FORWARD-LOOKING COMPANIES "TAKING THE LEAD" SAYS NEW UN REPORT ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

The UN Secretary-General launched an advanced version of his synthesis report on the post-2015 development agenda to the General Assembly on 4 December.

Entitled “The Road to Dignity by 2030: Ending Poverty, Transforming All Lives and Protecting the Planet”, its purpose is to inform the Member States’ negotiations with a view to the final Sustainable Development Goals post-2015 (SDGs) being adopted in September 2015.

In framing the new agenda, the UN Secretary-General proposes six pillars - People, Dignity, Prosperity, Planet, Justice and Partnership, having “decent work” embedded as a core element in promoting prosperity “to grow a strong, inclusive and transformative economy”.

Regarding prosperity, the report asserts that “An enabled, properly regulated, responsible and profitable private sector is critical for employment, living wages, growth, and revenues for public programmes. Transforming business models for creating shared value is vital for growing inclusive and sustainable economies.”

The report advocates for policy coherence between “trade, finance and investment on the one hand, and norms and standards for labour, the environment, human rights, equality, and sustainability on the other”. The report also calls for business and investment policies to respect and be guided by the core labour standards of the ILO.

The private sector contribution is acknowledged in several paragraphs: “We know that forward-looking companies are taking the lead by transforming their business models for sustainable development, and that we have only scratched the surface of the potential for ethics-driven investment by the private sector. (…) Companies are ready to change how they do business and contribute by transforming markets from within and expanding access to.”
inclusive and sustainable”.

The advanced and unedited version of the report can be downloaded via the link in the side panel.