



UNITED NATIONS
ESWATINI



Private Sector and UN Eswatini Senior-level Dialogue on the UN-Government Cooperation Framework for 2026-2030

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BUSINESS ESWATINI



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Introduction

The United Nations Country Team (UNCT) in Eswatini and the Government of Eswatini are developing a new Cooperation Framework (CF) for 2026–2030. This framework will serve as the primary strategic document guiding the UN’s collective offer and development partnership with Eswatini and shape the programmes of various UN agencies.

As part of the CF development process, the UNCT has engaged in consultations with key national stakeholders to ensure that the framework is relevant and responsive to the country’s priorities. The most recent of these consultations was a high-level dialogue with the Government on 16 January, led by the Right Honourable Prime Minister, where discussions focused on the strategic direction of the CF and key areas of intervention. These areas include addressing unemployment, fostering a pro-business and entrepreneurial environment, strengthening education and health systems, advancing the transition to a green economy, and enhancing governance, human capital, and workforce skills.

Recognizing the crucial role of the private sector in Eswatini’s economic growth and sustainable development, the United Nations, with the support of Business Eswatini, co-convened a senior-level dialogue with industry leaders on 13 February 2025, from 08:30 to 12:30. The dialogue focussed on the shared goal of achieving the SDGs and the private sector’s role on creating employment, building skills, spurring innovation, providing essential infrastructure, and supplying affordable goods and services. As part of building a multi-sector, multi-stakeholder, transformative partnership at scale, this dialogue provided a platform for the UN to present the draft strategic priorities of the 2026–2030 Cooperation Framework in line with national priorities and SDGs and gather insights from industry leaders on how to collectively foster a thriving Eswatini.

Objectives

The dialogue aimed to strengthen the partnership and collaboration between Eswatini’s private sector and the United Nations, focusing on exploring opportunities to leverage their unique strengths in support of the country’s sustainable development.

Participants

The half-day forum was attended by senior The half-day forum was attended by senior leaders of the Eswatini private sector, the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) and senior UN programme staff.

Welcoming Remarks by the CEO of Business Eswatini, Nathi Dlamini

The Private Sector – UN Dialogue kickstarted with Nathi Dlamini, CEO of Business Eswatini, delivering his welcoming remarks and highlighting the honour of co-hosting the meeting with the United Nations. He noted that Business Eswatini represents 90% of the private sector GDP and emphasized the longstanding cordial relationship between Business Eswatini and the UN. Mr. Dlamini expressed his gratitude to the UN for its leadership in advancing global goals and praised the private sector for its unwavering commitment to leveraging business as a force for good.

He reflected on the transformative power of collaboration, citing successful partnerships between the public and private sectors, civil society, and international organizations in the country. He underscored that no single entity can achieve the global goals alone, and it is through collective action, shared expertise, and innovation that real change can be achieved. Dlamini encouraged all attendees to think boldly, act decisively, and collaborate openly to address complex global challenges, with the aim of creating a sustainable, inclusive, and prosperous future. He concluded by expressing confidence that the day's discussions would mark the beginning of greater achievements and urged everyone to seize the moment.

Opening Statement by the United Nations Resident Coordinator, George Wachira

In his opening statement, George Wachira, the UN Resident Coordinator, welcomed the attendees with a heartfelt appreciation to Business Eswatini for co-hosting the event. He outlined the significance of the meeting, explaining that the dialogue aimed to share the UN's proposed strategic direction for its partnership with Eswatini in the coming five years under the Cooperation Framework (CF). This framework, he emphasized, is the UN's country-level common master plan guiding the implementation of the Agenda 2030 SDGs and marks a new chapter in the collaboration between Eswatini and the UN. Mr. Wachira spoke about the current global context, describing it as an era of "polycrisis," where multiple global challenges converge, including the lingering effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, rising economic disparities, climate-induced disasters, and the growing digital divide. He acknowledged the pressing need for re-imagining development in response to these crises, drawing inspiration from Winston Churchill's belief that "we should never let a good crisis go to waste." The UN, he noted, champions multilateralism, accountability for global commitments, and equitable solutions, all of which are key to sustainable development. The UN Resident Coordinator also addressed the evolving role



of the UN in Eswatini, highlighting the shift from donor to cooperation partner as Eswatini moves toward a middle-income status. He stressed the need for diverse development financing sources, including investments, development banks, and domestic revenues, with UN funding serving as a catalyst to leverage additional resources.

He also emphasized the importance of facilitating a policy environment that supports the private sector's growth and its contribution to the country's sustainable development. A significant portion of his speech focused on the critical role the private sector plays in achieving shared prosperity.

He invited the private sector to deepen its engagement with the SDGs, pointing to various opportunities for collaboration in sectors such as agriculture, manufacturing, and technology. He mentioned the UN's support for MSMEs, particularly women entrepreneurs, and the potential for innovation through partnerships in digital transformation. Furthermore, Mr. Wachira highlighted the six SDG accelerators—food systems, education, energy access, digital connectivity, jobs and social protection, and climate change—where the private sector could have a transformative impact. He also mentioned the SDG Investor Maps initiative, which provides market intelligence to identify opportunities that align with SDG priorities, including 14 identified investment opportunities in Eswatini.

Concluding his remarks, George Wachira reaffirmed the UN's commitment to being a trusted partner of Eswatini, working together to address the challenges of the present and future. He emphasized the importance of collective imagination in accelerating sustainable development, quoting Albert Einstein's belief that "imagination is more important than knowledge." This, he said, would allow all stakeholders to find innovative solutions, resources, and opportunities to achieve lasting progress.

Finally, he expressed his gratitude to the attendees, welcoming them to the ongoing dialogue and partnership for a sustainable future in Eswatini.

Opening Statement by the President of Business Eswatini, Mvuselelo Fakudze

Mvuselelo Fakudze, the President of Business Eswatini, delivered a powerful and inspiring speech, emphasizing the importance of the collaborative process in shaping the United Nations Cooperation Framework (UNCF) for Eswatini for the period 2026-2030. He expressed the private sector's enthusiasm and commitment to playing an active role in contributing to the future of sustainable development in Eswatini. Mr. Fakudze highlighted the vital role of the private sector in achieving



the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), noting that businesses' success is closely tied to the well-being of the communities they serve. He underscored that a thriving economy, a healthy environment, and an inclusive society are essential for sustainable business growth.

Mvuselelo Fakudze further emphasized the private sector's unique strengths, including its ability to innovate, mobilize resources, and create employment opportunities, while also understanding the local context and challenges. He called for a dialogue that goes beyond traditional partnerships, seeking to co-create solutions for critical development challenges, such as climate resilience, inclusive growth, access to education and healthcare, and fostering a green economy. The BE President expressed confidence that through collaboration, new opportunities for innovation and impactful initiatives could be unlocked, ensuring that the benefits of development reach all corners of the nation. He concluded by thanking the UN in-country team for their leadership and commitment to sustainable development, stating that the partnership with the UN would help pave the way for a prosperous and resilient future for Eswatini.

UNSDCF 2026-2030 Overview of the Design Process;
Draft Proposed Outcome Statements and Indicative
Outputs and Indicative Interventions

Henrik Franklin, Chair of the Programme and Policy Support Group and Resident Representative of UNDP, delivered an engaging address at the Private Sector – United Nations Senior Level Dialogue on the New United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (CF) for 2026-2030. He began by acknowledging the importance of the discussion and expressing his appreciation for the great conversation taking place. Franklin highlighted the session’s crucial role in the broader process and emphasized the need for collaboration among all stakeholders moving forward.

He explained that the UNSDCF is the UN’s primary tool for engaging with Eswatini, serving as the key instrument for planning, implementing, monitoring, and reporting development activities. As the collective offer of the UN Development System (UNDS) to the country, the UNSDCF is inherently consultative, involving multiple stakeholders in shaping its direction and impact. Mr. Franklin went on to outline the process of designing the Cooperation Framework (CF), referring to the road map and acknowledging the contributions of the Programme and Policy Support Group (PPSG). He emphasized the significance of prior evaluations, particularly the Common Country Analysis, which informs strategic prioritization and the theory of change. Monitoring progress through data is essential, he noted, and while it’s crucial to track developments, he cautioned against getting bogged down in bureaucracy.

Acknowledging the changing world, Henrik Franklin called for a more forward-thinking, flexible approach in implementing the CF, particularly in relation to emerging challenges such as youth employment. He identified key areas for future collaboration, particularly in food systems, which will be pivotal for sustainable development in Eswatini.

Henrik Franklin also pointed out that some of the indicators from previous evaluations do not fully align with the evolving nature of UN work in Eswatini. He proposed revising the current indicators and developing new, more relevant ones that better reflect the goals and realities of the country’s development agenda. He emphasized that this process is ongoing, and encouraged open, candid feedback from the participants. In closing, Henrik Franklin invited all present to share their comments and insights as the CF design continues to evolve, underscoring the importance of a collective, adaptive effort in shaping the future of sustainable development in Eswatini.



Following Mr. Franklin’s insightful introduction, **Dr. Jack Zulu, Senior Coordination and Capacity Support Officer from the United Nations Resident Coordinator’s Office,** presented a comprehensive overview of the development financing landscape in the context of the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) for 2026-2030.

Dr. Zulu focused on global financing trends, contextualizing the discussion with a focus on data and the financing outlook for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). He began by highlighting the significant global investment needed to achieve the SDGs, with estimates ranging between \$5 trillion to \$7 trillion annually (according to UNCTAD). Of this, developing countries face investment needs between \$3.3 trillion to \$4.5 trillion per year through 2030. However, the external financing available for developing economies dropped sharply by approximately \$700 billion in 2020, exacerbating the “scissors effect” of SDG financing—where rising needs are coupled with decreasing resources. Dr. Zulu pointed out that 85% of SDG targets are currently off track, and the annual SDG financing gap in developing countries has risen by

70%, or about \$1.7 trillion annually, as of 2020 (OECD). In terms of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth, Dr. Zulu noted that Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) is expected to experience slow growth, with a forecasted rate of 3.8% in 2024 and 4.2% in 2025. Eswatini’s GDP growth, on the other hand, was 2.23% in 2015 and 5.0% in 2023, with a forecast of 8.3% in 2025. Despite this, the country faces challenges in Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) inflows, which dropped from \$41.32 million in 2015 to \$29.43 million in 2023. These financial constraints, combined with high borrowing costs and rising public debts, limit the resources available for vital sectors such as health, education, and infrastructure.

Dr. Zulu highlighted the need for diversified financing options to support SDG achievement in Africa. These include domestic finance, external finance, green and blue bonds, blended finance, and private investments. He also emphasized the importance of strengthening government capacity to increase efficiency in mobilizing domestic financial resources and accessing external financing.

Mphucuko Mamba, Development Coordination Officer Economist at the United Nations Resident Coordinator’s Office, then presented the critical role of the private sector in achieving the SDGs and emphasized its potential to amplify efforts in areas such as innovation, resource mobilization, and investments. The private sector is also a major engine of economic growth and job creation, with partnerships in health, education, and infrastructure development being key to the agenda. Mphucuko shared examples of private sector best practices, including initiatives from banks like FirstRand Group, Standard Bank, and Nedbank, which collaborate with the UN to drive sustainable finance, climate adaptation, and renewable energy projects.

He then presented the findings from the Common Country Analysis, identifying the major challenges facing Eswatini, including high poverty and unemployment rates, economic inequality, health and education disparities, vulnerability to climate change, governance deficits, and food insecurity. These challenges have prompted the UN to prioritize strategic areas such as inclusive social well-being and shared sustainable prosperity. Mr. Mphucuko also outlined proposed transformative solutions aimed at addressing these challenges, offering a roadmap for the next phase of the UNSDCF. This includes clear outcome statements and outputs, with crosscutting issues to guide implementation. He highlighted the opportunity for the private sector to engage in longterm, innovation-driven partnerships with the UN, focusing



on areas such as climate change, digital transformation, energy transition, SDG financing, and public-private partnerships (PPPs) in critical sectors like health and education. In conclusion, Mamba Mphucuko stressed the importance of collaboration between the UN and the private sector in optimizing synergies to achieve greater impact, marking the key areas for cooperation in the upcoming UNSDCF for 2026-2030.

Facilitated Open Dialogue/Moderated Session
Feedback and perspectives from Private Sector

Bheki Bhembe, the facilitator for the session, opened the dialogue by inviting feedback and perspectives from the private sector. His role was to guide the conversation and foster an open exchange of ideas regarding the strategic priority areas. By creating a space for reflection, he encouraged participants to share their insights on the outcome statements, indicative outputs, and transformative solutions that had been presented earlier. The objective was to gather input from the private sector on how they can be involved in achieving the outlined goals and where they see potential opportunities for collaboration. His moderation allowed for a constructive discussion, ensuring that all perspectives were heard as part of the ongoing planning process.

Summary of Feedback from Participants

The discussions at the UN-Private Sector Dialogue revealed several pressing challenges faced by young entrepreneurs and women in Eswatini, as well as potential solutions to foster a more inclusive business environment. Participants highlighted key obstacles, including limited access to finance, inadequate business incubation facilities, lack of financial literacy, and regulatory barriers. The discussions were structured into two sessions: the first focused on private sector feedback on supporting growth and sustainable development, while the second gathered comments on the Cooperation Framework (CF).

Five key themes emerged:

1. Women and Youth Issues: Women and youth groups identified several challenges that hinder their optimal participation in business, such as limited access to finance, a lack of incubation facilities, and insufficient financial literacy skills. While financial mechanisms such as the RDF fund exist, access remains slow and discouraging. Additionally, affordable spaces for business startups remain scarce, with Matsapha being one of the few locations offering incubation options. Women entrepreneurs, including Mrs. Piver, emphasized that challenges in sectors like agriculture are compounded by climate change risks. They called for affordable finance, mentorship, and capacity-building to support women and youth in business. Participants also stressed the need for policies that integrate youth and women into MSME and empowerment frameworks while strengthening innovation hubs.



2. Partnerships: The dialogue underscored the importance of partnerships at multiple levels. Collaboration between the UNCT and private sector actors was highlighted as essential for implementing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Participants emphasized the potential for multinational corporations (MNCs) to partner with MSMEs to foster entrepreneurship, skills development, and job creation. The Women Farmer Foundation pledged collaboration with the UNCT to expand their initiatives, particularly in agri-business development. Additionally, youth representatives advocated for partnerships between the government and private sector to promote the manufacturing sector, drawing inspiration from policies implemented in countries like China in the 1960s. Furthermore, challenges in implementing regulatory frameworks at the Chiefdom level were discussed. Some local licensing structures lack the necessary capacity to create an enabling business environment. Strengthening partnerships with Chiefdom structures was proposed as a solution to drive localized business development.

3. Market Intelligence and Innovation: Despite strong entrepreneurial ambition among youth, the meeting revealed a significant gap in market intelligence. Participants cited the lack of data on opportunity areas, markets, and financing options as a major constraint to business growth. Investment in market intelligence and business support services was identified as a priority to bridge

these knowledge gaps. Obsolete laws also hinder business development. One example discussed was an outdated nuclear law affecting cancer treatment, highlighting the need for a systematic review of outdated regulations. Participants called for a more innovative approach to policy reform to create a competitive business environment.

4. Targeting of Government Programs: Government efforts in resource mobilization—such as the listing of Eswatini Government Bonds on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange—were commended. However, participants noted that poor targeting and inadequate funding models often compromise the impact of government programs. There was a call for stronger targeting mechanisms and ring-fencing of financial resources to ensure that social programs effectively contribute to sustainable development. Participants also emphasized the importance of developing financing models tailored to emerging private sector gaps and social programs. The textile sector, for instance, was highlighted as an area with significant potential for skill development and youth empowerment.

5. Risks and Sustainability: The dialogue identified several risks associated with youth programs, including age restrictions and delays in implementation. Development finance has declined since the COVID-19 pandemic, leading to increased national debt exposure and reduced investment in health and education. Additionally, shifts in Development Partners' policies—including recent executive orders from the USA—pose further risks to social program implementation, potentially leading to job losses in the health and education sectors and increasing informality in the economy. To mitigate these risks, participants recommended that youth programs be designed and implemented with an intertemporal lens, ensuring that they align with planned timelines for maximum impact. Additionally, life-saving development programs should be financed through domestic resources to minimize disruptions in service delivery.

Key Recommendations The UN-Private Sector Dialogue provided valuable insights into the challenges and opportunities within Eswatini's entrepreneurial landscape. Key recommendations included:

- Strengthening policies that support women and youth through access to finance, skills development, and targeted incubation programs.

- Expanding partnerships between UNCT, government, MNCs, MSMEs, and Chiefdom structures to enhance entrepreneurship and local economic growth.
- Investing in market intelligence and updating obsolete laws to create a more business-friendly environment.
- Improving targeting mechanisms for government programs to ensure they meet the needs of entrepreneurs and social development objectives.
- Implementing sustainable financing strategies to reduce reliance on external development finance and safeguard social programs from policy shifts.

The dialogue underscored the importance of tailoring Eswatini's policies to its unique context, leveraging its resources, cultural considerations, and evolving business landscape to foster sustainable and inclusive economic growth.

Summary of United Nations Country Team Contributions

The UNCT members highlighted key areas for collaboration between the United Nations, the private sector, and the government to drive Eswatini's economic and social development.

Henrik Franklin, UNDP Resident Representative, emphasized the need for policy implementation and accountability, particularly within the Ministry of Commerce, Industry, and Trade. He underscored the importance of digitalization and innovation hubs, such as the upcoming hub in Piggs Peak, and urged greater focus on rural development. UNDP is supporting the implementation of the MSME Policy and the Citizens Economic Empowerment Act while addressing gaps in Eswatini's digital readiness and e-commerce sector.



Patrice Talla, FAO Sub-Regional Coordinator for Southern Africa and Country Representative in Zimbabwe, eSwatini and Lesotho, advocated for repositioning Eswatini's agricultural sector into a competitive, business-oriented model that benefits youth and the broader community. He encouraged leveraging agricultural resources beyond crops to include livestock and other sectors, aiming for food sovereignty and global trade opportunities.

Nuha Ceesay, UNAIDS Country Director, discussed the impact of HIV on economic stability and the shift in US aid that could affect funding. He stressed the importance of data-driven policies, youth engagement in health decision-making, and continued partnerships to meet Eswatini's HIV targets by 2030.

Dr. Susan Tembo, WHO Country Representative, focused on integrating technology and AI into healthcare to enhance service delivery and public awareness. She highlighted the need for digital platforms and youth involvement in shaping health policies while addressing challenges in achieving universal health coverage.

George Wachira, UN Resident Coordinator, emphasized the link between education, entrepreneurship, and skills development. He referenced commitments made at the Transforming Education Summit and stressed the importance of improving regulatory frameworks and governance, particularly in accountability and public resource management.

In response to the private sector's observations, the UNCT provided updates on ongoing initiatives. The team is supporting the implementation of the MSME Policy and the Empowerment Law to strengthen accountability and is conducting diagnostics on digital readiness, focusing on e-commerce and innovation hubs. The government's food sovereignty campaign has prompted an assessment of Eswatini's agricultural potential to inform future interventions. Additionally, the UNCT and the private sector are exploring innovative approaches to health and social service delivery to ensure impactful and sustainable outcomes. The discussions underscored the need for collaboration, innovation, and policy accountability to foster sustainable development, with a focus on youth, women, and rural communities.



Participants' Feedback on Strategic Priorities, Indicative Outputs and Transformative Actions of the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework for 2026-2030

Discussions underscored the need to scale up initiatives and strengthen partnerships with the private sector to enhance development outcomes. A recurring theme was the role of law and governance in improving health systems, with a strong legal framework deemed essential for enhancing service delivery, procurement efficiency, and overall health sector sustainability.

One participant highlighted the challenges in strengthening health systems, particularly regarding the procurement and supply chain of pharmaceutical products. Targeted funding often limits procurement to specific global suppliers, making the process complex and restricting local accessibility. Leveraging existing resources and local capacities was identified as a strategy to reduce dependency on external sources and build a more resilient health system. Another participant encouraged reflection on the private sector's comparative advantage in addressing these challenges, emphasizing the importance of technology-driven solutions and innovation. The discussion explored how the UN and private sector could collaborate to tackle health sector issues more effectively.

Concerns were raised about domestic health sector funding, with participants questioning how the private sector could support the government in mobilizing resources and investing in healthcare. The conversation focused on sustainable financing approaches and the role of the UN in facilitating collaboration to ensure long-term health investments. A private sector representative noted that while businesses provide financial support, they do not dictate government spending priorities. However, there was a strong commitment from the private sector to strengthening the health sector, with a call for government leadership in financial allocation.

Key recommendations included expanding graduate programs to cover social sector issues beyond HIV/AIDS, keeping entrepreneurship discussions separate from core health priorities, and introducing nuclear legislation to support cancer treatment and enhance the country's competitiveness. The need to incorporate the ongoing Central Medical Stores reform into broader health sector planning was also emphasized, alongside calls for maximizing domestic investment in life-saving medical supplies to mitigate risks associated with shifts in development partner policies. Additionally, stronger targeting approaches for government-provided social services, including relevant financing models, were proposed.

A critical issue raised was health sector digitalization, particularly in engaging young people through practical training and internship placements. Many graduates remain underutilized due to a lack of opportunities, and calls were made for the UN to facilitate workforce integration. A program that had placed 300 youth, with 46% securing employment, was cited as a successful example. AI-driven solutions were also highlighted as potential tools to improve healthcare policies and systems.

The absence of a Nuclear Act was identified as a barrier to certain health services, and there was a push for a broader health agenda that includes preventive and palliative care rather than focusing primarily on HIV. Procurement challenges were another major concern, with inefficiencies in the turnaround time for medicines and a growing overreliance on foreign suppliers. Equipment and medical vehicles were often procured from abroad without adequate spare parts available locally, leading to service disruptions.

A major point of discussion was Eswatini's dependency on foreign funding for health services. There was strong advocacy for self-sufficiency in medicine procurement to reduce reliance on external aid. Previous efforts to locally fund medicine procurement were revisited, and the private sector was encouraged to explore business opportunities, such as drone delivery systems for medical supplies, which have been successfully implemented in other countries.

On the topic of domestic health sector financing, participants stressed the need for collaboration between the government, private sector, and UN. While some private sector representatives cited large-scale investments in health and security, they emphasized that strong government leadership is crucial for the efficient allocation of financial resources.

Beyond the health sector, discussions on shared and sustainable prosperity emphasized that skills development alone is insufficient—there must also be an enabling infrastructure to support economic participation. A key challenge identified was that many informal businesses operate outside the banking system, limiting their ability to access financial services and scale operations. Public-private partnerships were highlighted as essential for fostering economic growth, with calls for greater collaboration between businesses of different sizes. Encouraging smaller enterprises to partner with larger companies was seen as a way to strengthen supply chains, improve market access, and enhance overall business sustainability. Participants also discussed climate resilience in business operations, emphasizing the need for sustainable

business models that integrate climate adaptation strategies. Private sector investment in environmental sustainability was identified as a key area for further engagement.

Youth representatives stressed the importance of digital entrepreneurship, particularly in e-commerce and technology-driven businesses. Access to funding for tech startups was highlighted as a significant challenge, with calls for increased investment in digital industries to drive economic growth.

Economic considerations included fostering collaboration between the private sector and government by sharing best practices from successful industries, such as the sugar industry, which is recognized as one of the most efficient on the continent. Strengthening informal sector compliance was also noted as critical for business growth and employment creation. Additionally, participants emphasized the need to ensure that businesses have access to appropriate financing mechanisms, including emerging streams such as biodiversity finance, to support sustainable economic development.

Commitments and Closing Remarks

George Wachira closed the dialogue by thanking participants and reflecting on the ambitious goals set by the government across various sectors. He posed a critical question: who bears the responsibility for turning these aspirations into reality? Acknowledging the shifting landscape of the post-COVID era, he emphasized the need for new ways of working and adapting to evolving challenges. Nathi Dlamini highlighted the rapidly changing world and the need to redefine collaboration across sectors. He expressed his surprise at sitting alongside the UN, viewing it as a testament to adaptability and the importance of forging partnerships in uncertain times. He underscored that meaningful change requires strong alliances and encouraged the private sector to deepen its engagement with the UN to drive impactful collaboration.

George Wachira reinforced the value of ongoing dialogue and invited participants to provide further input on shared materials to enrich the discussions. He acknowledged the global challenges shaping today's world and expressed appreciation for everyone's contributions. In response to final questions, Nathi Dlamini addressed GDP and economic classifications, cautioning against an overreliance on Eswatini's middle-income status, as it does not necessarily reflect equitable economic growth or fair wealth distribution. He emphasized the importance of empowering women through community-driven initiatives to create a more balanced financial landscape. Speaking directly to young entrepreneurs, he stressed that success is not guaranteed and must be actively



pursued. He urged them to approach opportunities with gratitude and determination, reminding them that while institutions can provide support, entitlement should not be the expectation.

Both George Wachira and Nathi Dlamini concluded by underscoring the importance of adaptability in a rapidly evolving world. They pointed to the growing partnership between the UN and the private sector as a model for meaningful collaboration, reinforcing the need for collective action in advancing sustainable development. The session closed with messages of appreciation and a renewed commitment to strengthening partnerships for long-term progress.



Annex A: Participants

Tengetile Dlodlu	Strategist	EWSC
Nonhlanhla Hleta	Comms Specialist	UNICEF
Zandile Simelane	Data & Results	UNRCO
Zanele Ngomane	Portfolio Officer	IFAD
Rachel Masuku	Programme Officer	UNFPA
Bongani Dlamini	PDFO	UNRCO
Jonh Creamer	Adminstration Director	USA Distillers
Jermias Mendas	Head of Mission	IOM
Thuli Dladla	CEO	BUFE
Nuha Ceesay	Country Director	UNAIDS
Suzan Tembo	WHO REP.	WHO
Anira jones	CEO	
Zinhle Matsebula	Asavela Director	Asavela
Patrice Talla	FAO REP.	FAO
Rowsheen Chaar	RCO	RCO
Dr Jack Zulu	RCO	RCO
Mphucuko Mamba	RCO	RCO
Bheki Bembe	RCO	RCO
Thoba Dlamini	RCO	RCO
Benjamini Simelane	CEO	FESBC
Nomsa Mathabela	Legal Advisor	FESBC
Gcinile Mhlanga	Director	THE FOOD & BEV CO
Sindi Simelane		
Arosah Ali Ctenna	Program officer	WITAD
Aleta Armstrong	Director	Yebo Art Gallery
Mangaliso Mohamed	Economist	UNDP
Shiral Zeeman	HR Manager	Royal Villas
Mathokoza Sikhondze	Coordinator	CIEAES
Sonia Oaiva	MD	Eswatini foods
Amos Mkhathswa		RENAC
Ncamsile Motsa		ESHEC
Mihla Khumalo		ESHEC
Bonkhe Motsa		VP
Buhlebuyeza Nxumalo	MD	Eswatini Tobacco
Jay Jay Warrol		Vukani Bomake
Ntshalintshali Silungile	Head of SMES	
Thembisile Dlamini	ERA Advisor	UNAIDS
Mmone Moletsane	Protection Officer	UNHCR
Sabie Nxumalo	National Administrator	FESBC
Tokky Hou	Chairperson	BWEBE
Nothando Masango	BWE Admin	B. E
Sizwe Dlamini		Municipal council of Manzini
Sibusiso Dlamini	Private sector & UN Eswatini	
Sakhile Dlamini	UN + Private Sector Dialogue	BE
Sipho Shongwe	UNRCO	UNRCO
George Warchira	RCO	United Nations Eswatini
Mvuselelo Fakudze	President	Business Eswatini
E. Nathi Dlamini	CEO	Business Eswatini

