Mr. Beckles' diverse background has afforded him many opportunities to work at a national level on the civic side including; HAZMAT and Industrial Safety Councils and with NEMA as a Coordinator. He received his education at the Nassau Christian Academy, College of the Bahamas, PGA School of Business and the Tennessee Temple University.



Pelin Kihtir

Director, Business for Goals Platform, UNDP

Pelin Kihtir has held various positions in UNDP since 2010, and before joining the management of the Business for Goals Platform. She provided programme support on sustainable development, donor countries and strategic partnership in the UNDP Regional Hub for Europe and CIS Countries. Earlier, she worked in the field of development in Turkey through locally and internationally funded projects. She holds bachelor's degree in Urban and

Regional Planning, and master's in Middle-East Studies in the Middle-East Technical University. She worked as a research assistant in the same university before engaging in development work.



Jaki Mebur

Market Engagement Manager, GSMA

Jaki is the Market Engagement Manager for the GSMA Mobile for Humanitarian Innovation programme for Africa. Prior to joining the GSMA, Jaki spent over 8 years in the mobile industry first as a mobile core and IP networks expert and finally in the Technology for Development section at Safaricom PLC, where she managed mobile based solutions in the Humanitarian and Disaster Management Portfolios. She also spent 4 years in a voluntary role as the Program Manager for The Safaricom Women in Technology

Academy, an all-girl internship program through which she has championed the increase of female engineers and technicians in the telecommunications industry. Jaki holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Electrical and Electronics Engineering from The Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology.



David Young

Managing Director & Senior Partner, Boston Consulting Group

Dave Young returned to Boston Consulting Group in April 2016, and leads the firm's total societal impact and sustainability work globally, and is a BCG Fellow. Dave works closely with the leaders of the Social Impact practice to assist clients with efforts at the intersection of social impact, the firm's Public Sector practice, and the private sector. After 17 years with BCG, Dave left in 2006 to join

World Vision International, a global relief, development, advocacy, and microfinance organization dedicated to working with children, families, and communities to overcome extreme poverty and injustice. At World Vision, Dave served as chief operating officer, leading a comprehensive transformation effort and overseeing the organization's global

field operations, emergency response, technical support teams, microfinance, and strategic support functions. Dave also served on the board of directors of Vision Fund International, one of the world's largest microfinance operations bringing financial services to the poor, and on the board of directors of J.M. Huber, one of America's oldest family held global corporations. During his time at BCG from 1988 to 2005, Dave's many roles included serving on BCG's Executive Committee, leading the Industrial Goods practice, and serving as managing director of the firm's Seoul and Boston offices. Dave was also an active member of the Organization and Corporate Development practices, and worked on the teams that launched what are today the Social Impact and Global Advantage practices. Prior to joining BCG initially, Dave worked at The Timken Company from 1980 to 1988 in research and development, manufacturing operations, and corporate strategy.



MODERATOR

Sahba Sobhani

Director, UNDP

Sahba Sobhani is the Director of UNDP's Istanbul International Centre for Private Sector in Development (IICPSD). Mr. Sobhani brings 19 years of experience in the private sector in Silicon Valley, Singapore and at UNDP as Programme Advisor, Team Leader and Programme Manager including as the technical lead for the recently endorsed UNDP private sector strategy. He has significant partnership development and advocacy experience with the private sector working with over 100 companies and business organizations and a track record of operational leadership, innovation and management of 6 global UNDP-led strategic multi-stakeholder partnerships and initiatives in the area of business and development including the Business Call to Action Initiative, the Connecting Business Initiative and the G20 Global Platform on Inclusive Business and has been the principal author and content manager of all 5 major UNDP-led reports in the area of private sector in development, Previously, he managed two key UNDP private sector initiatives in the executive office of the former Administrator of UNDP, Mark Malloch Brown, including the Commission on the Private Sector and Development, and the African Financial Markets Initiative. He co-authored *Unleashing Entrepreneurship: Making Business Work for the Poor*, the seminal report of the Private Sector Commission produced at the request of former UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan. Mr. Sobhani was the managing editor of the *African Stock Markets Handbook*. He is a graduate of Yale University and the Fletcher School of Diplomacy (USA).

About the organizer

Connecting Business initiative (CBI)

The Connecting Business initiative (CBI) transforms how the private sector engages before, during and after crises. The initiative is jointly managed by UNDP and OCHA, and supported by partners including the UN Global Compact. It increases the resilience of companies and people, while integrating private sector networks into disaster management mechanisms. In 2019, CBI Member Networks and their partners responded to 31 crises including earthquakes, cyclones, political unrest and health epidemics. CBI Networks play critical roles by participating in search and rescue operations, collecting and distributing relief aid, restoring critical infrastructure, sharing information, making financial contributions and working alongside governments and aid organizations. More information at: www.connectingbusiness.org