



World Humanitarian Forum

22-23 SEPTEMBER 2020 | NEW YORK

Shaping the Future for a Better Tomorrow



Co-located with: **aid&trade**

Outcome Report



*From the World Humanitarian Forum London closing high-level session: Rt Hon Tony Blair and Cherie Blair CBE

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UNIPADE

STOP

WE TOG

IF YOU THINK
THE
ECONOMY
IS MORE IMPORTANT
THAN THE
ENVIRONMENT
HOLD YOUR BREATH
AND COUNT YOUR
MONEY

*From the World Humanitarian Forum London 2019

WELCOME TO THE WORLD HUMANITARIAN FORUM

The World Humanitarian Forum brings together prominent leaders from the public and private sectors, as well as international thought leaders and pioneers. They engage in inspirational, thought-provoking, and future-focused dialogues that aim to shape the future of humanitarian aid and international development.

As circumstances change, we must learn to adapt and take the opportunity to do things right and to do things better. The World Humanitarian Forum knows that the anniversary of the United Nations General Assembly, as it turns 75, has symbolic weight. Realising this importance and being aware of the challenges of the current context has only made our commitment to the international community and cross-sector dialogue stronger and bolder. As we enter the decade of action and delivery, our focus has been firmly fixed on implementing the ambitious and transformational blueprint, we ask: is the International community able to deliver the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030? What will be the impact of COVID-19?

Sometimes, it takes a global health emergency for us to take a hard look at our weaknesses. The dynamics emerging in global trade, the flows of migration, and the worst pandemic we have seen in recent history are putting strains on the current system and showing its fragility. It has been clear from the start that considerable new investment is needed to close the nearly \$2.5 trillion annual gap between what is being spent today and what would suffice to meet the UN's 17 ambitious Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

With the system underachieving by trillions of dollars, we, as a community, are not meeting the scale of the challenge. As it stands, we cannot afford not to deliver on the goals we have set for ourselves and future generations. There is increasing consciousness of the importance of keeping this promise and a general understanding that the SDGs will not be met by targeting government budgeting alone. The inclusion of new forms of collaborative arrangements and investments is imperative to enact meaningful change towards reaching the Global Goals.

As this consciousness sets in, so does the commitment and willingness to engage. Reassessing and changing course takes courage and strength. WHF's mission is to inspire cross-sector dialogue and engagement in moving towards an engendering of interests, capacities, innovations and resources and accelerating both the scale and the speed of change.

Together, let's join our capacities to realize a common goal of accelerating progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. Our WHF New York Digital Event took place and has open the gates of cooperation, but as we often highlight, the international community mustn't shy away from taking more risks, creating authentic and complementary avenues and, most imperatively, including communities and local narratives that promote solution-making and build resilience. As our CEO, Feraye Osfesciouglu, said: **"we are now in the decade of action and we must act now."**

It is not a matter of not knowing what to do, but rather taking coordinated action in-scale to face the challenges head-on. It is the World Humanitarian Forum's mission to enable this dialogue and coordinated action and all our efforts are directed towards affecting real change.

Additional information is available at www.whf.london and www.aidntrade.com

ABOUT THIS PUBLICATION

This Outcome Report was elaborated as an **outcome paper of the WHF's New York Digital Summit alongside the UN General Assembly 2020 celebrating its 75th anniversary**. The report covers the two-day event and the sessions therein from 22 September 2020 to 23 September 2020.

The views expressed in this publication, unless otherwise stated, are those of the participant(s) and their organisations and do not necessarily represent those of the World Humanitarian Forum or its advisory board members. This publication does not imply official endorsement or acceptance of the views expressed or the support of specific agendas.



DECADE
OF
ACTION



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This report is a result of the two-days digital event that has taken place during the 75th UNGA between 22nd and 23rd of September 2020 joining together a broad group of public and private organisations and companies, including UN agencies, philanthropic organisations, private sector, thought leaders and changemakers.

With an eye to the decade of delivery and the need to push forward and intensify cross-sector partnerships, WHF NY 2020 provided a platform of dialogue directed towards solution building and action. Each of our sessions was dedicated, catered and put together to allow different voices and opinions to together build a way forward in the most constructive manner.

By the end of these two days, it was evident that everyone understood the power of coordinated action and the need to move from dialogue to action in order to realise and move closer to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030, regardless of each stakeholder's mandates, corporate responsibilities and advocacy goals.

The World Humanitarian Forum would like to acknowledge and thank the commitment, the engagement, the advocacy and the openness of all our contributors, panellists, partner organisations and esteemed guests. It reaffirms our commitment to create and cultivate new ways to engage the public and private sector in the search of the new, the unprecedented and the timely cross-sector action in the humanitarian and international development fields.

WHF would also like to express thanks to our advisory board members, who are an integral part of driving our mission and upholding our core values.





Seven colours represent seven continents of the world as a reflection of our global vision. **Each individual triangle symbolises the individual responsibility, distinctive vision, and local action needed to create a better world and end global inequality.** Triangles represent a person, sector or issue alone, each is valuable, unique and important. But seen together, they can tell a different story about the strength and worth of community, collaboration and partnership.

FOREWORD

“Excellencies, Ladies, and Gentlemen,

Welcome to the inaugural World Humanitarian Forum – New York taking place digitally this year on the sidelines of the 75th UN General Assembly, which is like no other.

As the UN marks its 75th anniversary, it is also the first time UNGA is taking place virtually due to the unprecedented pandemic. And as World Humanitarian Forum, we are proud today to present you the platform calling for action.

First and foremost, I would like to thank all our partners, members, stakeholders, speakers, guests, advisory board members, and working group members who supported us greatly to make today happen.

As I’ve stated before, the World Humanitarian Forum is a point of departure, not arrival.

As leaders meet at the virtual UNGA this week, here are our messages to the world:

We must re-double our efforts to achieve SDGs.

The greatest challenges facing humanity today – poverty, inequality, hunger, climate change, COVID-19– cannot be solved by just one actor or intervention, no matter how large the investment or will. We must act collaboratively and should always remember: we are in this together.

AND we must reaffirm our collective commitment to multilateralism.

We are now in the decade of action and we must act now.

Across 2 days, WHF features 18 main stage sessions, 10 strategic roundtables with more than 130 speakers focusing on the **“decade of action”**. In this digital gathering, we are welcoming delegates from 102 countries. I am proud to say that WHF is one of the largest and most inclusive side events of UNGA75 - encouraging action with a commitment and **“shaping the future for a better tomorrow”**.

On the other hand, since April, as you all know, WHF brought digital series together featuring 10 webinars, 10 podcasts and 6 WHFtalks.live with more than 60 speakers – all calling for action. WHF Digital Series is accessible through our youtube channel and website, and we will continue to deliver.

This outcome report summarises and analyses all of the sessions during WHF New York while calling for action on issues ranging from education and women empowerment to the impacts of climate change on international security and finance. We hope that you find this report to be informative and encourages you all to engage further in WHF and our work towards supporting the UN SDGs”



Feraye Ozfescioglu
CEO

ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS



RT. Hon Jack Straw
WHF Advisory Board Chair



Feraye Ozfescioglu
CEO, World Humanitarian Forum



Fatima Gailani
WHF Advisory Board Member & Member of the Board,
Afghan Red Crescent Society



Mark Astarita, OBE
WHF Advisory Board Member & Director, Astarita Aldrich
& Ward, Former Director of the British Red Cross

“I’m proud to be part of the World Humanitarian Forum, the advisory board, the team, and to do my small bit really, I’m making this inaugural event in New York a success.”



Charlie Bronks
WHF Advisory Board Member & Head of Strategic
Partnerships and Communications, Crown Agents Bank

“I’m very excited to be involved in this digital event. And really looking forward to some absolutely fascinating sessions.”



Richard Hawkes
WHF Advisory Board Member & CEO, the British Asian Trust

“The sector faces a truly incredible opportunity to reshape itself, to deliver even better, and deliver and achieve our goals of sustainability in an inclusive manner.”



Neil Rodrigues
WHF Advisory Board Member & Senior Director, Global
Supply Chain Operations, International Rescue Committee

JOINING MEMBERS

“I’m really very excited to see how we can contribute and engage at this time. It’s a very exciting time, it’s a very critical time for our world. And my hope is that the World Humanitarian forum will help us leave no one behind.”



Dianne Dain

UN Reboot Accelerator Lead, Strategy, Policy & Governance Division, United Nations Secretariat Office of ICT

“Working with the World Humanitarian Forum, we are able to just bridge the gap and create more lines of communication in all of these turbulent times that we are being exposed to, and maybe also try to put our heads together and rethink policies and laws.”



Tessy Antony - de Nassau

Director & Founder, Finding Butterflies & Patron to UNA - UK

“The scope, scale, severity and complexity of the drivers behind humanitarian suffering, and issues that threaten life as we know it requires us to come together immediately and in a meaningful way.”



Jonathan Brooker

Global Head of Private Partnerships, Solidarites International UK

“I feel immensely excited at the vision that the Forum has in bringing together, brokering and convening different actors. We all come from different places, but to try and tackle today’s humanitarian problems, we need a much more joined up way of working and a real commitment to collaboration.”



David Peppiatt

Director of the Cash Hub, British Red Cross



Sir Anthony Ritossa

Chairman, Ritossa Family Office

A GLOBAL DIGITAL EVENT

Delegation froms 102+ Countries



The World Humanitarian Forum alongside the 75th UNGA set the agenda with the focus on the Decade of Action. The delivery of the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030 was at the centre of the discussion of our sessions continuing our commitment to **“Shaping the future for a better tomorrow”**.

WHF NEW YORK IN NUMBERS

18

▶ MAIN STAGE SESSIONS

10

▶ ROUNDTABLE SESSIONS

144

▶ SPEAKERS IN TOTAL

1000+

▶ ATTENDEES

MAIN STAGE SESSIONS

Session 1- A commitment: Leaving No One Behind

Introduction

This keynote session focused the long-term solutions to displacement and forced migration, pointing to the need for prioritising collaborative approaches, strategic partnership, solidarity, and accountability. As Alexandra Bilak, moderator of the session highlighted, **“the session is built on the assumption that reaching the SDGs will require both state and non-state actors to work together and to build strong coalitions that match the scale of the challenge that we face today.”**

Our discussion covered migration trends, specific current challenges, as well as government responses and policies to addressing the growing crises. Another point of discussion was the important role of multilateral organisations, NGOs, the private sector, and the media.

The underlying questions raised throughout the session were: **(a)** Are we doing enough to help those who are fleeing war but also economic hardship and environmental change? **(b)** Can we somehow change the narrative so that they are adequately protected so that they are welcomed and so that they are supported? **(c)** And, how can we leverage and engage new partners on the international scene to play a catalytic role in tackling this challenge?



MODERATOR
Ms. Alexandra Bilak
Director, IDMC



SPEAKERS
Mr. Per Heggenes
Chief Executive Officer, IKEA
Foundation



Ms. Sherrie Rollins Westin
President of Social Impact and
Philanthropy, Sesame Workshop

Key Points

Mr. Francesco Rocca

Call for action for migrants. In COVID-19 times they see the growing suffering of people into poverty, lack of access to basic services and increasing stigmatisation and although COVID-19 is a global disaster that impacts everyone, for migrants, asylum seekers and refugees, it is a catastrophe. We cannot be passive and only continue the discourse without action. We are not where we want or should be, while the vulnerability of thousands of people grows in scale. The action appeal then is that **a)** all migrants, irrespective of legal status, must be given access to essential services, particularly healthcare. Everyone should have access to screening, testing, tracing and treatment of COVID-19 without fear of arrest, detention or deportation; **b)** the pandemic cannot be used to justify the inhuman treatment of migrants and refugees. It must not impact the ability to seek asylum or force people to return to a situation of danger; **c)** We call our authorities to cooperate with the Red Cross Red Crescent National Societies and other humanitarian groups guaranteeing space and access so they can provide critical aid to migrants in need.

“Our call is to also work with the local actors, to engage with the communities and work with them. My fear is that there is no will of political leaders that can make the difference and pay enough attention instead that they are feeding the fears of people.”

Ms. Kelly Clements

Solidarity, narrative and agency. Host countries have a burden that is heavy and lasting. As pressures mount and a protected refugee crisis drags on, we need to think about solidarity and shared responsibility, an approach that brings the whole of society as actors to find solutions to displacement. At the same time, it is important to build narratives to look at refugees not as beneficiaries, but as agents of their own change, in terms of providing the tools for people to find their own solutions, jobs, education, health, and digital identity.



SPEAKERS

Mr. Francesco Rocca
President, IFRC



Ms. Kelly Clements
Deputy High Commissioner, UNHCR



Ms. Kelly Clements

“The inclusion narrative is very important. Since governments have largely recognised that they can’t just protect their own citizens, but they have to protect others. As time goes on, there is a danger that this is fragile. From every facet, there are long-term implications [of abandoning this understanding] and if we don’t have these kinds of partnerships we will see people left behind.”

Mr. Per Heggnes

Tackling of the root causes. So I hope that in a few years when we look back at 2020, we will remember this year as a turning point in Massey reasons in how humanity collectively tackles issues like inequality and injustice, but also climate change, because they're all interlinked. It's all works together. So I think it is our collective responsibility to address the humanitarian crisis that forced families to flee their homes. But we also have to address the conditions that perpetuate the human suffering in the first place, the root causes that lead to displacement, whether it's conflict or climate change, or just lack of opportunities to make a living. I think we can only achieve that through unprecedented collaboration across all sectors of society.

“I personally believe there’s a huge opportunity to engage the private sector in creating solutions. We often forget that the most powerful companies are probably those who are already existing in affected communities. And if we can find a way to incentivize those companies to create jobs for people, that’s one of the most sustainable things you can do is create jobs in a community that enables everyone to thrive long-term. The private sector has to be in collaboration with governments and organisations.”

Ms. Sherrie Rollins Westin

Investing in early year learning and wellbeing. In terms of the return on investment, reaching children in those critical early years goes a long way. Yet less than 3% of all humanitarian aid goes to education and only a tiny sliver to early learning. Targeting early child learning, as data shows, it is a most effective course of action to help mitigate the debilitating effect that prolonged exposure to stress and trauma has on a child’s healthy brain development. The Sesame Workshop, through educational media, advocacy and partners, seeks to reach children at scale. And in this pandemic, we are reminded of the power of media, its latitude and value.

“Overall, if we’re going to build back if we’re going to make progress on any of the SDGs, we must invest in education, particularly early education, and making sure we are not leaving the most marginalised children, the most vulnerable, and those who are affected by conflict and displacement. I don’t see how we can make progress on any of those goals otherwise.”

MAIN STAGE SESSIONS

Session 2- Eradicating Poverty

Shaping the Future for a Better Tomorrow ◀

Introduction

By the end of this year, the **COVID-19 pandemic will have placed about 70 million people into extreme poverty and this will be the first time global extreme poverty has increased since 1990.** Another dire statistic to consider from the UN University shows that the slowing of the economy following the pandemic could push as many as 420 million people or 5% of the world's population into extreme poverty.

This session about eradicating poverty took a look at the setbacks to SDG 1 since COVID-19, highlighting the current numbers and exploring the subject through its multi-dimensional lens. From measuring poverty through economic indicators to considering the levels of human suffering the main message to drive the discussion was the need to make a progress on Goal 1, to generate new ideas and unprecedented action to alleviate poverty by, amongst other things, adopting a hardcore investment approach that focuses on outcomes.

Key Points

Ms. Phyllis Costanza

The private sector's role in poverty alleviation. When considering the role of capital markets, there is approximately £300 trillion in these markets, yet, less than 1% is going towards anything related to the UN SDGs. While the world of finance has celebrated bringing \$1 trillion into sustainable investments, more can be done. The pandemic has forced a different shift in attitudes in which the general public is demanding that companies become more socially responsible members of their communities and not just focus on profits and shareholders.



MODERATOR

Mr. Paul Knox Clarke

Co-founder, Climate and Humanitarian Crisis Initiative



SPEAKERS

Ms. Phyllis Costanza

Chief Executive Officer, UBS Optimus Foundation



Mr. Jon Clifton

Global Managing Partner, Gallup



Mr. David Wright

Chief Operating Officer, Save the Children

“There are some incredibly generous financial institutions giving hundreds of millions. But if we really want to move the needle on this, we have to take a more of a hard-nosed investment mentality to it.”

Mr. David Wright

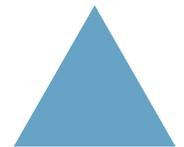
Poverty alleviation starts from childhood. There is substantial research which demonstrates that poverty alleviation must start from childhood as stunting caused by deprived settings can have a knock-on effect by reducing a child’s IQ by 15 points by the time they become an adult. In countries where stunting is prevalent, we can see that their country’s GDP is reduced by 3% or more every year. Presently, the pandemic has resulted in 1.5 million children out of school, the number of children living in multi-dimensional poverty increased by 15% to 1.2 billion.

“A child of an illiterate subsistence farmer or somebody who’s selling sweets at traffic lights can then go on to become a doctor or an architect or an entrepreneur.”

Mr. Jon Clifton

Poverty is multidimensional. Presently, poverty is often measured solely in economic terms with the most popular statistics based on financial calculations of, for example, the number of workers that live on less than \$2 per day. However, poverty goes beyond these calculations, there is a behavioral dimension. In research conducted by Gallup, in 2007 it was found that 9% of people around the world are suffering, now it is currently 17%, a historic high. Individuals globally are experiencing anger, isolation and physical pain, when the participants of the survey were asked whether they didn’t have enough money for shelter, 30% said yes, highlighting that basic needs need to be met if we are to be successful in our fight against poverty.

“The United Nations and global governments are making incredible progress in the war against poverty. But to achieve an absolute victory in the war against poverty, world leaders cannot solely rely on economic indicators. They also need to know what people are thinking.”



MAIN STAGE SESSIONS

Session 3- Zero Hunger

Shaping the Future for a Better Tomorrow ◀

Introduction

This session took place looking at the backdrop of the COVID-19 emergency. **The rise in food insecurity given the impacts of COVID-19, climate change and increasing global populations.** Also discussed was the need to create radical change in making progress toward reducing hunger. What was put in question was the current food system and how the existing system is able to cope with the demands and issues to reach the goal of zero hunger.

Key Points

Mr. Lawrence Haddad

Children are facing increased undernutrition. A recent report authored by a consortium called the Standing together for nutrition noted that children who are under the age of five are the most vulnerable when it comes to premature mortality with estimates increasing to 55 million children globally from 47 million in a six month period.

“If we don’t do anything about reversing those declines, in the next 18 months, then those impacts are going to be the terrible legacy of this crisis and they will cascade down the generations.”



MODERATOR

Ms. Laura Powers

Co-Founder, the New Climate and Humanitarian Crisis Initiative



SPEAKERS

Mr. Lawrence Haddad

Executive Director, Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN)



Mr. Andrew Rzepa

Partner, Gallup

Mr. Andrew Rzepa

Progress on zero hunger has stalled. Even prior to the pandemic, from 2014 until 2019 we have seen a worsening situation regarding zero hunger. The pandemic has highlighted already existing inequalities, approximately one in 10 individuals across the world were severely food insecure. We have also seen that women were more food insecure than men, with this gap increasing between 2018 and 2019, women had a 27% chance of being severely food insecure at a global level.

“Global food insecurity is contributing towards a global mental health pandemic, the stress and worry food insecurity is playing a catalytic role.”

Ms. Valerie Guarnieri

COVID-19 has caused increased food insecurity. While hunger has increased due to conflict and climate change, we have seen increased hunger levels due to COVID-19 with approximately 135 million people experiencing acute hunger this year, with COVID-19, this number has increased by 80% to 270 million. This is due to 2 primary causes. In one hand because of the global economic recession, some populations now do not have access or are not able to afford enough food in the markets for themselves and their families, then secondly, because globally supply chains have been affected by COVID-19, the supply of food in markets is reduced, resulting in higher prices with a 10% increases in basic food prices in 20 countries.

“As we look to the response, we need to ensure that we are making sure that food systems deliver for the most vulnerable in the most fragile context.”



Mr. Donal Brown

Associate Vice-President,
Programme Management
Department, IFAD



Ms. Valerie Guarnieri

Assistant Executive Director,
World Food Programme (WFP)



Mr. Martien van Nieuwkoop

Global Director for Agriculture
and Food, World Bank



Mr. Martien van Nieuwkoop

Food security has been rising in a world of plenty. While food insecurity has been increasing, we have also seen a rise in food losses and waste. Already before COVID-19, approximately one-third of agriculture production was lost or wasted due in part to disruptions influenced by food supply chains. Due to COVID-19 lockdowns, disruptions in food supply chains are difficult to solve due to challenges in transportation and mobilising labour.

“Right now, we think that the problem is measured mainly on the demand side. If this continues, and if critical segments of the supply chain ... it might have actually complicated farmers access to fertilisers and inputs that down the road could also change into a supply problem.”

Mr. Donal Brown

Local markets risk breaking down. While individuals do have money to buy food, it is not often always available due to movement restrictions which are affecting local markets. Small producers are not able to warehouse their food or store it. The governmental response to a health crisis can indeed also cause a food crisis. However, we have also seen good examples where governments have continued to work to ensure food security. For example, in Rwanda, the government ensured that food was transported across the country and that personnel linked to food supply systems were able to move.

“In many countries in Africa, they are not able to get [...] access to inputs for the planting seasons, in northern Ghana, in a lot of the belt there, the planted season is upon us, and they don’t have the supplies. Governments are doing a really good job of trying to respond to a health crisis. But part of that is by diverting resources away from agriculture to other areas.”

MAIN STAGE SESSIONS

Session 4- Partnership for Goals

Shaping the Future for a Better Tomorrow ◀

Introduction

As one of the focal points of the World Humanitarian Forum's mission, **cross-sector partnerships are very well understood as the only way forward to achieve and deliver on the sustainable goals agenda.** Supporting governments to understand now that supporting the SDGs requires wide-scale collaboration from a variety of sectors, from public and private local organisations, businesses, foundations, ai NGOs, individuals, and international institutions.

And evermore leveraging the knowledge of the private sector and supporting the SDGs has become vital for future success. Whether it be an expertise in telecommunications, water, sanitation, public health, food security or financing, the private sector can bring unique capabilities, expertise, resources, and experience catalysing positive changes across the sector. The session today will look at the biggest opportunities and challenges to pump to public and private partnerships while considering the role of trust shared values, and inclusive growth, the importance of everyone contributing to a sustainable world.

Key Points

Ms. Annemarie Hou

Improving access for sustainability. One main message this week is the idea of the global public good and making sure that everyone everywhere has access and that everyone gets that access at the same time, a system that is sustainable with sustainable solutions. But, we need to ensure that there isn't a massive lag between people who are getting access to services and programmes and products and people who are not able to get them.



MODERATOR

Mr. Jonathan Brooker

WHF Advisory Board Member & Global Partnerships Director, Solidarites International



SPEAKERS

Ms. Annemarie Hou

Acting Executive Director, United Nations Office for Partnerships



Mr. Gideon Maltz

Executive Director, Tent Partnership for Refugees Foundation

“Sustainable solutions need sustainable partnerships, but they can’t be these quick fixes and expect these longer-term gains and values. As the UN we want to help make that connection, and figure out ways of making it easier for people to connect.”

Mr. Gideon Maltz

Refugee integration. We focus on helping companies integrate refugees into the economy, whether directly into the workforce or into the supply chain. There are many ways refugees can create value for business, there is an incentive to actually do more to scale up over time, as well as support refugee entrepreneurs and small businesses or tailoring their commercial products to better meet refugee needs. The sense that refugee populations are vulnerable and bring little value as a workforce is a big constraint on business action, this must be overcome.

“From our perspective, if the company’s just doing it for free, it’s going to be temporary, it’s not going to be scaled up. Refugees in the labour force present a really compelling business proposition. We have data that they stay longer on the job, we have data, that they’re more willing to relocate for a job, both of those things are valuable.”



SPEAKERS

Ms. Shirin Pakfar – Friborg
Chief of Section, Private Partnerships
and Philanthropy, UNHCR



Ms. Rebecca Marmot
Chief Sustainability Officer, Unilever



Ms. Tara Nathan
Executive Vice President, Humanitarian
& Development Sectors, Mastercard



Ms. Rebecca Marmot

Multi-stakeholder business model. The role that we can play in terms of transformative change is absolutely accelerated through partnerships. It is not about short-term financial gain, but a system that puts sustainability front and centre and prioritises people on the planet as we grow in a sustainable way, it is built from within the company, aligning values and objectives and then reflected on the entire chain to reach communities. It is about acting responsibly, building and focusing on business sustainability which is oriented towards contributing to and achieving the SDGs, with long-term impact.

“Ultimately, we are helping governments and countries and citizens around the world to achieve and progress through the SDGs. And at the same time, grounding in front and centre and core business operations.”

Ms. Tara Nathan

Core competencies, not philanthropy. The engagement of the private sector should go beyond the provision of resources and the traditional philanthropic route, where some actions may be even considered unnatural. If the goal is to help the most vulnerable and societies develop, the private sector should rely on the competencies and skills that are of most value, because those are going to create maximum and long-term impact. Many businesses have increasingly taken this approach and have made great and creative contributions in areas like innovation, technology, and expertise. Equally important, is to move from partnerships to tactical operational execution that has public, private sectors and communities coming together for joint execution.

“For business to succeed, we have to ensure that the environments, the markets, the countries and the people whom we seek to serve are successful and prosperous. So if you take that as the longest term lens, which is not always commercially practical, obviously, our engagement in bettering the world and in encouraging, thriving and flourishing societies is critical.”

Ms. Shirin Pakfar – Friborg

Keeping an eye on the challenges by changing the narrative. Keeping the focus on what the challenges are as important as celebrating our successes. The 2030 agenda presents the biggest challenge of our time. As one of the core principles is leaving no one behind, which is the value and the mantra behind the UNHCR mandate, our focus is making sure that refugees and displaced people are not marginalized. But today they’re actually the furthest behind when it comes to the SDGs. They’re not actually technically counted within the host communities in host countries in which they live. This narrative is something that must be addressed and it is something that the private sector can contribute with.

“It is important to be authentic and genuine. It is essential to have a shift of mindset for more long-term, more sustainable solutions.”

MAIN STAGE SESSIONS

Shaping the Future for a Better Tomorrow ◀

Session 5 - The Rise of Philanthropy and CSR in the Decade of Action

Introduction

Before COVID-19, the estimate of the financial gap to achieve the SDGs was between 2.5 and \$3 trillion a year. As the contexts are getting even more complex, the consequence will inevitably be more people living in poverty, more people suffering, ill health, more people in economic hardship. The humanitarian and international development sectors are in need of more financial support, but equally urgent is the need to innovate and to create new solutions for the shortcomings. As our session's moderator and advisory board member, Richard Hawke, underlined **“we need to make the money that is in the system more efficient and more accountable.”**

At the forefront of making this bridge is the relation between philanthropy and CSR, questions surrounding how to innovate for the future and for the present, making the existing systems and technologies better, what it means to take an action philanthropy approach, the necessity of taking risks and not being afraid of failure, being part of the solution were some of the points raised as possible ways forward.

Key Points

Dr. Marcia Balisciano

Maximising the positive impact of business. Corporate responsibility is in many ways about investing in knowledge, resources and skills.



MODERATOR

Mr. Richard Hawkes

WHF Advisory Board Member & CEO, the British Asian Trust



SPEAKERS

Dr. Marcia Balisciano

Global Head of Corporate Responsibility, RELX



Dr. Valerie Nkamgang Bemo

Deputy Director of Emergency Response for Global Development, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

A good example of which is RELX's SDG Resource Centre which brings a wide range of content from across their business, including key partners from the UN system such as the UN Global Compact, UNDP and UNEP, to inform and encourage action on the SDGs. Another example can be seen in the SDG mapping tool which has been crowdsourced and has over 10,000 users every month.

“Our focus is on maximising the positive impact of conducting our business on society and minimising any negative impact.”

Mr. Patrick Dunne

Providing educational opportunities through the private sector. Through the creation of Impact hubs, organisations such as ESSA are able to support scholarship programmes which have been endorsed by UNESCO. The aim of this is to ensure that scholarships do better in terms of impact but also attract more money into the scholarship sector. Presently there is a shortage of faculty across universities in Africa, particularly in the sciences. As such, the EY Foundation is providing programmes, which aim to develop women leaders in African Education.

“A greater part of our focus is on helping employers to have proper pathways for people from disadvantaged backgrounds to get into those companies at the right level and get the development they need.”

Ms. Debbie Wall

Action philanthropy. Over the last five years since the creation of the Sage Foundation, they have aimed to use their people, partners and customers to be action-orientated in local communities. They focus on young people, military, veterans and women. There has been a specific focus on employability for young people to make other businesses and customers to recognise how vitally important young people are.



SPEAKERS

Mr. Patrick Dunne
Chair, EY Foundation



Ms. Debbie Wall

Executive Vice President, Sage Foundation & Colleague Wellbeing

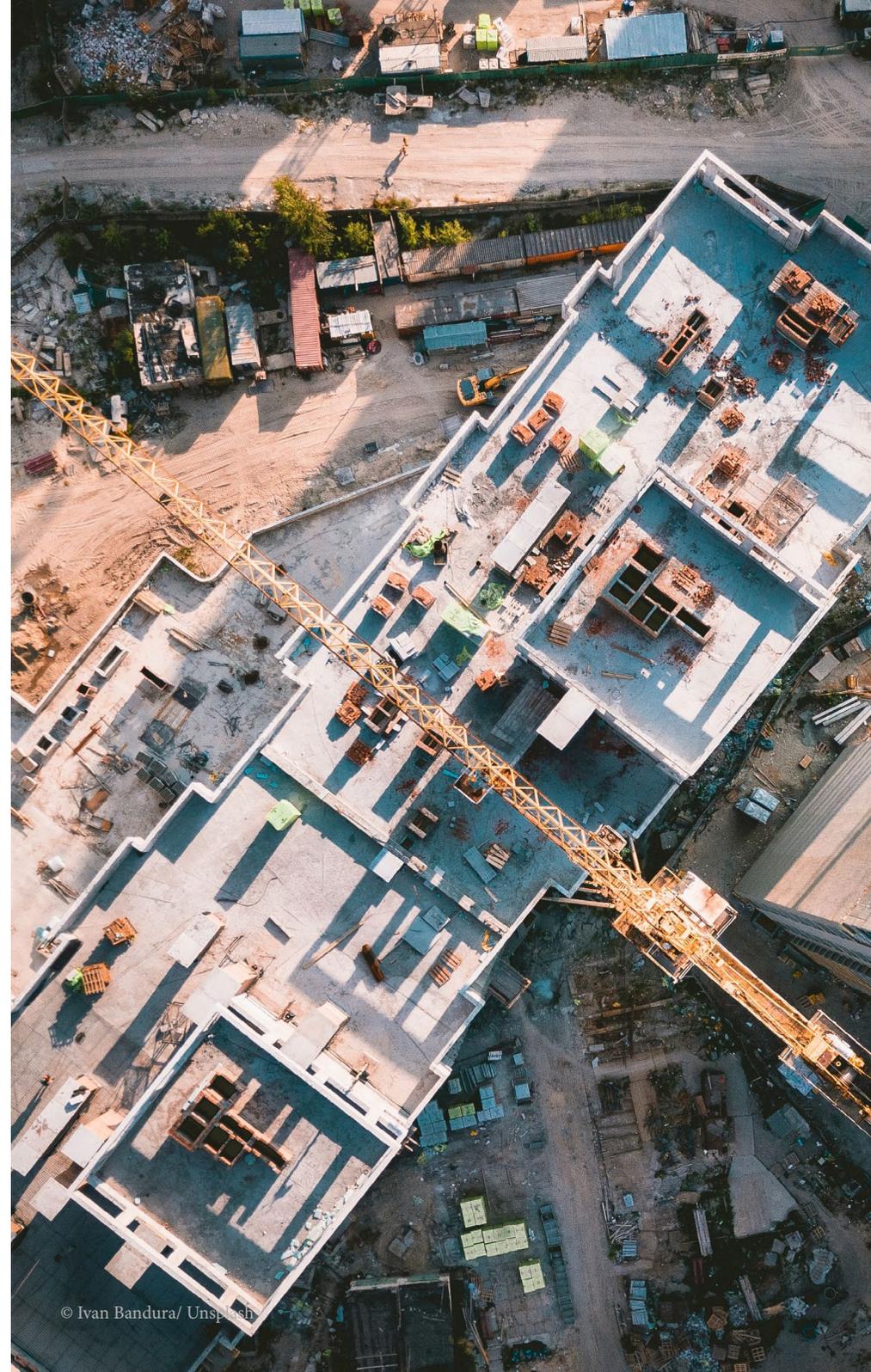


“We are focusing on being innovative, around the future of work, and recognising that there are many ways that philanthropy can help build pipelines for employment, not just with young people, but also with the other aspects that we support, namely young women and military veterans.”

Dr. Valerie Nkamgang Bemo

Innovation and preparedness. Enabling innovative approaches is vital in crisis scenarios, responding rapidly and having flexible funding is critical. On the other hand, with regards to preparedness, we need to consider who are the first responders before and after a disaster. We tend to see individuals as victims instead of seeing them as an actor. We need to place these individuals at the centre of preparedness systems, they can provide more innovative responses because they know better.

“[Local organisations] can actually help us innovate better if we can listen to them and if we put them at the centre.”



MAIN STAGE SESSIONS

Shaping the Future for a Better Tomorrow ◀

Session 6 - Challenging Inequalities: Gender

Introduction

This session took a look at the modern obstacles to gender equality of today, how has the pandemic affected the rights of women around the world and how do societies move forward. Underutilised is the potential of women in driving economic growth and progress. Women's voices that are left unheard hinder a most needed diversity of thought and problem-solving in times of crisis in all social spheres.

Addressing the questions of inequality, discrimination and violence against women is a critical avenue of investing in the future and in potentializing the delivery of the SDGs by 2030.

With this understanding, the session led by our advisory board member Ms. Tessy Antony - de Nassau, highlighted the place of women on the decision table, need to capitalize and invest in capacity-building for women that still lack access, the need to invest in the emotional and mental wellbeing of women, as well as include men and be conscious of their role in the debate.

Key Points

Ambassador Melanne Vermeer

Disproportionate impacts and guaranteeing equal participation. Responding to COVID-19 and recovering societies needs a large understanding that segments of the population are being disproportionately impacted, which in turn, means applying a gender lens to all the decisions and programs.



MODERATOR

Ms. Tessy Antony - de Nassau
WHF Advisory Board member and
Director & Founder, Finding
Butterflies & Patron to UNA-UK



SPEAKERS

Hon. Zuraida Kamaruddin
Minister of Housing and Local
Government, Malaysia



HH Sheikha Intisar Al Sabah
Founder, Intisar Foundation

A focus for women and girls is to allocate resources and create programs safe that ensures that others can't exploit desperation. Equally important is to make women part of the solution, part of the decision-making process in all levels of society, where they have the experience, the know-how, and the understanding of what needs to be done, this means challenging mindsets, attitudes, norms, legal structures deeply embedded in societies. No one is there yet.

“We cannot grow economies, we cannot address peace and security, we cannot deal with climate change, unless we bring all of our people, men and women into full participation on equal grounds level the playing field, it is the right thing to do, it is about human rights. But it is also the smart and strategic thing to do.”

Ms. Asahi Pompey

Partnership, knowledge-sharing and capital. Structural change comes from growing partnerships, knowledge and information sharing, and capitalization. While we have many examples of successful women, we still have a structure that holds women back. The COVID-19 crisis laid bare, with incredible data, the shortcomings and the place women hold in the world. Sharing knowledge and using this data, investing in technology, access and connectivity, can significantly aid all sectors of society to mobilise and advance on inclusion practices, including setting forth plans of partnerships and capitalisation, which is essential, to reach more women around the world.

“Crises do not build character, they reveal character. Our sons are watching and our daughters are watching. What are we saying at this moment about our global character as it relates to gender and women and women's equality? This is the moment where we are able to not roll back change, but sustain and make advancements.”



Ms. Asahi Pompey

Global Head of Corporate
Engagement and President, Goldman
Sachs Foundation



Ambassador Melanne Verveer

Executive Director,
Georgetown Institute for Women,
Peace and Security



Ms. HH Sheikha Intisar Al Sabah

Breaking stereotypes and focusing on wellbeing. The first thing to do is not to present cultures and problems under the same umbrella as if they are one and the same. Second, we need to break free from the cultural barriers that limit social growth. We have a culture of girls being quiet or discouraging girls and everyone else sometimes of expressing their emotions, of not asserting themselves. This leads to a group of highly qualified and capable women to stay behind in the work-front and society as a whole. If women and girls are raised to think they're second class, the possibility of them being able to develop and assert their abilities, or even change the minds of those around them is very restricted. With that, more must be done to cultivate mental wellness for women and girls, so they can perform in their professional lives and live a much better life in general.

“For all primary humanitarian or primary gender-based gender equality issues, we must seriously consider mental wellness together with all the other things we need to do.”

Hon. Zuraida Kamaruddin

Gender lens and utilizing gender differences. In fighting for equality and inclusion it is important to understand that women and men are different from their roles in societies to their perspectives on social and political issues are diverse. We should not ignore this but rather use it to further social development. The presence of women in the political arena after the Beijing Declaration and specifically Malaysia has increased, but society is still patriarchal and putting in place inclusion policies, such as quotas, might present a solution. Women are an asset to any society and we must include men in this way of thinking.

“Equal opportunity and gender sensitisation are imperative for growth, the more women we have, the better is our nation. a better nation.”

MAIN STAGE SESSIONS

Session 7 - Challenging Inequalities: Education

Introduction

One of the most affected areas by the COVID-19 pandemic was unquestionably education. In this session, the question of education was set as not only a humanitarian priority but a development priority that international action doesn't have the luxury to leave behind. Education is the vessel that empowers the development of societies as a whole, as well as allows marginalised groups to leave the cycles of poverty, exclusion and inequality.

As the panel highlights in this discussion action needs to follow this understanding, the implementation of new approaches to education, the heavy investment in not only technology but connectivity is essential to drive societies, marginalised groups and vulnerable people from the crisis they are facing. As our moderator, Dr. Jon-Hans Coetzer stressed, **“education, it is simply not negotiable. And it has to be a priority action.”**

Key Points

Ms. Yasmine Sherif

A vehicle of power. Education has usually been less of a priority on the agenda when a crisis hits. This mindset that puts everything as more important than education doesn't account for the role of education in forming individuals and societies. Education is the vehicle to empower our future generations. There is no rebuilding after a crisis, without an education, we cannot achieve the sustainable development goals for countries that are affected by crisis, refugees or natural disasters, and COVID-19. There must be a focus on building resilience through educational solutions that are innovative and supportive of different realities.



MODERATOR

Dr. Jon-Hans Coetzer

Team Leader Online Learning and Education, Division for Peace, UNITAR



SPEAKERS

Ms. Yasmine Sherif

Director, Education Cannot Wait



Mr. Nikhil Seth

Executive Director, UNITAR and Assistant Secretary-General, United Nations

“Education is not just on humanitarian priority, it’s also development priority, which should be for situations of armed conflict, crisis and refuge. And that’s why Education Cannot Wait was created, make it a priority.”

Mr. Nikhil Seth

Priorities and mindsets. Implementing change in diverse cultures can be difficult to achieve. People’s mindsets, people’s attitudes, and behaviours are very difficult to change. This change can be only realised through learning and education. Through crises, our differences and shortcomings become very clear and so does the need to innovate and build new approaches. Technology has been a great tool during the pandemic. A tool to reach those that are most vulnerable (the ones that we need to pay attention to the most).

“We must all learn the new tricks of education and learning young people out there are learning very differently. They have very different attention spans, they have very different psychologies, and our ability to tune in to the younger minds, and adapt the instructional design so that people learn better is the key thing we’ve all got to adapt to.”



Dr. Tariq Al Gurg
Chief Executive Officer, Dubai Cares



Ms. Breshna Musazai
OYW Peace Ambassador and member of the National Youth Consensus for Peace Movement in Afghanistan



Dr. Koumbou Barry Boly
Director of the Education Sector at ICESCO and the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Right to Education



Dr. Tariq Al Gurg

Edtech and connectivity. Overnight, the whole world shifted to a remote learning model. It is a bit of a reality check showing that we can adapt and adopt new systems. Preparedness and adaptability are very critical and technology has enabled a new way of thinking about education. The other side of the coin is that while technological solutions are rising, the same cannot be said of connectivity. We have huge connectivity issues that need to be prioritised to address this, we have to work globally, together to resolve this issue. Countries bilaterally on the private sector on a global mechanism level.

“Our efforts must focus on the children with most at risk of not returning to school. That includes girls, children with disabilities and disabled children, education actors to create partnerships to respond to the broad range of needs of vulnerable children globally.”

Ms. Breshna Musazai

Peace and education. There are many causes of a lack of education. There is poverty, gender discrimination, child marriage, child labour, lack of schools or insecurity, the influence of culture, a less addressed cause is war. In Afghanistan, a country of people that are proud of their culture, traditions and Islamic faith, education is supported and requires sacrifices. However, in Taliban control areas, education, especially the education of girls, is weaponized and serves as a demonstration of power. Under the excuse of insecurity and protection of modesty, girls are forced out of school by the Taliban, and while our government advocates for education, it is also negotiating with a group that represses it.

“We call the governments and all the powerful groups to desist from creating barriers on girls’ journey to education. Governments and the international community must invest in education, make the education system strong, and change the mindset of people rather than spending trillions of dollars in war.”

Dr. Koumbou Barry Bole

Accessibility and human resources. The concept of accessibility in regards to education must always be a consideration and we are lacking. This means everybody, people with disabilities, people who are nomadic, people who are poor. Access also means that the content must be adaptable to each context, that there are financial resources available and also, that there are human resources available in order to guarantee continuity of learning. This is accessibility. It is important not to forget that when talking about human resources we need to be open and aware of the need to take care of the social and mental health of the education professionals.

“Supporting education, supporting countries to continue providing learning is a way to highlight solidarity and to highlight the values of humanity.”

MAIN STAGE SESSIONS

Shaping the Future for a Better Tomorrow ◀

Session 8 - Can Equality Wait? An Agenda to End Discrimination

Introduction

Can equality wait? Why should we ask ourselves this question? This was the lead for the discussion for this session moderated by Ms. Fatiha Serour. As she opened the session by highlighting that **“equality is enshrined into our constitutions, we were born equal. And so if there is inequality, I would say it’s men made and it’s institution systems that have created inequalities, through lack of opportunities, through no respect for diversity, etc.”** In commemorating the 75 anniversary of the UN and if we look at the civil and political unrest around the world, questions about how societies are ensuring that equality is lived instead of just referenced is imperative. The need to ensure true inclusion and true equality is not a simple question and we are falling short on delivering the frameworks to guarantee this humanitarian premise.

Discussing the challenges, the shortcomings and the future, the resounding answer to the question is **“that equality cannot wait, should not wait and should have never been allowed to wait. We need to make a collective commitment to remind ourselves not to be complacent. We should act to ensure in our respective world, both at home with our family, as well as in our professional and social environments, to always make a case for equality.”**



MODERATOR

Ms. Fatiha Serour

Co-founder, Justice Impact Lab



SPEAKERS

Mr. Antonio Zappulla

Chief Executive Officer,
Thomson Reuters Foundation



Mr. Simon Rodgers

People Director, One Young World

Key Points

Mr. Antonio Zappulla

Rule of Law and media. Two entry points are worth highlighting: the rule of law and the role of the media. We simply cannot achieve systemic change if inequality is enshrined in the law. And if the hearts and minds of people are manipulated to foster hatred towards any social group. The media must be free, accountable and accurate about the world we live in, without these two components, we're restocking in an echo chamber.

Advancing media freedom and using this really as a vehicle to foster more inclusive economies and raise awareness of human rights issues must go side-by-side with media development. Quality journalism comes into play, the types of stories we write looking at women's rights, LGBT rights, climate and the impact to people, especially the most vulnerable, but also access to land and property rights, slavery, and human trafficking in digital rights. At the same time, training journalists about local contexts, on the issues that they cover, is part of delivering the news as accurately and as impartial as possible. This needs to be done at a larger-scale.

“We have no choice but becoming informed and getting involved in the political process. We have to vote we have to make our choices and we have to vote for people that can make the voice for equality heard.”



Ms. Sara Vaughan
Global Chief Purpose &
Sustainability Advisor, Marie Claire



Ms. Vivian Lopez
Executive Coordinator Every Woman
Every Child EWEC Secretariat/UN



Dr. Marty Casey
Founder, UN-Gun Institute

Mr. Simon Rodgers

Youth leadership. This new generation of young leaders has many advantages, it is the most informed, the most educated, the most connected generation in human history. The role of your leaders is to learn from what's happened in history to recognise how global movements take place and to really essentially all of the work that they're doing. Having a global community of young leaders that champions equality for communities everywhere. Being vocal, being resilient, refusing to be complacent while being aware of privilege is the way to underline that equality absolutely cannot wait.

“It’s really important that we maintain our focus on what our privilege looks like. So whilst our battles aren’t over, whilst we’ve got lots more to do, there are other people that can learn from what we’re doing. Equality doesn’t happen by itself, but complacency does. So we must act now in the global fight for equality.”

Ms. Sara Vaughan

Diversity is not inclusion. Inclusion is an imperative. Being in the room where decisions are being made is not the same as participating in the decision-making process. The world needs women, the black community, the LGBTQ community, the disabled community, and all minorities, actually voicing, advocating and being listened to. True inclusion has benefits that are manifold even if it is uncomfortable. Different perspectives and backgrounds can only enrich the problem-solving process, but it requires patience and solidarity.



“I care passionately about this topic. And equality cannot wait. I don’t understand why it’s taken so long. It’s a moral obligation, but if that doesn’t convince you, it’s also an economic one.”

Ms. Vivian Lopez

The fragility of positive gains. From the example of Justice Ginsburg, we are reminded of the power and the impact to change that one driven, courageous, and smart individual can bring. But we are also reminded of the fragility of those gains and the fact that we are still fighting inequality on so many fronts. The reality in so many countries in which we work, and not just for women, but for religious and sexual minorities as well, our efforts and advances are fragile and we need to address this head-on. We are losing generations of young children and adolescents who are full of promise and full of potential that is unrealised.

“If we don’t change the way we direct our resources, and we don’t make a deliberate effort to reach those who are still being left behind, we are not going to ever reach the SDGs we won’t reach every woman, every child.”

Dr. Marty Casey

Unfair practices. When unfair practices infringe upon the rights of targeted groups, based on their race, and age, and gender and sexual orientation, that really leads to trauma, and trauma leads to violence. As we’re seeing the increase of violence across the globe, that is truly the base root of what we are actually dealing with. Until we address the issue, which is hurting people, people will continue to hurt other people. However, healed people can also heal other people. Crises are human-made and working on our humanity can change our way of thinking. If we don’t get a hold of it now, we will continue to do an injustice to everyone.

“I think it is our responsibility as we come to the table to talk about what the problems are, but also come with a solution.”

MAIN STAGE SESSIONS

Shaping the Future for a Better Tomorrow ◀

Session 9 - Financing SDGs in Light of COVID-19-19

Introduction

There is a long road to climb to achieve the SDGs, and unless we have collaboration and symbiotic relationships with the private sector, we will not achieve Agenda 2030. We need to stay engaged with developing countries, and engage through multilateral to leverage mechanisms, be it from the private or the public side.

It is not only about saving lives, it is not only on protecting the vulnerable and the poor, it is about protecting jobs, and creating jobs. The long term agenda that is enshrined in the SDGs - building back better, areas of climate change, education. This is the time for international solidarity.

Key Points

Mr. Mahmoud Mohieldin

We now need to do more with less. 500 million jobs have been lost globally since the start of the pandemic, but an estimated \$12 trillion of market opportunities could be opened up by completing the SDGs, as well as creating over 300 million jobs. Before COVID-19 the world was also facing the highest global geostrategic tensions and climate crises in years, with a warning of a fourth wave of debt, so the need for strong climate finance is bigger than ever. We need to do what we can in partnership to deal with these problems - Government partnerships with the private sector and direct finance with a focus on emergency response is required to build back better.



MODERATOR

Ms. Charlie Bronks

WHF Advisory Board Member & Head of Strategic Partnerships, Marketing, Branding and Communications, Crown Agents Bank



SPEAKERS

Dr. Mahmoud Mohieldin

United Nations Special Envoy on Financing the 2030 Agenda



Mr. Jürgen Rigterink

Acting President, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)

The SDGs were also put in place with a strong assumption that the private sector's CSR initiatives would contribute to the impact made. Encouraging investments and guiding decision-makers from the private sector is all about adequate data and information, good regulations and incentives, as well as transparency around green investment. We also need to push hard in areas where it matters - 88% of the \$12 trillion spent so far on COVID-19 response has been in the developed world, with just 2.5% in developing economies.

“The SDGs were created for our countries, not for corporates, so the 17 goals, 169 targets and 230 indicators were basically for governments, so we need to get ESG speaking to SDG nicely so that the same can be done at the corporate level...this integrated approach puts the SDGs as the North Star.”

Mr. Jürgen Rigterink

We have to change perception. For the first time in EBRD's history, we have reached over 10 billion Euros worth of funding, and have increased new investments by 40%. 46% of these investments had a green financing angle, which was not always immediately successful, but EBRD is focusing longer term and has made the commitment to become a majority Green Bank by 2025 if not earlier. While governments around the world have intervened in supporting markets during the COVID-19 pandemic, all of us must mobilise the private sector, and the World Bank has seen hundreds of millions of private-sector money supporting markets. Domestic resource mobilization and development of local capital markets is a vital part of the solution.



Mr. Axel van Trotsenburg
Managing Director of Operations,
World Bank



Ms. Marisa Drew
Chief Sustainability Officer & Global
Head Sustainability Strategy,
Credit Suisse



Mr. Ambroise Fayolle
Vice-President, European
Investment Bank (EIB)

“We can clearly demonstrate that investing in vulnerable markets can make a return, and can actually make a decent return. We have to change perception...”

Ms. Marisa Drew

All of us need to collaborate to showcase sustainable business models.

ESG investing or sustainable investing has become a 30 trillion dollar market in a very short period of time, but a commonality of definitions and transparency around Impact Investment is needed to empower investors to change people’s lives or make a material difference to the environment. The Credit Suisse Impact Fund, which invests in mission-driven entrepreneurs, has seen success by creating ‘a language for investors’ using financial metrics that are common and giving transparency around the impact of their investments.

This success has raised the income levels of the Fund beneficiaries, and provided quality access to goods and services, supporting projects from digital education companies to mobile-enabled telemedicine. This approach also led to a successful partnership with the Swiss Government, by deploying capital directly so that it can get to beneficiaries faster and more efficiently. This could be a blueprint for developing markets to utilise government and local bank partnerships to deploy resources on the ground.



“I think we need a common language - this concept that there’s confusion about what is impact investing vs ESG vs responsible investing vs ESG SDG investing and so on is very, very real...the investor is deeply wanting to make an impact and wants to understand what they’re investing in...so the reporting and measuring of the impact is critical to scaling the industry.”

Mr. Axel van Trotsenburg

This is the time for International solidarity. Over a billion children are now out of school, with more than 100 million people in extreme poverty. Multilateral organisations have been created to deal with precisely this problem, and the World Bank has committed \$32 billion between April and June especially focused on health challenges across 11 key countries. Despite the goal to give \$60 billion of funds over a 15 month period to provide more resources for developing countries, focusing on the 40 OECD countries isn’t enough. The priority should be on preventing more countries from falling into a fragile state - 30% of World Bank operations in low-income countries are now funding the impact of Fragility, Conflict and Violence (FCV). There is a need to act fast and decisively when a crisis of this magnitude hits especially when it has affected billions of people

“We created a private sector window that helps de-risk investment in the most challenging environments because we need to recognise that there are high risks but that investment is already necessary. I think there is a lot of talk about de-risking, but there’s no money and I think here you have to put the money where your mouth is.”

Mr. Ambroise Fayolle

We need to do more together. By increasing activity outside of the European Union by 50%, the European Investment Bank has been supporting African nations specifically with vaccine research, essential medical supplies, supporting SMEs, microfinance, and alleviating population crises. EIB has been supporting the new initiatives set by the European Commission, with \$5 billion of funding, tackling global issues such as the digital divide - which has meant that in Africa alone 900 million people do not have an adequate internet connection. More needs to be done across development banks, with the private sector, and with all partners in the field.

“We are in the process of becoming the European Climate Bank and have taken very tough commitments by increasingly significantly the share of what we do for the planet. This has big implications for the work we do inside and outside of the European Union, and there is now a need for us to closely monitor planet activity.”



MAIN STAGE SESSIONS

Session 10- From Aid to Development: Focus on Africa

Introduction

Despite progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals, Africa continues to lag behind most of the world regarding socio-economic development. **More than half of the global poor, who earn under \$1.90 per day are found in Africa. One in three Africans is at risk of food insecurity. There are a lot of challenges and work yet to be done.**

Development goals for Africa can seem very daunting to fulfil, especially given the size of the continent with so many different countries, each with unique challenges to overcome. While we adjust to a new normal, we need to support African policymakers in their journey to protect and serve their people.

Key Points

Ms. Elena Bonometti

Enabling grassroots participation and empowerment. There is a need to develop communities at a grassroots level and to empower them, to enable them, to fulfil their vision of well-being. Indeed, these communities can provide a positive outlook on what can be achieved. In her work, Ms. Bonometti has been able to represent more than 30,000 women and also representing more than 1,000 across Senegal, Mali, Guinea Bissau and Kenya. Technology can allow for communities to influence their local space, and geographical region to ultimately a national level.



MODERATOR

Ms. Ghana Harb Conord
Editor-in-chief, Today's Outlook



SPEAKERS

Ms. Elena Bonometti
Chief Executive Officer, Tostan



Mr. Richard Blewitt
Head of Delegation and Permanent Representative to the United Nations

“At Tostan we have seen the real innovation is empowering education, really allowing people to have the capacity, first of all, to aspire to a different situation, to a better situation for them, their families and for their communities.”

Mr. Richard Blewitt

African Leadership, African Ownership. For the SDGs to be successfully implemented on the continent, there is a need for African Leadership and ownership. As evidenced by the role of the Red Cross movement, national societies in every African country have been stepping up and doing incredible things with their volunteers and staff in response to COVID-19. Therefore, indigenous organisations need to be consulted and supported in order to ensure success. The African CDC has done very well in addressing the complex challenge of COVID-19 in countries with a lot of difficulties in resources and poverty.

“COVID-19 is a marathon, not a sprint... there is no magic bullet anywhere in the world, the vaccine is not a magic bullet. We’re going to have to adjust to a new normal, and try and see where and how African policymakers can be supported.”

Ms. Noella Coursaris Musunka

Technological solutions must keep in mind the need to leave no one behind.

While technology can provide fantastic solutions for many issues, for many, there is a total lack of water and electricity. For the Malaika Foundation, a principal issue caused by COVID-19 was the distribution of educational materials to their students as students were not allowed to come to school by the government. Therefore progress with regards to technology is to implement technology centres, especially in rural areas. This crisis has shown that Africa needs to be independent technologically as well as with food security and sustainability of their own economies.



Ms. Noella Coursaris Musunka
Founder, Malaika Foundation



Mr. Andrew Wilson
Global Head of Policy and
External Affairs, International
Chamber of Commerce



“Technology can be used to close gaps linked to gender, education, geography, income and ages, but funding for innovation and technology remains very limited. More needs to be done to unlock public and private sector capital and to educate policy-makers on the power of technology, driven in African led manufacturing.”

Mr. Andrew Wilson

Recognising the current urgency from an economic perspective. Presently, if we look at IMF statistics, we can see an increase in debt burdens, increased commodity prices and major capital flight across the continent. In speaking to business leaders across the continent and emerging economies across the world, there is a lack of sufficient international support and relief for developing countries. It is estimated that in the fourth quarter of this year, we are going to see significant levels of business failure and unemployment which will result in long term economic scarring.

“We need a message of action from the world’s richest and largest economies, the G20 to step up and deliver for the Middle Eastern and African continent needs the real economy desperately.”



MAIN STAGE SESSIONS

Shaping the Future for a Better Tomorrow ◀

Session 11- Multilateral Cooperation and Leadership

Introduction

COVID-19 has caused a disruption in all fronts, it has also highlighted that it is a difficult time for leadership and multilateralism. As COVID-19 has undermined usual practices and usual mentalities, it also demands that leaders and cooperation between all social actors take new shape and new approaches that move away from an individualist, nationalistic and very divisive stance that the world trading.

As this session stressed the prevailing mentality hasn't and wasn't taking us to a safe, good and secure world for our future generations. This session is about a frank conversation on current issues, issues of bad and good leadership, of bad and good practices, nationalism, multilateralism and the future we want to build beyond the COVID-19 pandemic.

Key Points

Ms. Mary Robinson

COVID-19, other issues and 4 leadership points. With the understanding that the world needs multilateral leadership, that we cannot solve the key problems in our world without this leadership, COVID-19 had an eye-opening effect, in the way that disturbed the business as usual, in the multilateral system, we went back to basics. But, this trend has shown that our business as usual, isn't making the world better and it is actually going to lead us to catastrophe in all of the issues, for example, climate change that we are letting slip by.



MODERATOR

Feraye Ozfescioglu

CEO, World Humanitarian Forum



SPEAKERS

Ms. Mary Robinson

Chair of The Elders and First Woman President of Ireland



Mr. Jorge Moreira da Silva

Director of the Development Co-operation Directorate, OECD

Four are the points to be raised: **a)** human behaviour is the only thing that is protecting us from the COVID-19 pandemic. Collective actions and understanding it is imperative in the current situation, but it is also the key in the future in dealing with the climate crisis, and other issues; **b)** leadership matters. Responsible, truthful leadership is something to be done at all levels of society and should apply to men and women; **c)** listen to the science. Future generations and present generations should be focused on science and not what politics is telling us about how to move forward, this is so important in regards to climate change; **d)** compassion. COVID-19 has demonstrated our individual and global fragility, as well as the value of collective action. This also means that we need decisions at the multilateral level that are cooperative.

Climate change. Another looming global challenge is the climate crisis. It is active and urgent. We need to base our actions and our thoughts on science. Coping with this is overdue, leadership must address this now and some have during the UN General Assembly, but not enough, there wasn't enough sense of urgency. We have to drive our efforts to make sure that every step we take is on the right side of reducing emissions, clean energy, clean jobs, etc.

The young generations. The young generation may not always talk about rights or laws and but in a way, they are more understanding of what the world around them needs. They care more and they are passionate about it. It is wonderful to hear how they use connectivity for a better vision of the world.





The younger generations are much greener, much more sustainable in their demands when they consume and therefore they are changing also the supply through their huge capacity as consumers and also as in their capacity, as voters and as activists. Young leaders can help us navigate this difficult time into a much better and more hopeful future.

Multilateralism. It is important to restore faith and trust in international institutions. There is far too much protection for state sovereignty, the sovereignty of the state and that is not good for the world, The system and leaders should serve and protect the rights of the citizens of your country. This would move us away from the dynamics of power and break the divisive speech that is a problem at the moment, even during the UN General Assembly. We need to regroup on the core principles of the Charter of the United Nations of the idea of service, being the focus of leadership, but also be the idea of a multilateral way of coping with our problems.

Mr. Jorge Moreira da Silva

Crises interconnected and symmetry. As a way forward, it is important that the response to the current crisis be, at the same time, sufficiently compelling to fix the other crises that have been with us for many years, including climate and inequalities. As we look inward and the leading approach is to focus on the national, we must not lose sight of the interconnectedness of this crisis, it's clear that not just at the origin, and the pathway of the crisis, but also in the response, we are totally interconnected. We can only fix this through a response that is globally coordinated, which can benefit from this interdependence.

Because of its globality, COVID-19 has created a false impression of symmetry, the perception that all countries and all citizens, their response, the consequences of the crisis are the same. And this is wrong. We know that unfortunately, the poorest are disproportionately affected by the crisis. And, therefore, the response needs to foster international cooperation and that is why multilateralism and leadership are vital.

Role of the private sector. We need the role of the private sector in this crisis, in ways that would mobilise the resources that we need, the expertise that governments do not have. We won't solve the problem without the mobilisation of the private sector. It is important that leaders from the private sector also show their leadership, you know, leadership is not just for government. The private sector leadership has been and can be very bold and this is the moment where we also need to invest more in risk.

Collective growth. Supporting others is not just an expression of solidarity, something that we should do because it's ethical and morally correct. But also, it's in our own interest to ensure that the rescue, the recovery from this crisis will be sustainable for all. There will be no growth in the North without global growth, and this time, developing countries won't have the capacity to absorb the inefficiencies or the lack of capacity from the North.



MAIN STAGE SESSIONS

Session 12- Global Reset: What does it mean for Humanitarian Aid and International Development

Introduction

We presently need to envision a new way forward and a new design for the humanitarian system in the future, from an increasing number of conflicts and crises to growing challenges related to climate change. Now, of course, here we are in 2020, we would normally be gathering perhaps in the UN General Assembly for their 75th anniversary, perhaps a slightly celebratory moment because of that. But the challenges I described have worsened since 2015. Now we're facing a global pandemic that is setting back so many of the targets and goals related to the SDGs humanitarian and development alike.

Our goal here today is to think about what are the opportunities coming out of this moment, the World Economic Forum is calling for a great reset. Well, what would that mean, when it comes to the humanitarian and development sectors? **What would a great reset look like? How would this impact the work that all of us are doing as we try to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals?** Again, we're off track in many areas, and now are far off track due to this year of the pandemic, what could we do to rethink the opportunity that we have before us?



MODERATOR

Mr. Raj Kumar

President and Editor in Chief, Devex



SPEAKERS

Ms. Sara Pantuliano

Chief Executive Officer, Overseas Development Institute (ODI)



Mr. Blair Sheppard

Global Leader Strategy and Leadership, PwC

Key Points

Ms. Sara Pantuliano

COVID-19 has reinforced the need for a global reset. We presently need to reframe the way we operate in the development sector, to make sure that those who are on the front line from local responders who are at the heart of the crisis, both global North and South, rich and poor countries alike. Presently we need to consider a multistakeholder approach, encouraging cooperation not just between governments, but with civil society and business too. On the other hand, we need to galvanise structural change for a greener, fairer recovery, particularly from an innovative finance perspective.

“The pandemic has shown problems in terms of international cooperation, that we need to think very differently in terms of the cooperation we want to see.”

Ms. Maria Kozloski

“Convening governments, development institutions, impact investors and ultimately the private sector, to think about what our investment offers and also enable us to tackle each of these international issues.”



Mr. Xavier Castellanos Mosquera
Under-Secretary-General,
National Society Development and
Operations Coordinator, IFRC



Ms. Maria Kozloski
Senior Vice President of Innovative
Finance, The Rockefeller Foundation



Dr. Ahmed Al Meraikhi
The Special Adviser to the UN
Secretary-General



Mr. Blair Sheppard

Improving collaboration between private and public entities. Presently the private sector has access to capital, however, a lot of the public sector is now in debt, this is one example of a potential area of collaboration between these two sectors. The complexity of rethinking the global humanitarian system is a massive leadership challenge, especially post COVID-19 as we have to aim to build back stronger. A way to capitalise on potential collaborations is to find a few issues that every nation, business and civil society actor agrees is important to address, for example, climate change. Once we agree on some issues, we can drive change together and create an architecture to allow local organisations that are different from each other to collaborate.

“We need to create a global architecture which accounts for local differences because the challenges are completely different from context to context.”

Mr. Xavier Castellanos Mosquera

Moments of shock lead to reset. From the impact on communities, institutions and the humanitarian system, there has been a local response while looking at internationally led approaches. Firstly, we need to recognise the power of local action and how it is possible to achieve much more than we might have thought possible in the past. This is a significant shift in terms of how we plan, organise where to place resources and embrace capacities at the local level. The paradigm shift in how the humanitarian ecosystem is willing to put the trust first of all in the financial perspective, and secondly to invest in resilient communities.

“The only progress that we have made is because of a shock. The shock of COVID-19 is going to result in progress that is really going to transform the humanitarian system.”

Dr. Ahmed Al Meraikhi

Aligning business with humanitarian action. Business leaders can inspire mobilising action and accelerating progress towards achieving SDG 17 for example. The private sector can do incredible work with regards to project management, specifically regarding implementation and expertise. A platform created by Dr. Ahmed Al Meraikhi called the Global Humanitarian Action Executive aims to bring in private sector expertise and combine it with UN agencies, enabling actors to think outside of the box whilst finding the mechanisms which can be useful for both UN agencies and the private sector, trying to improve collaboration between these two.

“As humanitarians, we have to put ourselves in the shoes of those we are trying to help, rather than just thinking on behalf of them. We have to be thinking a bit more outside of the box and try to bring innovation, not necessarily high tech, it might be very simple, but bring solutions in an innovative way. And this is why I always say that it’s very important to bring the private sector, with the UN agencies together at every level.”

FIRESIDE CHAT



Feraye Ozfescioglu
CEO



Ms. Melissa Fleming
UN Under-Secretary-General for
Global Communications

Introduction

This discussion with Ms. Melissa Fleming, the Head of Communications for the UN, noted a number of important issues ranging from the UN's new program called Verified which aims to disseminate information regarding COVID-19, as well as more positive news stories of progress to how we need to change the narrative about refugees.

Key Points

COVID-19 has exacerbated existing international issues. While we were making a lot of progress on the SDGs and are about to launch what we call the decade of action, the beginning of a 10 Year Countdown to achieving the benchmarks to reach what we need to reach on the 17 sustainable development goals in order to make this world a more just peaceful, sustainable, equal place. But then COVID-19 hit. This setback has exposed existing problems such as inequality, injustice, the digital divide and access to health care.

Multilateralism and global cooperation are vital for our response to COVID-19. It is only through global cooperation and global solidarity that we will be able to suppress the virus. We need better treatments, diagnostics for everyone, and we need a vaccine that is going to eventually be available when there is one that is discovered to be safe and reliable for everybody everywhere. No country should say me first with the vaccine, we need to have equal distribution so that we can overcome this together and, and then move on to more pressing problems of our world as well.

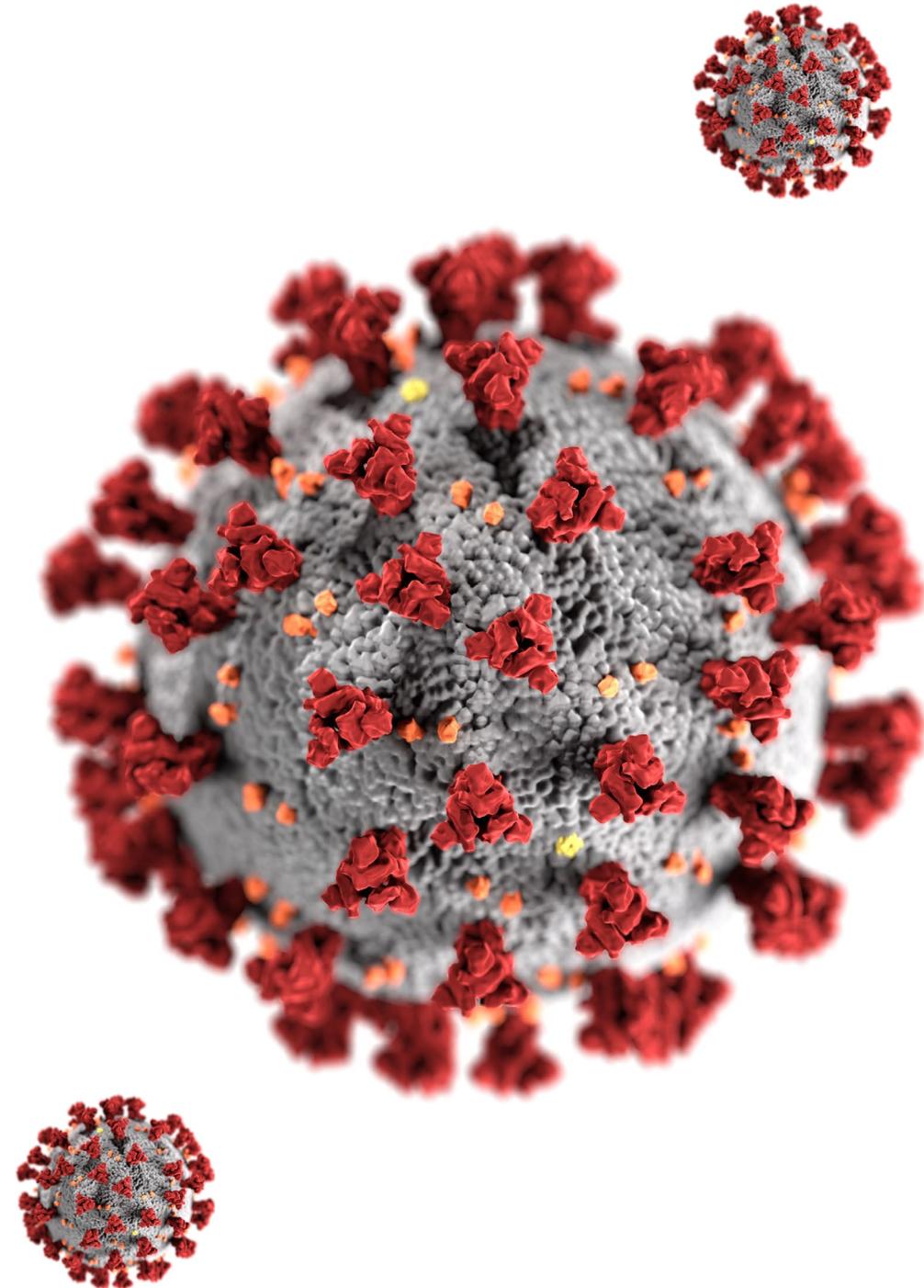
The UN has been driven to innovate in light of COVID-19. I don't think anyone could have imagined that the UN would be working virtually only online. While Ms Fleming as a manager of lots of staff does miss daily interactions, this has also shown us that there are many ways to achieve what we want to achieve, while allowing people to manage their lives. We've seen that we can conduct lots of meetings online, we can actually be more sustainable, we can travel less. The UN is at times accused of being a fortress, however, this has allowed for the UN to be much more creative about how they present themselves. This is an exercise in opening the UN up to the world expressing themselves through this Forum, for example, and actually inviting more participation. So, hopefully, this will result in more conversations and interactions within civil society and the public.

“Our lives are our families, our lives are helping the most vulnerable people around us, because we need to take care of our own selves in our own communities, and then we can better contribute to our workplace.”

Providing science-based information to the general public through a new UN programme: Verified. As the person in charge of communications at the UN, Ms Fleming recognized the need for clear communications in responding to the public health emergency. Firstly, information based on science is necessary for the public. Secondly, this is the first global pandemic in the social media era. Which is a good thing on one hand, because there is an ease of communication, however, it also causes risks due to the spreading of bad information. There are people who are either deliberately or unwittingly spreading misinformation or disinformation, that is actually risking people's lives. Miracle cures, or all kinds of conspiracies denigrating public health guidance and in figures, who are actually out there for the greater good.

This is the background to Verified. Verified is there to take the good science-based information from WHO, from the UN system, from national public health agencies, and packaging it in a way that is accessible to the public who are actually getting their information on social media. There is plenty of information from the UN on YouTube or on Facebook or on Twitter, but the problem is, it wasn't very popular or entertaining. Verified has attempted to make that information interesting, accessible, viable, working with the social media platforms to make sure it is reaching people. At the same time, we're trying to give people hope, that there are solutions and that there is global collaboration. The slogan is science solutions and solidarity. There is a proliferation of good information, bad information all mixed together, and people are very confused.

Positive information will encourage people globally to act. Presently, there is evidence that shows that people are turning away from negative news, news that predicts doom and gloom. The approach that the UN is taking is not to hide the fact that we're in a very troubled world, and that there are millions of suffering people that need our help, but simply not to leave people with depressing information.





Therefore, Verified also aims to show signs that there are solutions, there are ways out, there are blueprints, and including through the SDGs, for example, and tell stories about human resilience, so that people feel also a bit inspired.

“We need people not only to be informed but also to feel that there is some hope and that they have some agencies, there’s something they can do.”

While trust in traditional media is low, Verified helps educate people on misinformation. If people are searching online for trusted information, one of the things the UN is doing under the Verified Initiative is actually educating people about misinformation and how to spot it. The UN has a campaign called Pause that is based on a study of behavioural science and why people react to misinformation in an emotive way and feel the impulse to share. We all want to get out of this pandemic, if somebody offers us a way out, it’s very compelling to say, “Oh, I’m going to share this to my friends.” Pause aims to ask people to confirm their sources before posting while providing this kind of education on misinformation, and calling on people to be the kind of digital-first responders. The UN is also working with the major internet platforms, social media platforms, and asking them to be to work with us in partnership, and they take a number of important steps to shut down or to debunk or to lower the algorithm or around misinformation and bad information.

Changing the narrative surrounding refugees. We need to create an understanding of refugees that in reality, it is not voluntary with many being incredibly resilient people and families who have lost everything. Ultimately, we have to fundamentally understand that refugees are human beings whose story deserves to be understood by all of us.

“Nobody wants to be a refugee. I think it’s our duty to understand fundamentally that this is not voluntary, and that these are human beings who need us to know their story, to understand their plight. And to really just, you don’t need to help them to pick up the pieces of their life. That’s all they’re asking.”

Multilateralism and cooperation. Since the creation of the UN, we’re now facing the biggest global crisis in the UN’s 75 year history. This is a reminder that the world is not as it was. The world is in crisis and we’ve been brought to our knees by a microscopic virus. While we know how to protect ourselves to a certain extent, COVID-19 has highlighted the need for international cooperation.

“We need multilateralism, we need global collaboration, otherwise, we’re not going to get out of this by just trying to protect ourselves, we need to work together.”

Final message of solidarity. “There’s a lot that each and every one of us can do. There is hope. I have to say that I got a lot of inspiration, from all of the solidarity in humanity, that I was seeing these amazing stories of people coming together and helping each other. We’ve all seen the value of humanity, of human life, of our loved ones, and how precious our Earth is, and, and health. And I think if we hold this all as valuable as we’ve now seen it and have that in our memory, we can go forward and build a much healthier, much more sustainable world.”

HIGH-LEVEL KEYNOTE ADDRESSES

What has been said



Ms. Amina J Mohammed
Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations and
Chair of the UN Sustainable Development Group

“The 2030 agenda remains our agreed roadmap for addressing the humanitarian development peace Nexus, the SDGs are our best tools for prevention, and with concerted action and political will, we can not only survive the crisis, but thrive. As we recover better, I would like to highlight three steps going forward. First, let’s align decision making during the response and recovery. We need to bring together the development in humanitarian communities and in certain country contexts and in peace actors. This is not only about responding to the current emergency, but rather about dealing with its root causes and ensure we are better prepared to recover and address future crises. Un reforms reflect this imperative. Second, we need to work closely with governments to mobilise and align a wide range of financing sources, public and private, domestic and international. Third, we need to keep updating and adapting the way we work. The crisis has exposed the flaws in many of our capacity approaches and assumptions. As we respond to a different more complex set of challenges. it underscores the need for better social protection, economic transactions, universal health access, effective governance and strong institutions. It put a spotlight on the dramatic gaps in our road towards a future of peace, dignity and sustainable development. Let’s turn today’s challenge into an opportunity to get things right for the future.”

► [Watch the entire address](#)





Ms. Michelle Bachelet
High Commissioner, The Office of the High
Commissioner for Human Rights

“A crisis of this complexity which simultaneously hits almost every country in the world, is something we have rarely dealt with. I see two clear lessons. One, the harm being done by this virus is powered by long term failures to uphold human rights. To effectively counter the damage we must address the root causes to the need for solidarity has never been so clear. We live on one planet. Just as our progress I share so much our solutions be devised and carried out. Working Together we can build back better paradigms, in which global solidarity is seen as a value in the interest of every state and progress towards universal health care, universal social protection, freedom of movement, and other fundamental human rights I’ve seen not as cost but as investment in justice for all.

The UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres recently called for a new social contract and I quote him to ensure economic and social justice and respect for human rights and of quote, all of us here today need to meet this moment to take in stand in favour of rebuilding societies and economies that are told the dignity, equality and rights of every person.

Because we can now see very plainly, that is in everyone’s interest, because it is the right thing to do, because it’s the smart, effective thing to do. And because it acknowledges the reality of our shared vulnerability, our shared humanity and our shared future.

Your deliberations at that forum, can help turn the tide and forge new and effective global partnerships. Thank you for standing up for human rights.”

[▶ Watch the entire address](#)



STRATEGIC DIALOGUE ROUNDTABLES

Shaping the Future for a Better Tomorrow ◀

Session 1- The Art of the Possible

Introduction

In this side event organised with AI for Good and QuantumBlack, our participants aimed to discuss the impacts of data analytics, data science and artificial intelligence on the non-for profit sector. **While data and AI have the potential to solve big real-world problems, existing off the shelf products are usually too expensive or require too much expertise for operators.**

The session highlighted examples in which AI for Good and QuantumBlack were able to demonstrate successful projects and show how AI can be used by humanitarian actors. At AI for Good, they have been able to scale and partner with frontline NGOs by working on projects related to gender-based violence and sexual and reproductive health.

Key Points

Ms Alice Piterova

Development of AI tools needs to consider the safety of users. One example can be seen in the creation of rAINbow, a digital companion for users who are at risk of sexual violence and abuse. Launched in 2018, over 800,000 consultations have been provided with over 8,000 users. With COVID-19, sexual violence has increased, those experiencing abuse often lose touch with their family and friends. rAINbow was designed to be non-judgemental, aiming to provide a safe space to share their concerns to then gain actionable information. rAINbow explains legal rights and provides local emergency helplines.

When the project started, there was not a sufficient amount of data to train the AI, conversational data was needed, meaning that at first it was not appropriate to use AI until a sufficient amount of data was collected. Firstly, a rules based chatbox was used with no AI, deploying a fully autonomous chatbot at first was not advisable due to the difficulty of the subject area. User safety needs to be prioritised in which key words need to be recognised so that users can be pointed towards resources as soon as possible. Similarly, issues such as privacy are not necessarily considered by off-the-shelf solutions.



Speakers

Ms Alice Piterova

Managing Director, AI for Good



Ms Maren Eckhoff

Principal Data Scientist, QuantumBlack



Ms Jessica Fan

Principal Product Manager, QuantumBlack

Another example provided focused on a COVID-19 simulator for refugee camps and urban settings. This simulator was offered to local authorities to enable them to model the spread of the virus in order to prepare timely and proportionate responses. The simulator can assist NGOs in seeing the potential outcomes of interventions, allowing for the design of an optimal intervention strategy. Challenges arose in terms of how the original data used did not consider access to WASH facilities or population density.

Tools learned from AI in different sectors can be applicable to a wide range of sectors. QuantumBlack is a machine learning centre at McKinsey and Co. One example provided is regarding homelessness in the UK in which QuantumBlack has worked with Homeless Link, a charity that aims to eliminate homelessness in England and Wales. One way in which they aim to improve this is through an app called Street Link, the app you can alert Homeless Link who will then inform local services who will then assist the rough sleeper. Alerts to the app are manually analysed based on the likelihood of finding the rough sleeper along with other factors. Analytics is being used to prioritise alerts based on knowledge of historic data. The teams can focus on the alerts which are more likely to make a difference for the person in need.

To achieve long-term change, depending on the technical capabilities needed, at times a simpler, more efficient solution which does not require a lot of maintenance is the most effective response. Building lasting relationships between teams building for social good and the technical problem-solving teams is vital for lasting success.

Complexities in data management. Another relevant collaboration between QuantumBlack and Oxford University's Smith School of Enterprise and Environment focused on how to get industries to net-0 emissions. The project focused on how to identify sensitive information points within a global fossil fuel network. As technologies and renewables become cheaper than fossil fuels, the aim is to identify where tipping points in the fossil fuel supply chain are. The principal challenge arose in the complexity of data and data management.

Researchers are able to create queries in the networks which will enable them to find ways to optimise and predict certain outcomes. For example, private enterprises will be looking at potential investments and evaluating risks if there are disruptions along their supply chains. Similarly, governments and public organisations could use this to determine the efficacy of policies. This asset would be particularly valuable for the open source community, enabling the community to amend these for their own purposes.



STRATEGIC DIALOGUE ROUNDTABLES

Session 2- Innovation

Shaping the Future for a Better Tomorrow ◀

Introduction

This session aims to address the primary challenges in providing innovative solutions to humanitarian issues, specifically focusing on the need to leave no one behind and build back better from COVID-19.

Key Points

Localisation of humanitarian aid and innovation. Innovation can be thought of as having three distinct functions, it can enhance the effectiveness of new interventions through new technologies, it can be also thought of as bringing new ways of doing business, by looking at Netflix for example and how they scaled their output. Innovation teams need to also think about the underlying paradigms that affect their work, for example, economic models which are over a hundred years old are still being utilised, models which are not as relevant as they used to be. New macro-economic paradigms which also consider biodiversity loss and climate change need to be utilised.

The localisation agenda is particularly important. One of the big challenges is in getting large aid actors and local partners to adopt the innovation, which can take a substantial amount of time, it requires skill building and access to new technologies. The barrier is about being able to change their system, supply chain systems within humanitarian agencies can be very large, meaning that bringing change can be very difficult. Another challenge is to do with the specificity of humanitarian innovation funds, this specificity can potentially limit the participation of local organisations.



Moderator
Ms Dianne Dain
Lead, UN Reboot Accelerator



Speakers
Ms Constance Agyeman
Head of International Development, Nesta Challenges



Mr Benjamin Kumpf
Head of Innovation, FCDO



Ms Therese Marie Uppstom Pankratov
Head of Humanitarian Innovation Challenge Programme, Innovation Norway

Research and innovation are a vital element of humanitarian responses.

Research and innovation need to be a part of humanitarian response for it to be truly effective. Regarding the challenges, elrha highlighted that innovations tend not to be focused on the most pressing humanitarian needs, there is also insufficient evidence to support what does work. Too few solutions have been provided to address the most pressing issues. Humanitarian funders and policy-makers tend to not have access to information on what does work. The lack of national voice and investment into the “Global South” is a massive challenge.

Creative modes of innovation need to be supported. Innovation is often viewed as the new technology and how it can be implemented. However, the complexity of humanitarian aid and development means that a single-sided approach will not work, various programmes can be singular in approach, for example, grant systems or finite investment. We need to challenge ourselves to create more creative models which tie in differing types of partnerships (for example with the private sector) which can support innovators along different pathways.

To achieve the SDGs, we need to bring and harness local partners and specifically blended models. We need to speak to people who are living the experience that can give real insight, knowledge and ideas. Scaling is also another issue which requires innovators to look at different areas from the views of local stakeholders to more blended models. By looking at humanitarian issues in silos, this is where innovation can fail as these are all interconnected problems.



Mr Andrew Lamb
Innovation Lead, Field Ready



Ms Kate Hart
Director of Programmes, elrha



Mr Omar Al-Qadhi
Regional Operations Manager, IRC Regional Hub



Ms Safia Verjee
Innovations Manager, Kenyan Red Cross



The innovation process needs to be based on a need while maintaining flexibility on potential solutions. One of the organisations that applied for support was the Norwegian People's Aid (NPA), a de-mining organisation that applied to find a solution to locate and eliminate improvised explosive devices. Innovation process needs to be based on a need. NPA found that there was a need not only to eliminate the IED itself, but primarily the trigger mechanism that sets off the explosive, when hidden it is near impossible to see. They subsequently opened the conversation to the private sector; thus they did not jump to what they thought would be the solution, but remained open and explored the available possibilities. Partnerships are necessary as organisations are stretched and cannot cover all aspects of humanitarian assistance.

While partnerships can be difficult to forge, if successful between private, government and non-governmental organisations, can provide a far more successful outcome which is more likely to be sustainable. In this process, NPA described the requirements, but left it to the private sector to use their technical expertise to find a solution. Focusing on performance enables technical experts to propose inputs which will result in successful outcomes.

Improving service delivery through new partnerships. End users need to be a part of the solutions, primarily aiming to reduce the quantities of products used from the west, aiming to use more local providers. The biggest project to date for the Kenyan Red Cross has been the setup of a fabrication lab in a region of Kenya that has a tradition of producing items by hand. The principal idea is how to bring a community in a creative space, productively engage them and teach them new skills whilst linking them to the modern world so that their skills are competitive at a global scale.

Streamlining innovations for improved implementation of innovation. The enabling environment within the non-profit sector and humanitarian sector for innovation, the operational and managerial point of view is going to be considered. Innovation is vastly different when considering financing and supply chain management. They are trying to create new work approaches to streamline innovations, while creating a suitable innovation environment.

One of the emerging challenges is to do with new kinds of emergencies which affect the world. For example, COVID-19 has made agencies unable to respond to crises, this is also due to the circumstances of such crises, which stop them from helping affected communities. Daily, normal programming has been affected as they are unable to travel to the field and to meet local people. This crisis has brought valuable opportunities which can be exploited. Technologies have enabled agencies to get into contact with people who they may have not been able to contact previously due to accessibility issues such as security and distance. Therefore, work approaches need to be transformed to digital approaches, however, bureaucracy is one of the largest challenging factors which has slowed down innovations.

STRATEGIC DIALOGUE ROUNDTABLES

Session 3- Supply Chain Management

Shaping the Future for a Better Tomorrow ◀

Introduction

This discussion aimed to focus on transparency, digitalization, localization and collaboration, all key areas to shaping the sustainable humanitarian supply chains of the future. Changes are constant within the humanitarian sector; the sector faces an incredible opportunity to reshape itself to deliver better and achieve our goals of sustainability in an inclusive manner.

Key Points

Localisation of supply chains is a key issue for future progress. For the last five years, HUMLOG has been working in collaboration with international organisations, local partners, governments and other research institutions to develop research and educational projects. Localisation is a key part of current strategies, it is present in numerous SDGs and strategy of large, medium and small NGOs which are trying to go local and to respond with local resources. Using local resources and staff is extremely dynamic, supply chains have had to advance with more technological solutions, there is a need for more learning from local partners that will be able to match the demand. COVID-19 has placed significant challenges, forcing international staff to go away from the field, handing over responsibilities to local authorities is not necessarily simple and can create clashes. We have seen changes from IFRC to UN to rethink their strategies to enhance local capacity to enable actors to respond quicker. Localisation can bring increased responsiveness, scalability and inclusiveness. All of these issues can be improved by localisation, enabling local communities to choose and adapt what they require.



Moderator

Mr Neil Rodrigues

Senior Director, Global Supply Chain Operations,
International Rescue Committee



Speakers

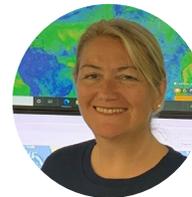
Dr Diego Vega

Deputy Director, HUMLOG Institute



Mr Muhammad Azhar Khan

Humanitarian Logistics Expert, Formerly Oxfam



Ms Bethan Canterbury

Director of Strategy and Business Operations,
RE:ACT Disaster Response

COVID-19 has resulted in more collaborations in supply chains. One example provided by Ms Houel is the interagency procurement group, a group which gathers 29 NGOs, committing 2 billion EUR in procurement per year, across 94 countries. COVID-19 has also resulted in her appointment as an operational coordinator for the EU Humanitarian Air Bridge, an unprecedented operation involving donors, sponsors and coordination roles managed by a joint effort of NGOs.

COVID-19 has placed challenges to localisation and sustainability, resulting in the sourcing of items from China (particularly PPE). The EU Humanitarian Air Bridge has been an unprecedented operation, it has been running for 4 months, 30 flights scheduled, 12 countries reached, 800 tonnes of cargo moved. This originated from a global shutter of aerial operations, restrictions which stopped passenger transport also stopped the movement of cargo. This evolved as NGOs decided to collaborate to move cargo together, this also required collaborations with EU delegations to ensure that all permits for cargo were given. This was a very innovative project because usually, INGOs work on a top-down relation with donors and on specific projects, however, COVID-19 forced UN agencies, INGOs and governments to collaborate.

Data driven technologies can assist in improving transparency, sustainability and responsibility. While technology has brought numerous possibilities, it is not the golden bullet. COVID-19 has principally demonstrated the fragility of our supply chains, forcing individuals to reevaluate. Therefore, more localisation is vital, this goes beyond staffing, but we need to systematically support local suppliers and manufacturers. We need to also allow for the sharing of knowledge which systematically goes beyond organisational boundaries, doing so will increase sustainability, responsibility and transparency. If we do not think in local solutions, we will not be able to incorporate smart or local solutions based on needs. We need to enable environments with partnerships instead of one organisational entity.



Ms Claire Barnhoorn
CEO, Solvoz



Dr Campbell Bright
Chief, Supply Chain Management, UNAMID



Ms Marie Houel
Head of Supply Department, Interagency
Procurement Group, Solidarités International



Mr Hans-Peter Teufers
Director, International Programs, UPS Foundation



Similarly, besides the impact on supply chains, we should not overlook the indirect impacts such as disruptions to basic services such as maternal health, resulting in unreliable practices in healthcare.

Lastmile logistics in disaster scenarios. Lastmile logistics in disaster scenarios require differing responses. Adaptable supply chains and localisations are at the centre of lastmile logistics. They deploy in small teams, firstly analysing what existing infrastructure and supply chain exists and whether it still functions after a crisis. Localisation is about using the skills which are already present, many of those involved in local supply chains are likely to be affected themselves, therefore adaptability is vital.

Gaining situational awareness from local populations and working alongside them with local assets and knowledge is a crucial part of their responses. It is also important to do no harm, in a previous response they had in Mozambique, there was a family run soap business that supplied soap to the entire country, in response to floods in the country, soap was sent in without the local knowledge of soap manufacturing in Mozambique, completely decimating that business. With better knowledge, you can potentially stimulate the local economy and support it with fewer carbon costs.

Humanitarian supply chains differ from those in the private sector. Humanitarian supply chains differ from those found in the private sector. Humanitarian supply chains are primarily driven by funding and availability of supply, not by demand and profit margin. On the technological side, solutions need to be adaptive from people in Silicon Valley or incubators in Africa to places with inconsistent local connectivity. Many high-tech solutions come across from projects and pilots, but they need scale and resources behind it for it to be of more use. For example, more projects are starting to use blockchain technologies which can be useful in increasing transparency, however, we need to consider potential nefarious purposes involved.

On the other hand, technologies such as drones and 3d printing can be valuable, but are not appropriate in all circumstances, in disaster response, for example, drones are extremely effective in analysing road networks to assess the scale of calamities, however, data transmission needs to be considered along with leaving no one behind.

New technologies do not necessarily result in widespread implementation. Technologies such as radio frequency identification, QR codes, Skew Codes, base inventory tracking systems, only 11% of organisations responded by stating that they are using these technologies. Other tech such as drones are only used by 3% and further 2% of organisations use blockchain technologies and mostly for cash transfer systems. In his research, Mr Khan noted that it requires a lot of energy from a large humanitarian organisation to convince them to adopt innovative technologies and will often cause more costs and investment which is difficult for small organisations to cover from their regular budgets.

Private sector innovations can be applied to humanitarian contexts for increased transparency. As the philanthropic arm of UPS, the foundation aims to manage a portfolio of Community Investment Programmes which are designed to connect to their global logistics business. The programmes are executed through strategic partnerships with NGOs, UN and Red Cross organisations.

Transparency in supply chains can be managed through data management and also how the product itself is produced, something which is of importance to clients, NGOs and UN bodies alike. Therefore, UPS has advocated for the use of aligned data systems which allows for the smart tracking of inventory to enable tracking and tracing of items.

STRATEGIC DIALOGUE ROUNDTABLES

Session 4- Setting the scene for IDME and ES 2021

Shaping the Future for a Better Tomorrow ◀

Introduction

The world is becoming one where threats outstrip our collective ability to respond effectively. The complexity of challenges along with the cost of responses have made it increasingly difficult to emphasize activities after a disaster or accident has occurred. While COVID-19 has placed unique challenges on the humanitarian and crisis response sector, it has been particularly difficult for frontline responders, emergency planners, disaster managers and resilience operators. All of this has raised fundamental questions regarding how we approach crises.

Key Points

Emergency responders need to improve their engagements of the public and local communities. Emergency responders can better engage members of the public and local communities in resilience, recovery and preparedness of emergency and disasters. This is especially important because local communities are the first responders in most circumstances, they are there before a crisis and can therefore conduct many life saving operations. We need to question how emergency services and crisis responders can better develop their communications and strengthen networks with these groups. Another element which needs to be improved is the culture of risk aversion along with training and exercise of first responders.



Moderator

Ms Emily Hough

Editor in Chief, Crisis Response Journal



Speakers

Dr Albrecht Beck

Managing Director, Prepared International



Mr David Wales

Founder, SharedAim Ltd



Mr Andrew Staniforth

Director of Innovation, Saher Europe

Leadership is of course a vital element of emergency response, we need more transparency regarding the level of resources that is available during a time of crisis. If we are to engage the public, there needs to be strong leadership and honesty regarding what support they are likely to receive, this will therefore enable them to make their preparations to respond to a potential crisis.

Complexity and flexibility need to be considered as key when responding to a disaster. Despite the large investment in disaster risk reduction in preparedness for emergencies, there was a lack of preparation with little working in the region. Therefore, we need to ask how can we prepare in a way that functions in the end? For example, if we look at the disaster in Beirut, Beirut had numerous programmes running on preparedness constantly. However, in the moment of disaster, Prepared International received communications from the government stating that no action could be taken, demonstrating a lack of awareness, capacity and governmental leadership.

Governmental leadership is also another key point during the corona crisis in which we have seen strong responses from organisations which are supposed to respond to the crisis. However, these organisations have not necessarily received the room to be able to manoeuvre to react to the ongoing crisis. In urban areas like Manila for example, no action was taken regarding preparedness because it was simply seen as too complex and difficult to evacuate an area of approximately 15 to 20 million people.

COVID-19 has demonstrated the importance of unified local and global responses. We are facing particular challenges to how we operate, while we might have better prevention, resilience and coordinated reaction, in reality we need to act locally but also think globally when responding to crises. Similarly, we are not using all of the sources of knowledge available to us. For example, the explosion in Beirut could have been avoided if the alleged cause of the explosion was dealt with before. Similarly, the responses to COVID-19 have demonstrated that there isn't a truly global action plan in response to the pandemic, a global action plan would have saved lives.

We also need to vitally consider potential future threats, responses to these crises might be worse due to a combination of different factors, ranging from increased sea levels due to climate change and a loss of trust in governments. Therefore, we need to find new ways to use our large networks of crisis responders to be better prepared through exercises, virtual reality and artificial intelligence.



Mr Albrecht Broemme
Honorary President, THW



Mr Mark Jones
Chief Officer, South Australia Country Fire Service

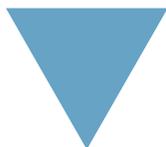


Planning to the point of breaking is vital when analysing current plans for emergency responses. When considering the impact of COVID-19 across the globe, almost every area, region or country had plans for pandemic infection for influenza for example, but none of the planning seemed to consider a virus of this nature which was reasonably medically predictable. Firstly, we need more flexibility in our planning, Mr Jones encouraged the testing of plans, specifically to the point of breaking, where they don't work anymore. This is a vital area of emergency response because when plans fail, we know that the preparation has been compromised. While this is not politically attractive, time is given to develop plans for crises without the possibility to see whether they fully work.

COVID-19 has heavily implicated that if a third emergency such as a loss of connectivity through the internet, it is almost unthinkable to consider the impact on emergency planning if this was to occur. Therefore, we need to consider preseason messaging, for example, those who receive emergency communications in advance are those who are most likely to respond safely. On the other hand, groups that are most vulnerable are least likely to receive messages and are the ones who are most likely to stay at home until it's too late.

The public are always the first responders in any given crisis. Assisting with organisational improvement and particularly customer experience from a human perspective is a necessary improvement. In a world where technology increasingly dominates human understanding and interaction, we need to consider the role of the public and how they respond to emergencies such as house fires. Indeed, the way the public experiences an emergency is vastly different from that of a first responder. As a former firefighter, Mr Wales was trained, had the support and knew how to respond, however, of course, a member of the public was not expecting a vast disruption to their lives which is of course an emotionally damaging experience.

This causes a disconnect between the emergency responder's assumed behaviour of the public and the public's actual response to an emergency. Therefore, we need to consider the public's role, especially with regards to research in which the public is oftentimes not recognised in data and therefore they become invisible in policy decisions, this results in a disconnect in the first responder's assumptions and the reality of what the public does in response to a crisis. This also seriously hinders our ability to innovate because by not understanding an event from the public's perspective we do not take account the multiple different ways in which a crisis is experienced.



STRATEGIC DIALOGUE ROUNDTABLES

Session 5- International Development

Shaping the Future for a Better Tomorrow ◀

Introduction

This session aims to look at the decade of action, the interconnected nature of the UN SDGs as well as the impact of COVID-19. The UN SDGs will enable us to build back stronger by stepping up to meet these global challenges and by developing new partnerships to engage groups with the SDGs and aiming to find more solutions and ways to support our international community. The discussion also aimed to address the impact of the pandemic, resulting in global health crises, complex inequalities and other concerns.

Key Points

COVID-19 has enabled organisations to change the way they support vulnerable groups globally. Methods to reach out to women in fragile, conflict affected states facing poverty, violence and multiple forms of discrimination require further support. Practical programmes which aim to bring tangible results in the area of increased earnings and savings, while improving health and enabling women to become key decision makers.

COVID-19 has entirely changed the way organisations work to support these groups who are the most excluded and marginalised. For example, in Iraq, Women for Women International have been able to use Viber and other online services to continue coaching and mentoring services and even to take their entire social empowerment training online.



Moderator

Ms Margo LaZaro

President & Chair of the NGO Committee on Sustainable Development-NY and Co-Founder/CSO of the SDG Impact Awards Community



Speakers

Ms Laurie Adams

CEO, Women for Women International



Ms Mandy Sanghera

Philanthropist



Mr Arman Rahmatullah

CEO, Teach for Afghanistan

In Afghanistan for example, they have been able to continue to listen to the men and women they serve through a men's engagement programme. COVID-19 has acted as an accelerator of innovation, enabling them to achieve projects such as providing support at a distance.

COVID-19 and climate change have vitally impacted international security and positive peace globally. As seen in several published reports, including the global peace index, global terrorism index, country reports and most recently, the ecological threat register which compares upcoming levels of ecological threat around the world and its correlation to positive peace.

We must consider the socio-economic impacts of threats caused by COVID-19 and its impact on the levels of peacefulness. One of the challenges facing countries is the violence trap in which violence consumes the attention of a government, this can then weaken the provision of services which then leads to more group grievances. Therefore many member states have been caught in a negative feedback loop. For example, in the US, gun sales have increased, in Brazil, there's been a generalised increase in riots and general strikes related to food shortages and increased prices. We need to further support well-functioning governments that have an equitable distribution of resources, free flow of information, good relations with neighbours, high level of human capitals, acceptance of the rights of others, low levels of corruption and a sound business environment. All of these are strong pillars of positive that need to be further supported.

Gender-based and domestic violence has increased globally. Women have been put in a very vulnerable situation where they may have wanted to leave their home due to domestic violence or harmful practices, however, what we have seen is that the pandemic has made a lot of women have fear due to staying with the perpetrators in home.

There has been a real increase in domestic and gender-based violence across the world, and in the UK there has been an increase in FGM and early child forced marriages. As we come out of the pandemic, there will be a greater need for cheaper goods, labour and sex, this will result in increasing human trafficking, a business which is already worth billions of pounds.

Grassroot leadership can foster further support of the UN SDGs. As noted by Professor Zucconi, the aim of providing a person-centred education can further assist with providing future leaders the skills necessary to further support the UN SDGs. COVID-19 has also highlighted that we are suffering from many other types of pandemics, from racism and oppression to discrimination and a lack of equal opportunities. We presently have an opportunity to use our strengths, foster grassroot leadership and to listen so that education and leadership can be promoted. It is not enough to speak about the pandemic, we must stay connected, collaborate and create a sustainable future.



Mr Michael Collins
Executive Director, Institute for
Economics and Peace



Professor Alberto Zucconi
President, Person-Centred Approach Institute
and Chairman of the Board, World Academy of
Art & Science

STRATEGIC DIALOGUE ROUNDTABLES

Session 6- Youth

Shaping the Future for a Better Tomorrow ◀

Introduction

We have approximately 1.8 billion young people around the world between the ages of 10 and 24, as we enter the decade of action, young people have to continue to ensure that they are at the forefront in the implementation of the UN SDGs. Young people need assistance with regards to gaining necessary knowledge, skills and opportunities to continue to act as a great change agent and global citizens.

Key Points

Citizen mobilization is going to be an increasingly important role of the UN SDGs as today's youth become adults. We are going to see more and more educated youth aiming to take action and take advantage of initiatives which aim to empower and provide resources to them. As we move forward into the future, we are responsible for improving on the actions of past generations. While young people may not have a PhD or MD to assist with health and lifestyle for example, young people can find meaningful ways to engage with elderly people with Alzheimer's and dementia for example by focusing on compassion and empathy.

Young leaders need a seat at the decision making table. Supporting young leaders to represent the UK at G7 and G20 Youth Summits are examples of providing young leaders the opportunity to lead at decision making tables. Youth voice and participation need to be at the centre of international decision making processes. Simply having a seat at the summit does not guarantee participation, there needs to be further integration of the youth voice right from the start.



Moderator

Ms Vivian Onano

Founder and Director, Leading Light Initiative



Speakers

Ms Safoora Biglari

Director, Community, One Young World



Mr Siddarth Satish

Young Ambassador, Ariel Foundation International



Ms Sophie Daud

CEO, Future Leaders Network

The second aspect that needs to be improved upon is surrounding equipping young people with the necessary skills that they need to succeed when they are placed in that position of leadership, there is no point in setting young people up to fail.

Mental wellbeing has impacted young people globally. A recent partnership with the International Labour Organisation and AIESEC ran a survey on COVID-19's impact on young people, focusing on their mental well being. One of the main findings in the survey was that one in six young people globally has stopped working since the start of the pandemic. Presently there is a massive gap of opportunities for development for young people, meaning that we can potentially lose a whole generation's talent and expertise. COVID-19 has also meant that youth organisations' role in finding internships for young people have been affected, normally AIESEC assisting with 40,000 different opportunities globally, presently 67% of these have been affected.

This has meant that organisations have had to radically change the opportunities that they provide, presently cross-cultural experiences are not possible, meaning that online, remote internship programmes need to be the way forward, these also provide benefits allowing for more inclusive access for people globally. In another survey conducted by AIESEC, it was asked who are the major stakeholders that can presently change the world right now. Unsurprisingly young respondents stated that governments and corporate organisations are the ones with the power and tools to make a change.

Changing shifts in how corporate organisations view their accountability and responsibilities. As an organization which works with private enterprise, One Young world has seen a shift in how the private sector supports young people. In response to COVID-19, a Young Leaders Fund with several private sector partners has allowed for emergency funding for over 40 young leaders to gain grants ranging from US\$2000 to US\$10,000. As such, supporting initiatives ranging from WASH to food relief in marginalised communities such as indigenous and refugee populations globally can enable young people to gain key leadership skills.



Mr Mete Coban MBE
Executive Director, My Life My Say



Mr Franco Perez
Global Vice President of Business Development
and External Relations, AIESEC



Mr Joseph Watson
Chair, Youth Advisory Board, EY Foundation



YOU MIGHT
LIKE GETTING
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Young people require support and mentorship. COVID-19 has of course impacted young people through less opportunities, meaning that there will be lower future earnings. The foundation has aimed to maintain training for young people through integrated online models, irrespective of the impacts and restrictions posed by the pandemic.

Educating young people about political issues. All of the issues covered within the SDGs have been impacted by politics and they have a profound impact on the lives of young people. When we look at how different groups are represented in Parliament for example, it is vital that young people are informed on how they are represented. Some of the principal challenges why young people are perceived as not being interested in politics are misrepresented. Young people do care about certain issues, however, they have not been educated about how democracy works.

Similarly, if we look at representation in parliaments in your respective county, if it doesn't look and sound like the communities that you seek to represent, then the individuals are less likely to be engaged with it. For example in the UK, while the number of women in politics is increasing, it is still very low, improving representation is not just about imposing a quota.



STRATEGIC DIALOGUE ROUNDTABLES

Session 7- Medical and Health

Shaping the Future for a Better Tomorrow ◀

Introduction

The ongoing pandemic has naturally impacted every aspect of societies around the world, it has also shown a variety of responses from different governments at all levels, and it has exposed challenges in providing health services. This panel will discuss the varying responses along with challenges in responding to COVID-19 ranging from the impacts on mental health to how international organisations and NGOs have been responding to crises in the field.

Key Points

Reliance of humanitarian work from abroad has been affected by COVID-19.

When we discuss humanitarian work, we are speaking about a variety of issues ranging from cargo and medvac to people. COVID-19 has placed global restrictions, shrinking access to the field of humanitarian assistance. The beneficiaries of all humanitarian activities have been affected as NGOs for example have to look at their priorities in terms of ensuring the safety of their personnel. This means that there has been a lack of access to general healthcare.

Indeed, another challenge is surrounding the reliance on humanitarian work from abroad, meaning that the workforce of the country was relying on imported workforces. Therefore, when their staff was acquitted or sent to quarantine because they were exposed to a subject then this leaves a gap in the work routine that has further impacts. Once all of the mitigation and prevention measures have been put in place, further thought is not placed on the impacts of what will happen to people when they stay at home.



Moderator

Professor Donald Donahue

Professor of Healthcare Administration and
Global Health University of Maryland



Speakers

Dr Sam Buchimo

International Board, MSF



Ms Rebecca Herman

Special Advisor, Pathfinder International



Dr Sharon Abramowitz

Assistant Professor of Anthropology & African
Studies, University of Florida and Consultant, UNICEF

Health infrastructure has been affected by the pandemic. The implication of this is that it is more critical than ever that when NGO workers have optimized their health before leaving on a mission or while they're in a host country. Therefore, while workers are abroad, particularly in countries whose health infrastructure has been impacted, we need to decrease potential risks as much as possible because they may not be able to avail themselves of the local health care system. This is vital because we also need to ensure that we are not taking away access to healthcare to someone else who may need it more dramatically.

Naturally, all humanitarian workers would like to return to the field to serve affected communities, however, we need to ensure that this can be done safely. However, it should be reassuring to know that we have gained a tremendous amount of knowledge regarding the virus. While rates of transmission have gone up, the death rate has not necessarily increased, this can be attributed to younger people who are less vulnerable getting the disease but also because we've learned a lot about the disease and how to treat it. To mitigate further risks, we need to understand the research, containment and mitigation measures locally and have the means to educate people before they travel and communicate with all affected organisations and groups.

Global mental health has been primarily affected by the pandemic. Prior to the start of the pandemic, the global situation on mental health was already dire. The pandemic has worsened the need for mental health assistance primarily because of the enormous uncertainty around the future regarding the disease. Lockdown and all of the various containment strategies have also given grave increases in social determinants that are recognised to worsen mental health, for example, rising inequalities, poverty, domestic violence and so on. Dr Patel believes that there is going to be a massive increase in conditions such as anxiety, substance abuse, suicide built around a system that was already deeply unsatisfactory and dysfunctional.

In India for example, it is estimated that around 400 million people alone are expected to have lost their livelihoods in the last six months. For Dr Patel there is a more urgent and immediate concern which is regarding health systems and development agencies around the world who are responding to COVID-19 do not necessarily consider psychosocial needs. The response is almost entirely focused on issues such as diagnostics and vaccines.

The pandemic has highlighted pre existing realities and exacerbated inequities. With regards to women's health needs, everything from routine family planning services, to emergency obstetric care to cervical cancer screenings have been affected. These areas that were already under budgeted or deprioritised have been further impacted and are yet to be recognised as essential services.



Dr Vikram Patel
Co-Lead, Global Mental Health Initiative,
Harvard University



Dr William Hauptman
Medical Director, Assistance, International SOS



On the other hand, Pathfinder has found that identifying and deploying the rapid retraining for recently retired healthcare workers has been a primary way to meet the shortfall and to get specialists in women's healthcare and maternal and newborn health. However, more creativity is needed, one of these ways to maintain healthcare is to maintain community based services and to improve mobile outreach using new technological solutions along with pop up clinics.

Applying lessons from Ebola to COVID-19. It has been very challenging to figure out how to apply the lessons from Ebola to the COVID-19 context. The dominant narrative during Ebola was the idea that communities were resisting public health interventions, especially around prevention. While in certain ways this was right, there were key ways in which this analysis was also incorrect. As time passed, non pharmaceutical interventions shifted the model of thinking about community non participation to public health recommendations. This changed to being called the Four Rs of reluctance, refusal, resistance and rejection. But instead of saying that it is because of customs, we are starting to acknowledge that people do these acts with good reasons, for example during Ebola, burial practices had to shift in order to meet public health needs, especially surrounding transmission.

However, at the same time, public health needed to shift to meet local capacity and community needs. Some communities were mobilising locally based on responses, especially regarding isolation and quarantine, epidemic responders needed to shift to a model of directing communities what to do following the community's lead whilst playing a supportive role. During this time, recognition of misinformation and disinformation were critical in preventing the worsening of the epidemic condition.



Support in creation of the roundtable provided by the World Humanitarian Forum Working Group on Medical and Health, composed by:

Professor Attila Hertelendy, Professor in The International Executive Master's in Emergency and Disaster Management, Georgetown University.

Dr Elena Cherepanov, Ethics for Global Mental Health, Author

Dr Jean Jose Nzau Mvuezolo, Global Medical Director, Pathfinder International

STRATEGIC DIALOGUE ROUNDTABLES

Session 8- Roadmap to COP26

Shaping the Future for a Better Tomorrow ◀

Introduction

The purpose of this session was to understand the key issues going into COP 26 which will be taking place in November 2021 along with what should be included in the negotiations and agenda leading up to it. A systems change perspective is vitally needed as we are aware of the catastrophic consequences of climate change. A transformational approach across political and economic systems is necessary along with considerations placed on peace, security, development, human rights and justice.

Key Points

Major economies need to show their contributions and accountability regarding climate. Organisations such as the Climate Action Network international want to ensure that the voices on the ground are reflected in the demands and priorities that they'd like to see in their work with the UNFCCC. While COVID-19 is a current priority, it is also recognised that there isn't a pause button on climate change.

The climate crisis impacts especially on the poor, especially vulnerable women, people of colour and indigenous communities. Whilst we aim to build back from COVID-19, we need to ensure that recovery packages are aligned with the Paris agreement, especially climate financing. Resilience has to be built to deal with multiple crises, the less we do in terms of mitigation actions, the more we're going to have to face the reality of dealing with extreme events caused by climate change. While smaller developing countries have contributed to the climate discussion, we need to ensure that major economies and emitters step up to demonstrate the contribution and ambition with regards to climate, governments must be held accountable.



Moderator

Ms Johanna Chao Kreilick

Executive Officer, Open Society Foundation



Speakers

Mr Serge Stroobants

Director for Europe and MENA Regions, Institute for Economics and Peace



Dr Stefanos Fotiou

Director, Environment and Development, UNESCAP



Mr John Furlow

Deputy Director, International Institute for Climate and Society, Earth Institute, Columbia University

Climate finance is a key objective for future negotiations. Presently there are three sets of barriers to climate finance. The first of which is to do with systemic issues within our development paradigm. There is a continuous belief that the only way development can occur is by economic growth, however, this has proven to not always be true. Secondly, we must question the existing status quo of the financial system, the inability to do business will cause additional friction with new innovative models. We need a change in the entire financial system if we want to see change. We need trillions of dollars instead we presently have ten of millions in pledges in public finance and public climate finance funds. In reality, the answer to climate change is private finance, specifically the \$250 trillion that the global financial system is managing.

The final element of change needed can be seen in the FinCEN report which came from the regulatory authority of the US that says that \$2 trillion was allocated by international banks has been allocated to money laundering. The global financial system cannot be expected to change unless these issues are also addressed. Systemic issues such as these could be addressed by new regulatory frameworks, capacity development and incentives. Finally, we need to make the financial system legally and morally liable against climate change.

Ecological threats have an increasing impact on positive peace and international security. Every year, the economic cost of violence is estimated to be around \$14 trillion US every year. IEP recently released an ecological threat risk register in which looks at the security, development and impact of climate change. The ETR covered eight areas of ecological threats, clustered in two domains. Firstly they look at resource capacity with food security, water, capacity and willingness to put up population growth whilst considering depletion of resources and increased demand. Secondly, it looks at natural disasters. The resilience to ecological threats of a country shows a correlation to countries that have positive peace.

For example, when considering food insecurity, the majority of the 41 active conflicts in the world took place in a food insecure country.



Ms Tasneem Essop
Executive Director, Climate Action
Network International



Mr Tom Light
Executive Director, Arctic Ice Project



The ETR projects that approximately 3.5 billion people could suffer from food insecurity by 2050 along with water stress in which today there's 60% less fresh water per person than there was in the early 1960s. They have also seen that the number of water-related conflicts and violent incidents have increased by 270% worldwide. The depletion of resources is a potential for conflict, societal collapse and displacement.

Producing short-term forecasts is vital in communicating how the climate is currently changing. Producing seasonal forecasts which can be communicated to farmers and by extension workers is essential for the short term. This enables decision makers to make informed decisions regarding short term timescales. The chemical structure of the atmosphere is changing and with it, the weather is changing. While COP in large speaks about changes in the next 80 to 90 years, for smallholder farmers or malaria control officers, they need to know about the short term changes, not the next 80 to 90 years. While every farmer has faced a drought at some point, there may be more severe droughts, knowing what will happen in the next three months, for example if the next season is going to be unusually dry will enable them to think about what to plant, whether to plant and whether they might store water before the drought kicks in.

While climate finance is vitally important, when Mr Furlow worked with governments, one of the weakest agencies is the weather department and meteorological services, these are the services that people need to respond to the challenges that this panel is about. Meteorological departments need to have the staff, storage capabilities, incentives and computing power so that they can assist their constituency, whether they are farmers or people at risk of malaria, dengue or Zika.

New technologies can act as an additional tool in our response to climate change. Consequential technologies such as refreezing the arctic, can in essence assist with controlling the global thermostat. Making the case that decarbonizing the global economy is going to take 15 years or more, we are currently facing the predictable consequences of our actions. We are presently looking at the vital organs of our planet and, of course, the Arctic is extremely important with regards to climate change, it could potentially disappear in the next 15 years. If there are no plans to refreeze the arctic or restore the amazon forest, then it is going to lead to runaway climate change.

Climate change is not just a scientific problem, it is also an economic and political challenge. Governance and regulatory issues are pre determinant to scale the sector as the deployment of their technologies is going to be done through a consortium of countries that need to have support from the UN and the Arctic Council.

STRATEGIC DIALOGUE ROUNDTABLES

Session 9- Financing and Funding

Shaping the Future for a Better Tomorrow ◀

Introduction

In this session, the role and needs for partnerships will be discussed ranging from the mobilisation of the private sector, innovation and attracting finance beyond COVID-19 relief in today's environment. Finance can be seen as a tool to build resilience post COVID-19, however, we must also encourage public-private partnerships to impact investment if we are to be successful in achieving the UN SDGs.

Key Points

Supporting capital flows and distribution is key when leaving no one behind.

As the team leader for an FCDO Programme which aims to support the impact investment sector, Mr Adlam aims to drive sustainable improvements in the quality of life for people who are living in poverty, specifically focusing on Sub Saharan Africa and South Asia. This is done by looking at how the private sector delivers affordable goods and services and how it can be financed through impact investing. This is done by supporting initiatives which provide solutions to the barriers that limit the flow of capital within these markets while finding ways to improve the distribution of capital while aiming to leave no one behind.

The impact programme aims to look for the most innovative ideas that are not supported. They invest in longer-term projects which seek to bring a common approach to impact investing. The Impact programme aims to identify the biggest barriers to investment then tackle the challenges by adopting a portfolio approach to make the market work more effectively.



Moderator
Mr Barry Kolodkin
Deputy Chief Evaluator, EBRD



Speakers
Mr Bilal Khanzada
Head of Cash Transfer Programme Operations,
Save the Children International



Mr Tom Adlam
Team Leader, FCDO Impact Programme, Palladium



Ms Jessica Stanford
Country Director for the Philippines, Build Change

One of the principal challenges in the impact investing industry is that there has not been a standardisation in comparison to traditional financial institutions. This is particularly important as there is meant to be a return on investment with a specific impact goal in mind. Therefore, by developing standardised measures, indicators and reporting guidelines then this will encourage and motivate many more institutional investors.

The private sector is finding new ways to support philanthropic aims.

Western Union Foundation's principal focus is regarding the development of new partnerships and programs that are aligned with the philanthropic vision of the foundation. In aiming to connect across borders and to respond to social challenges, particularly those caused by forced migration, the private sector can enable displaced and marginalised young adults to connect to the global economy through education, job skills training and to give them equal access to opportunities.

Innovative finance is one of the new ways to support the SDGs whilst leveraging the skills of development finance.

Innovative financing is one way forward. Besides collaborating with partners, we need to explore new instruments, but also how we can collectively move the needle forward in terms of advocating for a new kind of enabling ecosystem.

Numerous different models are being explored, ranging from catastrophe bonds as an insurance product to community inclusion currencies. These fundamentally change cash and voucher based assistance is tied to livelihood and resilience programmes.

Investments into disaster risk reduction and prevention will bring further saving in the occasion of a disaster.

For example, in working with the construction industry and getting an entire ecosystem to work for homeowners, local builders, government officials to ultimately save lives and reduce losses in the event of earthquakes and other natural disasters. These ultimately help low income communities to not just survive but also thrive. The main way in which build change aims to improve is by bringing financing, technology and people to support the construction ecosystem for low income households.



Ms Ramya Gopalan
Global Innovation Coordinator and Alternative
Financing Lead, IFRC



Dr Nicolas Pascal
Director, Blue Finance



Ms Lauren Bell
Operations Lead, Western Union Foundation

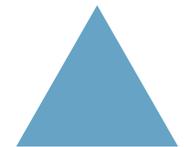


The general belief is that every dollar spent on disaster risk reduction and prevention programming, you save around \$7 US in a post-disaster programme. Therefore, in countries like the Philippines which is ranked as the third in the World Risk Index, there is a necessity to start working with private finance whilst involving microfinance institutions and rural banks. For example, while communities were working to strengthen their housing finance, they did not necessarily take into consideration the structural strength of the house and whether it can withstand natural disasters. Microfinance programmes, in particular, have millions of clients with 80% of them being women. There is a need to mobilise funding into housing to help low-income households through new technologies while assisting microfinance and rural banks.

Cash transfer programming has seen significant increases globally. Cash programming which is more commonly now seen as cash and voucher assistance has been increasing, not only by charities but by commercial entities, this is also in a significant part by donors because of the transformative benefits that it can bring in. This does include different ways of reaching out to beneficiaries. It can be described as aiming to reach the end beneficiary in the most dignified manner possible whilst ensuring a correct audit trail. Given the penalties that financial service providers are facing due to loose controls, the charity sector needs to up its game and show that cash and voucher assistance is one area which can visibly reduce operational cost whilst increasing the visibility of spenders.

Cash transfer programming has meaningfully increased since 2015 to around \$4.6 billion globally. The constraint comes when financial service providers have decreased the risk appetite towards the charity sector because they do not classify humanitarian transactions or payments as separate. Difficulties arise in providing identification documents, for example, therefore organisations have aimed to provide digital IDs that give assurances to financial service providers by also assisting with the audit trail.

Impact investment and blended finance can be applied to a wide variety of sectors. Finding new methods to develop impact investment solutions and blended finance solutions for marine conservation, livelihood enhancement and climate change can help improve the natural health of ecosystems, coastal communities and fisheries which are dependent on natural resources. They demonstrated through a pilot approach that we can structure blended finance solutions for marine conservation, especially in marine protected areas. These approaches rely on innovative public and private partnerships to co-manage marine conservation areas between non-profit entities, local entities and government.



STRATEGIC DIALOGUE ROUNDTABLES

Session 10- Tech for Good

Shaping the Future for a Better Tomorrow ◀

Introduction

This session aimed to cover insights and information on how new technological advances in artificial intelligence and machine learning can be used in the humanitarian aid area. The session also covered areas ranging from leaving no one behind and the digital divide to the importance of data, shelter and how to improve access to quality capabilities.

Key Points

AI can have transformational impacts on social purposes. While AI is a very sophisticated technology, it requires a precise set of requirements from a pristine data set and good infrastructure to processing power. Presently only 59% of the world's population has access to the internet, therefore more needs to be done in terms of building national and supranational infrastructure to enable access to information which can then assist with providing quality education. Bringing these solutions to scale is another challenge, indeed creating partnerships with affected individuals is vital, therefore creating awareness is vital to improving technological solutions for those who need it most.

While developing solutions we must keep in mind the digital divide and the need to leave no one behind. Ms Madara stated that she believes that technology, when used appropriately, can change lives, she has witnessed this first hand with her work at MPESA in which new technological platforms within FinTech and the educational space can deliver massive change.



Moderator
Ms Nicola Strong
Senior Consultant, Institute for Ethical AI



Speakers
Ms Maria Luciana Axente
Responsible AI & AI for Good Lead, PwC UK



Ms Alice Piterova
Managing Director, AI 4 Good



Ms Raluca Crisan
Co-Founder, Etiq.AI

A variety of products which use AI must consider local contexts, but issues occur in deployment as people cannot use it or it is inaccessible. This widens the gap between those who are excluded and those who have access to these types of technologies.

We need to be able to focus on people who cannot access these new technologies and put yourself in a position where people might be illiterate for example, who do not have access to data or mobile phones. Therefore we need to consider starting small, as numerous programmes don't go anywhere because no one is funding them or assisting them to get to scale.

Technology's impact on young people, their studies and social interactions.

Technology has vitally impacted young people through their studies and social interactions. However, technological advancements can bring further issues from evolving bullying to cyberbullying and online abuse to mental health issues. The current legal framework renders prosecution difficult for online abuses as we do not know whether this is being regulated or not.

Social media platforms such as Facebook, Twitter and Instagram can have an impact on our mental health whilst they possess our health data with many people online sharing their emotions and even suicidal thoughts. These can act as a benefit to enable us to identify people who require support and to further serve their communities.

Basic infrastructure is required if technological solutions are to be successful. Developing technology-based solutions, including artificial intelligence, image recognition and 3d modelling mobile apps that help mitigate house exposure to natural disasters. Technical solutions are provided to homeworkers, construction professionals, governments and institution partners to positively affect thousands of houses per project.



Mr Noll Tufani
Chief Operating Officer, Build Change



Ms Angie Madara
Founder, Growd Global



Ms Agita Pasaribu
Founder, Bullyid Indonesia



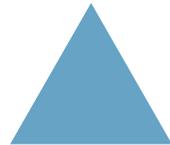
COVID-19 has demonstrated more than ever before that housing is the cornerstone of communities and overall global resilience. Presently we are at home with many globally able to work from home and this is because of technology. A lack of adequate housing compounds socio-economic vulnerabilities, vulnerabilities that are associated with people who are migrating or displaced through climate change, natural disasters and inadequate housing. While technology is fantastic in assisting, funding is vital as without the associated funding, you cannot do much with technological solutions.

Quality and equality of data are vital for AI to avoid biases. In the last year, the algorithmic bias problem has shown evidence of a systemic inequality which has an impact on people's lives, especially in automated decisions, this has an impact on whether you are applying for a loan to recruitment. If there is bias in a system, then it will have an impact on certain demographic groups because of how the system is designed and what data is originally used.

Machine learning can further the agenda of equal opportunity while improving accessibility. The technologies have to ensure that there are not any detrimental impacts on certain groups of people. If there is a bias within a system it can be maintained simply because if someone does not have access to a tv, for example, it does not mean that they have not been surveyed by a camera. Therefore, simply because they do not have access to the technology that is using AI, it does not mean that they will not be impacted by it.

Modelling tools for COVID-19 response must account for local contexts. This can include safety, privacy, access to valid information and self-actualisation. Recently collaborations focused on a project with refugee camps to help those individuals who are trapped in camps due to COVID-19 and help camp managers and local organisations from preventing disasters.

Since the start of the pandemic, we have seen an influx of modelling tools applied for general populations in urban areas, however, many of these models can suggest social distancing and regular hand washing, however, these are not viable in a refugee camp setting in which there is a large density of people living in one area, it is very difficult to socially distance. Ultimately, for these technologies to be successful, developers need to listen to affected peoples to see how technologies can be designed with the end-user in mind.



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With ever-growing numbers, Aid&Trade London will act as a key forum for leaders, governments and businesses attending WHF London. We are delighted to further bring a premium high-level knowledge platform and encourage you to take part in the fastest growing event in global aid and international development.

“Aid&Trade is the first digital exhibition of its kind for humanitarian aid and international development communities and the exhibitors benefited a wide range of networking opportunities.”

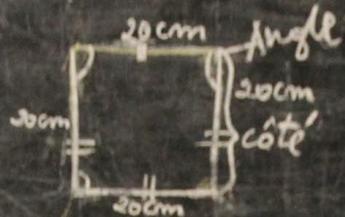
Exhibitors

- ▶ UNITAR
- ▶ Institute for Economics and Peace
- ▶ International Committee for Rehabilitation Aid to Afghanistan (ICRAA)
- ▶ CDAC Network
- ▶ One Young World
- ▶ Satguru Travel and Tours Services Ltd
- ▶ HQAI
- ▶ HUMLOG Institute
- ▶ Irrisept
- ▶ Jobs 4 Africa
- ▶ Mobile Solar Chargers Ltd
- ▶ Tostan
- ▶ Almahana Women’s Welfare Organisation

Mathématique géométrie

LE CARRÉ

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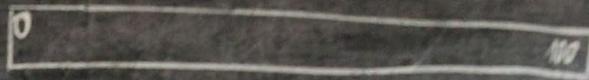
Mercure LCM/3/2013

8V

20



Le carré / Triangle rectangle / les angle



2020 New York Outcomes/ Calls to Action

Shaping the Future for a Better Tomorrow ◀

Outcome 1 - Innovation Fund

The WHF Innovation Fund is being set up to fund, promote and engage innovators globally. The judging panel will be responsible for selecting 30 innovators, who will be welcomed at WHF London where they will present their innovations. A committee will select 3 winners of the Innovation Fund who will be provided funding alongside a mentorship from our expert committee. *More information can be found on our website: www.whf.london*

Outcome 2 - Youth Council

The WHF Youth Council is being created to improve leadership opportunities available for young people, not only in WHF, but also in stakeholders. Members of the Youth Council will be able to promote their agendas for the next WHF convenings - London, New York and Davos - while suggesting new programmes to engage youth communities globally. The purpose of the initiative is to provide a seat for the next generation leaders on the table, raise their voices and influence agendas.

Call to Action 1 - A Campaign for Education

While COVID-19 has affected all areas of life, one area which has been particularly impacted is education, with young people, all over the globe, being left without the possibility of attending school or alternative educational services. New technological solutions in e-learning need to consider those most vulnerable, in risk of being left behind, ensuring that individuals who do not have access to these solutions are included and accounted for.

Call to Action 2 - Climate finance in support for COP 26

Climate finance is one of the key areas missing from the Paris agreement. While we aim to build back sustainably after COVID-19, we need to consider areas in the global economy that have not gained support, from meteorological departments that are often underfunded to improving impact investment and blended finance models which will enable communities and businesses to invest in sustainable ventures.

Call to Action 3 - A call for strengthening mental health

Current approaches to the COVID-19 pandemic have focused primarily on physical health while not necessarily considering the mental health implications. Containment strategies have also given rise to many already existing inequalities from poverty to domestic violence. Increases in anxiety, substance abuse and suicide have all been evidence of worsening mental health globally.

Call to Action 4 - Leaving no one behind in the new digital era

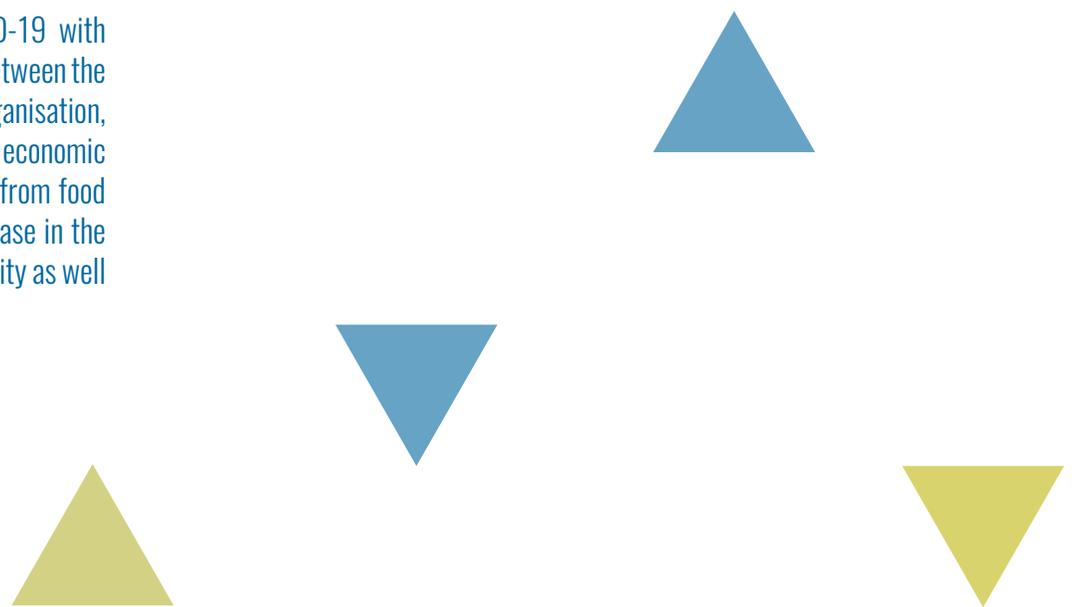
Innovations in technology have given tremendous benefits to vulnerable communities globally. However, new technologies need to consider communities that do not have access to mobile technology or indeed the internet. For technological solutions to be successful in the field, we must take an approach which accounts for a lack of access as while companies might have solutions, they must be able to operate in scenarios with a lack of connectivity.

Call to Action 5 - Recognising the security implications of COVID-19 and Climate Change

Presently, international security has been severely impacted by COVID-19 with protests and riots occurring internationally. The crisis has raised tensions between the US and other countries like China through the role of the World Health Organisation, while others have seen increased political instability due to the ongoing economic recession. Similarly, climate change has raised serious concerns ranging from food insecurity to conflicts over water resources. These are only likely to increase in the future, negotiations at COP 26 need to keep this in mind increasing insecurity as well as displacement from natural disasters as we aim to build back stronger.

Call to Action 6 - No woman's voice should be left unheard

By applying a gender lens to decision making across all sectors, we can break free from the cultural barriers that limit social growth, support recovering societies, and mobilise inclusion practices to empower women on a global scale. A smart and strategic approach includes sharing of knowledge and data, using technology and connectivity, creating structures that amplify women's voices, and focusing on recovering societies and capacity building for women that still lack access. By making women part of the solution and the decision-making process, at the same time as being conscious of the male role in the debate, we can empower more women globally.





Security Council Meeting
107th Session (13-19 September 2017)
00:28

- Agenda
- Chairperson of the Meeting
- Secretary-General
- President of the Security Council
- Vice-President of the Security Council
- Members of the Security Council
- Observer States
- Observer for Palestine
- Observer for the Holy See
- Observer for the State of Palestine
- Observer for the State of Palestine

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SAINT-VINCENT-ET-LES-GRENADINES
SAINTE-LUCIE
SAMOA
SAO TOME-ET-PRINCIPE
SERBIE
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