



Sustainable supply chains: Achieving fair globalization

Date: Monday, 27 November 2023

Time: 4:00 – 5:00 p.m. (CET)

Location: Vienna International Centre, Vienna, Austria

Issue

Supply chains are key to economic life, international production, trade and investments. By allowing firms and workers to participate in the global economy and facilitating the diffusion of knowledge and technologies global supply chains can lead to sharp productivity gains. However, global supply chains can also exacerbate inequalities within and across nations and between actors within supply chains. Despite collective efforts aiming to foster supply chain sustainability, the current governance architecture for sustainable supply chains has not yet delivered systemic change in responsible business practices at the global, country and business level, hampering the potential of supply chain development to deliver sustainable and inclusive economic growth and poverty reduction. The social, economic and environmental dimensions of supply chain sustainability are inherently linked to how globalization is done and who benefits from it, posing the question of how global supply chains can be leveraged to leave no one behind and contribute to fair globalization.

Path to its solution

In its role as a facilitator and global convener, UNIDO calls on all relevant state and non-state actors to accelerate and facilitate coordinated collective action in identified priority areas across and within supply chains, respecting actors' legitimate roles and responsibilities. Against this backdrop, UNIDO identifies the following priorities to reach sustainable supply chains before 2030:

- (1) Scale-up collective action, by strengthening inclusive dialogue to identify and coordinate the implementation of shared solutions.
- (2) Provide country-driven systemic support to address the root causes of unsustainable supply chains, while fostering regulatory harmonization and alignment with international standards.
- (3) Document and disclose the impacts of new sustainability-driven regulations, building a strong evidence base to inform policies and interventions.



- (4) Facilitate the transition towards sustainable business models, with a focus on ESG preparedness and performance throughout supply chains.

Agenda

This high-level event, held within UNIDO's General Conference, brings together key stakeholders to discuss global supply chains and how they can be transformed to better protect the environment, workers, and communities. It aims to identify actions from a policy perspective to strengthen work on sustainable supply chains and to ensure fair globalization.

The event will have simultaneous interpretation in all official languages of the United Nations, and will be livestreamed on UNIDO's website: <https://www.unido.org/general-conference-20>.