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# IOE Survey on SDGs and Employers' Organisations



Outcomes and follow-up

SDG Business Dialogue, 17 July 2019 , New York

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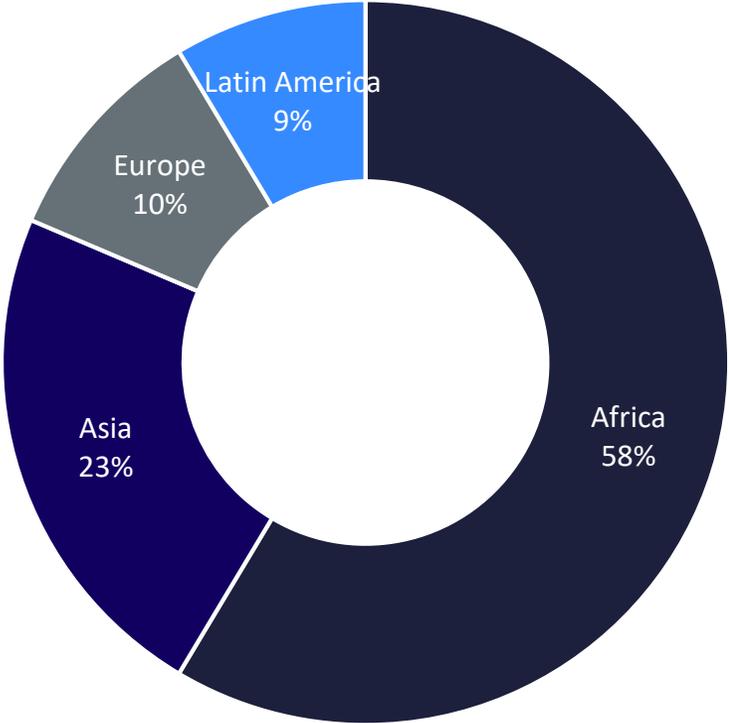
# Members' survey on the SDGs: Objectives

- Follow-up of the IOE-CEOE Global Business Forum on the SDGs in Madrid (October 2018)
- Understanding the priorities, contexts, and perspectives on the ground
- Overview of employer federations' global efforts and feedback in the pursuit of the SDGs
- Reinforce the business perspective and input in discussions and forums

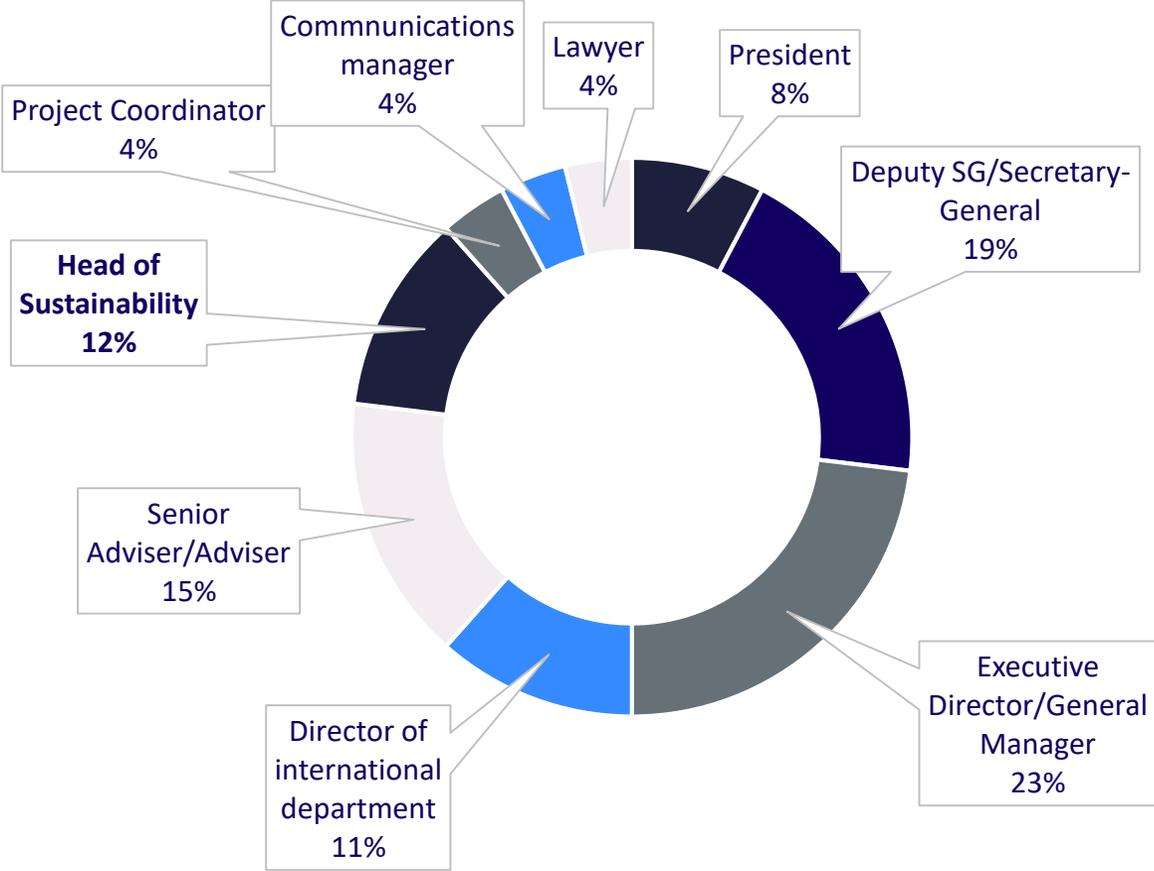


# Members' survey on the SDGs: Data

### Regional Distribution



### Positions of respondents



# Q1. Why is it important for your organisation and/or your member companies to engage in the implementation of the SDGs?

Business case / Strategy / Opportunities:  
(28%)

“SDGs presents a business opportunity for companies to commit, engage, invest, innovate, cooperate and communicate their **efforts towards sustainable growth.**”

Compliance / Level playing field (18%)

“Agenda 2030 is **permeating all national policies**, including trade strategy and foreign development policy.”

Relevance of SDGs / Role of the private sector (16%)

“We are the **main partner to the government** in achieving the SDGs, providing decent job opportunities, financing development projects, and implementing CSR.”

Enabling environment (16%)

“A role to play vis-à-vis the public authorities and other stakeholders to ensure that initiatives related to the SDGs **remain of voluntary nature** for businesses.”

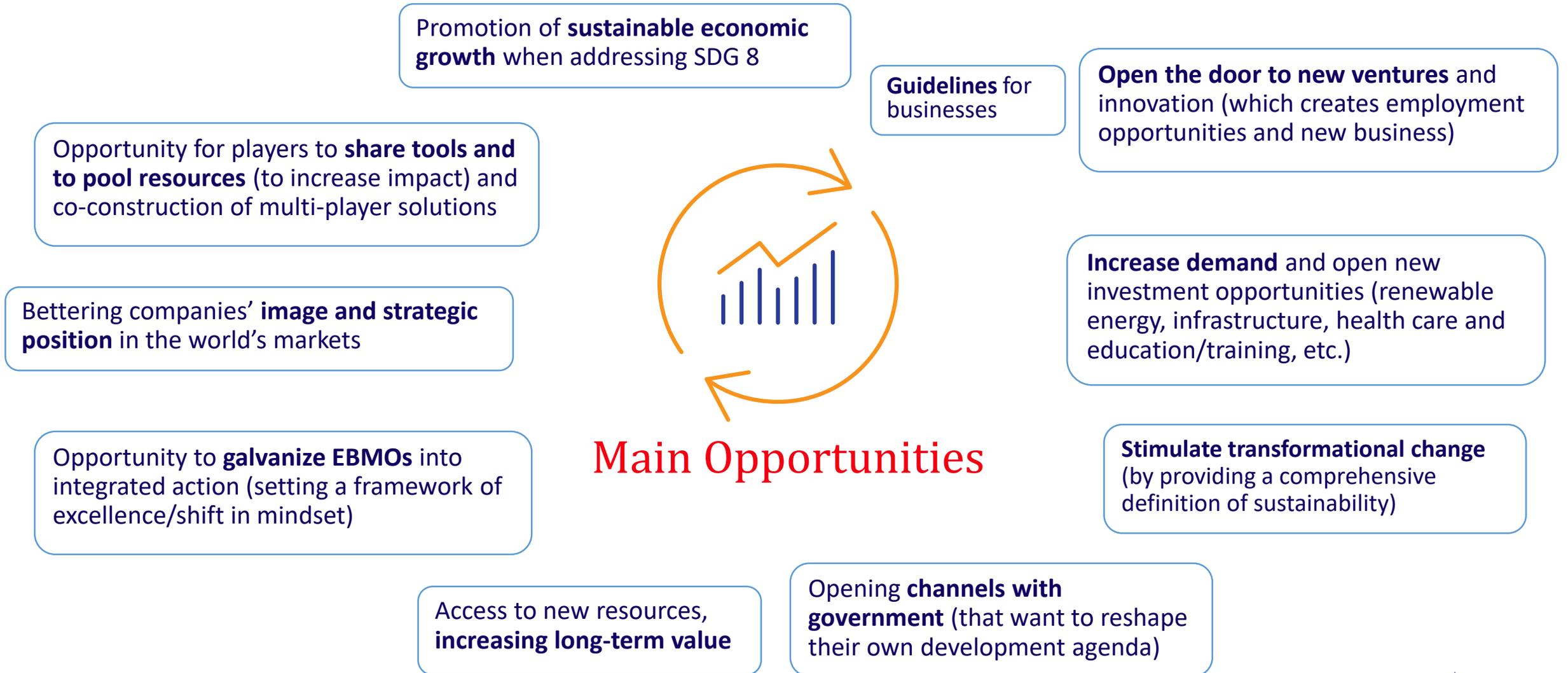
Awareness / Advocacy / Partnerships  
(12%)

“It is key to raise awareness among members of the importance to take action and advocate to adopt codes of conduct aimed at **mitigating the negative impact** of business activities.”

Actions / Impact / Risk assessment (10%)

“A **frame of reference** in which companies can present their policies and impacts.”

## Q2. What would you see as the main opportunities and challenges of the SDGs?



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**Measuring progress** (difficulties in monitoring indicators and gathering data). This requires EBMOs to have the capacity to handle them

**Availability of resources** to implement the changes and achieve the goals

Ensuring SDGs are operational, mobilizing SMEs, **demonstrating the contribution of companies**, and minimizing the suspicion of “SDG washing”

SDGs may result in another wave of **regulations** (detering entrepreneurship, innovation and increasing the operational costs of businesses)

**Awareness and collaboration**



### Main Challenges

**Lack of cohesion and coherence** in the approach undertaken (policy areas coordination)

Overall **capacities of stakeholders** for implementation (countries' situation)

Commitment to results VS **commitment of means** (willingness VS capacity to implement)

**Policy limitation** to support sustainable activity

New regulations and compulsory measures may increase the competitive gap between MNEs and **SMEs**

# Q3. What are you already doing to contribute to the achievement of the SDGs? Do you have any examples or best practices that could be shared?



**FUE, Uganda:** Hosting the UN Global Compact Local Network. Promoting gender equality (Female Future Program). Engaging in the elimination of child labour. Promoting youth employment and skills development (Start and Improve Your Business training). Sensitizing employers about environmental protection.



**RSPP, Russia:** SDGs Corporate practices collection on RSPP website for public information.



**EFP, Pakistan:** All EFP events in 2019 to include SDGs as a topic on the agenda.



**MEDEF, France:** Setting up an SDGs Working Group for its members. Inclusion of the Companies' initiatives in France's road map for the implementation of the SDGs.



**ATE, Tanzania:** Organisation of the "Employer of the year award" for promoting best practices which can lead to sustainable economic growth and promote decent work.



**ANDI, Colombia:** Work on several projects at national and regional level on circular economy, water, energy, resource and waste management, with a link to labour and education.

## Q4. Has your organisation been invited to discussions related to national strategies for SDGs? Is your organisation participating in related development policies or programmes?

**Participating – 68%**



**UCCAEP, Costa Rica:** Participated in national strategy for SDGs.

**CNPS, Senegal:** Contributed, as member of the technical and steering bodies of the National Conference on Sustainable Development (CNDD), to the drawing-up of the National Strategy.

**EFC, Ceylon:** Participated to programs on SDGs conducted by the ILO and the ministry of Labour and other ministers such as Education, Health, Environment, Industries and Finance.

**CEOE, Spain** and all its members were involved in the 2018 National Review and also consulted for the drafting of the National Action Plan on Sustainability.

**No or still at the doorstep – 32%**



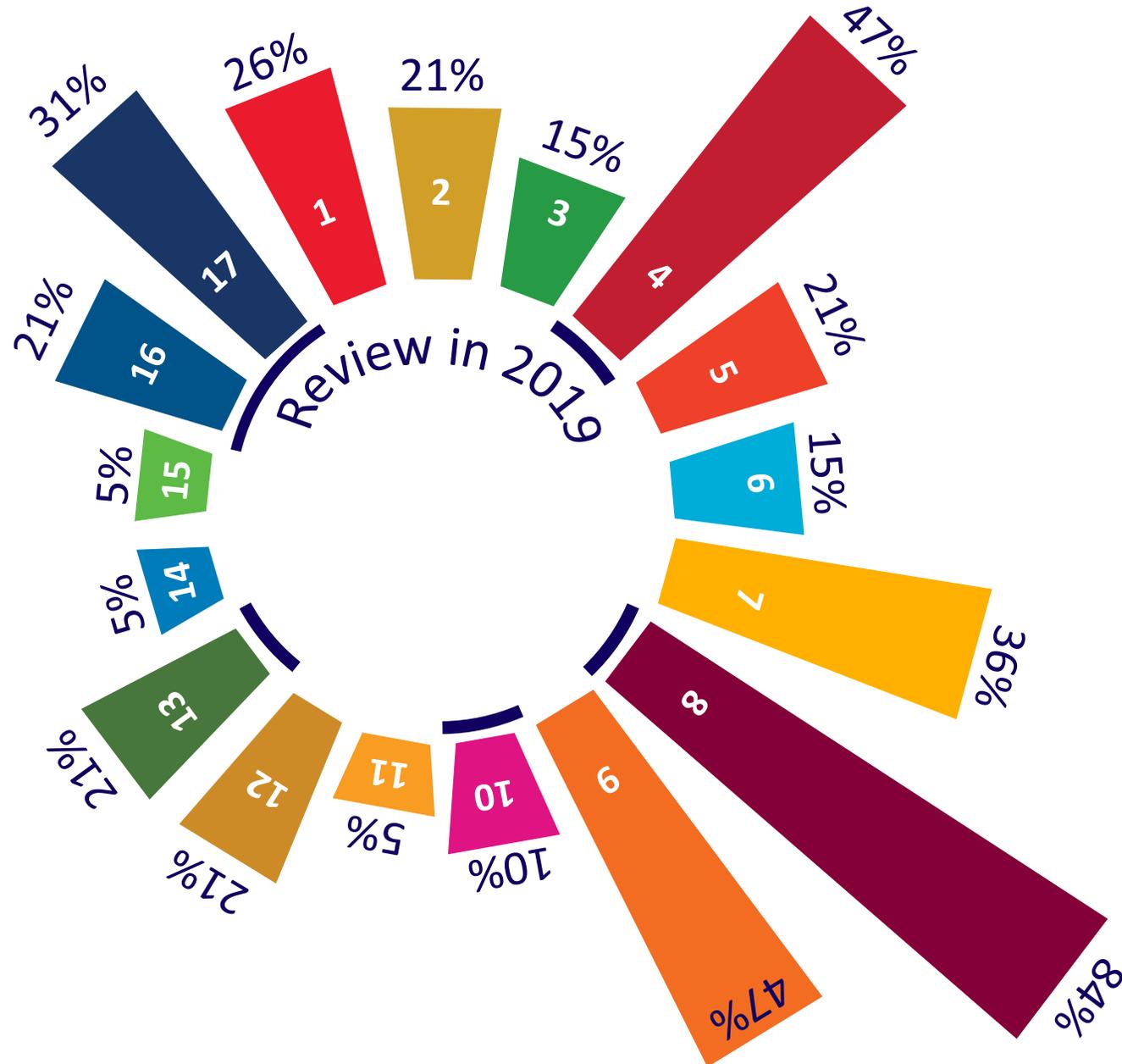
**CGEA, Algeria:** Not involved in the national consultation, nor in the SDG programme.

**CEC, China:** No invitation, no participation.

**EFP, Pakistan:** A Planning and Development Ministry task force will be formed in the next few months where EFP should be invited to participate.

**SEV, Greece:** Stakeholder dialogue is expected to take place in 2019.

# Q5. What would your member companies like to focus on? What are their priorities?



**4** QUALITY EDUCATION

**8** DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

**9** INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

**7** AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY

**17** PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

## Q6. What support/services do they expect from your Organisation in that field?

### Technical Support



- Assistance for implementation
- Training and advisory services (design of effective interventions)
- Assessment of business contributions (KPIs) and monitoring promotion

### Advocacy and coordination



- Alignment of understanding
- Development of a common agenda at regional and sectoral level
- Business to business linkages, fostering multi-stakeholder activities and partnerships
- Lobbying for improved SDGs policies

### Information



- Awareness raising
- Regular updates
- Guidance, toolkits
- Solutions sharing services (best practices, examples, knowledge)

# Q7. What methods/tools does your Organisation use to identify leading companies and to showcase the progress made towards SDGs achievement

## Participation in Working Groups



- Consultative meetings, inter-chamber commissions, workshops, meetings at local level
- SDGs Working Group (with focal points in territorial and federations' networks)
- Participation in national committee monitoring progress, or in multi-sector initiatives
- Partnership with the Global Compact

## EBMOs' initiatives



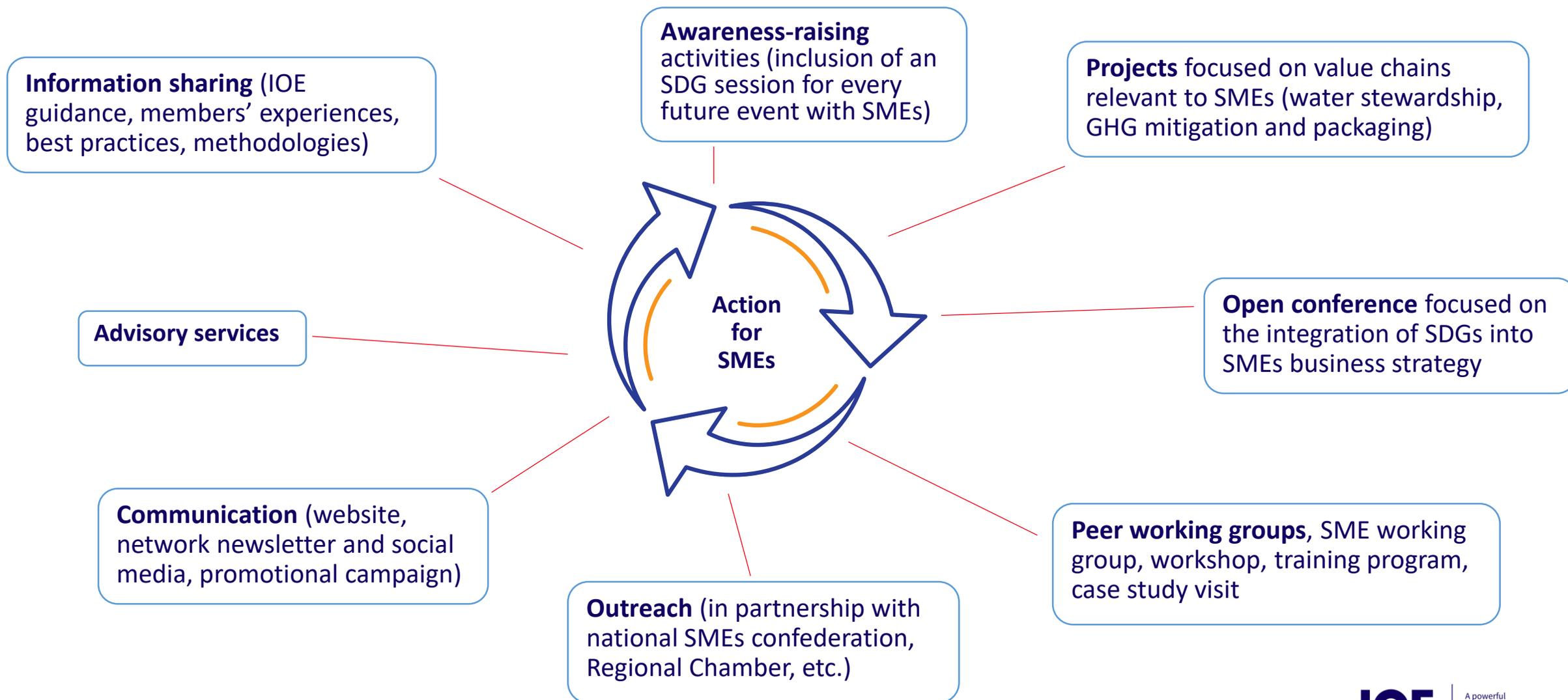
- Collecting members' examples and best practices
- Annual members' visits or audits to identify cases of progress in SDGs
- Developing standards for evaluating progress made by companies
- Members' survey on specific issues (like gender equality)
- Employer awards (to recognise those contributing to the SDGs)

## External Reporting



- Publicly available annual sustainability reports
- Voluntary National Reviews (VNR)

## Q8. Do you intend to take action for SMEs to raise awareness on SDGs? What specific actions are you considering?



# Q9. How to get business more visible/prominent in the SDG process?

## Mainstreaming, reporting and linking to frameworks



- Upstream and downstream involvement in the whole SDG process
- Build a joint business organisations' vision, with KPIs to show off outcomes and impact
- Mainstreaming SDGs into business policies. Link CSR work to the SDGs. Get business best practices more visible to other stakeholders.

## Advocacy, lobbying, media



- Prop up advocacy at national level and involve business leaders. Showcase the unique role of business.
- Designing and implementing a good incentive system from the government.
- Facilitating greater media engagement. Sharing achievements, efforts and best practices with governments and the public.
- EBMOs should create platforms where business can have an open exchange of views, share concerns and get materials and support in relation with SDGs (e.g. USCIB).

## Partnerships and networking



- Create opportunities for businesses to participate, at national level and through employer network systems, through regional programs, etc.
- Take an active part in stakeholders' joint work on the SDGs (e.g. NGOs)

# Q10. What topics would you like to discuss in the IOE Policy Working Group on Sustainable Development; and what working methods would you suggest the PWG adopt to promote the SDGs within the business community?

## Priority topics

- What benefits for the business community?
- SDGs' implementation policy tools
- Interlinkages between SDGs
- Consultancy for EBMOs and enterprise?
- The future of enterprises
- Clean and renewable energy; Circular Economy
- Climate finance



## Priority working methods

- Sharing knowledge on past/current/future initiatives of the various groups of employers
- Workshop with affiliates; on-site training; webinars; policy briefs
- Promote a sectoral approach and engagement
- Set focus groups per target
- Provide consultative support to EBMOs
- Strengthening technical and financial capacities of EBMOs

# Q11. Has your Organisation been provided with any ILO capacity building related to SDGs? What can be done to support your Organisation?



Yes, but... – 33%

**GEA, Ghana:** Number of capacity building workshops that have elements of SDGs enshrined in them. However, there is the need to establish a focal point in a tripartite structure, that will be responsible for spearheading all SDG related discussions and activities.

**OEM, Macedonia:** Yes, however there is still need for more available resources and further development of capacities, to raise the level of engagement for the achievement of the SDGs

No – 67%



**FUE, Uganda:** Need ILO toolkits for training to facilitate rolling out to more companies.

**CEO, Romania:** A toolkit for impact assessment for member companies would be very useful. Then we can consolidate data, benchmark, communicate and track progress.

**FEB, Belgium:** Not really necessary for our organization; we would rather focus on countries where the need for capacity building is higher.

**CEOE, Spain:** The ILO could help business organizations to reinforce their role as key actors in SDG 8.

## Q12. What would be the key business messages you would like the IOE to deliver to the UN 2019 High- Level Political Forum (HLPF) where Goal 8 in particular will be reviewed?

**BUSA, South Africa:** **Economic growth** is the key ingredient in realizing the SDGs.

**FUE, Uganda:** The **future of enterprises** needs to be taken into account if we are to achieve SDG8. Businesses need to be protected through the provision of a conducive business environment.

**ANDI, Colombia:** The **national situation** should be taken into account. We do not need a binding instrument. Business is doing a lot and it works.

**NCI, Brazil:** The focus should be on business opportunities, **beyond regulation**.

**EFC, Ceylon:** **Good governance** and commitment by Government to achieve sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth.

**CEC, China:** Governments should maintain the existing **economic and trade order** and promote the establishment of a more just and rational international governance system.

**CEO, Romania:** **We need jobs to be created to have what to protect.** We need to prepare together for the **future of work**.

**MEDEF, France:** Emphasise the **commitment** of companies and **improvements** in which they are engaged to make a **positive contribution** to the Agenda 2030, as well as the importance of local and multi-stakeholder **solutions** to increase the collective ability to achieve the SDGs.

## Members' survey on the SDGs: Conclusion

1. Business contributes to the SDGs in many ways and its contributions are being more and more acknowledged;
2. There is a need for businesses to further recognize their existing efforts towards sustainability and showcase their relevant activities;
3. SDG 8 is at the core of business and has the potential to become an engine for reforms;
4. Success will very much depend on an enabling environment, proper governance and capacity building for social partners;
5. There is a lot more to be done if we are to achieve the Agenda 2030; EBMOs reaffirm their commitment to further engage!



# Thank you!

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