



HAVE YOUR SAY ON HOW BEST TO ACHIEVE SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

15–21 JULY 2016

Kenyatta International Convention Centre, Nairobi

Co-organized with Tax Justice Network-Africa

The Civil Society Forum is the main venue at UNCTAD 14 for civil society representatives to make their voices heard. Their contribution is important because they work with international organizations, Governments and local communities around the world to tackle all the issues addressed by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This wealth of experience is necessary to make sure the discussions at the Conference address development challenges at all levels, and include everyone's aspirations and concerns.

By bringing new perspectives and ideas to the Conference debates, civil society can help shape new work priorities of UNCTAD, which will be defined in the UNCTAD 14 outcome document. Though the primary responsibility for defining the UNCTAD agenda rests with member States, civil society organizations will play an important role in advocating for the decisions made, and will be key partners in delivering on the new mandate.

Civil society's participation helps make sure that UNCTAD 14 is an inclusive and multi-stakeholder event. This not only ensures the process takes into account the views of all UNCTAD development partners, but also promotes a greater sense of ownership of the outcomes.

OVERALL OBJECTIVES

- Provide a platform for civil society organizations to present their views on what UNCTAD work priorities should be
- Enrich the Conference debates and discussions on implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
- Offer opportunities for civil society organizations to showcase the work they do in support of the Sustainable Development Goals
- Facilitate networking between organizations and the exchange of ideas and experiences, and promote capacity-building in areas related to trade and sustainable development
- Enhance the visibility of UNCTAD work and strengthen support for the Conference outcomes





PREPARING THE CIVIL SOCIETY DECLARATION TO UNCTAD 14 (15–16 JULY)

The Forum will start prior to the official opening of UNCTAD 14. On 15 and 16 July, civil society representatives will continue their discussions on the Conference's sub-themes and finalize the civil society declaration to UNCTAD 14, to be presented at the opening plenary of the Committee of the Whole.

The declaration will present civil society's views on what UNCTAD work priorities should be. This will complete the process started at the two hearings held earlier in Geneva as part of the preparatory process for UNCTAD 14.

ORGANIZING CIVIL SOCIETY ROUND TABLES AND SIDE EVENTS (18–21 JULY)

Following the official opening of UNCTAD 14, the Forum will continue to meet to bring civil society representatives together to build consensus and prepare their contributions to the discussions at the Conference high-level events and round tables, and to hold debates on the following topics:

- Trade and multilateralism
- Finance and debt
- Economic structural transformation
- The Sustainable Development Goals

The Forum will also hold side events and breakout sessions organized by participating organizations, focusing on issues that include sovereign debt crises and workout mechanisms, corporate tax avoidance, investment agreements and the right to regulate, trade agreements and environmental protection, labour rights and decent work for all, trade and women's empowerment, and the risks of public–private partnerships.

HOW TO FOLLOW THE CIVIL SOCIETY FORUM

The Forum is open to all Conference participants. In addition to attending the sessions, the discussions can be followed through #UNCTAD14 on Twitter, and through the news and contribution papers posted on unctad14.org.

CONTACT

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