



وزارة التعاون الدولي  
Ministry of International  
Cooperation



**EGYPT-ICF**  
INTERNATIONAL  
COOPERATION  
FORUM | 2021  
ENGAGING FOR IMPACT

# Egypt - International Cooperation Forum

## AGENDA



European Bank  
for Reconstruction and Development



UNITED NATIONS



WORLD BANK GROUP

**Under the Patronage of  
H.E. Abdel Fattah El-Sisi  
President of the Arab  
Republic of Egypt**

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September 8-9

[egypt-icf.com/](http://egypt-icf.com/)



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## Day 1: Wednesday, September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021

8:00 - 9:00

### REGISTRATION

9:00 - 10:30

### OPENING CEREMONY

Opening Remarks

Keynote Speeches

Moderator: Ms. Lubna Bouza, Editor in Chief, Sky News Arabia

10:30 - 11:45

### PANEL 1

#### MULTILATERALISM AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION POST COVID-19

This high-level panel affirms the importance of multilateralism for post COVID-19 recovery. The participating leaders from the Middle East and Africa (MEA) and heads of International Financing Institutions will emphasize the key role of regional and international partnerships in advancing equitable and inclusive development. The aim of the panel is to identify the actions required to enhance the effectiveness of multilateralism in an increasingly interdependent world for a strong and resilient recovery, with a special focus on the Middle East and Africa. The discussion will set the scene for the forum by highlighting the role of the different stakeholders and touch upon important topics which will be discussed in further detail in subsequent plenary sessions.

Moderator: Mr. Manus Cranny, Anchor, Bloomberg LP

11:45 - 12:00

### COFFEE BREAK

12:00 - 13:15

### PANEL 2

#### THE ROLE OF INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION IN ACCELERATING PROGRESS TOWARDS THE 2030 AGENDA

Official Development Assistance (ODA) stands out from the other sources of finance in that its direct objective is to support economic, social and environmental development, thus directly linking to the SDGs. It is hence pivotal to assess the changes in the strategic direction of development cooperation and explore the opportunities to enhance its effectiveness to deliver on ground change. This session will present successful experiences of multi-stakeholder partnerships in achieving the SDGs from the MEA region and will highlight the opportunities that have emerged from the COVID-19 pandemic to accelerate progress towards the 2030 Agenda. The main goal of this panel is to reflect on the role that International Development cooperation





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## Day 1: Wednesday, September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021

can play in mobilizing resources towards achieving the UN 2030 Agenda which witnessed serious turmoil following the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Moderator: Ms. Eleni Giokos, Anchor and Correspondent, CNN

### 13:15 - 15:00 LUNCH BREAK

### 15:00 - 16:15 PANEL 3

#### PRIVATE SECTOR ENGAGEMENT IN DEVELOPMENT THROUGH INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

Official Development Assistance (ODA) financing has become strained with the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic and its aftermath resulting in fiscal retrenchment in many developed countries, instilling uncertainties regarding future flows. On the other hand, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) financing gap is widening, currently estimated at US\$ 2.5 trillion, which reinforces the case to align more global finance in support of the 2030 Agenda. The primary objective of this panel is to mobilize private sector engagement in development through international cooperation in order to accelerate the achievement of the SDGs.

Moderator: Mr. Manus Cranny, Anchor, Bloomberg LP

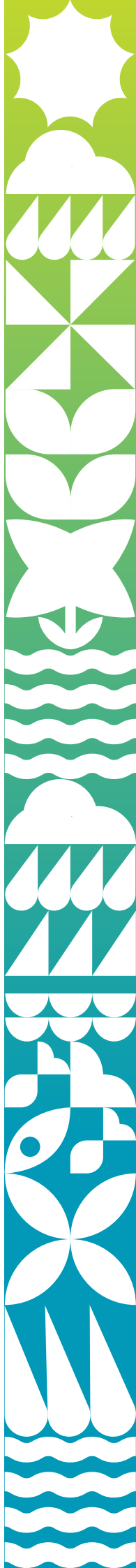
### 16:15 - 16:30 COFFEE BREAK

### 16:30 - 17:45 PANEL 4

#### CLIMATE ACTION IN A POST COVID-19 CONTEXT: A TWOFOLD CHALLENGE

In the MEA region, climate action plans are crucial to maintain economic growth and development, however, the adaptation to climate action is hampered by numerous challenges. Meanwhile, the COVID-19 pandemic has placed increased strains on MEA countries, testing their social, economic, and environmental resilience, as well as further exacerbating pre existing challenges of pollution, increased climate risks, water scarcity and migration. The primary objective of this session is to address the twofold challenge of climate change mitigation and pandemic recovery efforts in developing countries, especially in the Middle East and Africa (MEA).

Moderator: Ms. Eleni Giokos, Anchor and Correspondent, CNN





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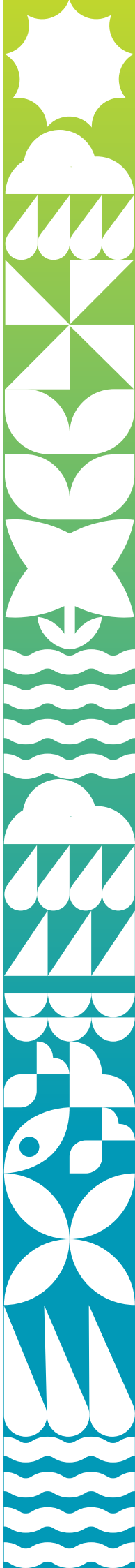
## Day 1: Wednesday, September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021

### 18:00 - 18:30 DIALOGUE WITH THE PRIVATE SECTOR: TOWARDS INCLUSIVE PARTNERSHIPS

This dialogue aims to highlight real contributions of private sector companies in strategic themes, explore partnerships with International Financial Institutions (IFIs) and identify how these collaborations significantly contribute to advancing the UN's Sustainable Development 2030 Agenda.

### 20:00 - 22:00 GALA DINNER

END OF DAY1





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## Day 2: Thursday, September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021

### 9:00 - 11:00 **MAPPING ODA TO SDGS: A TOOL FOR EFFECTIVE POLICY MAKING**

The workshop aims to share Egypt's novel approach of economic diplomacy that includes as one of its principles a country-led ODA-SDG mapping framework. It serves as a platform for promoting knowledge-sharing and achieving effective and impactful results towards accelerating the 2030 Agenda. The workshop will provide a fruitful learning experience for all participants with homogenous backgrounds to be able to push forward the achievement of the SDGs and collaborate for effective policymaking.

**Moderator:** Ms. Lubna Bouza, Editor in Chief, Sky News Arabia

### 9:30 - 11:00 **AFRICA CONTINENTAL FREE TRADE AREA (AfCFTA): PROSPECTS AND CHALLENGES OF DIGITAL TRADE FOR PRIVATE SECTOR**

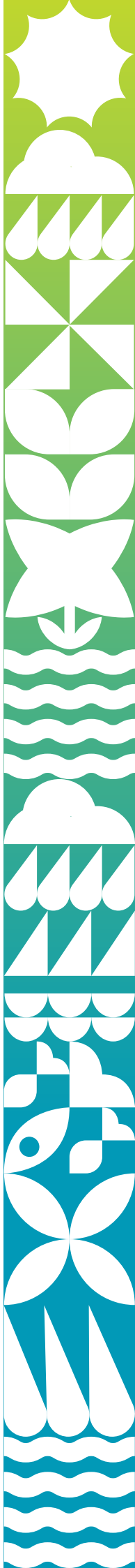
The AfCFTA is the world's largest free trade agreement encompassing 54 African nations with a market size of USD 3.4 trillion and a population of 1.3 billion. Forging intra-African trade can boost economic growth post-COVID-19, especially through digital trade and e-commerce, which could be utilized to mitigate the economic slowdown and speed up recovery. This session aims to highlight the role of the AfCFTA in addressing digital trade constraints and the impact of quality infrastructure on private sector participation in digital trade. Furthermore, the workshop will tackle possible regulatory solutions, especially for issues such as data and intellectual property protection, as well as discuss how cross-border trade can be made more accessible for SMEs.

**Moderator:** Ms. Malinne Blomberg, Deputy Director General for North Africa and Country Manager for Egypt, African Development Bank

### 11:00 - 11:15 **COFFEE BREAK**

### 11:15 - 13:15 **"WOMEN IN BUSINESS": SUPPORTING FEMALE ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN EGYPT**

The workshop aims to introduce the EBRD's Women in Business program (WiB) in Egypt and discuss best practices for supporting women-led businesses in Egypt. It will provide a unique opportunity to showcase the development impact achieved through the Egypt WiB program; discuss the specific challenges faced by Egyptian women entrepreneurs, especially





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## Day 2: Thursday, September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021

in the aftermath of the COVID-19 crisis; and describe how local financial institutions and EBRD can support in overcoming such challenges. Participants will include representatives from EBRD, the Ministry for International Cooperation, and the Egyptian financial sector. An inspirational short course for Egyptian women entrepreneurs themselves (in Arabic) will close the session.

**Moderator:** Ms. Mai Abulnaga, First Sub-Governor, Central Bank of Egypt

### **FOOD SECURITY AND EMPLOYMENT IN THE DIGITAL AGE IN AFRICA**

This workshop serves as a platform for fostering South-South cooperation and knowledge-sharing amongst African countries in the areas of food security and water management. Highlighting recent advancements in agricultural practices, this workshop underscores the pioneering role Egypt has demonstrated, as well as the opportunities these successes manifest for establishing a capacity building and knowledge sharing hub among African countries in the strive to promote food security across the region.

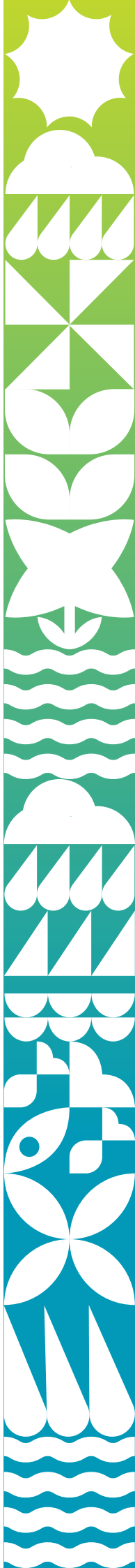
**Moderator:** Mr. Menghestab Haile, Regional Director Southern Africa, WFP

13:15 - 15:00 **LUNCH BREAK**

15:00 - 17:00 **THE DEMOGRAPHIC DIVIDE: YOUTH AND INNOVATION FOR TRANSFORMING AFRICA**

Africa is considered the youngest continent as 60% of its population is under the age of 25. This is deemed a valuable asset to leverage as it paves the way for the adoption of transformative innovative policies and frameworks for development guided by young minds with contemporary skills. The main objective of this workshop is to explore opportunities across the continent to harness the potential of the fast-paced technological advancements through the promotion of youth-led innovative solutions. Addressing how national entrepreneurship ecosystems and youth participation in the innovation leap across the continent play a significant role in achieving sustainable growth in support of the African Union's ambitious agenda of digital transformation as well as the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, this session will feature success stories of youth entrepreneurs in digital transformation for economic development.

**Moderator:** Dr. Ayman Ismail, Abdul Latif Jameel Endowed Chair of Entrepreneurship and associate professor at The American University in Cairo (AUC) School of Business and the founding director of the AUC Venture Lab





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### TRIANGULAR COOPERATION WITH AFRICA

The workshop will be based on the main findings of the Triangular Cooperation in Africa report that is currently prepared by the OECD, in cooperation with the UN Office for South-South and Triangular Co-operation, and to which the IsDB has contributed valuable inputs. The session will showcase experiences from emerging economies, including Egypt, and reveal the opportunities and challenges generated by development megatrends across the continent, including; digitalization, rapid technology advancement, climate change and the various impacts of demographic transitions. With an aim to promote peer learning among African countries, combining diverse resources and capacities, and highlighting country ownership, the workshop will provide an outlook for more inclusive, horizontal triangular partnerships to leverage and scale up innovations from Africa.

**Moderator:** Ms. Eleni Giokos, CNN anchor and correspondent

17:00 - 17:30 **COFFEE BREAK**

17:30 - 18:30 **CLOSING PANEL  
INVESTING IN HUMAN CAPITAL**

This panel, organized by the Ministry of International Cooperation in partnership with the World Bank Group (WBG), aims to highlight the recent advancements in human capital in Egypt, accentuated by the recent economic reforms. Shedding light on the critical role of international cooperation in contributing to these initiatives and enriching them with technical assistance, the session aims to harmonize multi-sectoral efforts across all stakeholders to push human development to the forefront of the agenda. It also provides an opportunity to pursue collaborative action and identify complementary efforts across development partners and government initiatives.

**Moderator:** Ms. Lubna Bouza, Editor in Chief, Sky News Arabia

18:30 - 19:00 **CLOSING CEREMONY**  
Closing Remarks

**END OF DAY 2**





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# CONCEPT NOTE



**European Bank**  
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## Egypt - International Cooperation Forum

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September 8-9

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## Overview

The year 2020 marked the ushering of the Decade of Action for the achievement of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda. It has meanwhile witnessed an unprecedented global crisis with the outbreak of Covid-19 and the international efforts to combat its negative repercussions with far reaching implications that threaten progress across all 17 Sustainable Development Goals. More than ever before, the value and critical role of multilateralism and international cooperation have been magnified as all development stakeholders were united to act within new realities to build back better. Furthermore, the pandemic has underscored the need to unlock resources – monetary and non-monetary – and has in turn highlighted the indisputable role of international development cooperation for collective action. And, to realize this action, a process of creating, interpreting, and negotiating meaning to sustainable development is not only necessary but inevitable.

The Egypt International Cooperation Forum (Egypt-ICF) is held under the patronage of H.E. Abdel Fattah Al Sisi, the President of the Arab Republic of Egypt. It brings together national and international policymakers, multilateral and bilateral development partners, private sector, civil society, and think tanks to join efforts in identifying the parameters of sustainable recovery and modalities for required actions to achieve value-centric results. The two-days Forum will underscore the significance of multilateralism with emphasis on country ownership for “building back better” in transition economies and developing countries, with a special focus on Africa.

The Forum will engage national, regional and international development leaders to showcase country and partners’ experiences through a hybrid structure – physical and virtual interaction. The two-days event will comprise panel discussions, specialized workshops to delve in sectoral and thematic focus areas, capacity building sessions for national and regional participants as well as development cooperation projects’ visits.

The Egypt - IFC will conclude with the endorsement of a communique on the way to further push forward development cooperation through harmonized, integrated and sustainable practices.





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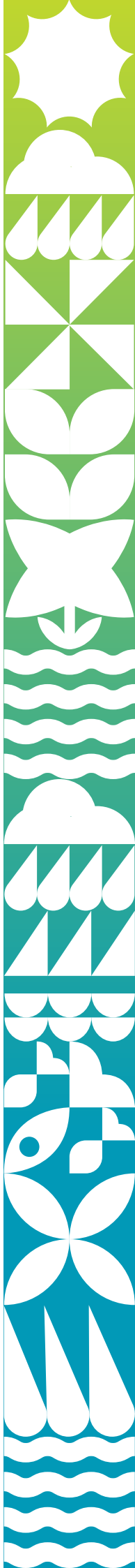
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## Organizers

- African Development Bank
- European Bank for Reconstruction and Development
- Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development
- United Nations
- World Bank group

## Participation

- Ministers from Egypt and African Countries
- International and Regional Heads and Executives of Bilateral and Multilateral Development Institutions
- Representatives of the Business Community
- National, African and International Development Research Centers and Think Tanks





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## Format

*(the Forum is a hybrid event with physical and virtual participation)*

## Day I

- **Keynote Addresses** by Political and Development Leaders
- **Four Panel Discussions** on:
  - **Multilateralism and International Cooperation Post COVID-19**  
This high-level panel affirms the importance of multilateralism for post COVID-19 recovery. The participating leaders from the Middle East and Africa (MEA) and heads of International Financing Institutions will emphasize the key role of regional and international partnerships in advancing equitable and inclusive development.
  - **The Role of International Development Cooperation in Accelerating Progress Towards the 2030 Agenda**  
This session will present successful experiences of multi-stakeholder partnerships in achieving the SDGs from the MEA region and will highlight the opportunities that have emerged from the COVID-19 pandemic to accelerate progress towards the 2030 Agenda.
  - **Private Sector Engagement in Development through International Cooperation**  
The panel will discuss how the private sector can contribute to the achievement of the development goals and highlight the necessary tools to incentivize its participation, especially in the MEA region.
  - **Climate Action in a Post COVID-19 Context: A Twofold Challenge**  
The panel session will discuss how MEA countries can recover from the devastating impacts of COVID-19, in a manner that integrates sustainability considerations including low carbon development; resilience to climate change; and inclusiveness.
- **Successful Experiences of International Cooperation in Egypt and the Region**





## Day II

- **Six Specialized Workshops:**

- ***Africa Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA): Prospects and Challenges of Digital Trade for Private Sector***

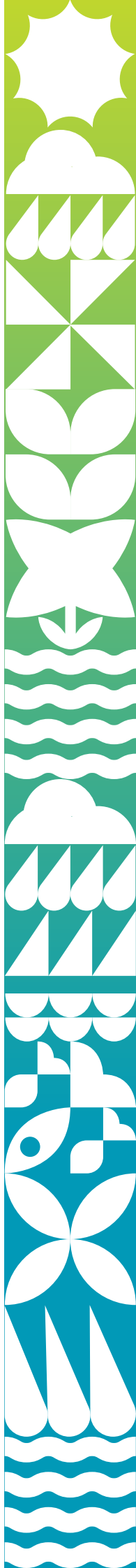
This session aims to highlight the role of the AfCFTA in addressing digital trade constraints and the impact of quality infrastructure on private sector participation in digital trade. Furthermore, the workshop will tackle possible regulatory solutions, especially for issues such as data and intellectual property protection, as well as discuss how cross-border trade can be made more accessible for SMEs.

- ***Mapping ODA to SDGs: A Tool for Effective Policy Making***

The workshop aims to share Egypt's novel approach of economic diplomacy that includes as one of its principles a country-led ODA-SDG mapping framework. It serves as a platform for promoting knowledge-sharing and achieving effective and impactful results towards accelerating the 2030 Agenda. The workshop will provide a fruitful learning experience for all participants with homogenous backgrounds to be able to push forward the achievement of the SDGs and collaborate for effective policymaking.

- ***"Women In Business": Supporting Female Entrepreneurship in Egypt***

The workshop aims to introduce the EBRD's Women in Business program (WiB) in Egypt and discuss best practices for supporting women-led businesses in Egypt. It will provide a unique opportunity to showcase the development impact achieved through the Egypt WiB program; discuss the specific challenges faced by Egyptian women entrepreneurs, especially in the aftermath of the COVID-19 crisis; and describe how local financial institutions and EBRD can support in overcoming such challenges. Participants will include representatives from EBRD, the Ministry for International Cooperation, and the Egyptian financial sector. An inspirational short course for Egyptian women entrepreneurs themselves (in Arabic) will close the session.





- ***Food Security and Employment in the Digital Age in Africa***

This workshop serves as a platform for fostering South-South cooperation and knowledge-sharing amongst African countries in the areas of food security and water management. Highlighting recent advancements in agricultural practices, this workshop underscores the pioneering role Egypt has demonstrated, as well as the opportunities these successes manifest for establishing a capacity building and knowledge sharing hub among African countries in the strive to promote food security across the region.

- ***The Demographic Divide: Youth and Innovation for Transforming Africa***

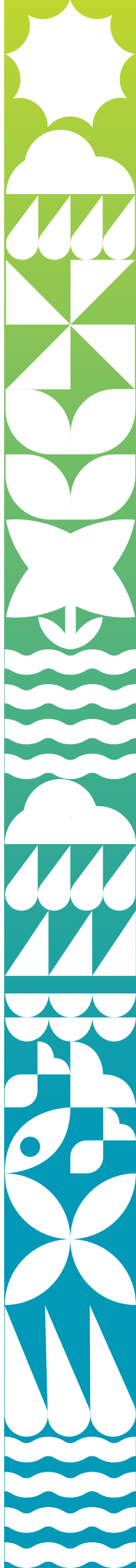
The main objective of this workshop is to explore opportunities across the continent to harness the potential of the fast-paced technological advancements through the promotion of youth-led innovative solutions. Addressing how national entrepreneurship ecosystems and youth participation in the innovation leap across the continent play a significant role in achieving sustainable growth in support of the African Union's ambitious agenda of digital transformation as well as the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, this session will feature success stories of youth entrepreneurs in digital transformation for economic development.

- ***Triangular Co-operation with Africa***

The workshop will be based on the main findings of the Triangular Cooperation in Africa report that is currently prepared by the OECD, in cooperation with the UN Office for South-South and Triangular Co-operation, and to which the IsDB has contributed valuable inputs. The session will showcase experiences from emerging economies, including Egypt, and reveal the opportunities and challenges generated by development megatrends across the continent, including; digitalization, rapid technology advancement, climate change and the various impacts of demographic transitions. With an aim to promote peer learning among African countries, combining diverse resources and capacities, and highlighting country ownership, the workshop will provide an outlook for more inclusive, horizontal triangular partnerships to leverage and scale up innovations from Africa.

- ***Closing Panel Discussion on "Investing in Human Capital"***

This panel, organized by the Ministry of International Cooperation in partnership with the World Bank Group (WBG), aims to highlight the recent advancements in human capital in Egypt, accentuated by the recent economic reforms. Shedding light on the critical role of international cooperation in contributing to these initiatives and enriching them with technical assistance, the session aims to harmonize multi-sectoral efforts across all stakeholders to push human development to the forefront of the agenda. It also provides an opportunity to pursue collaborative action and identify complementary efforts across development partners and government initiatives.





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# PANEL 01



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## Multilateralism and International Cooperation Post Covid-19

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September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021  
Session Duration: 75-90 min  
Nile Ritz-Carlton Hotel

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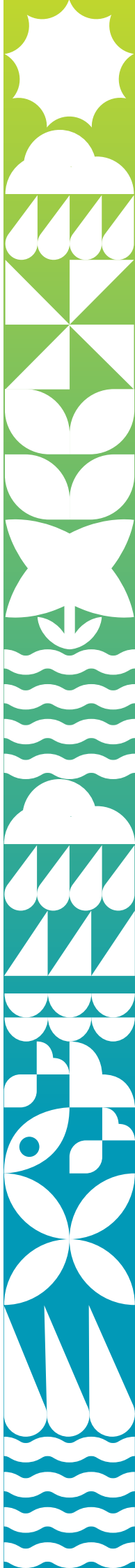
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## Overview

This panel aims to identify the actions required to enhance the effectiveness of multilateralism in an increasingly interdependent world for a strong and resilient recovery, with a special focus on the Middle East and Africa. In the spirit of multilateralism and inclusion, it brings together national, regional and international leaders from governments, multilateral and bilateral development organizations, civil society, think tanks, and the business sector. The discussion will set the scene for the forum by highlighting the role of the different stakeholders and touch upon important topics which will be discussed in further detail in subsequent plenary sessions.

The onset of the COVID-19 pandemic has posed unprecedented challenges and has sharpened the attention of the international community on the global interdependence and the critical role of collective action. It has created an opportunity to mobilize resources – monetary and non-monetary – and has, in turn, highlighted the indispensable role of international cooperation in building back better. Now more than ever, there is a dire need for multi-stakeholder collaboration, with emphasis on the overarching goals of social and economic stability, shared prosperity, and environmental sustainability. In this paradigm, leveraging the comparative advantage of different stakeholders is a priority to deliver on effective international cooperation in the post-COVID era.

In times of crises, harnessing effective partnerships with the civil society, private sector, international organizations and think tanks is the only way to solving global cooperation challenges. An effective model for collective action is for each stakeholder to ensure the optimal utilization of available resources, strengthen mutual accountability, and aspire for sustainable impact. This new form of international cooperation facilitates knowledge-sharing, promotes agility and flexibility and denotes inclusive governance and economic equity. This is especially relevant in the current context when one considers the idea of “no one is safe until everyone is safe” in the post pandemic era. In that sense, development co-operation, South-South and Triangular cooperation should all be considered as complementary approaches to achieving desired goals, whether they be related to the 2030 Agenda or COVID-19 recovery plans.





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To that end, the panel discussion titled “**Multilateralism and International Cooperation Post Covid-19**” aims to:

- **Identify** the main features of an effective multilateral cooperation framework to address the multidimensional crisis of the pandemic with its impacts on the health, social and economic conditions.
- **Shed** light on the role of the different stakeholders in the quest for a revamped version of development cooperation, as research and development efforts are shared across borders towards more equitable development.
- **Showcase** novel ideas introduced by the international community during 2020 that promote effective international cooperation.
- **Address** the main gaps in the global governance system and put forward recommendations to enhance its efficiency.
- **Explore** how the principles of effective development cooperation can be applied to ensure alignment between national development priorities, the SDGs, and International Development Cooperation finance as a policy tool for better allocation of resources.
- **Identify** the opportunities that emerged from the COVID-19 pandemic (in terms of institutional coordination, digital transformation, increased budget allocations for social sectors) to accelerate progress towards the SDGs.

## In attendance

- National, regional and international policy makers
- Development partners
- Private sector companies
- Civil society organizations
- Think tanks

## Expected Outcome

The panel discussion will highlight main themes to guide the discussion of forum panels and set forth key policy recommendations regarding the way forward on multilateralism post COVID-19.







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# PANEL 02



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## The Role of International Development Cooperation in Accelerating Progress towards the 2030 Agenda

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September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021  
Session Duration: 75-90 min  
Nile Ritz-Carlton Hotel

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## Overview

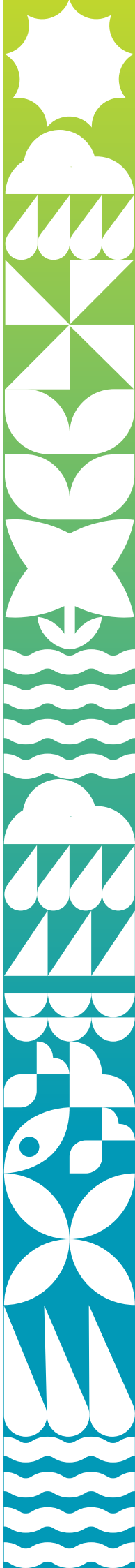
The main goal of this panel is to reflect on the role that International Development cooperation can play in mobilizing resources towards achieving the UN 2030 Agenda which witnessed serious turmoil following the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic. The session will bring together national, regional, and international leaders from governments, multilateral and bilateral development organizations and the business sector.

Official Development Assistance (ODA) stands out from the other sources of finance as it directly targets economic, social and environmental development, thus supporting the achievement of the SDGs. In 2021, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) declared that the global system has \$379 trillion in possession, 80% of which resides in OECD countries. Mobilizing 1% of this amount towards development financing would be sufficient to fulfil the achievement of the SDGs, yet only about 0.04% was mobilized in development funds in 2020.

Following the pandemic and the unprecedented economic, social and health issues it accompanied, the achievement of the SDGs witnessed a significant deceleration thus requiring transformative change and serious concerted efforts of the development community to restore progress towards the 2030 Agendas. In that context, the region has been given the opportunity to gain perspective on successes and shortcomings, and to reevaluate its approach to fulfilling sustainable development.

Essentially, ensuring the effectiveness of development cooperation, identifying the proper monitoring tools and tracking of the SDGs are crucial mechanisms for their efficient implementation. Additionally, socio-economic data collection and analysis is crucial to guide evidence-based decision making, especially, in the contexts of poverty, inequality, growth and narrowing the knowledge and capacity gaps. This emphasizes results frameworks, country ownership, complementarity of development interventions, and mutual accountability.

Remarkably, South-South Cooperation and Triangular Cooperation have showcased their presence as significant tools necessary to build successful horizontal development partnerships and enable knowledge sharing that foster inclusivity and growth. South-South cooperation has become a medium for exchange of solutions and experts, technology transfer, dialogue on options for policy reform, enhanced official flows and foreign direct investment, and increased volumes of trade.





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To that end, the panel discussion titled “**the role of International Development Cooperation in Accelerating Progress towards the 2030 Agenda**” therefore aims to:

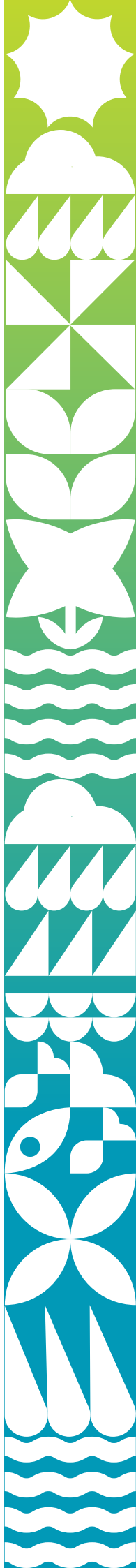
- **Highlight** the role of development cooperation in leveraging resources for achieving the SDGs whilst exploring how different forms of cooperation such as South-South and Triangular cooperation provide innovative solutions.
- **Identify** gaps in capacities to achieve the 2030 agenda.
- **Identify** gaps in financing to achieve the 2030 agenda whilst exploring additional sources of financing SDGs: PPP, GISD, Carbon financing, Green Climate Funds, etc.
- **Address** the gaps in quantifying and evaluating the results of development cooperation contributions to the SDGs
- **Explore** the possibilities of enhancing the streamlining of the UN SDG 2030 Agenda, through a combined monitoring/results framework for development cooperation and reflect on the results of previous Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation (GPEDC) monitoring rounds.

## In attendance

- National, regional and international policymakers
- Development partners
- Private sector companies
- Civil society organizations
- Think tanks

## Expected Outcome

The panel discussion will set forth key policy recommendations approved by all panelists regarding the way forward to achieving the 2030 Agenda through more effective development cooperation.





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# PANEL 03



## Private Sector Engagement in Development through International Cooperation



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September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021  
Session Duration: 75-90 min  
Nile Ritz-Carlton Hotel

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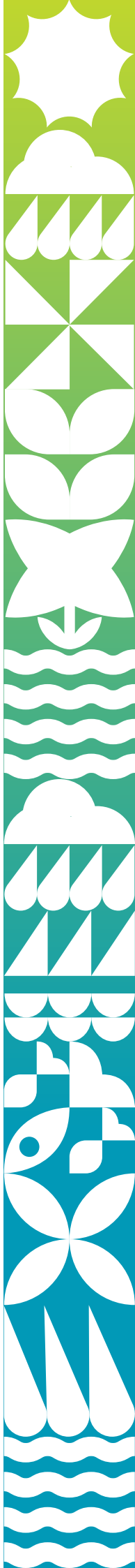
## Overview

The primary objective of this panel is to mobilize private sector engagement in development through international cooperation in order to accelerate the achievement of the SDGs. The session will bring together national and international leaders from governments, multilateral and bilateral development organizations, civil society, the business sector and think tanks.

Official Development Assistance (ODA) financing may fluctuate during the strive for recovery and the aftermath of the Covid-19 pandemic, instilling uncertainties regarding future flows. On the other hand, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) financing gap is widening, currently estimated at US\$ 3.7 trillion, which reinforces the case to align more global finance in support of the 2030 Agenda. According to the OECD, about 1.1% of total financial assets held by banks, institutional investors or asset managers would be enough to fill the growing SDG financing gap. Furthermore, given the onset of the pandemic, ODA financing is most likely to be mobilized towards the social sectors, leaving great room for the private sector to support other sectors of likewise significance. It is hence of paramount importance to assess the changes in the strategic direction of international development cooperation and explore the prospects and challenges of the role and use of private finance on both the international and regional levels.

Catalyzing the alignment of the private sector with the 2030 Agenda will bear many strengths in achieving the SDGs, including efficiency, innovation, digitization, responsiveness and human capital. Although, impact and sustainability aligned investment strategies have grown, they only represent a small percentage of financial assets mobilized towards development. The implementation of the SDGs could benefit from a greater corporate social obligation in delivering ethical and responsible practices across all aspects of operations. The disconnect between the dominant business-as-usual model and the sustainable development agenda needs to be addressed through rethinking corporate governance and fostering enabling environments that allow for more social and environmental responsibility.

Inclusive economic policies, that increase cross-institutional collaboration and align all stakeholders towards environmental, social and governance (ESG) principles are crucial for private sector engagement. Moreover, contributions in the areas of foreign direct investment, social impact investment, blended finance and measurement of private finance mobilization serve as key enablers for this transformation in private sector operations. Impact investing, particularly, can formulate sustainable value creation, which can generate positive outcomes paired with financial returns through financial market incentives and private investments for sustainable development. Finally, a comprehensive, robust monitoring and evaluation framework, with procedural indicators for impact investing, corporate social responsibility activities and financial performance will guide the pursuit of ESG objectives in parallel to profit maximization.





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To that end, the panel discussion on “**Private Sector Engagement in Development through International Cooperation**” will discuss how the private sector can contribute to the achievement of the development goals and the necessary reforms and tools to incentivize its participation, especially in Africa and the Middle East. The panel therefore aims to:

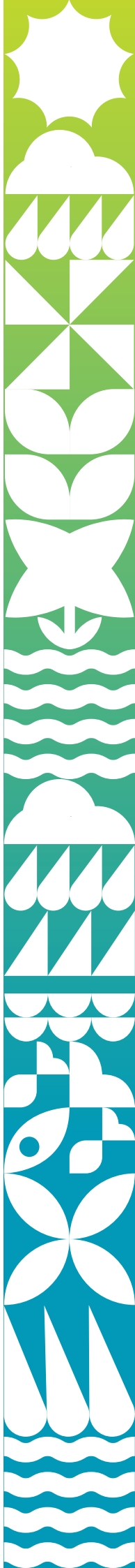
- **Address** the reforms and interventions needed to use public resources and ODA as catalysts to leverage private sector resources and expertise in terms of technical assistance, knowledge sharing and driving innovation and digital transformation.
- **Identify** reforms needed to enhance the business environment to attract investors, especially in the following areas:
  - *Priority high growth sectors to attract private investors including compelling competition policies.*
  - *Viable industrial policies and development of adequate infrastructure including Industrial Zones and Special Economic Zones.*
  - *Human capital development to prepare a skilled workforce.*
- **Foster** new forms of partnerships and sustainability-themed financial instruments, including innovative finance, impact investment and blended finance instruments.
- **Integrate** the SDGs into capital markets and international direct investment through effective systemized mechanisms.

## In attendance

- National, regional and international policy makers
- Development partners
- Private sector companies
- Civil society organizations
- Think tanks

## Expected Outcome

The panel discussion will set forth key policy recommendations approved by all panelists regarding the way forward on private sector engagement in development post covid-19.





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# PANEL 04



European Bank  
for Reconstruction and Development



UNITED NATIONS



WORLD BANK GROUP

## Climate Action in a Post COVID-19 Context: A Twofold Challenge

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September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021  
Session Duration: 90 min  
Nile Ritz-Carlton Hotel

[egypt-icf.com/](https://egypt-icf.com/)



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## Overview

The primary objective of this session is to address the twofold challenge of climate change adaptation needs and mitigation efforts, and pandemic recovery efforts in developing countries, especially in the Middle East and Africa (MEA). The panel discussion will bring together national, regional and international leaders from governments, multilateral and bilateral development organizations, the business sector, civil society and think tanks.

The MEA region is highly vulnerable to climate change current and future impacts, which jeopardizes the countries' ecosystems and the livelihoods of its people, especially groups in vulnerable situations. Meanwhile, the COVID-19 pandemic has placed increased strains on MEA countries, testing their social, economic, and environmental resilience, as well as further exacerbating preexisting challenges of pollution, increased climate risks, food security, water scarcity and migration. Thus, existing vulnerabilities to climate change alongside the risks and impacts of the pandemic pose multi-layered dual threats to decades of hard-won development gains.

Nevertheless, on the global level, the pandemic has indirectly impacted the environment due to reduced economic activity as reflected in a decline in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, and improved air quality. This unintended result can be maintained through countries integrating climate related policies and strategies into recovery strategies, and sustainable development policies. Thus, creating a sustainable environment where pollution is decoupled from economic activity and growth.

Evidently, some countries seized this opportunity and adopted low-carbon policies and measures for a smart and green recovery. The European Union (EU), the United Kingdom, Canada and China incorporated climate action into their recovery plans to promote public funding for climate solutions. For example, the EU's recovery plan - Next Generation EU - dedicated about one third of the total spending for climate action. Further efforts are still needed to meet the goals of the Paris Agreement and Sendai framework, with an aim to reach carbon neutrality by 2050, a main enabler would be through enhancing international cooperation and support through provisions of finance and technology transfer, to complement national efforts of many developing countries.

In an effort to combat the divergence - further aggravated by the pandemic - that is occurring between Africa and the rest of the world, the Summit on the Financing of African Economies, held in Paris in May 2021, outlined in its declaration the reallocation of the IMF's Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) in order to raise the funds mobilized to Africa from USD 33 billion to USD 100 billion. Furthermore, the Summit highlighted the importance of boosting the private sector, accelerating a green and digital transformation, widening the development investor bases for climate and







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biodiversity finance in the region and the role of developed countries in providing the financial and technical resources to do so.

Revealing the urgent need to leverage resources to support climate change action plans at the country level, it becomes clear that a resilient region is essential for a sustainable economy and healthy people. The COVID-19 pandemic, in all its adversity, has created an opportunity to rethink approaches to development to promote strong and resilient recovery, as well as limit global warming to well below 2°C and towards the 1.5°C pathway. The just transition to low carbon development pathways requires shifting to renewable energy and green and blue infrastructure, sustainable transport, adopting climate-smart agriculture and circular economy practices, as well as developing regulatory frameworks to promote this transition - all of which are in the context of sustainable development, thus taking into consideration the social and economic dimensions in developing countries, particularly in Africa. This, in turn, requires great amounts of investment and provisions of support to shift production and consumption into more sustainable patterns.

Meanwhile, not all MEA countries have enough resources to endure the cost incurred by such transition. The costs of adaptation borne by Africa greatly exceed the continent's contribution, which amounts to less than 7% of total emissions. The region will need over 3 trillion USD in investment towards mitigation and adaptation efforts in order to satisfy its nationally determined contributions (NDCs) by 2030. Therefore, mobilizing the necessary resources, including adequate, predictable and sustainable quality financing, technical assistance, transfer of environmentally sound technologies and capacity building, is crucial for the MEA countries' to fulfill their nationally determined contributions (NDCs) according to the Paris Agreement. Building forward better will require an enhanced collaborative implementation of the Climate Change Agenda in the context of achieving sustainable development with its economic and social dimensions, in conjunction with efforts aiming to strengthen the responsiveness of MEA countries to similar shocks. Hence, it is of utmost importance that their voices are incorporated and considered in the world of tomorrow, in order to ease their alignment with the new-normal.





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To that end, the panel discussion entitled “**Climate Action in a Post COVID-19 Context: A Twofold Challenge**” will discuss how MEA countries can recover from the devastating impacts of the pandemic, in a manner that integrates sustainability considerations including a just transition to low carbon development, efforts to deal with current impacts of climate change, enhancing resilience to climate change and inclusiveness. In light of the climate emergency, the panel aims to:

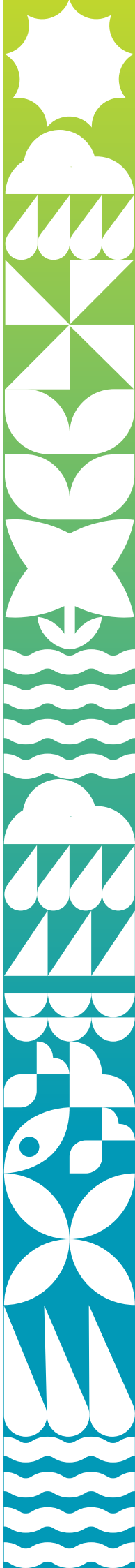
- **Examine** the opportunities and implications of promoting a just transition to low carbon, adapting to current climate impacts and enhancing climate resilient societies on the economies of the region.
- **Explore** how development cooperation - while addressing socio-economic challenges and supporting the achievement of sustainable development goals - can support country-led efforts in mainstreaming and implementing climate action economy-wide and across different sectors, through projects, programs and strategies.
- **Highlight** the role of the private sector in addressing the climate change crisis and promoting green transformation, as well as the opportunities available for private investments for implementing NDCs, taking into consideration some of the challenges related to flows of investment.

## In attendance

- Egyptian and African Ministers
- Development partners
- Private sector companies
- Civil society organizations
- Think tanks

## Expected Outcome

The panel discussion will set forth key policy recommendations approved by all panelists regarding the way forward on climate action post COVID-19.





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# WORKSHOP 01



## Mapping ODA to SDGs: A tool for Effective Policy Making



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September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021  
Session Duration: 120 minutes  
Nile Ritz-Carlton Hotel

[egypt-icf.com/](http://egypt-icf.com/)



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## Overview

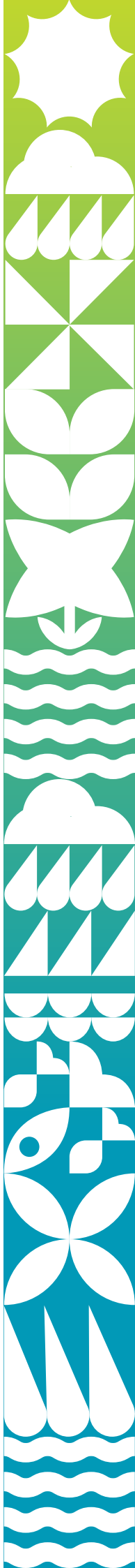
The workshop aims to introduce Egypt's novel approach of economic diplomacy that includes as one of its principles a country-led ODA-SDG mapping framework. It serves as a replicable model for aligning the results of international development cooperation projects with the objectives of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

In light of the UN's Decade of Action for achieving the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and the COVID-19 pandemic, the Ministry of International Cooperation has developed an Economic Diplomacy Framework to push the frontiers of multilateralism through three principles: 1) Multi-Stakeholder Platforms; 2) ODA-SDG Mapping Framework; and 3) Global Partnerships Narrative. These principles strengthen inclusive and impactful engagement with development partners, governments, global policymakers, the private sector and civil society to realize development objectives consistent with the UN's 17 SDGs.

The ODA-SDG mapping framework stands out as one of the pillars for strengthening and expanding Egypt's partnerships with multilateral and bilateral development partners. This mapping exercise utilized the general criteria of the UN Global Indicator Framework and the OECD's Creditors Reporting System as references and adopted two main approaches: a broad Sectoral Mapping Methodology, and a more detailed Project-Based Mapping Methodology. Within project mapping, two distinct but related approaches were used. The first is the single SDG mapping, which identified the primary SDG towards which each project contributed, and the second is the multiple SDG mapping, which accounted for the multidimensional linkages projects may have to different SDGs.

Thus, the objective of the mapping of ODA projects to SDGs exercise is to support decision making by highlighting opportunities and gaps in development cooperation, including financial and technical assistance.

To that end, the workshop entitled "Mapping ODA to SDGs: A tool for Effective Policy Making" will present Egypt's successful practice to promote knowledge sharing and achieve effective and impactful results towards accelerating the 2030 Agenda, a core objective of the UN. It will provide a practical toolkit that can be replicated by other countries and development institutions





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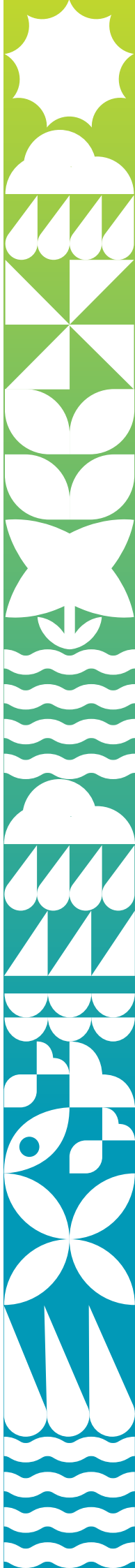
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### *The workshop aims to:*

- **Examine** the role of ODA-SDG mapping in supporting policy making.
- **Explore** the methodology developed by the Ministry to measure ODA contribution to SDGs.
- **Identify** the replicability of the ODA-SDG mapping framework in different countries.

### **In Attendance**

- Egyptian and African Ministers
- Development partners
- Private sector companies
- Civil society organizations
- Think tanks





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# WORKSHOP 02



## AfCFTA: Prospects and Challenges of Digital Trade for the Private Sector



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September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021  
Session Duration: 120 minutes  
Nile Ritz-Carlton Hotel

[egypt-icf.com/](http://egypt-icf.com/)



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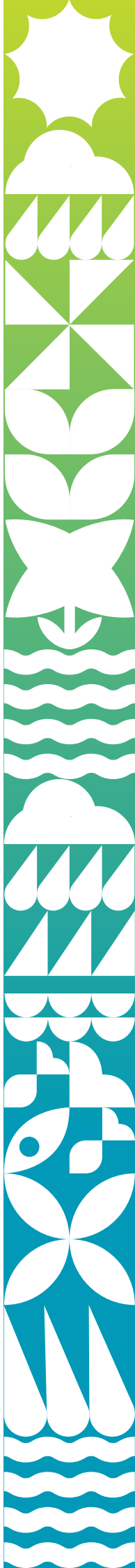
## Overview

On 10 February 2020, the Heads of States and Governments of the African Union decided to mandate negotiations for an e-commerce protocol to the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). The negotiations for an e-commerce protocol to the AfCFTA present a unique opportunity for African countries to collectively establish common positions on more generally, harmonize digital economy regulations and leverage the benefits of e-commerce. This falls under the umbrella of digital trade, which involves digitally enabled or digitally ordered cross-border transactions in goods and services which can be digitally or physically delivered .

E-commerce discussions in the AfCFTA are timely, knowing that they are parallel with WTO negotiations on trade-related aspects of electronic commerce launched in Davos in 2019 around six main themes: enabling e-commerce; openness and e-commerce; trust and e-commerce; cross-cutting issues; telecommunications; and market access. Therefore, reaching a common African position under the AfCFTA may contribute to strengthen African countries positions in the WTO negotiations about the topic.

Countries with a higher degree of internet penetration have a greater degree of trade openness and sell more products to more markets. On aggregate, a 10% increase in “bilateral digital connectivity” raises goods trade by nearly 2% and trade in services by over 3%. Digitalization is important for all sectors, including agriculture, natural resources, and textiles. Digitalization is also associated with countries drawing greater benefits from regional trade agreements (RTAs). When combined with an RTA, a 10% increase in digital connectivity gives rise to an additional 2.3% growth in goods exports .

Although the benefits of digital trade were already apparent before the COVID-19





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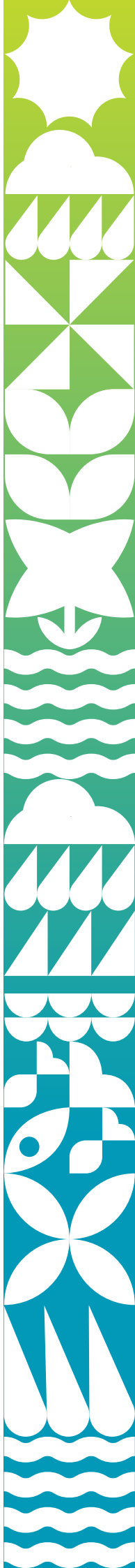


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pandemic, emerging evidence suggests that the Covid-19 pandemic has directly accelerated e-commerce, with a spike in both business-to-business (B2B) and business-to-consumer (B2C) online sales, particularly in medical supplies, household essentials and food products (WTO, 2020). This underscores the need for governments to enable digital trade to mitigate the economic slowdown and speed up recovery (OECD, 2020).

The accelerating impact of COVID-19 on digital in Africa has been constrained by persisting weaknesses in the continent's digital economy development. These include high internet costs, weaknesses in postal services and capacities, cross-border trade costs, and the limited update of electronic and digital payment systems (Futi and Macleod, 2021).

In addition, the scope of digital trade varies significantly across African countries. For instance, just 10 African countries are responsible for 94% of all online business on the continent (ITC, 2020). Reasons include transactional platforms with restrictions based on the origin of sellers with 57% of marketplaces allowing only domestic sellers on their platform; 28% of those operating in Africa offer online payments transactions (ITC, 2020).







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*Overall, the top six identified challenges to cross-border e-commerce in Africa are*

- Weaknesses of connectivity infrastructures
- Logistical constraints: postal competence and delivery and transport costs
- issues of taxation, including foreign taxation, double taxation, and VAT regulations
- lack of reliable payment solutions
- lack of awareness of national and regional rules; and
- custom duties and custom procedures (Banga et al., 2021).

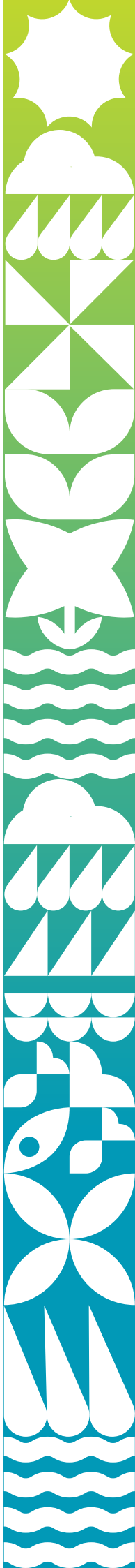
Market openness in the digital age needs to be approached more holistically, taking into consideration the full range of constraints.

*To this end, the panel discussion titled AfCFTA: Prospects and Challenges for Private Sector will:*

- **Discuss** the pivotal role the AfCFTA can take in addressing the entire spectrum of digital trade constraints that prevent private sector from participation in digital trade
- **Explore** implications for quality infrastructure and standards in supporting the private sector involvement in digital trade
- **Address** how regulators and private sector partners plan to tackle the exchange of data, including across borders and concerns about use and misuse of data, amplifying concerns about privacy protection, digital security, intellectual property protection, regulatory reach, competition policy and industrial policy
- **Discuss** how cross border trade can be made more accessible for SMEs and present case studies of trade creation involving SMEs.

## **In Attendance**

- Egyptian and African Ministers
- Development partners
- Private sector companies
- Civil society organizations
- Think tanks





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# WORKSHOP 03



## “Women in Business”: Supporting Female Entrepreneurship in Egypt



European Bank  
for Reconstruction and Development

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September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021  
Session Duration: 120 minutes  
Nile Ritz-Carlton Hotel

[egypt-icf.com/](https://egypt-icf.com/)



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## Overview

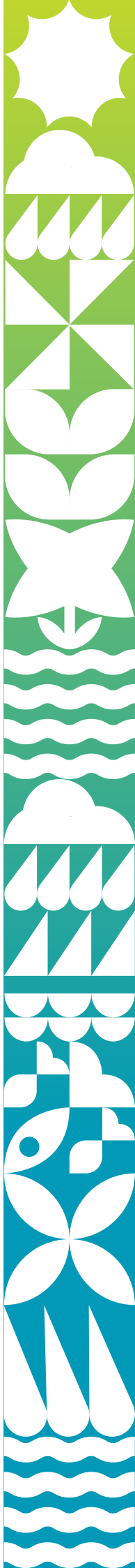
This workshop aims to introduce the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development's (EBRD) Women in Business program in Egypt and discuss the best practices for supporting women-led enterprises in the country. The program, implemented in partnership with financial institutions in the country, aims to reinforce and support the role of female entrepreneurs in the economy through the provision of technical and financial services for women to launch and expand their businesses.

Women's participation in the labor market is considered a key driver to sustainable development and growth. Despite the global efforts in advancing women's entrepreneurship and gender equality, the gender gap remains persistent, especially in the Middle East and Africa region. In Egypt, only 1.8% of women are business owners (as opposed to 10.3% of men), accounting for 10% of entrepreneurs (CAPMAS, 2018). The greatest impediments to women's entrepreneurship include access to financial resources and technical know-how, alongside social barriers.

Accordingly, the EBRD's Women in Business program comes as a timely intervention as it helps address such barriers and prioritizes one of the EBRD's main goals in Egypt, which is to promote an inclusive and sustainable economy. It delivers credit lines, training and advisory services to women entrepreneurs to strengthen their technical know-how, expand their network outreach and help them become active players in the Egyptian economy.

The program is relevant to "Egypt's Strategy for the Empowerment of Egyptian Women 2030" with regards to advancing women's access to economic opportunities. It is also consistent with "Closing the Gender Gap Accelerator" action plan that was a collaborative effort between the Ministry of International Cooperation, the National Council for Women and the World Economic Forum. The action plan was launched in 2021, in partnership with the private sector, with the objective of supporting governments and businesses in creating a gender conducive environment, accelerating gender parity, diversity and inclusion, and adopting proactive measures to advance women economic empowerment.

Furthermore, the Women in Business program contributes to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly Goal 5 of Gender Equality. It is similarly an important part of the EBRD's Equality of Opportunity Strategy (2021-2025) that aims to further promote a gender-sensitive investment culture and bolster the human capital and resilience of women in the business community.





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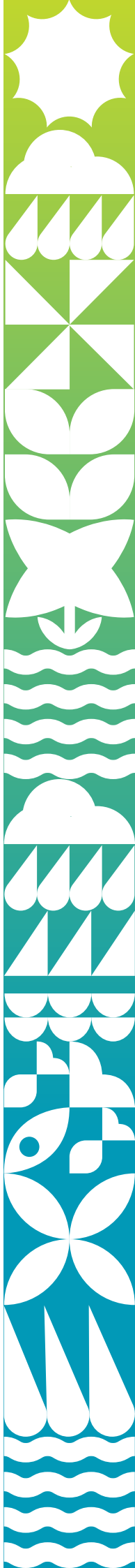
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*In that context, the workshop, titled “Women in Business: Supporting Female Entrepreneurship in Egypt” provides a unique opportunity to:*

- **Showcase** the development impact achieved through the Egypt Women in Business program;
- **Discuss** the specific challenges faced by Egyptian women entrepreneurs, especially in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic and describe how local financial institutions and EBRD can support in overcoming such challenges;
- **Provide** better understanding of how increasing women’s access to finance and technical support can spur economic development;
- **Identify** relevant trends in digitalization that will impact the businesses of Egyptian women entrepreneurs in the post-COVID world; and
- **Demonstrate** the significance of the financial sector in not only allocating resources, but also providing tailor-made products and offering non-financial services.

## In Attendance

- National policymakers
- Development partners
- Egyptian financial institutions
- Civil society organizations
- Entrepreneurs
- Think Tanks





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# WORKSHOP 04



## Food Security and Employment in the Digital Age in Africa



World Food  
Programme

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September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021  
Session Duration: 120 minutes  
Nile Ritz-Carlton Hotel

[egypt-icf.com/](http://egypt-icf.com/)



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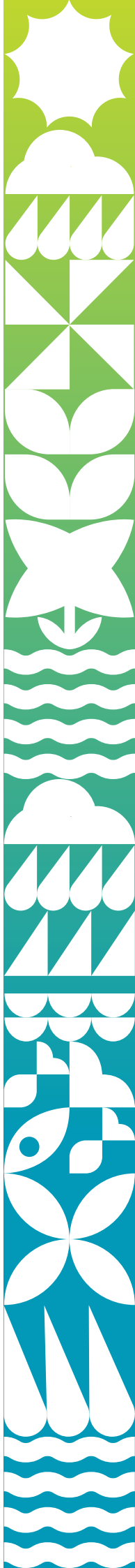
## Overview

This workshop serves as a platform for stimulating South-South cooperation and knowledge-sharing amongst African countries in the areas of food security and water management. It also provides an opportunity to pursue collaborative efforts with the international community.

Agriculture constitutes a cornerstone of the African economy; it contributes to about 60% of employment, and accounts for 16.5% of total GDP. Home to 65% of the world's arable land, Africa has the potential to become the food basket of the world. Meanwhile, with the recent acceleration in climate change alongside the negative impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, achieving food security remains a challenge, not only for the African continent, but around the globe. Thus, adopting sustainable farming methods and climate-smart practices, including advanced harvesting technologies, are pivotal to building resilient agricultural and food systems. Efforts exerted to enhance food security are expected to have a direct effect on poverty rates, and accordingly help in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly Goal 1 of No Poverty, Goal 2 of Zero Hunger and Goal 8 of Decent Work and Economic Growth.

Addressing the aforementioned challenges requires collective action amongst African countries, as well as leveraging scientific research and scaling innovation to achieve sustainable growth. Development Partners have long been committed to supporting the African transition to sustainable agriculture. The World Food Programme (WFP) in particular has delivered innovative food assistance programs that support the implementation of country-led sustainable practices across the continent.

Among the main strategic goals of the cooperation between the WFP and Egypt, for instance, is to improve the resilience of rural communities to climate change and other shocks through technology transfer, sustainable agricultural practices such as solar-powered irrigation systems, and diversification of livelihoods. One of the pioneering outcomes of such collaboration is the Luxor Center for Knowledge Sharing and Innovation. The Center serves as a hub for knowledge exchange and South-South Cooperation in areas such as agricultural productivity, income-generating activities, nutrition and water management. Apart from its role as a knowledge-sharing platform, the Center also supports rural transformation and sustainable infrastructure. It provides replicable models of successful interventions that can be implemented in Egypt and other African countries, developed in collaboration with civil society, research institutions and universities.





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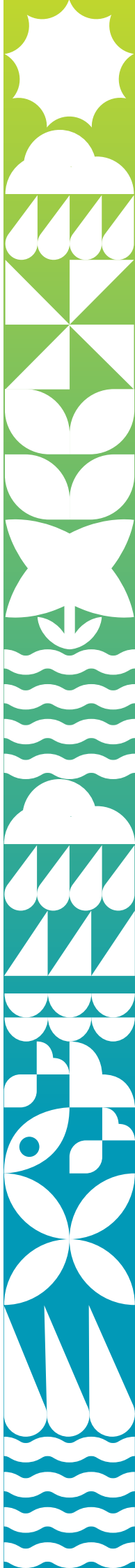
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*To that end, the workshop entitled “Food Security and Employment in the Digital Age in Africa” aims to:*

- **Identify** key challenges and opportunities in promoting food security and nutrition in Africa.
- **Shed light** on recent advancements in agricultural development in Egypt and other African countries.
- **Underscore** the importance of fostering knowledge-sharing within Africa and South-South Cooperation.
- **Explore** replicable models in different areas, especially water management, adaptation to climate change and food security.
- **Highlight** the role of the Luxor Center for Knowledge-Sharing and Innovation in promoting inclusive partnerships and increased integration of African countries.

## In Attendance

- Egyptian and African Ministers
- WFP Regional Directors in Africa and the Middle East
- Development partners
- Private sector companies
- Civil society organizations
- Think tanks





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# WORKSHOP 05



## The Demographic Divide: Youth and Innovation for Transforming Africa



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September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021  
Session Duration: 120 minutes  
Nile Ritz-Carlton Hotel

[egypt-icf.com/](http://egypt-icf.com/)





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## Overview

The main objective of the session is to explore opportunities across the African continent to harness the potential of the fast-paced technological advancements. It aims to discuss ways of promoting youth-led innovative solutions to achieve sustainable growth in support of the African Union's ambitious agenda of digital transformation as well as the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Recent figures show that the global digital economy is valued at around US\$ 11.5 trillion, equivalent to 15.5 percent of the world's overall GDP and is expected to reach 25 percent in less than a decade. This fast-growing momentum of digital technologies is reshaping business models, with important implications for the productivity of labor and capital, lowering transaction costs and increasing access to global markets. As such, the rise of the digital economy offers a unique opportunity for African countries to unlock new pathways for economic diversification, job creation, attracting new investments in various sectors and hence improving people's livelihood. Africa, which is considered the youngest continent with 60% of its population under the age of 25, can thus leverage the expansion of the digital economy to drive inclusive and sustainable growth that mainly addresses challenges encountered by the youth.

The entrepreneurship ecosystem in Africa is growing and there is plenty of untapped growth prospects as well as market gaps that still need to be filled. The tech startup industry is booming, and its market growth is on the rise, which needs to be capitalized on. According to Partech, 347 African tech startups raised a total of USD 1.43 Billion in 359 equity rounds in 2020. Therefore, many African governments are adapting through the provision of suitable and agile public services to ensure the industry's prosperity and provide a conducive business environment that is crucial for the tech sector's growth.

Globally, innovation is ever-changing and large institutions (including companies and governments) are acknowledging the fact that tech startups are re-defining markets and disrupting whole industries. They are hence viewed as potential partners, by large companies and governments alike, to maximize their value proposition and socio-economic impact.

In this context, the workshop titled "The Demographic Divide: Youth and Innovation for Transforming Africa" provides a unique opportunity for participants to highlight needed policy reforms to create an enabling environment, improve regulations, upgrade infrastructure to facilitate digital transformation across Africa, increase access to finance and achieve the bold objective of connectivity for all. Young entrepreneurs will also share successful experiences of digital transformation projects that have facilitated economic activities and discuss opportunities to maximize the contribution of investments in supporting digital transformation.





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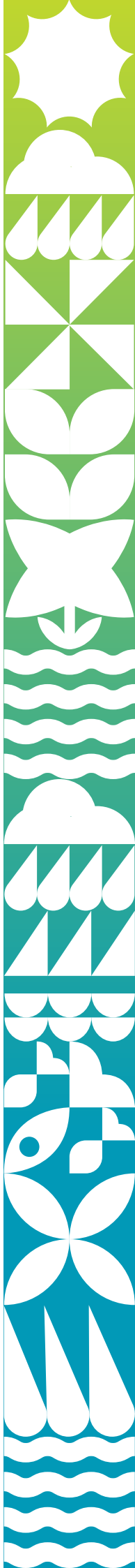
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*To that end, the workshop aims to:*

- **Explore** means to advance the continent's youth-led innovative solutions.
- **Address** how African youth can partake in the innovation leap witnessed across the globe, and how national entrepreneurship ecosystems in the African continent can collaborate towards this goal.
- **Identify** the role of digital transformation and needed policy reforms to maximize the contribution of youth in the tech industry.

## In Attendance

- Entrepreneurship Ecosystem Representatives: Startups, Investors, Innovation Hubs
- National, regional and international policy makers
- Development partners
- Private sector companies
- Civil society organizations
- Think tanks





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# WORKSHOP 06



## Triangular Co-operation with Africa

Organized in partnership with



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September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021  
Session Duration: 120 minutes  
Nile Ritz-Carlton Hotel

[egypt-icf.com/](http://egypt-icf.com/)



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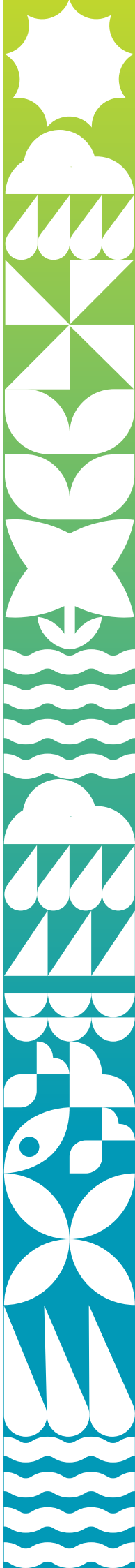
## Overview

During this workshop, which is co-organised by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the Egyptian Ministry of International Co-operation, the UN Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) and the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB), participants will discuss the potential of working in triangular partnerships in Africa with a view to sharing experiences, lessons learned and ideas for future joint actions.

The outcomes of the Second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Co-operation (BAPA+40) in 2019, provided an important political impetus to triangular co-operation. At BAPA +40, UN members acknowledged that triangular co-operation builds partnerships and trust between all partners, combining diverse resources and capacities, under the ownership of the requesting country, to achieve the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

On the African continent, digitalisation, rapid technology advancement, climate change and the various impacts of demographic transitions have been generating both opportunities and challenges. At the same time, the uncertainties created by the COVID-19 pandemic have put the African continent at risk of not meeting the SDGs. These development megatrends are driving co-operation dialogue and co-ordination around the world at all scales from the global to the local. To turn these challenges and megatrends into opportunities for the continent, it will be vital for Africa to diversify its development partnerships. As of now, triangular co-operation has not played a major role, and there is scope to expand and improve the implementation of the modality across the continent to scale up innovation and share successful solutions.

The OECD and UNOSSC have embarked on an analysis of current trends and possible strategic directions for triangular co-operation in Africa through a joint paper, to which the IsDB has contributed valuable inputs and feedback. The main findings of the paper will be discussed in the margins of the International Development Co-operation Forum hosted by the Government of Egypt. This workshop will gather representatives from African governments, development partners, civil society organisations, private sector, research institutes, philanthropy, regional and international institutions, including members of the Global Partnership Initiative (GPI) on Effective Triangular Co-operation.





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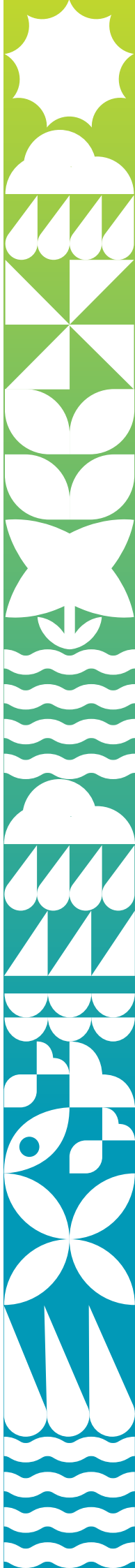
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*This workshop aims to:*

- **Discuss** how triangular co-operation can add value in supporting Africa's efforts to address the megatrends and development challenges on the continent;
- **Explore** initial evidence on the impact of how triangular co-operation is used to tackle the COVID-19 crises;
- **Provide** an outlook for more inclusive, horizontal triangular partnerships to leverage and scale up innovations from Africa.

## In Attendance

- Egyptian and African Ministers
- Development partners
- Private sector companies
- Civil society organizations
- Think tanks





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# PANEL 05



## Investing in Human Capital



**WORLD BANK GROUP**

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September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021  
Session Duration: 60 min  
Nile Ritz-Carlton Hotel

[egypt-icf.com/](https://egypt-icf.com/)



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## Overview

This panel, organized by the Ministry of International Cooperation in partnership with the World Bank Group (WBG), aims to highlight the recent advancements in human capital in Egypt, whilst shedding light on the critical role of international cooperation in contributing to human development. It also provides an opportunity to pursue collaborative action and identify complementary efforts across development partners and government initiatives.

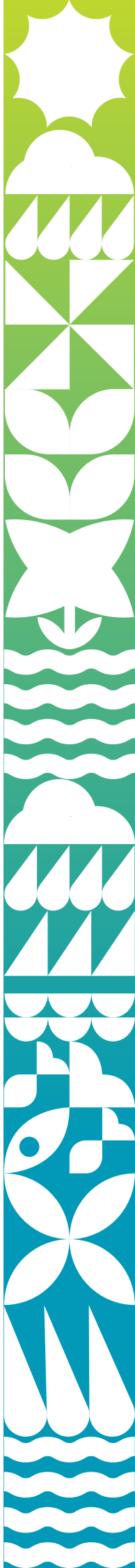
Human capital development has always been a top priority on Egypt's development agenda, especially more so after the recent economic reforms in the areas of monetary and fiscal policies, and energy subsidies. These continuous and progressive reforms have provided the needed fiscal space for the Government of Egypt (GoE) to invest further in human capital.

To that end, Egypt has undertaken a wide set of initiatives and implemented vital projects in the fields of social protection, health and education. With regards to scaling up social protection programs, the Takaful and Karama Social Safety Net Program is considered Egypt's largest cash transfer program (and the largest cash transfer program in MENA) and one of its largest investments in human capital, reaching 3.4 million households.

In light of the Fourth Industrial Revolution and in efforts to strengthen the education system, the GoE launched Education 2.0, which also contributes to accelerating progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It has also embarked on a healthcare reform program with the overarching goal of achieving universal coverage of basic health services for its 100 million citizens.

Furthermore, the presidential initiative "Hayah Karima", one of the most prominent initiatives targeting human capital development, aims to improve the infrastructure of rural and vulnerable villages in Upper Egypt. It provides the proper basis for further social and economic investments in these areas, so as to exploit the maximum benefit from these interventions.

Focusing the financing lens on human capital goes hand in hand with the demands of the new age, and the priorities of the GoE; a human-centered economy that capitalizes on social impact. The Ministry of International Cooperation's (MoIC) 'Global Partnerships Narrative' is a vision that rests on three pillars: People, Projects and Purpose. With People at the core, we are committed to addressing





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gaps that constrain Egyptians from realizing their full potential by achieving multi-sectoral impact. Projects in action are implemented across various sectors, moving beyond the social, to accelerate human development through efforts that enhance transportation, water desalination and access to renewable energy, among others. This expansion incorporates more partners in drafting an inclusive narrative, including the government, international development partners, the private sector and civil society. Finally, improving the livelihoods of the Egyptian people is ultimately the driving Purpose to achieve sustainable, impactful growth through our partnerships.

Capitalizing on human development harmonizes projects on the national level and creates a shared sense of purpose that guides the achievement of the global blueprint for development; the 2030 Agenda. Each of the 17 SDGs either directly or indirectly bolsters human capital. Therefore, streamlining multi-stakeholder efforts through the Global Partnerships Narrative ensures the advancement of the SDGs in the face of crisis, and empowers the people to develop their own impact narrative.

In partnership with different developing partners, Egypt has manifested its focus on human development through various initiatives, amongst which is its collaboration with the WBG to promote human capital development through multiple projects, such as strengthening Social Safety Nets, providing sanitation services and supporting health and education reform projects in the country. Moreover, the WBG's human capital project, launched in 2017, aims to promote governments' human capital strategies and spur investments in people as the key drivers for sustainable growth and poverty reduction. One of the project's main components is the Human Capital Index (HCI), currently covering 157 countries, which gauges the impact of health and education outcomes on an adolescent's productivity. Accordingly, utilizing such tool can enrich and encourage national approaches to advancing human development and accelerating investments in quality health and education services.

Evidently, international development cooperation supports government priorities through financing projects in social sectors. Additionally, investments in infrastructure, namely the water and sanitation, transport, electricity and telecommunications sectors, indirectly improves productivity, as it facilitates access to quality education and health services, which in turn reduces poverty and inequality levels. Consequently, the efforts undertaken by development partners in Egypt are aligned and complementary to the initiatives conducted by the Government, the most prominent of which is the presidential initiative "Hayah Karima".







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*In that context, the workshop titled “Investing in Human Capital” provides a unique opportunity to:*

- **Showcase** how Egypt’s economic reforms and investments in non-social sectors such as infrastructure and energy contribute to enhancing people’s livelihoods.
- **Highlight** the role of international cooperation in contributing to human capital development through supporting government priorities, and the importance of streamlining projects across sectors and partners to ensure maximum benefit.
- **Identify** gaps in investment in human capital and effective ways to maneuver these gaps in developing countries.
- **Demonstrate** successful experiences in promoting human capital development through varied types of investments.
- **Set forth** policy recommendations to further advance the human capital agenda in Egypt.

## In attendance

- Egyptian and African Ministers
- Development partners
- Egyptian financial institutions
- Civil society organizations
- Private sector representatives
- Think tanks

