



**United Nations Office for Sustainable Development  
Incheon, Republic of Korea**

**2020/21 Executive Training Course for Policymakers on the  
2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**

**Incheon, Republic of Korea,**

**22-26 March 2021 (8:00pm – 10:30 pm – Korea Standard Time)**

**Training Report**

**Submitted by**

**Lichia Saner-Yiu, Ed.D.  
Consultant to UNOSD**

**23<sup>rd</sup> of April 2021, Geneva**

## Table of Contents

<b>Introduction</b>	4
<b>Policy Context</b>	4
<b>Major Themes of 2021 HLPF Review</b>	6
<b>Course Design</b>	7
<b>Objectives</b>	7
<b>Areas for Knowledge &amp; Information Sharing</b>	7
<b>Broad Course Objectives</b>	7
<b>Specific training Objectives for each of the sessions of 2021</b>	7
<b>Process Objectives</b>	8
<b>Methodology</b>	8
<b>Content and Process of the 5 E-Sessions</b>	9
<b>Day 1, 22nd March</b>	9
<b>Formal Opening of the ECT</b>	9
<b>Session D1.1: Introduction: Key Issues and COVID-19 Pandemic</b>	10
<b>Session D1.2: Preparation for VNR- voluntary national reviews- guidelines, experiences, and good examples</b>	10
<b>Session D1.3 Introduction of the SDG 3 Good Health and Wellbeing Sessions: Critical Issues</b>	11
<b>Session D1.4: The drivers for SDG Transformations with special focus on public health and wellbeing</b>	12
<b>Session D1.5: Country Experience: “Digital healthcare in Corona Time – the Case of Saudi Arabia”</b>	15
<b>Day 2, 23<sup>rd</sup> March</b>	18
<b>Session D2.1: Introduction: Key Issues and Equitable Economic Growth</b>	18
<b>Session D2.2, “Decent Work from a Global Supply Chains’ perspective”</b>	20
<b>Session D2.3: “Build Better Futures: Experiences of Youth Employment in Nigeria”</b>	23
<b>Session D2.4: “Social Economy and the Power of Local Communities: A case from Trentino Region”</b>	24
<b>Day 3, 24<sup>th</sup> March</b>	27
<b>Opening remarks</b>	27
<b>Session D3.1 SDG 12: Ensure sustainable Consumption and Production Pattern with special focus on Circular economy: Critical Issues</b>	27
<b>Session D3.2 “Circular Economy means sustainable use”</b>	29
<b>Session D3.3: “Sustainable practice of waste management towards a circular economy - the Korean experience”</b>	33
<b>Session D3.3: “Responsible consumption and production in The Philippines”</b>	36

Session D3.4 A Roundtable Discussion on Circular Economy and SDG 12, Sustainable Consumption and Production .....	38
Day 4, 25 <sup>th</sup> March .....	41
Opening remarks .....	41
Session 4.1: Key Issues of the SDG 16 and Institutional Capacity Building .....	42
Session D4.2 “Public administrative reform and success factors” .....	43
Session D4.3 “Capacity Development for Public sector Performance Improvement: Success Stories and Examples.....	45
Session D4.4 “Country experience in VNR preparation regarding SDG 16 regarding policy coordination and consultation mechanisms” .....	47
Day 5, 26 <sup>th</sup> March .....	49
Opening remarks .....	49
Introduction.....	49
Session D5.1 Introduction: Key Issues in achieving value addition through partnerships .....	50
Session D5.2: “Partnerships framework – FAO Strategy for Partnerships with the Private Sector & CSOs” .....	51
Session D5.3: “Outlook on Financing the 2030 Agenda” .....	52
Session D5.4: “Why should PPP Practitioners keep ESG in Mind?” .....	56
Session D5.5 Reporting on SDG 17 partnerships for sustainable development – Experience from Vietnam .....	57
Closing Ceremony.....	59
The Concluding Remarks of this Training Report.....	60
Annex 1:.....	62
ETC 2021 Programme Design Draft.....	62
Annex II Questions Raised Including Questions that Could Not be addressed by the panellists.....	63
Questions from Day/Session 1 of 2020-21 ETC (22 March 2020) Concerning VNR Briefing and SDG 3 Good Health and Wellbeing.....	63
Questions from Day/Session 2 of 2020-21 (23 March 2021) Concerning SDG 8 Decent Work and Equitable Economic Growth .....	64
Questions and Comments from Day/Session 3 of 2020-21 (24 March 2021) Concerning SDG 12 Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns .....	65
Questions and Comments from Day/Session 5 of 2020-21 (25 March 2021) Concerning SDG 16 Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions.....	67
Questions and Comments from Day/Session 5 of 2020-21 (26 March 2021) Concerning SDG 17 Partnerships.....	67



## **Training Report on the 2020/21 Executive Training Course for Policymakers on the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**

### **Introduction**

The Executive Training Course for Policy Makers on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (inter alia ETC) is a flagship programme of the United Nations Office for Sustainable Development (UNOSD) based in Incheon, Republic of Korea. This course is sought “to provide policymakers in central and subnational governments with the knowledge, skills and tools for implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at all levels of society” (Concept Note, 2021 ETC for Policy Makers)<sup>1</sup>.

This year, the 6th edition of the ETC course took place on 22-26 March via internet. Owing to the COVID-19 pandemic, it was not possible to bring the participants to Ilcheong for the course as it has done in the past. Instead, a series of online webinars over five days were organised in order to continue the ongoing effort of UNOSD in supporting countries to prepare themselves to implement the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs as well as, to some extent, to effectively conduct their voluntary national reviews (VNRs). The focus of this year’s ETC has been slightly realigned to examine the impacts of the current COVID-19 pandemic crisis and identify potential solutions to support a swift recovery from the pandemic and advance the delivery of the Sustainable Development Goals in the Decade of Action.

### **Policy Context**

Since the Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 25<sup>th</sup> of September 2015 on “Transforming Our World”, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development has been implemented globally for the past five years. While progress is being made concerning different individual sustainable development goals, the overall picture of progress regarding the necessary transformations as outlined in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development remain uneven across countries and across different goals and targets.

The requisite transformations underpinned by the principles of leaving no one behind and circularity and de-couplings are:

- 1) education, gender and inequality (SDGs 1, 5, 7-10, 12-15, 17);
- 2) health, wellbeing and demography (SDGs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 10);
- 3) energy, decarbonisation, and sustainable industry (SDGs 1-16);
- 4) sustainable food, land, water, and oceans (SDGs 1-3, 5, 6, 8, 10-15)

---

<sup>1</sup> [https://unosd.un.org/sites/unosd.un.org/files/concept\\_note\\_etc\\_22\\_march\\_2021.pdf](https://unosd.un.org/sites/unosd.un.org/files/concept_note_etc_22_march_2021.pdf)

5) sustainable cities and communities (SDGs 1-16)

6) digital revolution for sustainable development (SDGs 1-4, 7-13, 17)

(Source: Sachs, Schmidt-Traub, Mazzucato, Messner, Nakicenovic & Rockstrom, “Six Transformations to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), 2019)<sup>2, 3</sup>

The Political Declaration of the 2019 SDG Summit<sup>4</sup> stresses the urgent need for concerted, accelerated action by all stakeholders at all levels to achieve the 2030 Agenda and ushered in the renewed commitment to redouble of collective effort to transform our world with greater scale and greater speed. With the aim to deliver the global SDGs and tackling the world’s biggest challenges – ranging from poverty and gender to climate change, fairness and closing the financing gap - the “Decade for Action”<sup>5</sup> captures the essence of critical levers identified in the Global Sustainable Development Report (2019): “The Future is Now”. In this context, the Secretary General proposed three levels of action, i.e., global, local and people, to mobilise leadership, resources and citizen’s action to generate an “unstoppable movement pushing for the required transformations”<sup>6</sup>. The title of the 2019 Global Sustainable Development Report “The Future is Now” was the motto of this 2020/21 ETC course.

While more actions are necessary to push forward the 2030 Agenda, monitoring and regular stock-taking are the prerequisites for “doing the right thing” for effectiveness. As part of the 2030 Agenda for sustainable Development, adopted by the General Assembly on the 25<sup>th</sup> September 2015, there is an explicit commitment to systematic follow-up and review of implementation of this Agenda over the whole duration of the 2030 Agenda. It was recognised in the original Declaration that “A robust, voluntary, effective, participatory, transparent and integrated follow-up and review framework will make a vital contribution to implementation and will help countries *to maximize and track progress in implementing this Agenda in order to ensure that no one is left behind*”<sup>7</sup> (Clause 72, p. 31. *Italic added*). This political commitment also outlined a systematic approach to regular and inclusive reviews of progress at the subnational, national, regional and global levels. The United Nations High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) has been designated attributed a central role to oversee a network of follow-up and review processes at the global level (Clause 82, p.33).

Under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council, the HLPF shall host regular reviews in line with the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs. Since its inception in 2016, to date, a total number of 207 Voluntary Reporting by countries have already taken place and another 44 country VNR reports will follow suit in July this year.<sup>8</sup> It is obvious there has been great interests by countries, both developed and developing countries, to engage in this voluntary review exercise. More importantly, after a closer look at the

---

<sup>2</sup> <https://sdsn.eu/six-transformations-to-achieve-the-sustainable-development-goals-sdgs/>

<sup>3</sup> Nature Sustainability. doi: DOI 10.1038/s41893-019-0352-9

<sup>4</sup> <https://undocs.org/en/A/RES/74/4>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/decade-of-action/>

<sup>6</sup> [https://www.swissuniversities.ch/fileadmin/swissuniversities/import/11\\_Peter\\_Messerli.pdf](https://www.swissuniversities.ch/fileadmin/swissuniversities/import/11_Peter_Messerli.pdf)

<sup>7</sup> [https://www.un.org/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/70/1&Lang=E](https://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/70/1&Lang=E)

<sup>8</sup> The countries who will present a VNR report in July 2021 are Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Azerbaijan\*\*, Bahamas\*, Bhutan\*, Bolivia, Cabo Verde\*, Chad\*, China\*, Colombia\*\*, Cuba, Cyprus\*, Czech Republic\*, Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, Denmark\*, Djibouti, Dominican Republic\*, Egypt\*\*, Germany\*, Guatemala\*\*, Indonesia\*\*, Iraq\*, Japan\*, Lao People’s Democratic Republic\*, Madagascar\*, Malaysia\*, Marshall Islands, Mexico\*\*, Myanmar, Namibia\*, Nicaragua, Norway\*, Pakistan\*, Paraguay\*, Qatar\*\*, San Marino, Sierra Leone\*\*, Slovakia\*, Spain\*, Sweden\*, Thailand\*, Tunisia\*, Uruguay\*\* and Zimbabwe\* (countries with one asterisk \* are second timers and those with two asterisks \*\* are third timers). Source:

[https://www.un.org/ecosoc/sites/www.un.org.ecosoc/files/files/en/2020doc/Letter\\_ECOSOC\\_President\\_VNRs\\_2021-confirming\\_final\\_countries.pdf](https://www.un.org/ecosoc/sites/www.un.org.ecosoc/files/files/en/2020doc/Letter_ECOSOC_President_VNRs_2021-confirming_final_countries.pdf)

landscapes of VNR reporting between 2016-2020, an important picture emerges. Some countries have already presented their country reviews for the third time, such as Switzerland and Columbia, Qatar and a host of other countries are making their second VNR report. It is not hard to imagine that these countries are motivated by the benefits derived from such voluntary review process and therefore continue to seek such opportunities of HLPF VNR reporting. This observation is also supported by some of the international organisations, including the United Nations and its Regional Commissions such as the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), when examining the added values of the second generation of VNRs<sup>9</sup>.

Key benefits for the countries that have gone through the internal process of a national SDG review has seen the galvanisation of multi-stakeholder support domestically and the strengthening of a coherent implementation in progressing toward the SDGs (UNDP, 2017)<sup>10</sup>. More on the benefits from the VNR process have been reported by Irena Zubcevic, one of the speakers during the March 2021 ETC webinars.

While it is important to identify areas of progresses made, the review process also revealed that in some of the participating countries, entrenched blockages exist that make SDG implementation more difficult. In view the interconnected nature of the 17 SDGs and its 169 targets, these entrenched blockages are often situated at the nexuses of different SDGs and are often complex and require higher level of policy coordination and coherence across sectors. This interdependence between SDG goals is making progress harder to achieve. The VNR reviews are known to be catalyst for transformation. To support the countries to be ready for the HLPF VNRs, ETCs are filling an important need by strengthening the countries' capacity for SDG implementation and participate in the global review process. Here, UNOSD through its ETC courses, is making important contributions, especially in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic when much hard-won progress regarding SDGs have been eroded in many countries, including vulnerable and worn and torn countries and communities.

## Major Themes of 2021 HLPF Review

Guided by the overarching theme of the 2021 HLPF, that is, “Sustainable and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic that promotes the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development: building an inclusive and effective path for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda in the context of the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development”, the 2020-21 ETC for Policymakers also explored a set of 5 themes selected from the 7 SDGs that will undergo in-depth review during the 2021 HLPF. They are: Goals 1 on no poverty, 2 on zero hunger, 3 on good health and well-being, 8 on decent work and economic growth, 12 on responsible consumption and production, 16 on peace, justice and strong institutions, and 17 on partnerships<sup>11</sup> (Concept Note, 2021 ETC for Policy Makers).

---

<sup>9</sup> <http://sdg.iisd.org/news/escap-paper-reflects-on-benefits-of-second-generation-vnrs/>

<sup>10</sup>

<https://www.undp.org/content/dam/rbap/docs/meetTheSDGs/Overviewpercent20reportpercent20toppercent20guidpercent20thepercent20preparationpercent20ofpercent20apercent20VNRpercent20andpercent20SDGR.pdf>

<sup>11</sup> <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/hlpf/2021>

# Course Design

## Objectives

The 6<sup>th</sup> edition of the Executive Training Course has as its general objective to build the knowledge, skills, mindsets, and general capacities of Member States for implementing sustainable development planning, policy making and policy shaping through an integrated approach. In the context of the current challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the designing of the ETC 2021 sought to identify and contribute to potential solutions to support a swift recovery from the pandemic and accelerate the delivery of the SDGs in this Decade of Action.

The following objectives were identified:

## Areas for Knowledge & Information Sharing

The Executive Training Course for Policymakers on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is normally structured around the overarching theme of the forthcoming HLPF and explore some or all of the SDGs that will go under in-depth review. This year, the ETC Course focused on the five thematic areas selected among the seven SDGs that will go under in-depth review during the 2021 HLPF. These five thematic areas combine three sector specific goals and two cross-cutting SDGs that address the institutional capacities and solidarity between people and countries. They are:

- SDG 3 on good health and well-being,
- SDG 8 on decent work and economic growth,
- SDG 12 on responsible consumption and production,
- SDG 16 on peace, justice and strong institutions, and
- SDG 17 on partnerships

## Broad Course Objectives

There were six broad course objectives which were established across previous editions of the ETC for Policy Makers. However, in view of the limitations due to the remote participation, the following two course objectives were attempted:

1. Knowledge and skills acquisition for integrating Agenda 2030 and the SDGs into ongoing and future activities
2. Sharing experiences and peer-to-peer collaboration, across sectors and countries

## Specific training Objectives for each of the sessions of 2021

These two broad course objectives of the ETC for policy makers mentioned above were broken down into the following five training objectives to guide the design and implementation of each session of the ETC 2021.

1. Raising awareness on key issues within each SDG areas
2. Sharing information and experience in tackling some of the link issues within each SDGs and tools developed
3. Hearing reflection from countries on their effort in progressing and barriers overcome
4. Offering key learning insights from the global review process of VNRs
5. Supporting the effective use of VNR process for institutional innovations by pointing to some gateways and progress in SDGs

## Process Objectives

Within the limited time available, efforts were made to capture feedback from the participants in order to learn from the first edition of the ETC taking in a virtual format. At the end of each day's session, inputs were sought from the participants concerning the structure and planning of the workshop.

## Methodology

Recognizing the knowledge and experiences that already exist amongst the participating policymakers and policy shapers, the course adopted a methodology that aimed to promote peer-to-peer learning through country case examples. As these sets of sessions were recorded and made available on the UNOSD site ([https://unosd.un.org/events/2020-21\\_ETC](https://unosd.un.org/events/2020-21_ETC)), it is possible for the participants and other interested parties to (re-)view the videos and follow each session of the training course at their own pace.

Specifically, the follow learning methods were adopted for the 2021 ETC course.

### 1. Peer-to-Peer Learning through Country Case Examples

A peer-to-peer mutual learning approach underpinned the design of the course. It was expected that through the country case examples within each session and the ensuing discussions, various SDGs addressed during this edition of ETC and eventually the HLPF were contextualised and made more relevant to the daily practices and concerns of the policy makers and shapers.

### 2. Structured Content, Information Transfer and Critical Questioning

Structured presentations provided the conceptual framework and highlighted the issues of 2030 Agenda and the SDGs. These presentations by well-known experts were complemented by concrete policy practices, and options presented in the country practices segment for each module. Finally, each module was concluded with a panel reflection.

## Structure of the Course

The course was structured around the five pillars of the 2030 Agenda – people, prosperity, planet, peace and justice and partnership, recognizing that the five pillars are interconnected and need to be integrated in practical policymaking and operational activities for advancing sustainable development. Following an introductory input on the VNR concerning its state of the art and preparation, specific reviews and country examples followed. A design template is enclosed in Annex 1.

The structure of the sessions aimed to equip participants with practical yet transformative pathways, where a tipping point could be accelerated with greater efficiency and effectiveness. Information gathered and analysis offered in the 2019 Global Sustainable Development Report served as the meta-framework in thinking about accelerating the SDG implementation. Indirectly, by highlighting some of the transformative frameworks presented in the 2019 Global Sustainable Development Report, the participating policy makers and shapers were given a handle on how and where to start their transformative journey, including planning, policy and public programme design for sustainable development and monitoring.

While each online module was designed as a stand-alone training component, the first and last sessions made room for an introduction and conclusion session of the whole training course.

In this Training Report, the following analysis and synthesis were covered:

- An analysis of each module of the course with a synthesis of presentations and discussions;
- An overall synthesis of proceedings, outcomes, conclusions and recommendations.



The annexes of the report included a list of participants and final agenda. The required bibliography has been replaced by footnotes, which provide the direct link to the sources, just one click away, and immediacy that a traditional bibliography tends to miss.

This online delivery modality through a series of webinars also made it possible to have a greater outreach and engagement of participants and experts alike. One additional benefit of the webinars is the creation of knowledge products through live recording. Through such video records, additional remote “beneficiaries” can be reached over time.

## Content and Process of the 5 E-Sessions

What follows are titles of the sessions, the speakers who contributed to the delivery of the sessions, a description of the exercises and pertinent outputs of the sessions. They are presented in key points and results of the discussions that were relevant for understanding the session’s learning impact.

### Day 1, 22nd March

#### Opening Ceremony and Theme Sessions on SDG 3 Good Health and Wellbeing

##### Formal Opening of the ECT

[Mr. Jean D’Aragon](#), Senior Sustainable Development Expert, UNOSD

Opened the session by welcoming the more than 200 online participants and reiterated that the focus of this year’s Executive Training for Policymakers was placed on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the main theme of the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF). This year’s discussions revolved around sustainable and resilient recovery from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. The purpose of the training was to help participants understand and actively take part in the implementation and review process of SDGs in their own countries.

**Opening Remarks by [Mr. Alexander Trepelkov](#)** (Officer-in-Charge, Division of Sustainable Development Goals, UN DESA), delivered by [Mr. Amson Sibanda](#) (Chief, National Strategies and Capacity Building Branch, UN DESA), formally opened the ECT. He stated that the COVID-19 pandemic has exposed and exacerbated poverty and inequalities within and among nations. This has led to a devastating impact on all the 17 SDGs, and even reversing the gains on the achievements of the SDGs, that have been made before the pandemic hit. Mention was made of a recent report by the Committee for Development Policy, a subsidiary body of the UN Economic and Social Council, which stressed that our path to sustainable recovery should be oriented towards equality, resilience, and environmentalism and a new form of multilateralism, which should have been learned from the shortcomings in responding to the COVID-19 crisis. Mr. Trepelkov endorsed the call of the committee for a stronger focus on the transformative aspects of the 2030 Agenda and to put a stronger emphasis on the progress review of the Voluntary National Review (VNR) reports by identifying gaps and challenges for advancing SDG implementation.

[Mr. Chun Kyoo PARK](#), Head of Office, UNOSD, reminded the audience that the SDG Summit held in September 2019 has adopted a political declaration to accelerate delivery of the 2030 Agenda and SDGs in the remaining decade. This political declaration for a decade of action reaffirmed the commitment to leave

no one behind at the core of the 2030 Agenda. He also emphasized that the 2030 Agenda remains the best approach to take a roadmap to overcome the current crisis, recover better, and build the resilience of our society from a similar crisis in the future. Now in a decade of action and delivery for the SDGs, Mr. Park called on the participants to define a course of action to tackle the most pressing problems faced in the poorest countries. Ending extreme poverty and sustainable, inclusive economic development are surely the most pressing challenges for all countries. He reminded all that the ETC for Policy Makers is aligned with both the overarching theme of SDGs that will be reviewed in-depth during the forthcoming HLPF in July 2021. It will help policymakers to prepare for and better contribute to the progress review on SDGs that are regularly taking place at the national and sub-national levels.

#### Session D1.1: Introduction: Key Issues and COVID-19 Pandemic

Presented by [Ms. Lichia Saner-Yiu](#), UNOSD Consultant & President, Centre for Socio-Eco-Nomic Development

Ms. Saner-Yiu emphasised that the 2030 Agenda was a **global social contract** not only between the states but also a social compact between the people. Preparation of SDGs was the first time in history that people could participate in a global conversation about “the world we want”. Achieving the 2030 Agenda should not just be the responsibility of the states but everyone should contribute to its attainment. She also stressed that the 5 SDGs that would be addressed during the edition of the ETC are some of the most wicked problems that are complex and interconnected.

She also gave an overview of the whole programme and the training objectives.

#### Session D1.2: Preparation for VNR- voluntary national reviews- guidelines, experiences, and good examples

Presented by [Ms. Irena Zubcevic](#), Chief, Intergovernmental Policy and Review Branch, OISC, UN DESA

**Ms. Zubcevic** re-emphasised that Voluntary National Reviews are voluntary and state-led reviews. It provided a platform for partnerships and learning experience that takes account of the national circumstances. She stated that 2030 Agenda was about changing mindsets. It was important to apply the **whole of society and the whole of government approach** to implement the 2030 Agenda. VNR was also useful in stocktaking that included mapping existing policies, identifying gaps, and assessing data collection capacity. It was also about coordination between institutional arrangements for VNRs, and integration of SDGs into national development plans. Such a review process also helped implementation by providing an opportunity to assess progress and strengthening monitoring and evaluation. In the context of COVID-19 pandemic, VNR also supported countries to take stock of measures put in place for sustainable recovery and accelerated actions.

Major challenges in preparing VNRs included the length of time needed for preparation; insufficient mainstreaming and missing established institutional framework of SDGs; strain on institutional capacity, financing and missing baseline data. Other areas can be improved at the national level concerning ownership of the process. Linking the VNRs to other reporting mechanisms and conventions, engaging different parts of government, including parliaments and local governments, and taking the whole of society approach are some of the elements to ensure a meaningful VNR experience. Successful institutions had three-tier structural approaches, namely, political (political will), implementation (deciding on strategies and policies) and technical (programmes and projects).

At the global level, the process has been improved over time. Voluntary common reporting guidelines for voluntary national reviews at the high-level political forum for sustainable development are now available<sup>12</sup>. The guidelines focus on the **impact of policies and strategies** and different ways of meaningful stakeholder engagement, in addition to the role of HLPF as a platform for peer learning and as a broker for partnerships in the follow-up of the VNRs. Other support includes also global and regional preparatory workshops, Voluntary National Review Synthesis Report.

There are two levels of mechanism in engaging the non-state actors. At the national level, governments engage all the stakeholders through a national process. At the global level there is a self-organising mechanism by the non-state actors called Coordination Mechanism, which was established in 2012 after the UN Conference on Sustainable Development.<sup>13</sup>

In 2021, 40 plus countries that present every year and 44 countries are presenting. Only 9 of them are participating for the first time. 25 countries are 2<sup>nd</sup> timers and 10 are 3<sup>rd</sup> timers.

(Note: On the other hand, it can also be said that some other countries who would benefit from such a review process are not yet prepared to engage in this voluntary process. To this end, the Executive Training Course (inter alia ECT) helps close some of the capacity gaps (knowledge, skills or policy coherence) that countries might need to enable their participation in the VNR process.)

### Session D1.3 Introduction of the SDG 3 Good Health and Wellbeing Sessions: Critical Issues

Ms. Lichia Saner-Yiu proposed the following premises to consider when planning for the attainment of SDG 3. They are:

1. Social determinants of health require intersectoral approach to health.
2. Attainment of SDG 3 requires working on several SDGs at the same time.
3. Public health is an important public good requiring on-going investment and maintenance. Austerity measures and concentration of wealth have undermined the institutional capacity to respond to pandemics and causing shortage of public goods (Bardy et al, 2021<sup>14</sup>).
4. Health is a measure of social success (Marmot, 2021) and the attainment of 2030 Agenda.

When setting public health policy, it is necessary to keep these premises in mind in order to be effective and efficient. These premises denote the interdependent nature of health results. Other socio-economic determinants contribute to the health outcome; such as sanitation and clean drinking water (SDG 6), hunger and nutrition (SDG2), healthy life style and related knowledge and education (SDG 8), sustainable livelihood (SDG 8) etc. can all impact the health status of all age groups. Therefore, to improve the general health status and reducing pre-mature death or prevalence of diseases, public health policies need to address these other SDG Goals in connection with SDG 3 and ensure policy coherence among these goals.

Inputs from the next speaker, who was a member of the Independent Group of Scientists 2019 who contributed to the Global Sustainable Development Report 2019, offered a milestone review and analysis of the current state in implementing the 2030 Agenda and pathways forward.<sup>15</sup>

---

<sup>12</sup> [https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/17346Updated\\_Voluntary\\_Guidelines.pdf](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/17346Updated_Voluntary_Guidelines.pdf)

<sup>13</sup> <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/733FutureWeWant.pdf>

<sup>14</sup> Bardy, Rubens, Saner & Yiu, 2021, "Public Goods, Sustainable Development and the Contribution of Business", Cambridge Scholar Publishing.

<sup>15</sup> [https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/24797GSDR\\_report\\_2019.pdf](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/24797GSDR_report_2019.pdf)

## Session D1.4: The drivers for SDG Transformations with special focus on public health and wellbeing”

**Speaker:** [Ms. Eun Mee Kim](#), President, Ewha Womans University, Republic of Korea

Ms. Kim outlined the health and social challenges for many countries induced by COVID-19, especially regarding inequality within and between countries (SDG 10). Cross-country inequalities concerning public health are particularly salient in children's health, maternal health, HIV/AIDS, and other communicable diseases.

The Brundtland report (1987) was very forward-looking at saying that environmental protections, sustainable environment, and development should come together to save the world. Since 1987, not much has changed. With 9 years left before 2030, there is a need to scale up and accelerate SDGs implementation to reach the 2030 Agenda. However, in the following areas such as rising inequalities, biodiversity loss, climate change, and ecological footprints are showing backward trends.

The GSDR 2019 was an independent and critical assessment of the implementation of SDGs. Its mandate was to show how science can help us understand the SDGs better. 15 persons were selected from around the world representing different disciplines. The report shows interactions between different goals. There are a lot of co-benefits but also some trade-offs between different goals. Actions are needed to enhance the co-benefits and address the trade-offs among SDGs to turn the vicious cycle into the virtuous cycles that are needed for sustainability (see Figure 1). In a hyper-connected system, harnessing its hyper-connectivity (often hidden from the first sight) can help deal with problems in a **coherent** manner. Nevertheless, there is a **lack of global infrastructure to deal with the sustainability problems properly**.

### **Was there something very high of a trade-off in the SDG goals?**

For example, the food security issue is related to goals number 1 and 2. If working on zero hunger (SDG 2) by trying to increase the amount of food that is being produced, it may have a negative effect on the environment (SDG 15). It might also have some critical issues in biodiversity because it increases the production of a particular species. So, when just focusing on zero hunger and not paying attention to environmental inequality, this might result in a spill-over effect on health security of the poor and disadvantaged groups and overall negative impact on sustainable development because of overuse of fertilisers, pesticides etc.

There are trade-offs that are more easily detectable. If the ministry of agriculture just focused on increasing the production of food without looking at other goals, then the agricultural policies are not dealing with the country's sustainable development in a more holistic way. So, the six systems (presented in Figure 2) provide a system view, which is more holistic.

The GSDR 2019 report recommended six systems (Human wellbeing and capabilities, Sustainable and just economies, Energy decarbonization and access, Food systems and nutrition patterns, Urban and peri-urban development, Global environmental commons) to help understand how 17 goals are interconnected. For example, the “food systems and nutrition patterns” allow us to look at poverty reduction, well-being, gender issues, environment, and economy. The following 4 levers could be used to enhance transformations for sustainable development; Governance, Economy and finance, Individual and collective action, Science and technology (See Figure 2).

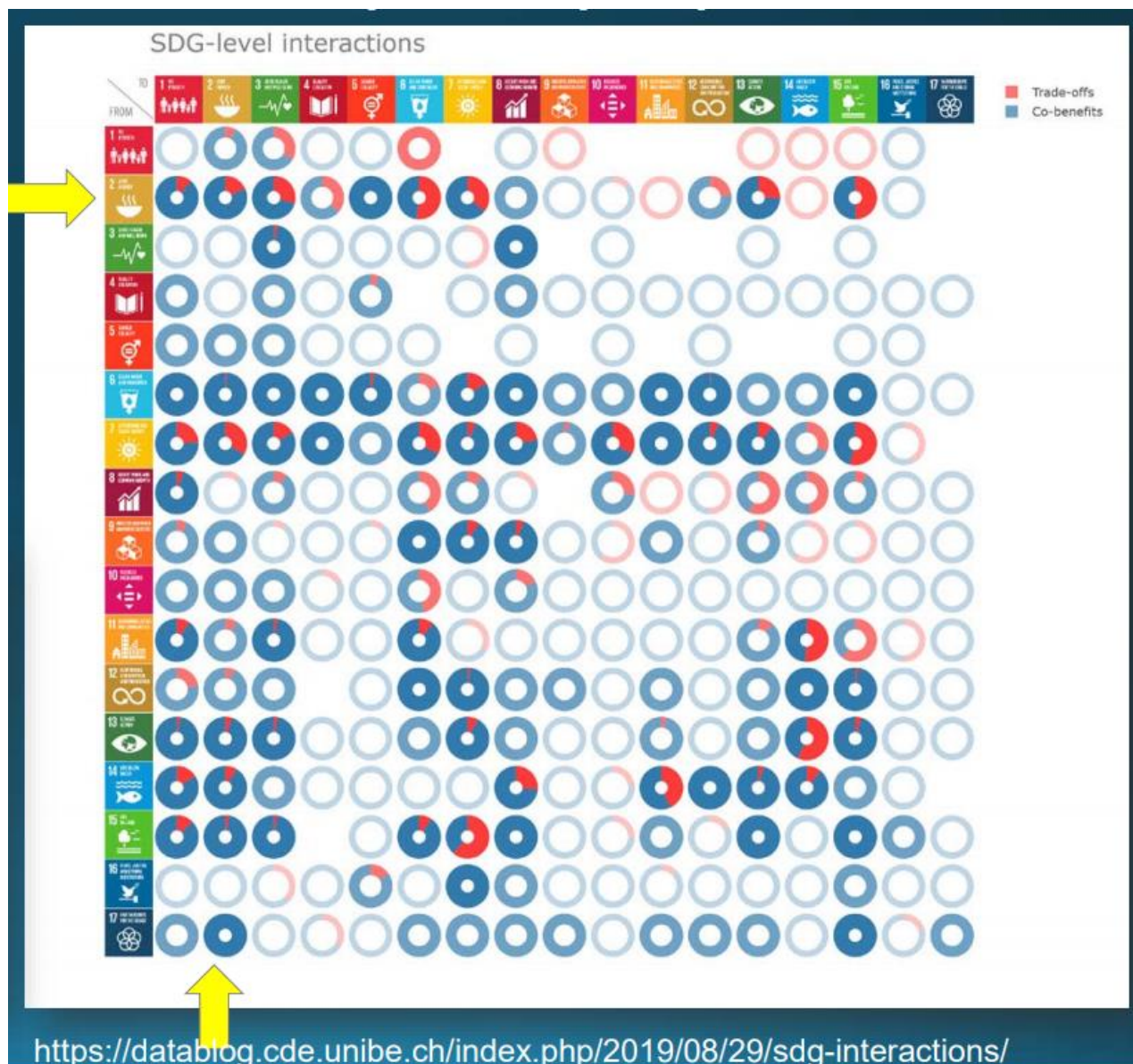


Figure 1: Co-Benefits and Trade-Offs: From Vicious to Virtuous Cycle (Source: GSDR 2019, P.6)

**(Moderator's Reflection:** Figure 1 could be used to support policy making and improve policy coherence for SDG implementation. For example, SDG 6 showed the greatest number co-benefits and the least trade-offs necessary. From a resource allocation point of view, increasing the public investment to ensure universal access to drinking water should be a policy priority for countries who have the lowest ratio of accessibility of clean drinking water. Reducing the probability of water born disease can, for instance, reduce the children's mortality significantly since **2,196 die daily** of diarrhoea (US Department of Health and Human Services, Centre for Disease Control and Prevention, 2021)<sup>16</sup>.

How SDGs can provide some solutions for the root causes of COVID-19?

Although the source of the virus remains unclear, what is known is that rapid urbanization without regard to the environment has invaded the space that animals and plants require (inhibit). The world is

<sup>16</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/healthywater/pdf/global/programs/globaldiarrhea508c.pdf>



creating more opportunities for viruses that live in the animal kingdom to cross over to humankind. The SDGs teaches us to be mindful of our natural environment. Unless we learn to live in harmony and respect of our environment, the Earth, as we have known, will not be there to sustain our next generations.

#### Pathways to transformation

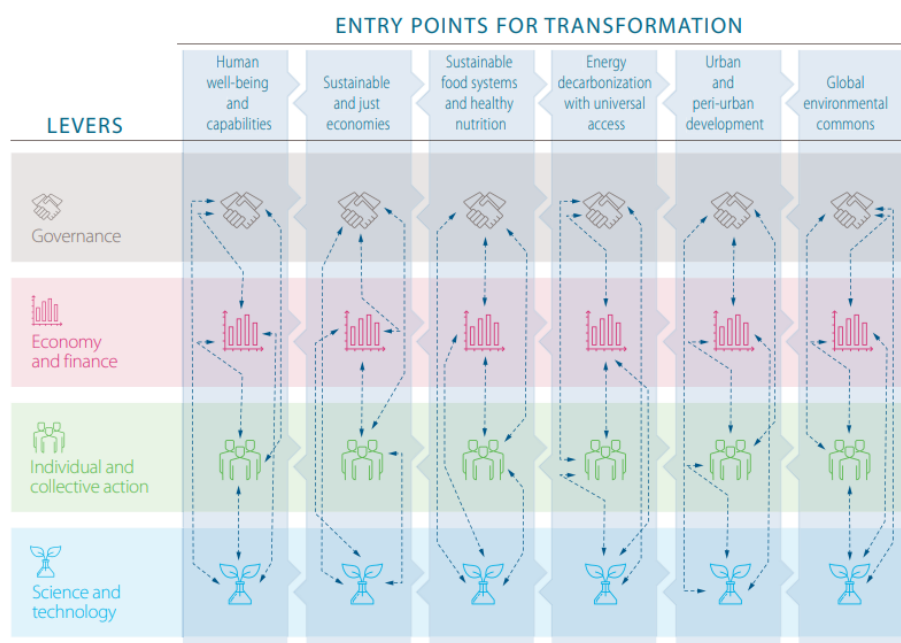


Figure 2: Pathways to transformation (Source: GSDR 2019, P. 26)

**(Moderator's Note:** Pathways are integrated and context specific combinations of levers to achieve transformational change towards sustainable development through the six entry points.)

Poverty is also exacerbating this vulnerability mentioned above. People who are in the lower strata of our societies in all countries are losing jobs, opportunities for children's education, and they are left out in the vaccine rollout or any kind of health care. With COVID-19, it is **critical to pay attention to inequality and poverty that have been intricately related** and mutually exacerbating. Too many people still suffer from living in extreme poverty. The number has decreased for sure since the launching of Millennium Development Goals, but the number is still significant, and it is concerning that the number has increased during the COVID-19 pandemic.

How about enacting the SDG Target 3.b<sup>17</sup> (i.e., TRIPS flexibility) in relation to the current pandemic situation to reduce vaccine inequality?

Inequality must be considered as part of the issue along with access, affordability, and universality. The world community is working together to make sure there is fair and rapid equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines and tests because they were not available in some countries or some parts of countries but

<sup>17</sup> SDG 3.b, "Support the research and development of vaccines and medicines for the communicable and non-communicable diseases that primarily affect developing countries, provide access to affordable essential medicines and vaccines, in accordance with the Doha Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health, which affirms the right of developing countries to use to the full the provisions in the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights regarding flexibilities to protect public health, and, in particular, provide access to medicines for all" <https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal3>

heavily concentrated in the developed countries. Developing countries now have a health crisis on top of their poverty issue or conflicts or war. So, it requires a global effort to help developing poor countries to come out of this. Many international foundations and UN agencies are working globally to correct the situation. Hopefully, these efforts will soon bear fruit and all the members of the global community would come together on this.

Ms. Kim also stressed the importance of paying attention to the mental health issues and suggested that when countries prepare their VNRs, they need to focus on inequality issues in traumatic situations, such as post-pandemic trauma or other natural and manmade disasters. Mental health has kept coming up in the SDG report. In the recent COVID-19 pandemic, mental health issues, in general, have been on the rise in many different countries because human beings are social beings and confinement has prevented people to engage in society, for example, social visits, work, or schools. Prolonged isolation has caused significant mental stress among the population. Domestic violence has been on the rise in different developed and developing countries.

The gender inequality issue is a little different from mental health. It is personally surprising to note that women's research publications went down dramatically throughout the world last year when women participated in the gender science summit. The submission rate for academic journals by women researchers has also gone down. This was also found in developed countries where one would have thought gender inequality was lower. This is one area that could be tracked after the pandemic to see how the pandemic has affected professional women around the world. So, it's not exactly mental health but gender inequality and other inequality issues that are exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

These situations cause not only in their countries mental stress and maladjustments but also in neighbouring countries that could have a spill-over effect across borders. Lastly, Ms. Kim called for intensified global, international cooperation to deal with these global problems.

Will there be an update beyond the 2019 GSDR report?

This global review needs to be produced every 4 years. A new team has been appointed and they are at work. 2023, the next GSDR report will come out. Ms. Kim is certain that the 2033 edition will reflect upon the lessons from the COVID-19 pandemic. Recommendations that were made in the 2019 report will remain valid because the root causes of the sustainability risks and vulnerabilities are still there.

**(Moderator's Reflection:** Figure 2 is helpful in identifying policy responses and strategies intervention. As a decision-making support tool, this matrix suggests when working to improve SDG 3 (horizontal axis), a diagnostic assessment along the four levers of vertical axis listed (governance, economy and finance, individual and collective actions, science and technology) needs to take place in order to decide which levers of the system could be most transformative to press. It is strongly recommended that policy makers and shapers read the GSDR 2019 to achieve deeper understanding of these policy analysis tools presented.)

**Session D1.5: Country Experience: "Digital healthcare in Corona Time – the Case of Saudi Arabia"**

**Speaker:** [Mr. Fayez Al-Talhi](#), Advisor, Sustainable Development Affairs, Ministry of Economy and Planning, Saudi Arabia.

A systemic response to achieving SDG 3 and health equity for all was the strategic direction. The coordinated response among all actors (government, private, and civil society) was the reason behind the success of the Saudi experience.

In Saudi Arabia, the fatality rate due to the COVID-19 pandemic was very low compared to other 20 countries (Figure 3).

COVID -19 The pandemic presents both an enormous challenge and tremendous opportunities for reaching the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

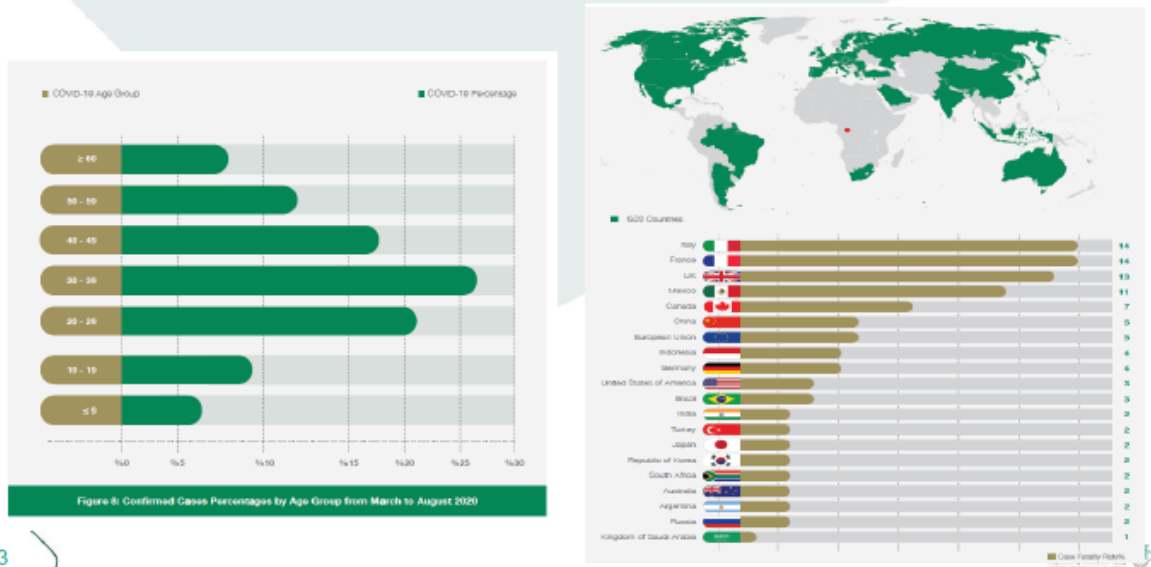


Figure 3: Confirmed Cases in Saudi Arabia by Age Groups and National Comparison (Source: Al-Talhi, 2021, 22<sup>nd</sup> March)

Digitization of healthcare was a major accelerator of government responses to combat the COVID-19 pandemic. The major driver used for digital healthcare was empowering the community and engaging them to respond to the pandemic through social media campaigns or volunteering work to support the government's effort. By utilizing all available technologies, government presented awareness materials in Arabic and other common languages. Hotlines were also in place to answer inquiries, give instructions, and provide medical and psychological consultations on all aspects of the COVID-19 pandemic around the clock. Saudi Arabia also launched additional channels on WhatsApp to reach the community since adoption rate of WhatsApp is high in the country. The government also summarized scientific materials in common languages to disseminate them in a timely manner.

Outputs to date of the digital healthcare interventions were as follows:

- The Ministry of Health held daily press conferences at a fixed time with the participation of official spokesmen from relevant authorities.
- The government sent about 6.6 million text messages to raise awareness about the COVID 19 pandemic with guidelines on how to deal with the virus and prevent its spreading.
- The educational videos reached 150 million views and over 9 million people benefitted from field awareness campaigns.
- There were more than 4 million followers on the Ministry's Twitter account
- Over 2000 employees including physicians and customer service specialists provided services on the 937 hotlines around the clock

*What were the lessons learnt?*



- ✓ Organising daily press conferences confirmed that the Ministry was an ultimate source of reliable information regarding the pandemic. It also showed the extent of coordination between sectors. By using layman's language, government succeeded in reaching all categories of society and blocked all rumours.
- ✓ Responding to the beneficiaries' needs during the pandemic, government developed over the phone medical consultation services and increased the available specialties.
- ✓ The media contributed to lift the spirits of the public through positive messages that they continuously broadcasted despite the spread of the virus in the Kingdom.
- ✓ Following a media protocol as a reference guideline to ensure that public participation and future media campaigns are compatible with the customs and culture of the Kingdom.
- ✓ Applying the best scientific guidelines in communication.
- ✓ Translating educational and scientific materials into the most widespread foreign languages at an early stage of the COVID-19 response.
- ✓ Follow-ups on reaching all categories of society and made plans to target the most difficult to reach groups.
- ✓ Developing call centre systems to meet the tremendous pressure from callers and enhancing these centres with necessary technologies.
- ✓ Intensifying training courses and keeping call centre employees updated about the development of the pandemic.

For many countries that are not able to mobilize the same resources that Saudi Arabia has, what are essential steps to be considered?

Saudi Arabia has invested early in building digital infrastructure and communication technologies. But the essential step behind this success was a centralized committee from all government entities, coordinating all efforts towards protecting people's health and ensuring that the right messages were delivered on time. At the beginning, there were 937 hotlines before digital applications. All countries had at least landlines to provide hotline services (\*). Also, translation in different languages was important. The reach of apps and social media can be utilized. Having said that, Saudi Arabia supports international cooperation efforts in building the right infrastructure and technology transfer as well as technical support.

(\*Many developing countries have limited coverage of landline infrastructure.)

*Among the SDG 3 and its targets, where do you see it as the most challenging area for Saudi Arabia to overcome?*

Mr. Al-Talhi considered the most challenging area was research and development, and innovation. As an emerging economy, Saudi Arabia has ambitions towards knowledge transfer, innovative technologies, and breakthroughs in the medical and biomedical industries. This gap in technologies and knowledge is not only for Saudi Arabia but also for emerging and developing countries.

The second challenge is capacity building. The Kingdom needs to build capacity, achieve policy coherence and policy coordination at the global, national, and regional levels. The Kingdom looks forward to partnering with UN agencies to increase its capacity through transfer of knowledge.

*In the spirit of SDGs “leaving no one behind,” how digital tools could be used to serve stateless people?*

Mr. Al-Talhi stressed the necessity to address the needs of those population. A crowdsourcing or brainstorming session with the private sector or with big companies such as Microsoft, or philanthropists such as Bill Gates foundation could help. With clear business cases and objectives, it is possible to come up with digital solutions by applying blockchain technology or GPS to define their locations. As online tools for telemedicine has become available, a digital initiative for the population could be envisioned.

*Has a useful link been found between universal and preventive health coverage in Saudi Arabia and what could be combined when working in other countries like Yemen where primary health care is needed to contain the pandemic?*

Mr. Al-Talhi thought that Saudi Arabia’s efforts for healthcare across the borders are applied to Yemen as well. In January 2015, the Kingdom pledged 25 million US dollars which was earmarked to a program in Yemen. Since Saudi Arabi is a high-income country and one of the biggest donors, obligations exist to the least developed countries, especially within the MENA region. The Government is open to close coordination and cooperation with UN agencies in Saudi Arabia to support Yemen. The Government is working around the clock with UN agencies and the KSA relief agency in Yemen.

## Day 2, 23<sup>rd</sup> March

### Theme Sessions on SDG-8 Decent Work and Economic Growth

#### Session D2.1: Introduction: Key Issues and Equitable Economic Growth

Presented by [Mr. Raymond Saner](#), Professor, Organisation and International Management, Basle University

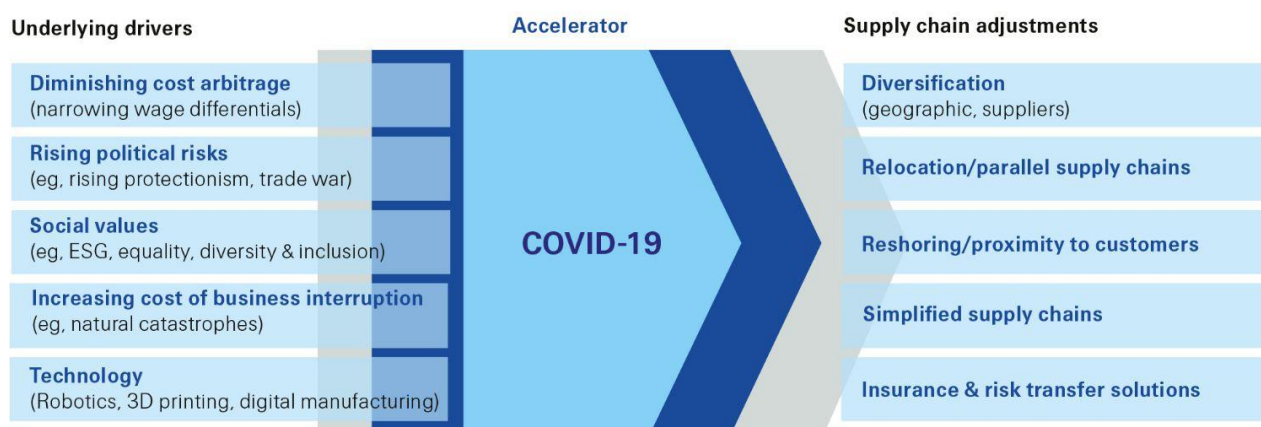
The world is facing a worst economic recession since the great depression in 2020 when 114 million people lost their jobs<sup>18</sup>. The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has also affected 6 billion workers in the informal economy worldwide who risk losing jobs and livelihoods. The purpose of SDG 8 is to promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all. It contains 12 targets.

Job creation and wealth creation in many developing countries, such as Bangladesh, in the past relied on their participation in the global supply chains and value chains which promoted international trade and export. The ongoing pandemic has not affected this particular form of organising global productions, despite the hype in the mass media. As a matter of fact, global supply and value chains have been undergoing disruption and restructuring (Figure 4), but not destruction as assumed. Understanding the role of global supply and value chain in creation of Decent Work is a critical issue when thinking about job creation and equitable economic growth.

---

<sup>18</sup> <https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2021/02/covid-employment-global-job-loss/>

Figure 1: COVID-19 as the accelerator for global supply chain restructuring



Source: Swiss Re Institute

Figure 4: The COVID-19 pandemic accelerated the restructuring of Global Supply Chain  
(Source: Swiss Re Institute, 2020<sup>19</sup>)

The trend toward “inclusive economic growth”, or shared prosperity, increased in 74 or 91 economies for which data was available in the period 2012-2017, according to the World Bank.<sup>20</sup> In 53 of those countries, growth benefited the poorest more than the entire population. Average global shared prosperity (growth in the incomes of the bottom 40 per cent) was 2.3 per cent for 2012-2017.

However, this trend has been affected by the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. The prospect of less inclusive growth is a clear reversal from previous trends. “The COVID-19 pandemic is estimated to push an additional 88 million to 115 million people into extreme poverty this year, with the total rising to as many as 150 million by 2021, depending on the severity of the economic contraction. Extreme poverty, defined as living on less than \$1.90 a day, is likely to affect between 9.1 per cent and 9.4 per cent of the world’s population in 2020, according to the biennial Poverty and Shared Prosperity Report.<sup>21</sup> This would represent a regression to the rate of 9.2 per cent in 2017. Had the pandemic not convulsed the globe, the poverty rate was expected to drop to 7.9 per cent in 2020.” (World Bank, Oct. 7, 2020).

Without effective policy actions, the COVID-19 crisis may trigger **cycles of higher income inequality, lower social mobility** among the vulnerable, and lower resilience to future shocks.

Speakers of today’s session will address these critical issues based on their research, past experiences and recent survey to point to the needs, constraints, realities and alternative models of organising productive forces that could better contribute the progress of SDG 8.

<sup>19</sup> <https://www.swissre.com/media/news-releases/nr-20200910-sigma-6-2020.html>

<sup>20</sup> <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2020/10/07/covid-19-to-add-as-many-as-150-million-extreme-poor-by-2021#:~:text=Extreme%20poverty%20Cpercent20defined%20as%20living,Poverty%20and%20Shared%20Prosperity%20Report>.

<sup>21</sup>

[https://www.google.com/search?q=poverty+and+shared+prosperity+report&source=hp&ei=ilqEYNSoOqS0gwfK9Y7QBg&ifsig=AINFCbYAAAAAYIRomgbZjamKqXu0PNaOYzzG6B\\_XTXyM&oq=Poverty+and+Shared+Prosperity+Report&gs\\_lcp=Cgdn3Mtd2l6EAEYADICCAyAggAMgIIADIGCAAQFhAeMgYIABAWEB5Q-g1Y-g1g-hxoAHAAeACAAUaIAUaSAQExmAeAoAECoAEBggEHZ3dzLXdpeg&scient=gws-wiz](https://www.google.com/search?q=poverty+and+shared+prosperity+report&source=hp&ei=ilqEYNSoOqS0gwfK9Y7QBg&ifsig=AINFCbYAAAAAYIRomgbZjamKqXu0PNaOYzzG6B_XTXyM&oq=Poverty+and+Shared+Prosperity+Report&gs_lcp=Cgdn3Mtd2l6EAEYADICCAyAggAMgIIADIGCAAQFhAeMgYIABAWEB5Q-g1Y-g1g-hxoAHAAeACAAUaIAUaSAQExmAeAoAECoAEBggEHZ3dzLXdpeg&scient=gws-wiz)

## Session D2.2, “Decent Work from a Global Supply Chains’ perspective”

**Speaker:** [Mr. Daniel Vaughan-Whitehead](#), Senior Economist, ILO

Until the 1980s, the clothing and footwear industries - apart from haute couture - were characterized by mass produced standardized styles that did not change much from one season to another. The majority of production of materials and final goods took place relatively close to the end consumers. The United States and many European countries had flourishing TCLF (Textile, Clothing, Leather, Footwear) industries. There were operations also in other countries but generally with own factories and own employees. Business was supply driven, production cycles were predictable, the supplier base was usually regional and relatively stable, and seasonal collections were divided into two collections (spring/summer and autumn/winter).

Since then, the model shifted towards outsourcing with global supply chain (GSC). It allowed saving a lot of costs by outsourcing entire factories, employees, production costs and transportation costs etc. GSC also matched the 'just in time' production strategy popularised by Toyota which aimed at further cost saving by having 'zero stocks' on the production site. This business model also allowed the companies to shift the responsibility onto other actors, such as labour conditions, health and safety, environmental pollution etc.

(Nike was the first major player that championed the no-factory manufacturing of sport footwear around the world. Supported by the advance logistic management and advanced information technology, companies like Li Fang International Ltd., such business models proliferated).

Different actors are engaged in the GSC, which involve producers of the final products, intermediary products, transportation, logistic management, and other high value-added services, such as legal advice, financing, marketing to retailers, distributors and eventually the end consumers.

The benefits sharing among these actors however have been skewed in favour of the “trading firms” who are engaged in two-way trade by importing and exporting (and defined as global value chain firms). These GVC companies tend to be situated at the top end of the GVC and capture almost 80 per cent of the total trade which account for 15 per cent of all trade firms on average.

“Global value chains (GVCs) powered the surge of international trade after 1990 and now account for almost half of all trade. This shift enabled an unprecedented economic convergence: poor countries grew rapidly and began to catch up with richer countries.” (The World Bank, 2021). Participation in global supply chains grew at an average of 4.5 per cent annually between 2005 and 2010, and from 35 per cent in 1970s to over 50 per cent in 2015. The same level remains in 2019. According to the World Bank, one per cent increase in GVCs participation is estimated to boost per capita income growth by more than one per cent, about twice as much as standard trade (World Development Report 2020, p.1).<sup>22</sup> The number of global supply chain-related jobs increased by 157 million or 53 per cent between 1995 and 2013 (from 296 million to 453 million), resulting in a total of 453 million global supply chain-related jobs in 2013.

While GVCs have contributed greatly to employment creation, economic growth and allowing poor countries to catch up, cases in points are China and Bangladesh. However, at what conditions, especially the textile, clothing, and footwear production sectors (TCLF)? In general, TCLF created many low paying jobs with poor working conditions for women. There is a blatant neglect of the basic working conditions

---

<sup>22</sup> Trading for Development in the Age of Global Value Chains, <https://www.worldbank.org/en/publication/wdr2020>

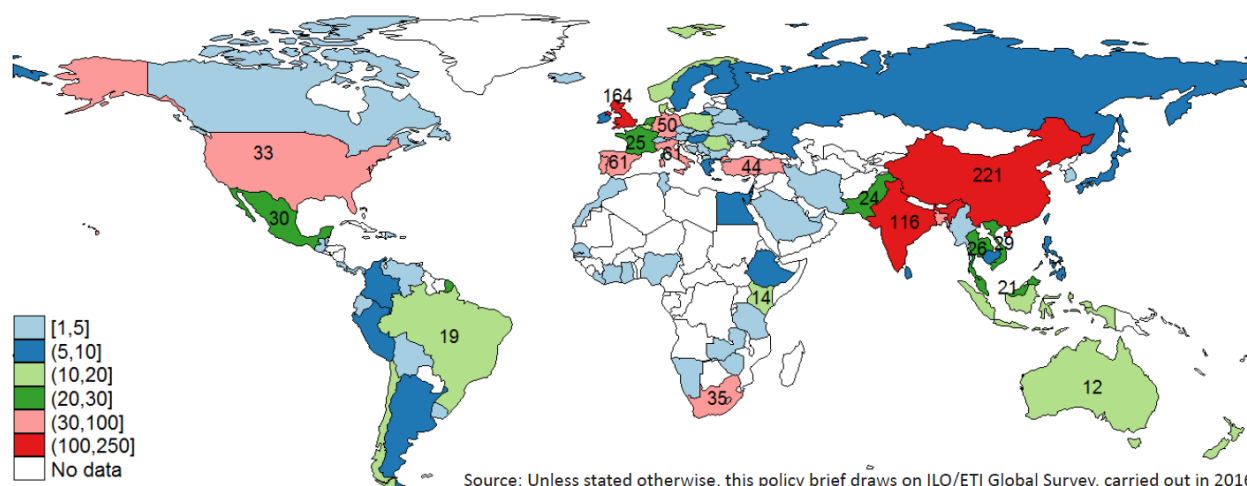
with these GVCs which was tragically revealed during the Rana Plaza Accident<sup>23</sup>. Such vulnerability is further exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic crisis that is unfolding now.

To summarise this complex business model of GVC, the following problems exist in this “space of non-responsibility”:

# 1. The Decent work deficits

Results from the ILO Global Surveys in GSCs<sup>24 25</sup> (see Figure 5 for sample size and country of origin shown) 1) Problems of legal compliance on number of working hours and overtime payments, 2) High intensity at work with a number of accidents at work (Health and safety issues), 3) often also noncompliance regarding minimum wage payment despite the low minimum wage of the country, 4) Rudimentary pay systems like piece rates, 5) Lack of social dialogue and sometimes even no acceptance of trade unions. These are all non-compliance with the ILO Basic Labour Conventions (see Figure 6).

**Figure 1. Number of suppliers in the Global Survey, by country, 2016**



**Figure 5: Mapping the Suppliers in the ILO Global Survey on Purchasing practices and working conditions in global supply chains, 2017)**

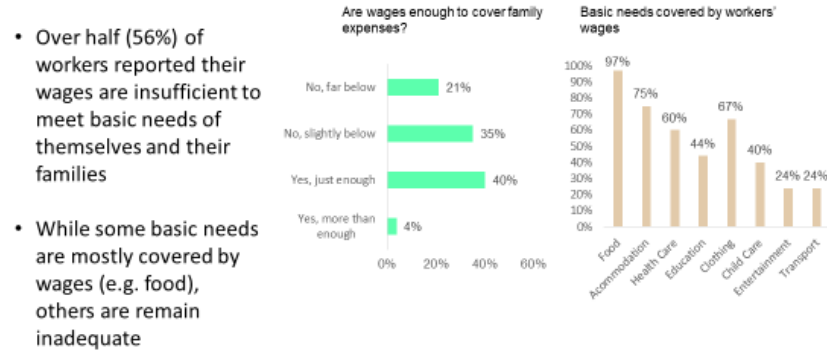
(Note, Unpredictable working hours, coupled with piece rate, or below minimum wage paid by the employer render the need for the countries to consider minimum social protection policy regarding SDG 8).

<sup>23</sup> [https://www.ilo.org/global/topics/geip/WCMS\\_614394/lang--en/index.htm](https://www.ilo.org/global/topics/geip/WCMS_614394/lang--en/index.htm)

<sup>24</sup> [https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed\\_protect/---protrav/---travail/documents/publication/wcms\\_556336.pdf](https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_protect/---protrav/---travail/documents/publication/wcms_556336.pdf)

<sup>25</sup> [https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed\\_mas/---eval/documents/publication/wcms\\_722176.pdf](https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_mas/---eval/documents/publication/wcms_722176.pdf)

## A business model that does not ensure coverage of basic needs and fair wages



Conditions of Work and Employment (TRAVAIL)

Social Protection Sector

Figure 6: Decent Work Deficit expressed in Wages  
(Source: Presentation from Vaugh-Whitehead, 2021)

### 2. Unequal redistribution of benefits along the supply chains

Power disparity often shows in the purchasing practices since most of the suppliers tend to be SMEs (see Figure 7). Both affected the wage level within for example the TCLF sector (Table 8).

The redistribution of value addition for a T-shirt looks like the following: 1.02 per cent of retailing price goes to the producer, while 1.82 per cent of the margin goes to the retailer.

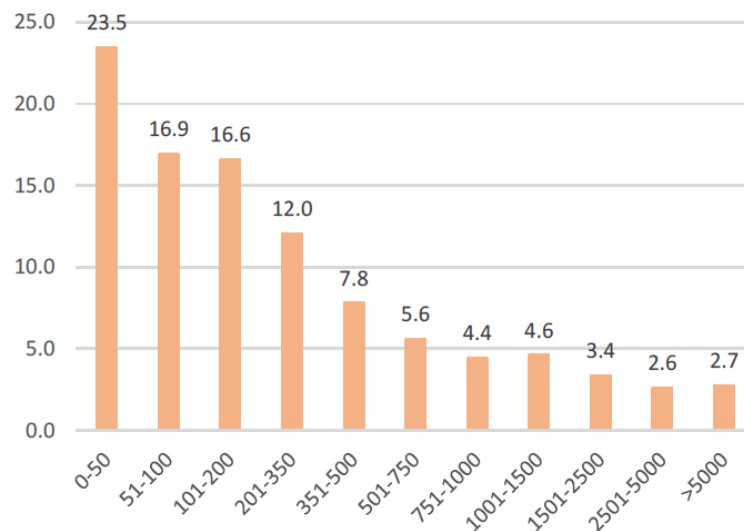


Figure 7: Suppliers by Number of Employees (in Percentage)  
(Source: ILO Global Survey Results, 2017)

The redistribution of value addition for a T-shirt looks like the following: 1.02 per cent of retailing price goes to the producer, while 1.82 per cent of the margin goes to the retailer.

Purchasing practices that have significant impact on monthly wages were found as following:

Frequently Observed Purchasing Practices	Impact on Monthly Wage
Price offered below cost	Reducing 10.1 per cent
Inaccurate technical specifications	Reducing by 12 per cent
Inaccurate order forecasts	Reducing by 11 per cent
Orders with insufficient lead times	Increasing by 6.3 per cent

Table 1: Impact of Purchasing Practices on Monthly Wages  
(Source: Presentation from Vaughan-Whitehead, 2021)

Mr. Vaughan-Whitehead observed that the effect of the pandemic has been keenly felt in the producing countries. Already, partial or complete shutdown of thousands of factories in producing countries happened, with millions of factory workers losing their job without legally-mandated severance pay or minimum social protection or safety net. In Bangladesh, for example, where 46 per cent of suppliers reported that all or most of their already or almost entirely completed orders had been cancelled by their buyers, while 58 per cent of factories surveyed reported to have shutdown most of their operations. These examples illustrate the extreme fragility of a system based on buyers being able to stop or shift operations from one day to the other. However, there is often little recourse since many of the suppliers surveyed (average 35 per cent) had only unwritten contracts.

### 3. Sustainability Deficit

The GVC or GSC business model are not sustainable at global or country level. Enterprise wage developments especially along supply chain are not sustainable either since these developments neither support minimum nor living wage, which contribute to the widening gaps of SDGs. Therefore, there is an urgent need to look at the GSC debate within the sustainability logic in order to promote responsible business conducts both by the buyers and suppliers.

Mr. Vaughan-Whitehead concluded by saying that sustainability requires effective institutions, changing business mentalities and practices, and responsibilities of different actors. The margins exist within supply chains. Profits before the pandemic were amazing due to this outsourcing model but change after the crisis is happening. Brands are moving away from the zero stocks operational strategy and are ready to invest in storages/stocks again. This would mean reshoring, parallel supply chains or other redistribution. Sustainable social practices (such as living wage) could be funded through a more equal redistribution of growth and benefits sharing. International community should be mobilized (UN, ILO etc.).

## Session D2.3: “Build Better Futures: Experiences of Youth Employment in Nigeria”

**Speaker:** [Mr. Joshua Alade](#), Project Coordinator, Nigerian Youth SDGs Network

Mr. Alade pointed out that the youth bonus which the world enjoys today with more than 1.5 billion young people aged below 24. Coupled with the fight to end climate change and achieving the sustainable development goal, the youth might harness the growing trend toward green economy and digitalisation to create economic opportunities. Being savvy with the use of social media and internet, entrepreneurial initiative could be launched.

Yet, in reality, youth employment remains challenging. Policies concerning youth employment did not correspond with the dynamic demands of today’s youth population who are attracted to an urban lifestyle. Vocational education tends to focus on agriculture and other rural occupations that youth are not



motivated to engage. **Better aligned youth employment and training schemes** are needed to empower the youth in achieving employability in a non-traditional setting where urbanisation continued unabated.

The informal economy is rampant. Policies are needed to harness these entrepreneurial undertakings by the youth. Transformation of the **informal economy** into formalised MSMEs that could grow will be one way of supporting young people in developing their business acumen so that their informal business can thrive and offer decent work to others.

Jobs are available in the labour market. Yet, there is a **skill mismatch** of the young people with labour market demands. Without addressing the relevance of the school curricula and learning outcomes at different educational levels, up to the tertiary educational system, the supply side approach will not be able to solve the lack of demands for the graduates from different levels of education.

*What has been done or needs to be done to overcome these challenges?*

Mr. Alade suggested the following remedies:

- 1) Ensuring accountability and transparency in policies addressing decent work for youth,
- 2) Investment in basic infrastructure development, such as energy supply, to support digital transformation and green economy and services,
- 3) Ensuring work safety nets for the youth,
- 4) Addressing issues of inequality of development.

*What are the lessons to be learned for Nigeria and for other countries?*

- 1) Government alone cannot create jobs – For example, **Private sector in partnership** with government may foster training opportunities and apprenticeships for pre-employment training and placement.
- 2) Investment in digital infrastructure to create services related jobs.
- 3) Encouraging social entrepreneurship as a tool to build back better so that a new business model in lined with the decent work agenda.
- 4) Ensuring that young people are at the centre of policy formulation and implementation regarding SDGs.

## Session D2.4: “Social Economy and the Power of Local Communities: A case from Trentino Region”

**Speaker:** [Mr. Gianluca Salvatori](#), CEO, Euricse, Italy

A case example of adopting a social economy model and harnessing the power of local community for sustainable development was presented.

The journey of Trentino Region, Italy (Figure 8), started in the late 19<sup>th</sup> Century. Between 1870 to 1890, thousands of people emigrated to Americas for a better future. One century later, the economic performance of Trentino region in terms of GDP per capita at Euro 38,706 outperformed respectively the average income of Italy at Euro 29,645 per capita and of EU 27 countries at Euro 28,639 per capita.



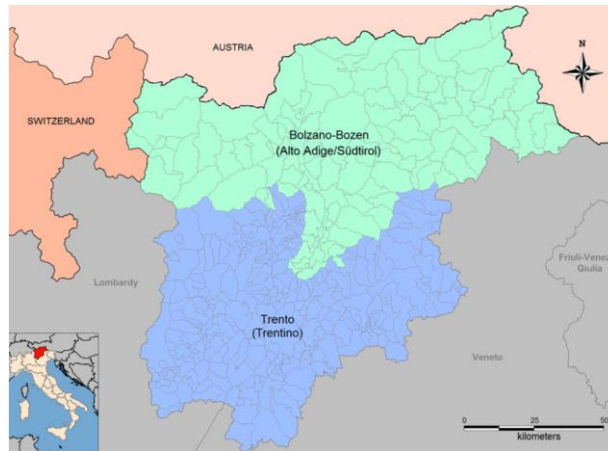


Figure 8: Map of Trentino Region, Italy.

The driving force behind this success story is the consumer cooperative movement and cooperative bank that were started in 1890 and 1892. The first wine producers' cooperative was formed in 1893. By 1895, 50 cooperatives were up and running that consisted of 20 consumer cooperatives, 13 cooperative banks, 6 agricultural cooperative and 3 wine producer cooperatives.

Between 1885 to 1898, a regional governance architecture was developed. First, Trentino Federation of Cooperatives was established in 1895, followed by *Cassa Centrale*, a 2-level consortium of banks in 1898 and SAIT, a 2-level consortium of consumer coops, in 1898. These steps completed the formation of an **institutional infrastructure** for a viable social economy. Objectives of these institutions were to pursue social and economic development on marginal land, to offset the distance from large markets by joining forces and making a qualitative leap in production and marketing methods. To compensate for the location weakness and other constraints, the creation of these cooperatives formed a movement with a unified representation in the marketplace.

Today, Trentino is known as a cooperative district. It is one of the European regions with the highest cooperative density (524,000 inhabitants and 270,000 cooperative members belonging to 536 cooperatives), with 16,000 employees representing 14 per cent of employment and 15 per cent of gross domestic product of Italy. Total net assets are worth 2.6 billion euros.

Besides its original sectors, today a wide variety of economic sectors are organized in a cooperative structure, such as credit, agriculture, consumption, energy production, culture and education (see Figure 9). Cooperatives from the same sector found **consortia to share and coordinate** activities, such as start-ups, purchases, distribution, marketing, research, and innovation.

The Trentino coop experience was summarised by Mr. Salvatori as follows:

1. responded to a critical, frail situation by mobilizing across the history resources and energy that would have otherwise been scattered or fragmented
2. showed the ability to adapt to new social needs
3. intrinsically linked to local development: more than just economic development
4. created a strong connection between autonomy of self-governance, enforced by the cooperative movement, and the public institutional framework within the existing political arrangement.

Over the last decade, cooperatives or the social economy model has shown its resilience by the number of employment opportunities offered in the region. The **cultural fit** between a cooperative movement of self-governance (societal) and the political arrangement of an autonomous region within Italy (public administration) has proven to be the key driver of the cooperative success.

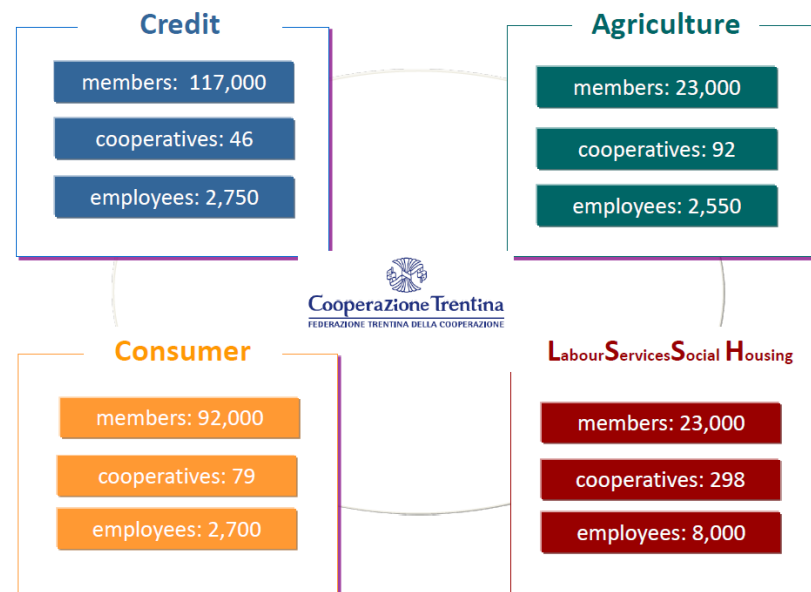


Figure 9: Landscape of Cooperatives in Trentino  
(Source: Salvatori, 2021)

Mr. Salvatori concluded by summing up both the economic and social impact of cooperative and social economy in Trentino. Economic impact of cooperatives can be measured by:

- Reducing market failures and strengthening the competitiveness of markets
- keeping the production of goods and services close to the needs of local people
- long-term perspective of growth
- more fair distribution of income

Socially, the following impact can be attributed to the cooperatives and the movement:

- addressing social problems affecting local communities or stakeholders in need
- strongly rooted in a “collective awareness” (a sense of “we”)
- enhancing social capital
- solving problems that would be otherwise in charged by public sector
- often involving disadvantaged people (more inclusive).

#### How to assess the role of trust in the Trentino region for the formation of cooperatives?

Trust is a chicken-and-egg question. It is quite evident that in some areas, like mountain areas, trust is a basic need for survival when all the natural elements push in the direction of developing trust because alone one cannot survive without mutual assistance. There is a natural component in the Trentino case, pushing people towards a more effective and stronger sense of trust and solidarity. This is not necessarily the case in other Italian regions. In south and southern regions of Italy, there is less trust and less

cooperative movements. So, the two things go together, they are intertwined. It has to do with the conditions of the context and the ability and social innovations to respond to those conditions.

### Day 3, 24<sup>th</sup> March

#### Theme Sessions on SDG-12 Ensuring Sustainable Consumption and Production Pattern

##### Opening remarks

**Mr. Jean D'Aragon**, Senior Sustainable Development Expert, UNOSD

Opening remarks were made by *Mr. Jean D'Aragon*. After welcoming distinguished speakers and audiences of the webinar and introducing the moderator of the session Ms. Lichia Saner-Yiu, President of the Centre for Socio-Eco-Nomic Development.

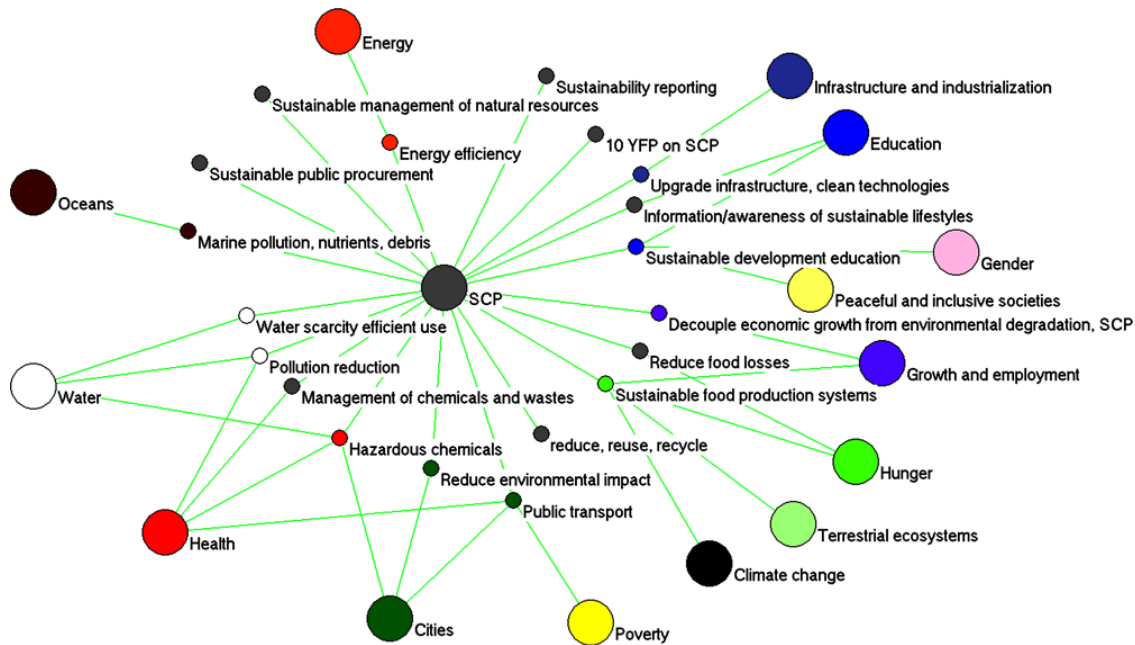
##### Session D3.1 SDG 12: Ensure sustainable Consumption and Production Pattern with special focus on Circular economy: Critical Issues

**Speaker:** **Ms. Lichia Saner-Yiu**, President of the Centre for Socio-Eco-Nomic Development.

Since the first Earth Summit in 1992, sustainable consumption and production (SCP) has been identified as a key ingredient of sustainable development paths. “The political difficulty of addressing SCP issues, as well as its weak institutional anchoring due to its cross-cutting and systemic nature and lack of grounding of SCP considerations in other sector policies, have contributed to this outcome” (Victor, 2008; Jackson, 2010; United Nations, 2011; Le Blanc, 2015). In the network analysis and mapping of the SDGs and targets, Le Blanc (2015) showed how SCP (SDG 12) and inequality (SDG 10) provided “critical connections” among other goals and make the SDGs more tightly linked as a network.<sup>26</sup> Altogether, there are **14 other goals connected with SDG 12**, SCP, which make SDG12 the goal with the highest number of connections. In other words, intervention on SDG 12 can have the greatest number of co-benefits with other SDGs. Figure 10 illustrates this network mapping with SCP/SDG 12 at its core.

---

<sup>26</sup>“Towards integration at last? The sustainable development goals as a network of targets”, No. 141.  
[https://www.un.org/esa/desa/papers/2015/wp141\\_2015.pdf](https://www.un.org/esa/desa/papers/2015/wp141_2015.pdf)



Note: SDG 12 is denoted by SCP: Sustainable Consumption and Production

Figure 10: Network Analysis of SDG 12 vis-à-vis other SDGs and Targets

(Source: Le Blanc, D. (2015).

Current consumption and production patterns are rendering the world's natural resources unsustainable. The **"Earth Overshoot Day"** marks the date when humanity's demand for ecological resources and services in a given year exceeds what Earth can regenerate in that year. This deficit is being exacerbated by liquidating stocks of ecological resources and accumulating waste – primarily carbon dioxide – in the environment. Earth Overshoot Day 2020 fell on August 22 while in 2021 the overshoot day will be May 11.

Liquidating stocks of ecological resources can be seen in the decline of wildlife since 1970. Using 1970 as the baseline, the Living Planet Index (measure of biodiversity) showed a decline of wildlife by 68 per cent, an alarming rate in such short time span (BBC, 2020<sup>27</sup>; WWF Living Planet Report 2020<sup>28</sup>)

WWF's Living Planet Report reveals two-thirds decline in wildlife populations on average since 1970 (For precision, the population sizes of mammals, birds, fish, amphibians, and reptiles have seen an average drop of 68 per cent since 1970.) The Report also confirms that causes of this alarming decline include the same environmental destruction – such as deforestation, unsustainable agriculture, and the illegal wildlife trade – which contributes to **virus outbreaks** like the COVID-19 pandemic. Urgent actions to set nature on a path to recovery 2030 by ending the destruction of natural habitats and reforming our food system.

In this context, the approach of a circular economy model will be vital to the global effort in reducing consumption of resources and reduction of waste due to personal use and/or production patterns. In the GSDR 2019, the independent group of scientists pointed out the negative trend toward circularity of resources in countries who promoted circularity of materials and waste. In some other countries, such practices are totally behind.

<sup>27</sup> <https://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-54091048>

<sup>28</sup> <https://livingplanet.panda.org/en-us/>

## Session D3.2 “Circular Economy means sustainable use”

**Speaker:** [Mr. Walter Stahel](#), Prof. Em., Founder-Director of the Product-Life Institute, and Author of *The Circular Economy* (2019) and *The Performance Economy* (2006)

The traditional economic model was linear, and throughput oriented in producing consumable goods, for instance, food and fodder, energy, water, drinks etc. Circular economy is analogous to a “bath tub” where emphasis is placed on the re-use of known stock in terms of quality and quantity by creating durable goods. Thus, the origins of circularity are: 1) Nature: water, wood, wool, leather, food, stones and minerals; 2) good husbandry from re-using, make do-or do without; 3) infrastructure that is designed for durability.

Waste is man-made. Nature is circular by evolution. There is no waste. Used resources become food for other organisms. Early man-made objects from natural materials and their use governed by good husbandry or “sufficiency”. Discarded objects are within nature’s circularity. But eventually absorption capacity became questionable. The “biocycle” of the circular economy requires sustainable production and consumption by sustainable use of natural resources, efficient harvest management, waste prevention and smart consumption management by avoiding storage and promoting appropriate use.

Yet, anthropogenic objects and materials of modern time unleashed by “scientific progresses” are synthetic and not easily biodegradable. Therefore, it is the producer responsibility at the end of their use to “absorb” or dispose. The man-made or **anthropogenic mass** (waste) has doubled roughly every 20 years. In 2020, it surpassed all global living biomass of about 1.1 **teratonnes**. Today, on average, anthropogenic mass equal to more than the earth’s body weight is produced weekly. Additional new production of man-made waste is unsustainable.

**Transformation of existing production cycles, or tech-cycles, is the only solution.** The objective of circular economy is the sustainable use of materials and objects to maintain the quantity and quality of various forms of capital, i.e., natural, human cultural, financial, manufactured and immaterial. Manufactured capital consists of synthetic materials and man-made objects; immaterial capital includes embodied water and CO<sub>2</sub> or liability. As the image of a bath tub, the industrial economy must maintain “**flow**” to sustain its viability.

**Circular economy takes different forms in different societal contexts** and differs between region. Developing countries must be able to build up stocks of infrastructure and objects (fill the bathtub). Industrial countries must repair, and upgrade qualitatively, not replace, the existing stocks. All nations can develop circular sciences (circular energy, chemistry, metallurgy), while regional workshops exploit local skill pools to create local jobs through **virtuous loops**.

**Circular economy is about using regional stocks in loops.** Solutions can be found through the following loops and innovations:

- Close the liability loops, for example, through **Full Producer Liability**<sup>29</sup>, an approach beyond what is commonly known as Extended Producer Responsibility, ERP, which requires corresponding institutional infrastructure<sup>30, 31, 32</sup>)

---

29

[https://www.researchgate.net/publication/228229780\\_European\\_Perspectives\\_on\\_Producers'\\_Liability\\_Direct\\_Producers'\\_Liability\\_and\\_the\\_Sellers'\\_Right\\_of\\_Redress\\_-\\_Comparative\\_Report](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/228229780_European_Perspectives_on_Producers'_Liability_Direct_Producers'_Liability_and_the_Sellers'_Right_of_Redress_-_Comparative_Report)

<sup>30</sup> <https://www.oecd.org/env/tools-evaluation/extendedproducerresponsibility.htm>

<sup>31</sup> [https://d2ouvy59p0dg6k.cloudfront.net/downloads/2019\\_wwf\\_epr\\_legal\\_framework\\_analysis\\_vf.pdf](https://d2ouvy59p0dg6k.cloudfront.net/downloads/2019_wwf_epr_legal_framework_analysis_vf.pdf)

<sup>32</sup> <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0959652615008641>

- Sell objects and molecules as a **service**, for example, **UNIDO's chemical leasing initiative**<sup>33</sup>
- Extend the service-life of objects through reuse, repair, remanufacture, upgrade to create local jobs, prevent CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and waste
- Exploit sufficiency to create more from less.

The difference between producer responsibility and producer liability is that producer responsibility is something that will be dealt with in the sustainability report of companies. Producer liability is that this will appear in the financial statements of the company. In the financial statements, producer liability appears as a liability - as something that the company owes to their financial investors. Without any liability, companies cannot list an environmental cost estimate, nor a maturity date, because they don't know when they will have to be repaid. So that's why Mr. Stahel stresses the importance to extend producer responsibility to full producer liability. Then, companies will immediately start to change, because they don't want to keep these liabilities on their balance sheet.

One of the societal benefits of the Circular Economy is that product-life extension creates **local jobs and** prevents waste. An example is the running costs of a Toyota Corona Mk II 1969 shifting from the manufacturer to local labour over 30-year period (see Figure 11). The labour constituted 18 per cent of the total running costs of a Toyota Corona Mk II in 1969. By 1999, labour costs became 48 of the total. It means that extending the life span of a car would contribute to local economy by greater demand for local services. One of the key economic benefits of a circular economy.



Figure 11: Running Costs of a 30-year Old Toyota (Source: Stahel, 2021)

Mr. Stahel made the following **policy recommendations** to facilitate the Circular Economy Transition:

- Abolish labour taxes on workers active in maintaining natural, human, cultural assets,
- Favour public procurement of systems' performance, not products (e.g., objects as services),
- Promote vocational training for repair and maintenance workers, and creation of local repair and second-hand shops,
- Promote research into circular sciences and service-life extension innovation.

<sup>33</sup> <https://www.unido.org/our-focus-safeguarding-environment-resource-efficient-and-low-carbon-industrial-production/chemical-leasing>



### (Moderator's Reflection)

A case study from Italy in its effort to achieve circular economy is illustrated in these three stages of development in Figure 12 below. An ecological approach is needed in mapping potential actors in a supply chain and the local capacities for innovation when governments want to broker and/or steer the emergence of circular economy in different sectors.



Figure 12: the circular economy transition in Italy (Source: Ghisellini & Ulgiati, 2020<sup>34</sup>)

#### Q: What is delinking? A few examples?

Delinking is a concept that can be applied at different levels of an eco-system. From delinking the cause and effect of broken instruments to the waste dump, to remanufacturing of base material such as plastics.

At the system level, delinking or decoupling of solid waste is a primary driver of a circular economy in urban areas. Solid waste management is arguably the most important municipal service and serves as a prerequisite for other municipal actions. Failure in waste management could have implications beyond managing the water and natural resources, but also result in negative effects on public health and on the sustainability of the urban economy. As the world moves toward greater urbanisation with 68 per cent of the world population expected to live in urban territories by 2050, how to manage the municipal solid waste needs to be high on the urban development agenda both as waste for disposal, but at the same time as an important resource to recycle and to reuse which contributes to the transition to a circular economy. Delinking could serve as an entry point to think about transition to a circular economy.

Edge technology has been developed to recycle some of the most commonly used material in modern life, for example, the plastics which are not easily biodegradable and causing major pollution in the ocean and on land. Nylon or engineered plastics that are polymasses being polymerized (i.e. combined chemically to produce a very large chainlike or network molecule), then broken down into pure monomers for reusing. A pure monomer means without any of the additives which could be harmful for human health when reused often. However, polymerisation cannot be applied to cheap plastics. Only edge engineering plastics should be recycled because they can live in a circular chemistry. A lot of research is going into developing new monomers that can then be reused.

Another example is recycled steel. A small amount of copper is contained in steel. Every time steel is recycled, this copper accumulates. Once the copper content has reached 3 per cent, steel cannot any longer be used for high-performance applications. But through remanufacturing, steel can be reused for

<sup>34</sup> <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0959652619332305>

much longer time. Currently the biggest consumer of base materials (cement, gravel, steel just to name a few) is the construction industry. This sector is also a major producer of waste when demolishing older houses, buildings and infrastructures. Progress has been made in reusing construction materials, particularly concrete, whose production leaves a substantial environmental footprint. While steel recovered from reinforced concrete structures could be reused for other purposes, crushed concrete aggregates can be integrated together with natural aggregates into new concrete or used as gravel in and around new structures. So, besides reducing the need for natural aggregate extraction this also helps reduce pressure on landfills, where concrete waste used to end up in the past. This whole process is called “delinking”.

(Moderator’s addition of examples)

There has been a general trend regarding average municipal solid waste generation (MSW) correlating to the increasing the nominal Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of a region or country. According to a World Bank study (Hoorweg & Bhada-Tata, 2012)<sup>35</sup>, the amount of municipal solid waste (MSW) has been growing faster than the rate of urbanisation. In 2012, it was estimated that about 3 billion urban residents were generating 1.2 kg per person per day (1.3 billion tonnes per year) in contrast to 2.9 billion residents who generated about 0.64 kg of MSW per person per day (0.68 billion tonnes per year) in 2002. The same report predicted that by 2025 this will likely increase to 4.3 billion urban residents generating about 1.42 kg/capita/day of municipal solid waste (2.2 billion tonnes per year). Existing solutions for solid waste treatment, such as incineration, land fill and exporting waste material to the garbage disposals in developing countries, have caused secondary environmental, social and health problems. Policies which incentivise the reuse of waste materials make good sense.

Delinking economic growth, urbanisation of population and the generation of increasing volume of MSW would also make sense. Such efforts could be the driver for social and technological solutions. Substituting glass, metal or other materials by plastics in packaging has slowed down the MSW generation. Research in the US found that growth of plastic waste significantly outpaced that of municipal solid waste (MSW) generation from 1960 to 2013 at a rate of 84 times to 2.9 times. Substituting plastics made also an impact of overall 42 per cent reduction by weight and by volume in municipal solid waste (MSW) from 1960-2013 (Tsiamis, Torres & Castaldi, 2018)<sup>36</sup> and achieved the desired delinking effect of MSW generation and increased GDP.

*Q: In our country we have issues with the production cycle stemming from drought and severe rainfall events leading to scarcity and gluts. Utilising some of these methods would significantly smooth out supply side issues but how affordable are these approaches for developing countries?*

Mr. Stahel: Yes, there are true overarching resources that I did not specifically mentioned. One is water. During periods without water, there is no life and food. The other one is people. Without people, there is no economy and no society. So, before everything we should look after, human capital and natural capital, especially water. We shouldn’t waste water and we shouldn’t waste human labour! That is why society should give people preferences in employing them in production activities. This is what the circular economy does on the local scale.

We should be very careful with the way we deal with water. For example: Cotton growing. We should tell people that a pair of jeans requires 11 tons of water; from which 10 tons to produce cotton and 1 ton to produce the jeans. We should avoid water wastage. So, if people doubled the service life of a pair of jeans, they preserved 11 tons of water.

---

<sup>35</sup> <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/17388>

<sup>36</sup> <https://plastics.americanchemistry.com/Plastics-Decoupling-Waste-and-Growth.pdf>



There are also what called the “product resources”. So, we have to start to measure these resources that are later embodied in product objects and tell the user who buys these products that by preserving the service life of these objects, or buy second hand products, we can also save water.

### Session D3.3: “Sustainable practice of waste management towards a circular economy - the Korean experience”

**Speaker:** [Mr. Seung-Whee Rhee](#), Professor, Kyonggi University, Republic of Korea

As Korea is poor in natural resources and heavy energy-consuming society, it has been developing recycling technology for the past 30 years. In 2018, the “Framework Act on Resources Circulation toward Establishing a Resource-Circulating Society” (FARC) was enforced to promote recycling and “transform the mass production-oriented and mass-producing economic structure into a much more sustainable and efficient resource-circulating one at a fundamental level” (Ministry of Environment & Korea Environment Institute, 2016).<sup>37</sup>

A business case can be made for this transformation. For example, the Republic of Korea imported 93.7 per cent of primary energy (\$ 145.9 billion) due to minimal natural energy and resources in 2018 (Korea Energy Economics Institute, Statistics, 2020). The total cost of imports in 2018 in Korea was \$ 535.2 billion, of which imported raw material was \$ 279 billion representing 52 per cent of the total imports (Korea Statistical Information Service, 2020). The generation amount of waste in Korea increased from 346,669 tons per day in 2007 to 446,102 tons per day in 2018, representing a waste increase of 26.8 per cent during that period. Reducing the raw material imports and domestic waste generation are the dual drivers for the circular economy. The side benefits are reduction of greenhouse gas emission besides savings from consumption.

Mr. Rhee mentioned seven elements of the circular economy (Figure 12). (Note: Incorporating digital technology is part of the digital revolution of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Yet, digitalisation is not an absolute must for developing countries or territory to start a waste management programme with recycle and reuse waste materials in mind. Instead, prioritising and classification of waste materials to be recycled, public education, provision of convenient collection points for recycling and incentivise businesses to participate are some of the initial steps to be put in place.)

---

<sup>37</sup> <https://www.greengrowthknowledge.org/national-documents/introduction-framework-act-resource-circulation-toward-establishing-resource>

## The 7 key elements of the Circular Economy








Type	Content
 Design for the future	○ To use the right materials, to design for appropriate lifetime and to design for extended future use.
 Incorporate digital technology	○ Track and optimize resource use and strengthen connections between supply chain actors through digital, online platforms.
 Preserve & Extend What's Already made	○ While resources are in-use, maintain, repair and upgrade them to maximize their lifetime and give them a second life through take back strategies when applicable.
 Prioritize regenerative resources	○ Ensure renewable, reusable, non-toxic resources are utilized as materials and energy in an efficient way.
 Use waste as a resource	○ Utilize waste streams as a source of secondary resources and recover waste for reuse and recycling.
 Rethink the business model	○ Consider opportunities to create greater value and align incentives through business models that build on the interaction between products and services.
 Collaborate to create joint value	○ Work together throughout the supply chain, internally within organizations and with the public sector to increase transparency and create joint value.

Figure 12: Key Elements of Circular Economy (Source: Rhee, 2021)

The circular economy is a model of production and consumption, which involves 3Rs - reducing, reusing, and recycling. Performance of circular economy concerning waste management contributes to the SDG 12 but also to six other SDGs (7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13) (details see Figure 13)

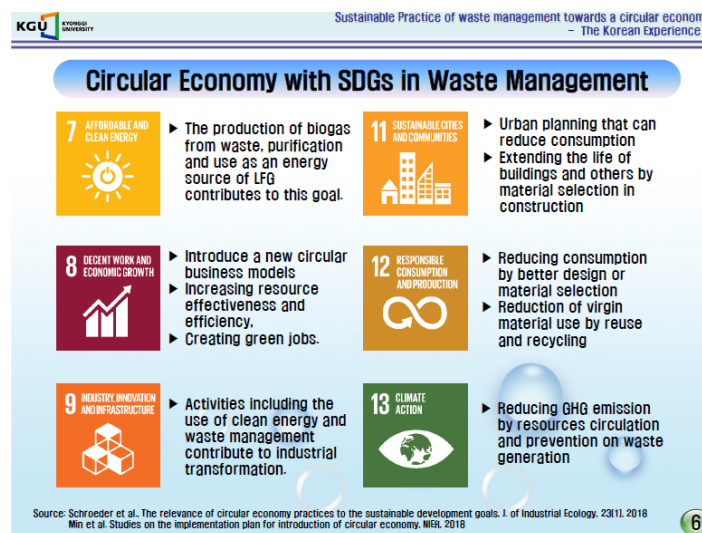


Figure 13: Link of Circular Economy with Other SDGs in Waste Management (source: Rhee, 2021)

**Classification of waste** is important for waste management. In Korea, 6-digit code numbers are assigned to different types of waste. While household waste is controlled by local authorities, the responsibility to manage industrial waste belongs to manufacturers, producers, and importers. While the growth of household waste is relatively stable due to policy effort. The industrial waste has doubled from 2000 to 2019 and the construction waste increased by 184 per cent during the same period.

Different measures have been taken to increase the resource circulation within the waste stream. Details see Figure 14.

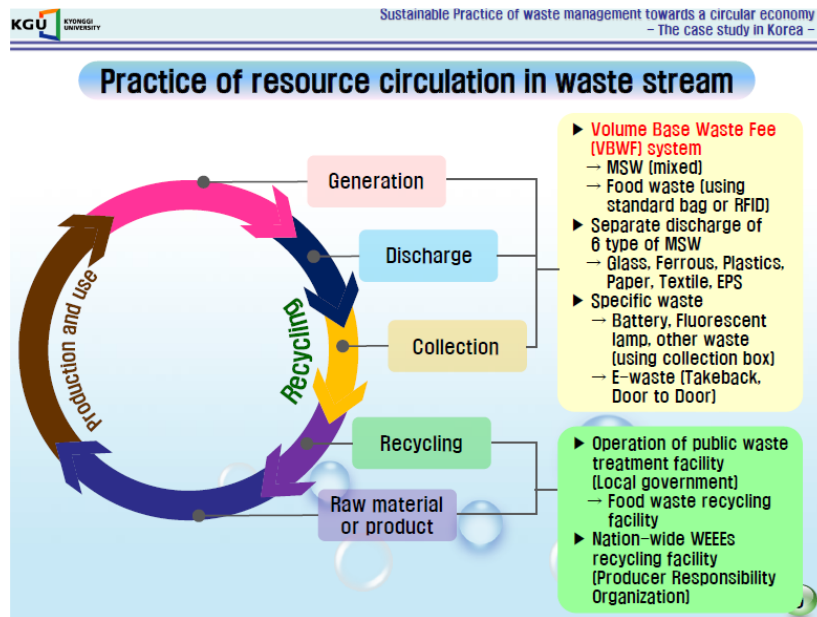


Figure 14: Measures of Waste Circulation in Korea (Source: Rhee, 2021)

**Financial incentives** are provided for better waste management, for example, volume based waste fee (VBWF) for sorting household waste, food waste disposal fee by applying Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) technology to automatically measure the amount of food waste by each household and charges the disposal fee accordingly.<sup>38</sup>

E-wastes are collected by the producers through Producer Responsibility Organizations (PROs), or local governments, and recycled at recycling centres.

To conclude, Mr. Rhee mentioned that for sustainable practice of resource circulation, **waste flow programs** such as separate discharge, collection and recycling that are conducted by local governments and producers (manufactures) are vital. Of which segregation of household waste and e-waste is one of the most important measures. A long-term master plan and technical roadmap have been made in Korea to convert towards a circular economy.

#### How do producers benefit from the efforts and partnerships towards a circular economy?

Producers can use secondary materials as their resources for production. So, they can save costs. That is the benefit for the companies.

Some people debate that personal use of resources does not have enough effect on SDGs in comparison to the corporation's practices and use of resources. Does it really matter for people to start thinking about circular economy and to conserve, preserve, and reuse?

It is very important that everybody works together. I already mentioned that segregation of waste is very important. So, the awareness and training from kindergarten to elementary school to understand why separating the wastes is important. Separated wastes go to recycling centres instead of landfills. So

<sup>38</sup> [https://www.keco.or.kr/en/core/waste\\_rfid/contentsid/1984/index.do](https://www.keco.or.kr/en/core/waste_rfid/contentsid/1984/index.do)

that is the reason why everybody should work together. That is the role and responsibility of consumers. An example is presented in Figure 15 on how waste management system made easy for all.

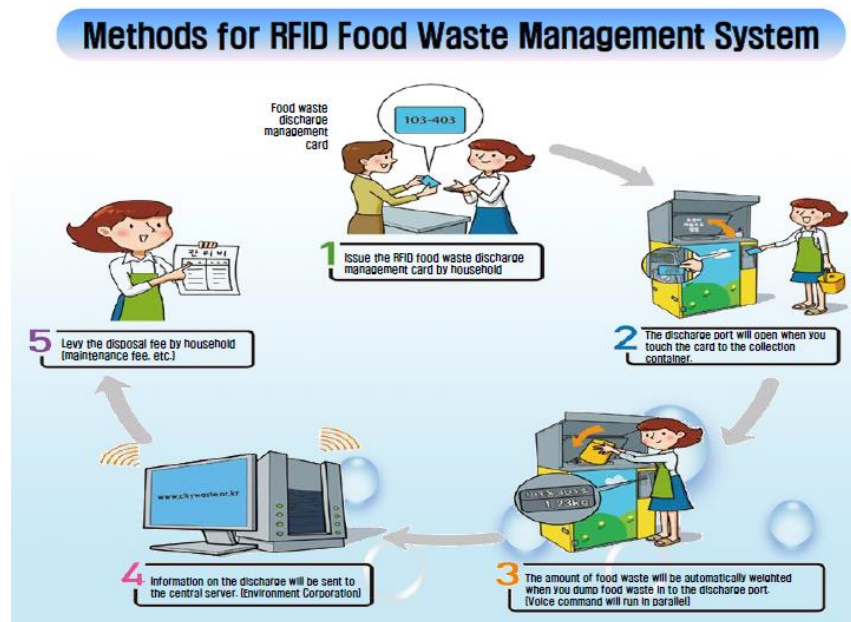


Figure 15: Methods for RFID Food Waste Management System (Source: Rhee, 2021)

Other countries might not have strong institutions, sufficient know-how, or technology. Based on Korea's experience, what could be the starting point?

The starting point is partnerships between countries. Developing countries might not have the technology, budget, or policies. Policymakers try to make policies, but they lack capacity to implement. So, partnerships between countries can enable them to work together.

### Session D3.3: "Responsible consumption and production in The Philippines"

**Speaker:** Ms. Rosemarie Casimiro, Researcher, College of College of Public Administration and Disaster Management, Nueva Ecija University of Science and Technology, Philippines

There is no integrated Circular Economy strategy or policy framework in the Philippines at present. But there are numerous national policies and initiatives that link directly and indirectly to circular economy approaches. Circular Economy helps in the management of waste products, discourage open burning, improve water and sanitation, provide building solutions for low-cost construction in informal settlements, promote new income-generating activities in the area of agriculture, food processing and biogas generation to support rural livelihoods. Most importantly, circular economy offers **opportunities to improve the living conditions** of marginalized Filipino people living below the poverty line which stand at 10,481 pesos or USD 215.36 per month for a family of five. For example, it can provide low-cost building solutions and promote new income-generating activities in agriculture, food processing, and biogas generation.

Base Bahay<sup>39</sup>, an initiative for climate-resilient-housing, uses Cement bamboo Frame Technology to construct building foundations with bamboo, a sturdy material resistant to wind and waves. The sustainable bamboo house technology in the Philippines has been providing climate-resilient homes since

<sup>39</sup> <http://www.base-builds.com/>

2014. For example, Sorsogon, a climate-vulnerable region, has reported no damages to the houses since the Bamboo village has been established in 2018<sup>40</sup> (Figure 16).

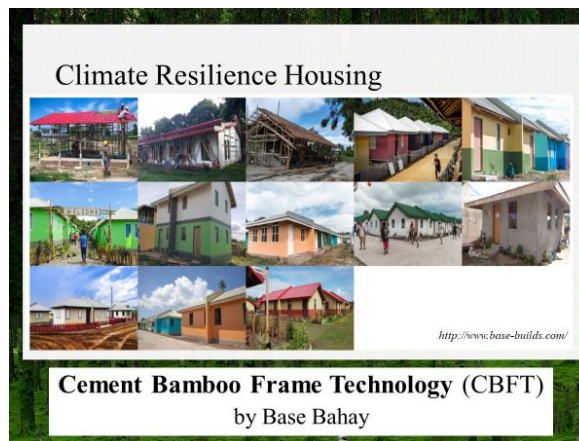


Figure 16: Base Bahay's CBFT Construction Technology by Using Local Material  
(Source: compiled by Casimiro, 202)

Ecobricks, made by Green Antz Builders<sup>41</sup>, are eco-friendly construction hollow blocks made of plastic sachets and other non-recyclable wastes. Green Antz Builders started as an advocacy group of engineers and entrepreneurs in 2012 to repurpose sachets. It helped a community in Plaridel to build a day-care centre with low cost by turning donated plastics into bricks.

Constraints, difficulties, or barriers to the promotion of these kinds of households?

It is hard to convince people to venture into these kinds of innovations when it comes to infrastructure materials. And it is not possible to prevent the people from thinking negatively although these houses are sturdy. But positively, there are communities that believe in the initiatives. They themselves bring solid wastes and plastics to the manufacturers of Ecobricks.

There is also the need to combat the (widespread but false) idea that using bamboo in construction is like building a poor man's house. Instead, positive messages can be used to encourage these household by saying that bamboo is an efficient and effective alternative to high-cost commercial products.

The Philippine government has pushed for the modernization of jeepneys. While Jeepneys are the Philippines' most popular mode of transport, they are a major source of air pollution and traffic jam in urban areas such as Metro Manila. Jeepneys emit 15,492 tonnes of particulate matter pollution per year accounting for almost half of all the particulate pollution in Metro Manila<sup>42</sup>. The Philippine Utility Vehicle Incorporation has provided electric jeepneys (e-jeepneys) as a solution. They are powered by a rechargeable battery that can be charged via ordinary outlets. In 2019, The Philippine government stated that it might subsidize 5 per cent of its purchasing cost. Real support came from partnerships with different banks to create favourable loan facilities and financing schemes for cooperatives buying new e-jeepneys.

<sup>40</sup> <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sorsogon>

<sup>41</sup> [http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2019-10/11/c\\_138463183.htm#:~:text=Anpercent20ecobrickpercent20ispercent20composedpercent20of,housespercent20topercent20schoolspercent20andpercent20buildings](http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2019-10/11/c_138463183.htm#:~:text=Anpercent20ecobrickpercent20ispercent20composedpercent20of,housespercent20topercent20schoolspercent20andpercent20buildings)

<sup>42</sup> <https://www.eco-business.com/news/do-filipinos-dream-of-electric-jeepneys/>





**To sum up**, Ms. Casimiro suggested the following takeaways for other resource constrained countries: Countries can initiate customizable solutions such as using indigenous materials or scaling up small advocacy efforts. We need to strengthen community **awareness on measures** to prevent further environmental degradation and biodiversity loss.

Other actions and measures can be taken by using the SDG 12 as road map. For the Philippines, the following SDG 12 Targets are most relevant. They are: Target 12.2, Efficient use of natural resources; Target 12.4, Chemicals and waste management; **Target 12.5, Reduce, recycle and reuse**; **Target 12.6, Sustainability reporting**; and **Target 12.7, Sustainable procurement**.

Consultation with local communities will make a great impact in making innovations and crafting locally appropriate policies to minimize the negative environmental impacts from consumption and production systems. There is a need for a holistic approach. For any goal to be achieved, it is important to involve all stakeholders such as policymakers, industries, and the entire supply chain including the producers and consumers. Engaging these stakeholders is possible through awareness-raising and education on responsible production and consumption. So, it requires a **reform of mindset and lifestyle**, and **partnership mechanisms**.

#### Session D3.4 A Roundtable Discussion on Circular Economy and SDG 12, Sustainable Consumption and Production

Panellists: [Mr. Walter Stahel](#)  
[Mr. Sheung-Whee Rhee](#)  
[Ms. Rosemarie Casimiro](#)

Moderated by Ms. Lichia Saner-Yiu

Lichia Saner-Yiu: *Could you share your views concerning barriers to the circular economy transition as meaningful to tackle and at the same time could have a greater impact?*

Walter Stahel: One domain neglected so far in circular economy discussions is behavioural sciences. How do we motivate people to see the circular economy as something positive?

The examples from the Philippines are very good. Transforming jeepneys into e-jeepneys is an excellent idea. Collective taxi, what a jeepney is, is a sustainable form of transportation rather than having individual cars. Jeepneys have long traditions in the Philippines so people will not have a lot of obstacles in using electric jeepneys instead of diesel ones.

But I have to look more into the case of Ecobricks because I didn't quite understand how the sachets are integrated into bricks. We all know the problem of microplastics. So, what happens when you demolish a house built with Ecobricks? What happens to the plastics in the bricks? Will it be set free into the environment?

I think the third example of cement bamboo frame technology is also an intelligent solution. Using something local to give concrete structures better resistance to earthquakes and floods is very intelligent. But the problem of the bamboo technology is that, as you have mentioned, people may look at it as cheaper technology. Bamboo is a very rapidly growing resource. It is almost like a weed in many tropical countries. But it is a very solid, resistant, and adaptable material for construction (not to mention its impressive carbon sequestration properties). So, it is an educational effort to explain that bamboo is as efficient as steel reinforcement bars. Thank you, Rosemarie, for the three examples, which I think are excellent in showing how to make the best use of the local resources and stocks.

Lichia Saner You: *How can developing countries start to manage resources and how can they overcome barriers?*

Seung-Whee Rhee: Policymakers' long-term master plan and technical nationwide roadmap are important. Also, **public awareness** is very important so they must dispose of the waste separately. I think developing countries can first ask producers and manufacturers because they have the fund to establish small-sized **producer responsibility organizations**. As an example of e-waste, they can start collecting televisions. And if it works fine, they can expand to second and third items. Trying to do everything at once is so difficult. Having demonstration projects is important. I think policymakers have roles and responsibilities to raise stakeholders' awareness.

Irena Zubcevic to Walter Stahel: *For decades we have been hearing about the advantages of globalization. Circular economy brings us back to a local level, so how could policymakers, but also producers, who are oriented only to profit be incentivized to change?*

Walter Stahel: Before the COVID-19 pandemic, there was already a general trend of **intelligent decentralization** in Europe as shown in robots in manufacturing, 3D printing, local food production, micro-breweries, and micro-bakeries. COVID-19 has shown that any business that depends on global supply chains is very hard up. The latest thing is that you can no longer find shipping containers. The global supply chains not only for medical related materials have broken down or become very expensive. So, we started to seek the advantages of a resilient local supply structure.

The idea of economy of scale through globalization was based on the fact that the work goes where there are cheapest laborers. But now a lot of the productive work is done by robots and the price of robots is the same in Korea, the US, Africa, or Europe. Now we can minimize the production costs by reducing transport and risk management costs. Now it's easy to transport digital data and to have local robots in every country to produce the same goods. I think technology makes the economic advantages of globalization disappear and more companies are decentralizing in their production.

Seung-Whee Rhee: We need **partnerships**. UNOSD makes initiatives to gather people on a subject like SDG12. That is how we make partnerships and networks to work together locally. Some countries have regulations and waste management acts. But many developing countries do not have regulations on this matter. I studied Asian countries and only 17 countries in Asia have the regulations or acts. Making long-term master plans and technical roadmaps takes much time.

For example, in China, it took 4 phases. First was dismantling informal sector where there were no regulations before. The second phase was the coexistence between the informal sector and the formal sector by working together. The third phase was preparing for adoption of EPR system at the firm level (note: a software programme, Enterprise Resource Planning, offered by SAP for example) and the fourth was implementing the system. **It takes more than 20 years.**

Since managing resource flow is not easy so we should work together. The starting point would be the policy side by asking for support from the companies since they have money. Companies can also get

benefits from the government such as tax benefits. **In Korea, the government and companies both benefit from the partnerships.** For example, if you give one plastic bottle to a certain agency, you can get 1 US penny. Then, these bottles are used in industries. Even small things like that can be beneficial. It is so difficult to change from the informal sectors to the formal sectors. Try to **do small things step by step**. It takes some time.

Lichia-Saner You: *Which ministry should we start talking with in order to promote policy coherence between education, manufacturing, economics, and the environment?*

Seung-Whee Rhee: In Korea, the major ministry is the Ministry of Environment.

Walter Stahel: In business, we need to convince chief executive officers. In politics, we need to convince a president or prime minister. You have to convince the boss that your ideas are credible and will help the environment and local industries. Then, he/she will try to impose that on the silos. But I don't think it works the other way around. If you first convince the ministry of environment and then go to the ministry of economics, they will say they are green ideas and not about the economy. If the top guys convince people that this is for the **common good** of the province or nation, then people will probably buy-in for that.

Seoung-Whee Rhee: That is a short way but people at the top level consider the economy more than the environment. In Korea, the Ministry of Environment has some budget from the government, and it is working with NGOs so they could reduce household waste dramatically.

Rosemarie Casimiro: We need government policies to foster innovations and advance circular solutions. In terms of the use of indigenous materials, there is still a problem of inadequate level of capacity and low level of demand for indigenous building materials. Also, it is difficult to access the local experience of producing such products. Practitioners are careful to use non-standardized materials. We need reinforcement (stronger engagement) from the policymakers. We also need innovations in private-public partnerships. Company investors, government, civil society each offer financial, intellectual, and operational assets that can be strategically deployed to solve big problems. We need to work hand in hand and raise awareness on the use of such materials!

### **Concluding Remarks**

Progress of circular economy transition and related innovations have been achieved, even though uneven and at other places not much has been done. However, scaling up these innovations through meaningful partnerships among stakeholder groups, communities and people, it will be possible to advance this SDG 12 agenda and contribute to the attainment of other related SDG sectors, such as biodiversity (SDG 15), conservation of ocean resources (SDG 14), reduction of greenhouse emission (SDG 7), improving water quality (SDG 6) resulting in better health (SDG 3), creating better jobs (SDG 8), improving urban environment (SDG 11), and ultimately contribute to human development (SDG 3), reducing poverty (SDG 1) and inequality (SDG 10), just to mention a few.

Institutional barriers continue to operate. They are **cultural, regulatory, market and technological related barriers**. Companies are hesitant to take the risk by plunging into the “new” or “unknown” with uncertain outcomes. Hence, they continue with a linear business model and pretend “business as usual” is a good strategy. Lacking consumer awareness and interest sends weak demand signal to the market and perpetuates the business as usual mentality. While public procurement is an important catalyst in all countries, public procurement, however, remains stuck in the pre-SDG era and governments have not been using this lever to change the market demands for circular products and services.

Market is still taking a wait and see position due to the low virgin material prices (one of the reasons why many of the resource-rich countries cannot leverage their raw materials, mineral and agricultural, to move up the processing ladder and graduate from the lowest income country status). Should the companies



be asked to pay the true price for the raw materials which must internalise the environmental and social costs/damages due to the extraction process, the commodity exporting countries and the demand for reusable materials will be different and contribute to the transition to a more sustainable economic cycle. Details of these barriers and their interactional effect are presented in Figure 16. Measures need to be taken in a strategic mix and sequencing to achieve a just transition to Circular Economy over the mid- to longer term.

## Barriers to CE and Their Interaction

(Source: Kirchherr, J., Piscicelli, L., Bour, R., Kostense-Smit, E., Muller, J., Huibrechtse-Truijens & Hekkert, M., 2018, Ecological Economics, p. 270)

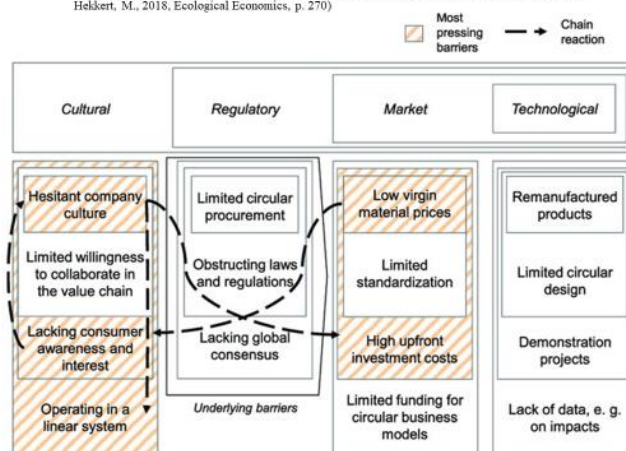


Figure 16: Barriers to CE and their interactions (Source: Kirchherr, Piscicelli, Bour, RKostense-Smit, Muller, Huibrechtse-Truijens & Hekkert, 2018 )<sup>43</sup>

Day 4, 25<sup>th</sup> March

Theme Sessions on SDG-16 Promote Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions

### Opening remarks

**Mr. Jean D'Aragon**, Senior Sustainable Development Expert, UNOSD

Opening remarks were made by Mr. Jean D'Aragon. After welcoming distinguished speakers and audiences of the webinar and introduced the Ms. Lichia Saner-Yiu, President of the Centre for Socio-Economic Development.

**Ms. Lichia Saner-Yiu**, President of the Centre for Socio-Economic Development.

She reminded the participants the 2021 course objectives of the ETC. They are:

- Rising awareness on key issues within each SGD areas covered during the five-day ETC course, i.e., health, working conditions, circular economy, institutional performance, and partnerships.
- Sharing information and experiences in tackling some of the linked issues within each SDGs and tools developed

<sup>43</sup> <https://ideas.repec.org/a/eee/ecolec/v150y2018icp264-272.html>

- Hearing reflections from countries and their efforts in progressing and existing barriers to overcome
- Offering key learning from the global review process of VNRs
- Supporting the effective use of VNR process for institutional innovations by pointing to some gateways and progresses in the SDGs

**Moderator:** [Mr. Raymond Saner](#), Professor, Organisation and International Management

#### Session 4.1: Key Issues of the SDG 16 and Institutional Capacity Building

Mr. Saner first introduced the agenda for the ETC session 4 as follows:

- Overview of SDG 16
- Global Governance, Metagovernance and Mindsets for the SDGs
- Capacity Development for Public sector Performance Improvement: Success Stories and Examples
- Country report from Nigeria

Among the 12 targets of the SDG 16, there are 10 end-related targets and 2 related to means for implementation (see Figure 17). Each target is also provided with specific indicators to measure progress. For example, SDG Target 16.2 is about “to end, abuse, exploitation trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children” and has three indicators. Indicator 16.2.2 is to measure the numbers of victims of human trafficking by 100,000 residents per population by sex, age and exploitation.

UN Secretary General’s SDG progress report (2020) stated that, “The violent forms of discipline targeted towards children were widespread. In 69 countries were nearly 8 in 10 children between the age from 1 to 14 were subjected to some form of psychological aggression or physical punishment at home.” It is obvious that SDG 16 is about protecting of human rights holders, may they be adults, handicapped or children through effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels (SDG Target 16.6).

SDG Target 16.6 together with SDG 16.5, Substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms are at the core of SDG 16 in achieving a just and fair society. SDG indicator 16.6.2 reviews the proportion of the population, which expresses satisfaction in terms of their last experience of using public services. The same SG Report continues to state, “The number of countries has increased which have no binding laws and policies that give individuals the right to obtain access to information from the authorities. 43 countries have adopted such guarantees over the last 10 years so that’s a positive development, 40 per cent of them in Africa.”

The fact that progress was made regarding transparency is a cause to celebrate but the other remaining half empty glass needs to be addressed urgently. Transparency enables accountability without guaranteeing it. Therefore, the society and communities as a whole need to develop capacity to self-regulate and continuous improvement based on facts, evidence and analysis. In the Decade for Action and Delivery, it was said, “The Political Declaration commits Member States and the UN system to enhancing national implementation, investing in data for the SDGs, and *strengthening institutions* (Italic added) for more integrated solutions to ensure **policy coherence** for the SDGs among other accelerators for the Decade of Action” (Concept Note, 2021 ETC for Policymakers). This session will address this self-regulating potential within the public administration to deliver satisfying public services where policy coherence is the first order of priority.

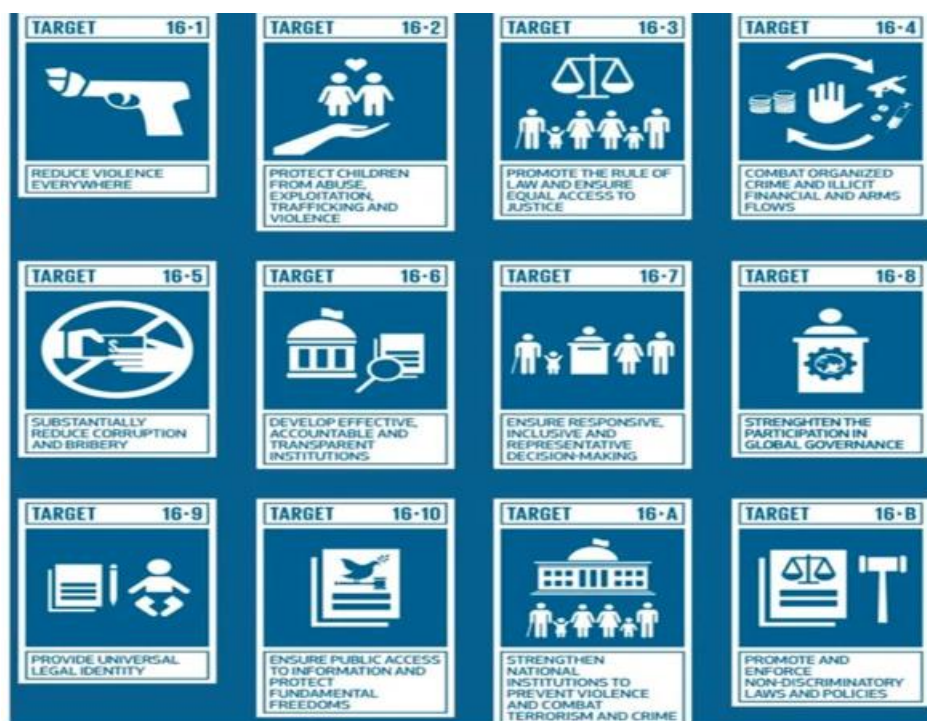


Figure 17: SDG Goal 17 and related 12 Targets (Source: Transparency International, 2021<sup>44</sup>)

#### Session D4.2 “Public administrative reform and success factors”

**Speaker:** [Mr. Louis Meuleman](#), Committee of Experts on Public Administration (CEPA), Founder/Director, PublicStrategy for Sustainable Development and visiting professor at the Public Governance Institute of the University of Leuven, Belgium

SDG 16 and also 17 are the engine room of the 2030 agenda. Without these two goals nothing will happen. Target 16.6: Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels, with 2 indicators to assess the readiness of the public administration in implementing the 2030 Agenda:

1. Indicator 16.6.1: Primary government **expenditures** as a proportion of original approved budget, by sector
2. Indicator 16.6.2: **Proportion of population satisfied** with their last experience of public services.

Many public institutions and their governance capacities are not able to cope with the challenges posed by the 2030 Agenda. For decades, economic forces and the dominant ideology of the ‘invisible hand of the market’ have suppressed the institutional development of the public administration resulting in small and weak governments and agencies. Small and weak governments go together with **policy and governance failure**. Policy failure, for example, concerns with misfit between problem and solution; inadequate policy choice because of lack of expertise; etc. On the other hand, governance failure tends to bring out the action deficit of the policy making where government tends to focus on WHAT (policy) and ignore HOW (governance); mismatch exists between governance style and existing traditions and culture; etc.

To create the conditions for successful SDG implementation, four themes deserve high priority:

<sup>44</sup> <https://www.transparency.org/en/our-priorities/sustainable-development-goals>

1. Make Public Administration and Governance a strategic policy area – where proactivity and creativity are necessary to anticipate potential challenges and reducing future risks.
2. Start mission-oriented Public Administration and Governance (PAG) reform for the SDGs implementation – to integrate “effectiveness” in the policy thinking and performance assessment of the public administration, not solely on efficiency. A central part of the mission-oriented reform should be creating the capacities for innovative governance by using the 11 principles of effective governance designed by UNCEPA/UNDESA, endorsed by UN ECOSOC.<sup>45</sup> Innovative governance denotes the following reforms: 1) digitalize government and integrate multiple public services; 2) improve access through multi-channel service delivery; 3) open government data; 4) simplify administrative processes; 5) decentralize public services and 6) make partnerships with private sector and civil society.

Pursuit of efficiency has caused unintended consequences. Taking the New Public Management Reform at the Environment Ministry of Spatial Planning Ministry in the Netherlands for example: It led to the reduction of the number of experts; introducing the rotation principle (Positive); depleting the institutional capabilities since there were no experts anymore who know what were the important policy priorities; specific expertise centres in the ministries were outsourced; and the ministry no longer has expertise in dealing with complicated urban development issues (land use, selling and buying for new housing). At the end, they had to hire people back. But the “corporate culture” and social trust were affected.

3. Apply meta-governance - refers to the need of formal public organizations to exercise some control over devolved and decentralized decision-making organizations (International Encyclopaedia of Political Science, 2021)<sup>46, 47</sup> (see Figure 18)



Figure 18: Meta-Governance for SDGs Success (Source: Meuleman, 2021)

4. Address silo mentality - Working in political, institutional and mental “silos” is a main cause of ineffective governance for the SDGs. A key innovation is shifting the balance between the institutions, tools and mind-sets of hierarchical, network and market forms of governance. It is

<sup>45</sup> <https://publicadministration.un.org/en/Intergovernmental-Support/CEPA/Principles-of-Effective-Governance>

<sup>46</sup>

<https://sk.sagepub.com/reference/intlpoliticalscience/n355.xml#:~:text=Metagovernancepercent20referspercent20topercent20thepercent20need,ispercent20thepercent20governancepercent20ofpercent20governance>

<sup>47</sup> Booklet: <https://www.sdg16hub.org/system/files/2020-08/bookletpercent20-percent20Principlespercent20ofpercent20Effectivepercent20Governancepercent20forpercent20Sustainablepercent20Development.pdf>

not about replacing hierarchy with non-hierarchical governance. Instead, a contextualised mix of styles works best. Instead of “breaking down all the silos”, we should “Teach the silos to dance”, i.e., make them work together, and become more flexible and permeable, without losing the necessary structure. Here we need collaboration and communications skills.

Mechanisms to improve policy coherence for sustainable development (PCSD)<sup>48</sup> are crucial enablers of ‘dancing silos’. OECD has brought together numerous good practice examples.<sup>49</sup> UNEP is custodian of the composite SDG indicator 17.14.1 on PCSD – meanwhile a ‘Tier II’ level indicator which means 17.14.1 indicator is conceptually clear, has an internationally established methodology and standards are available, but data are not regularly produced by countries (UNSTATS, 2020).<sup>50</sup> Countries have been asked to do a self-assessment on this indicator. UNEP is preparing a guidance report<sup>51</sup>

How to deal with a situation where the government has prioritized spending for work around Goal 16, but it is about building the capacity of the police force instead of spending on social interventions to assist at risk individuals? So, what to do, what should be done, what is the essence of SDG goal 16? Is it to control or punish all the negative developments in society, or to try to prevent the appearance of negative developments in our society?

**Mr. Meuleman:** SDG 16 should not be seen as a solitary goal but linking it to the SDG 17 which has inclusiveness and partnership included. You cannot just take one goal, or one target out to maximize that. There are modern means of implementation. You can have more police on the streets; that is very good. But did you also get the government to also explore the other possibilities. Other possible solutions or partial solutions like mobilizing other actors on stage to make environments safe and more inclusive. One is to focus on the symptoms of a not well functioning society and then control of the symptoms; or to improve the general social conditions, so less of these unfortunate symptoms appear.

### Session D4.3 “Capacity Development for Public sector Performance Improvement: Success Stories and Examples

**Speaker:** [Mr. John-Mary Kauzya](#), Chief, Public Service Innovation Branch, Division for Public Institutions and Digital Government (DPIDG), UN DESA

**Mr. Kauzya** has the following key messages to make:

1. Many Governments are still implementing reform programs for improving public sector performance. Yet, in adopting the 2030 Agenda, Member States set “out a supremely ambitious and transformational vision” for the world. Developing capacities in public sector institutions should be aimed at **transforming public sector performance**; not just improving it. This necessitates transformational leadership capacities at all levels of public governance.

---

<sup>48</sup> <https://www.oecd.org/development/pcsd/>

<sup>49</sup> <https://www.oecd.org/development/pcsd/pcsd-country-profiles.htm>

<sup>50</sup>

[https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/files/Tierpercent20Classificationpercent20ofpercent20SDGpercent20Indicators\\_17percent20Julypercent202020\\_web.v2.pdf](https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/files/Tierpercent20Classificationpercent20ofpercent20SDGpercent20Indicators_17percent20Julypercent202020_web.v2.pdf)

<sup>51</sup>

[https://uneplive.unep.org/media/docs/statistics/egm/concept\\_note\\_on\\_methodology\\_for\\_sdg\\_indicator\\_17\\_14\\_1.pdf](https://uneplive.unep.org/media/docs/statistics/egm/concept_note_on_methodology_for_sdg_indicator_17_14_1.pdf)

2. Of all the capacity development required for transforming public sector performance, the most critical is **inculcating the values and principles of the 2030 Agenda** in public sector governance and in society: And the most needed value is **equity**. The effectiveness of any other capacities (policies, strategies, legal provisions, knowledge, skills, systems, structures, resources, facilities, partnerships, technologies etc) depends on the extent to which these values and principles are adhered to in public sector governance.

Transforming public sector performance demands a changing paradigm from rule compliance to outcome-based performance criteria. Implementing SDG 16 must be approached from the side of “transforming” rather than just “developing” public sector institutions. This paradigm shift is illustrated in Figure 19. Leadership should also be defined accordingly that reflect the fundamental values and principles of the 2030 Agenda with *equity* at its heart.

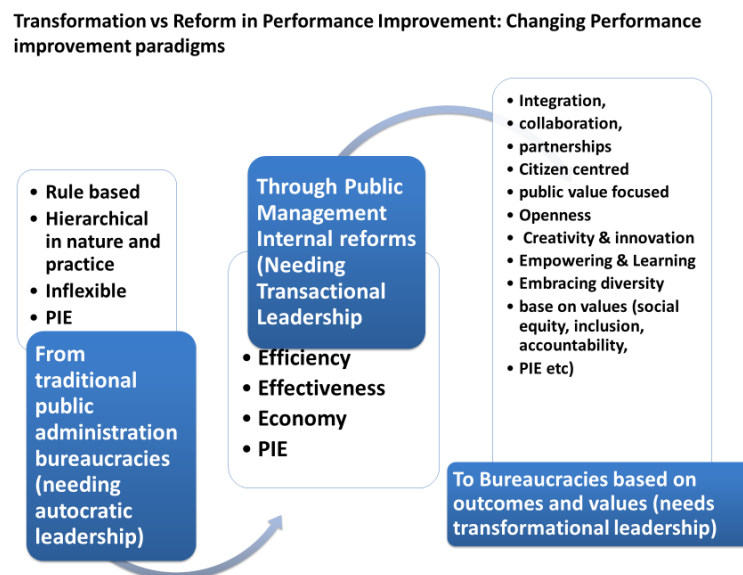


Figure 19: Transformation vs Reform in Performance Improvement: Changing Performance improvement paradigms  
(Source: Kauzya, 2021)

Leadership tasks are transforming capacities at different levels from individual to organisational, institutional and societal (levels). Success stories can be found in Rwanda where improvement of health services delivery was able to improve the health coverage rate to 90 per cent of its population. What were the measures applied that led to such performance results? Leadership, vision, appropriate governance in terms of policy and regulatory framework, developing local capacities in the communities, engaging with stakeholders and adopting the drone technology in service delivery. This is a good example of mainstreaming the SDGs principles into the health system of Rwanda.

Example from Kenya where the National Drought Management Authority developed a successful Hunger Safety Net Programme (HSNP) is equally aspiring. The HSNP has implemented a scalable cash transfer mechanism to quickly respond to drought and other similar disasters in the four counties of Turkana, Marsabit, Mandera and Wajir in Kenya. This is a good example of a public service adapting to climate change to avoid disastrous effects on the population. The capacities that were developed included: Institutional framework; Structure; Provision of finances; Harnessing modern technology (Satellite); Data and information on Climate shifts (vegetation); Partnership with banks; Collaboration



with local level leaders and citizens; Goal of effective solutions to peoples' problems (which is hunger); Addressing climate change disasters (including faming).

**(Additional Reflection:** Deprivation, inequality and social exclusion became even more blatant in all countries, including the rich countries of the world. For achieving a peaceful and just society, the role of public institutions is to continuously raise the public awareness of neglect, discrimination, abuse and vulnerability of the old, the weak and other marginalised groups of the community. After all, prosperity and wellbeing of people are enabled by the availability and quality of public goods and equitable accessibility of its commons. Failure to be cognizant of these pre-conditions means that social behaviour and institutional policies cannot be fair and just. Leadership in this regard is indeed central since leaders set examples from their personal conduct. Mr. Kauzya emphasised earlier the potential contributions and importance of transformational leaders who are guided by the 2030 Agenda with equity at the centre of development (see Figure 20). Under their stewardship the production of public goods of quality and of quantity would be indeed leave no one behind. Public administration will also be governed with a coherent approach with evidence for decision making so that governance failure would not happen again.)

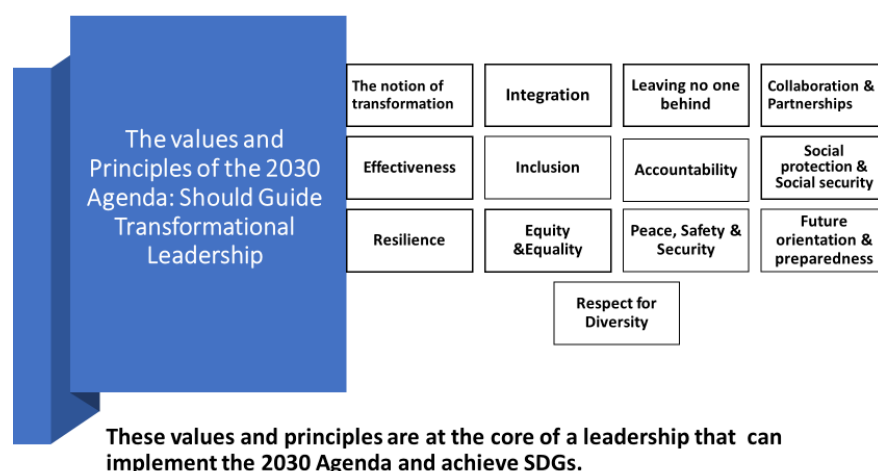


Figure 20: The Transformative Leadership Model Guided by the Values and Principles of SDGs  
(Source: Kauzya, 2021)

#### Session D4.4 “Country experience in VNR preparation regarding SDG 16 regarding policy coordination and consultation mechanisms”

**Speaker:** [Ms. Omotola Fawunmi](#), Member of Nigeria Economic Summit Group, Policy Commission; Co-Founder and Project Director of the Rescue Africans in Slavery Organisation

The Rescue Africans in Slavery Organisation deals with the SDG 16.2 on human trafficking. It works to get women and girls safely back home. One of the challenges was about communication deficit. The public administration in general do not have the competency in dealing women who are victims of the human trafficking. There is also problem with information flow between the public departments and the citizens who are affected by such practices. It is important to work with the private sector, non-profit organizations, faith-based organizations, and coalitions in order to be effective. Ongoing collaboration and discussion with the government agencies also create positive climate.

Example: Lebanon, which was one of the countries that we've worked extensively, we have to get those working in slavery conditions away from the employers. Because these women have signed what are called "slave contracts" that make them unable to improve their employment relations, even if the working conditions are horrific.

The Ministry of Information, Ministry of Women Affairs, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Social Development shall coordinate in order to serve these women in various capacities. Women did not realize that they are vulnerable to exploitation when going to other countries such as Libya, Lebanon. These are dangerous opportunities. Government should ensure that citizens understand the risks involved through public information and communication.

Example: the Lagos State Government had various economic advancement programs, trainings. -The only people who had access to these trainings or these opportunities were only those who were active members of a particular or the ruling political party. People who live on the street and don't have access to information on the opportunities that have been offered. Put up a banner outside is not enough. Government has to put "results" at the centre of their actions and services.

In Nigeria women and girls are (often) kidnapped. It is another example why SDG 16 needs to be implemented. Results checked. Questions concerning sexual exploitation of women are many. A people-centred agenda, a people-centred policy should be the basis of SDG 17.6 for public administrative transformation.

### **Reactions**

**Mr. John-Mary Kauzya:** Role of transformative leadership is needed in these cases. Engaging social dialog for transformative leadership is important. We cannot solve issues from far away, we need close collaboration with the community. Sets on finding their way of addressing the challenge and then the international community can come in and work with governments.

**Mr. Louis Meuleman:** Government and society approach is needed to address these issues. To solve immigration issues is a deeply complex problem. Problem needs to be broken down to smaller points. Role of data generation for monitoring progress should be considered.

**Mr. Raymond Saner:** There is a general lack of data in human trafficking according to CSEND's own research. Some Governments don't want to register what is happening in human trafficking. Example: In Netherlands some banks when they saw dubious financial transactions, banks are sharing the information with the Government. So, it means there are actions that can be done to counter human trafficking. Target 16.2 and 16.8 of SDG 16 could help countries to improve efforts of government in human trafficking.



## Further reading: reports with good practices and practical ideas

- [SDG Helpdesk](#) (UNESCAP)
- [Sustainable Development Knowledge Platforms](#) (UNESCAP)
- [SDG Monitoring and Reporting Toolkit for UN Country Teams](#) (UNSTAT)
- [Self-assessment Indicator 17.14.1. Mechanisms in place to enhance policy coherence of sustainable development](#) (UNSTAT/UNEP)
- [Quality of Public Administration - A Toolbox for Practitioners](#) (European Commission, incl. 220 inspirational examples)
- [Governance and Policy Coherence for the SDGs](#) (OECD: good practice reports, toolkit, etc)
- [Various courses on the SDGs](#) (UNITAR/UNDESA)
- [Capacity building projects & examples](#) (UNDESA)
- [Principles of Effective Governance for Sustainable Development & Strategy guidance notes](#) (UNDESA/CEPA)
- [‘Metagovernance for Sustainability’](#) (Routledge) including ‘50 shades of governance’ with three governance styles (Meuleman 2018)

Louis Meuleman 2021/03/25 \* www.ps4sd.eu

19

## Day 5, 26<sup>th</sup> March

### Theme Sessions on SDG-17 Partnerships and Closing Session

#### Opening remarks

[Mr. Jean D'Aragon](#), Senior Sustainable Development Expert, UNOSD

**Moderator:** [Ms. Lichia Saner-Yiu](#), President, Centre for Socio-Eco-Nomic Development

#### Introduction

The Preamble of the Declaration of 2030 Agenda stated that,

“This Agenda is a plan of action for people, planet and prosperity. It also seeks to strengthen universal peace in larger freedom. We recognize that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an Indispensable requirement for sustainable development.

All countries and all stakeholders, acting in **collaborative partnership**, will implement this plan. We are resolved to free the human race from the tyranny of poverty and want and to heal and secure our planet.”

Day 5 of ETC delves into strengthening the means of implementing and revitalizing global partnerships for sustainable development. This module looks at some of the most critical issues of finance, technology, capacity building, and trade that must be tackled to innovate, develop, and deploy solutions. Out of the total number of 19 targets of SDG 17, special focus will be on Finance (Targets 17.1, 17.2, 17.3, 17.4, 17.5) and Multi-stakeholder partnerships (Targets 17.16, 17.7).

“The UN estimates the gap in financing to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at

**\$2.5 trillion per year** in developing countries alone (UNCTAD, 2014<sup>52</sup>). Global financial assets are sufficient to meet the financing needs of the 2030 Development Agenda, but the challenge is how to channel them into SDG sectors, enhance the risk-return profiles of new and sometimes vulnerable investments, and generate sustained impact on the ground... The United Nations seeks to galvanize action on financing for the SDGs by bringing together governments, the private sector and civil society.” (Financing for SDGs, A Toolbox of Resources for all Stakeholders, 2019)<sup>53</sup>

The COVID-19 pandemic has affected the available resources in the developing countries. Global Foreign Direct Investment dropped by 42 per cent in 2020 from 1.5 trillion in 2019 to an estimated \$859 billion (UNCTAD, 2021).<sup>54</sup> Remittance to low- and middle-income countries are also projected to fall, from \$554 billion in 2019 to \$445 billion in 2020. Resource mobilisation for SDGs implementation will be key to avoid possible derailing of the progress made to date.

Private donors, such as corporate social responsibility programme, philanthropic organisations and individual donations have been an important source of wealth transfer to the developing countries. These non-traditional funding options have made up equal share of the total financing for development to that of the official development aid (ODA) in the past. It is not clear how the pandemic would affect this segment of the giving economy. Forging meaningful partnerships, undoubtedly, by bringing in private sector to engage in financing the SDGs can help close the gap in the current situation.

Instead of discussing whether a partnership is simply good or bad, the question to ask is what kind of partnerships are most promising? How are these partnerships designed and facilitated to deliver the change? What conditions do they require to be success in making sustained impact?

Multi-stakeholder partnerships (MSPs) can serve as a mechanism for groups to make decisions and take collective action for the common good at the local, national or international scales. To be effective, however, such processes need to consider issues of power and conflict, systemic change and the social and cognitive paths involved in interaction and learning. The question is, how to overcome this conflict and bring convergence, so there are shared values, shared visions, and shared benefits so that we can reach not just a local scale, but at the international scale.

### Session D5.1 Introduction: Key Issues in achieving value addition through partnerships

**Ms. Lotta Tahtinen**, Chief, Outreach and Partnerships Branch, Division for Sustainable Development Goals (DSDG), UN DESA - Video presentation

“In this Decade of Action for the SDGs, we must join forces globally, regionally, and locally, with all partners and stakeholders, so that we can achieve our shared vision for a future that is more equal, sustainable, and safe for all.”

Open, transparent partnerships are proving to be more urgent than ever for responding to post COVID-19 pandemic needs. According to a recent survey by UN DESA, partnerships have been growing during the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly in areas of health, support for small businesses, IT, and education. 68 per cent of government respondents believe that developing partnerships and engaging stakeholders will become more important in the post-pandemic era.

---

<sup>52</sup> [https://unctad.org/system/files/official-document/wir2014\\_en.pdf](https://unctad.org/system/files/official-document/wir2014_en.pdf)

<sup>53</sup> [https://worldinvestmentforum.unctad.org/financing-for-the-sdgs/#:~:text=Thepercent20UNpercent20estimatespercent20thepercent20gap,alonepercent20\(UNCTADpercent20Cp,ercent202014\).&text=Thepercent20Unitedpercent20Nationspercent20seekspercent20to,privatepercent20sectorper,cent20andpercent20civilpercent20society](https://worldinvestmentforum.unctad.org/financing-for-the-sdgs/#:~:text=Thepercent20UNpercent20estimatespercent20thepercent20gap,alonepercent20(UNCTADpercent20Cp,ercent202014).&text=Thepercent20Unitedpercent20Nationspercent20seekspercent20to,privatepercent20sectorper,cent20andpercent20civilpercent20society)

<sup>54</sup> <https://unctad.org/news/global-foreign-direct-investment-fell-42-2020-outlook-remains-weak>

In a successful partnership, all partners benefit from the collaboration. Partners must understand their overlapping interests and mutual commitments, allowing them to build a shared strategic goal and vision that is crucial for implementation. Successful partnerships are understood as a process, rather than a product, activity, or institution. It requires flexibility, substantial resources, continuous monitoring, and reviewing to develop an evolving relationship.

#### *Questions, Challenges, Gaps Noted*

Great challenges exist in achieving great partnerships, one of which is expecting partners to provide resources and finance sustainable development when they are unable to do so. New, hasty partnerships are not sustainable, anchored in national realities, or meet the needs of the individuals they are trying to reach. Given the limited capacity for partnerships today, there is growing concern that stakeholders will not be able to participate effectively in post-pandemic development efforts.

#### *Recommendations and Next Steps*

Creating enabling ecosystems and fostering partnership engagement platforms are key to catalysing sustainable partnerships, which includes policies that are supportive of multi-stakeholder participation and collaboration for action. Ensuring that stakeholders are equipped with knowledge, skills and the capacity for partnership should be prioritized. Good practice standards should be promoted in national ownership, creating mutual trust, transparency, and accountability that are aligned with national laws and the UN Charter.

### Session D5.2: “Partnerships framework – FAO Strategy for Partnerships with the Private Sector & CSOs”

**Speaker:** [Mr. Ahmed Muktar](#), Economist (Trade and Food Security), FAO in Geneva

*“These partnerships have to be aligned with the SDGs, so that we have a collective effort to achieve the SDGs.”*

Partnerships with the Private Sector and CSOs are essential to building resilient, sustainable, inclusive global agri-food systems. The Private Sector is a strategic development partner at the forefront of innovation, trade, finance, and investment. The Private Sector is a loose term that FAO uses to sum up a variety of actors from Farmers and their organizations, micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs), large national and multinational companies, trade associations and private sector consortia, and philanthropic foundations. Pooling resources and identifying innovative solutions can lead to accelerated progress for achieving the 2030 Agenda and SDGs.

Technical expertise, proximity to vulnerable communities, and presence in the field make CSOs critical to fighting hunger worldwide and food security-related issues (SDG 2). Given their knowledge and capacity, improving relations with CSOs at all levels remains an important task.

#### *Questions, Challenges, Gaps Noted*

There is a need to maximize partnership with the Private Sector and CSOs to achieve the 2030 Agenda and SDGs. The traditional approach that is taken by FAO and other UN agencies is functioning but lacks certain innovation. This traditional approach includes policy dialogue, capacity development, technical cooperation, resource mobilization, knowledge sharing, and advocacy and communication.

The 2021-2025 FAO Strategy for Private Sector Engagement emphasizes innovation and SDG alignment & advocacy as part of their new, forward-looking vision for strengthening strategic engagement with the private sector. At the core of the novel strategies lie traditional functions, but with an emphasis on

data sharing and dissemination, mobilizing digital means of implementation, and supporting financial investments.

### *Recommendations and Next Steps*

The guiding pillars for the 2021-2025 FAO Strategy for Private Sector Engagement are:

- CONNECT: a proactive approach to outreach and engagement
- SUPPORT: a transparent and diffuse business model for partnership-building
- SUSTAIN: measuring impact for scaling-up

Structures for Private Sector Engagement at the FAO for implementing SDGs stress the following:

- Leveraging the food systems agenda
- Scaling up science, technology and innovation to achieve the SDGs
- Partnering for healthy diets and to eradicate all forms of malnutrition (including obesity)
- Facilitating more and better investment
- Promoting rural development and eradicating rural poverty
- Capitalizing on data, non-traditional data sources and data science
- Strengthening measurement tools and corporate reporting on the SDGs and food and agriculture sustainability issues
- Ensuring environmental sustainability, biodiversity mainstreaming and the climate resilience of food and agricultural systems
- Addressing food and water crises

Examples of FAO's private sector partnerships include the partnership for youth in Rwanda. With JR Farms Ltd, FAO promoted youth involvement in agriculture and created decent work opportunities. A key component was the development of youth-led agricultural enterprises. Through the Green Agribusiness Fund, JR Farms Ltd provided equity funds to the start-ups involved in different food value chains. The young "agri-preneurs" will benefit from training and capacity development opportunities and be introduced to the wider networks of fellow agri-preneurs.

*Agriculture is such an important sector as it contributes and sometimes inhibits so many different SDGs. Could you give us your thoughts about the role of youth and agriculture (agri-preneurs)?*

**Mr. Ahmad Mukhtar:** It is an extremely important point. During the 2008 economic crisis, what we saw, even in developed countries in Southern and Eastern Europe, is that most of the unemployed people went back to farms. That was a much better option for them. In developing countries, what is going to happen in the decade is that there is going to be a need for yield and productivity improvement because we have limited resources in terms of land and water. The only option is that we have to have a fresh mindset. We have to have entrepreneurs who would do these innovations.

In developing countries as well, we miss these intermediary businesses in agriculture. Those intermediary businesses could be providing the input, or they could be filling market gaps rather than having wholesalers and stockists getting all the sales. They can connect farmers to consumers through efficient intermediaries, by deploying technology, e-commerce, so on and so forth. All of these things have started happening. It is our guess that in coming years, youth will be much more attracted to agriculture, not only for employment but from a business perspective. Once we have this culture of agri-preneurship across the world, it will contribute to the achievement of multiple SDGs.

### **Session D5.3: "Outlook on Financing the 2030 Agenda"**



**Speaker:** [Mr. Raymond Saner](#), Professor, Organisation and International Management, Basle University

“We should think about the overall discussion on what we need to do to safeguard our public goods, so they aren’t depleted or wasted in terms of assuring the survival of the next generation.”

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, traditional investment plans were linear and forward-looking. The five Actionable Impact Themes set the guidelines for Sustainable Development Goals and investment needs for stakeholders; Basic Needs, Empowerment, Climate Change, Natural Capital, and Governance (see Figure 20). There are also categories for infrastructure investments; Physical, Social, Political, and Security infrastructures.

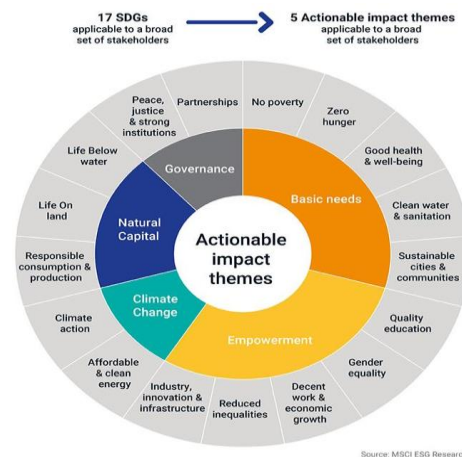


Figure 21: Actionable Impact Themes Applicable to Wider Stakeholders (MSCI, 2021)<sup>55</sup>

The current economy is characterized by lower growth, higher debt, broken supply chains, and reduced trade. Unemployment rates are rising in both developed and developing countries. According to UNCTAD’s 2014 World Investment Report, developing countries were facing a funding gap of 2.5 trillion USD per year that would be needed to achieve the SDGs by 2030. The need for sustainable, equitable, transparent, and inclusive development has increased manifold.

There are policy choices to be made concerning financing aspect of SDGs implementation:

1. Through government finances and implementation? - provided tax income is sufficient, regular and perceived as being fair
2. Through traditional public procurement? – could be transparent, corruption-free, professional
3. Through Public Private Partnerships (PPP)? – what kind? Is government competent in negotiating and managing private sector partner?
4. Through privatisation? – If so, it should prevent market failure for instance if privatisation results in privately owned monopolies, should be avoided, could be based on corruption?

If policy decision is in favour of using PPP- it should be based on evaluation criteria which go beyond “Value for Money” to “Value for Money AND Society” and to “Value for Future Generations”. Value for Money and Society needs to be aligned to the SDGs: participation of stakeholders, inclusivity, transparent process.

#### *Questions, Challenges, Gaps Noted*

New needs, approaches, and investment strategies are emerging from the uncertainty of the post-

<sup>55</sup> <https://www.msci.com/zh/esg-sustainable-impact-metrics>

pandemic future. Paradoxical financial situation exists during this pandemic. There is increasing indebtedness of Developing and Least Developed Countries (UNCTAD, 2021) and increasing threat of insolvency in some countries.<sup>56</sup> However, excess reserves held in US depository institutions nearly doubled between February-April 2020 from 1.5 to 2.9 Trillion USD. These high “dormant” deposits should be guided towards investments in the real economy and investments in the developing world.

In the meantime, rescue plans and post COVID-19 stimulus policies don’t seem to work. There is fear of excess liquidity flowing into speculation —not investment (J. Stiglitz, H. Rashid, 2020), which could cause further financial turmoil down the road.

It is an encouraging sign to see the financial portfolio of some investors include environment, social and governance (ESG) criteria, which are more compatible with the 2030 Agenda. How to support flow of excessive liquidity into ESG investment should be discussed in the Financing circles involved in SDG implementation.

Some other social policies need also be considered if the pandemic cannot be brought under control soon enough. There are some recommendations:

- Partial and time limited basic income for the unemployed
- Financial support of SME’s to avoid bankruptcies
- Provide support for “essential workers” in regard to health, stress, and remuneration
- If more hospital beds are needed, and if requisitions of private hospitals and health professionals are needed, provide budget for participation of private sector health facilities
- Make available food support and shelter for people in need
- Invite young persons with ICT competences to help older persons cope with digital divide which leads to missing essential health information and other benefits from the digital connectivity
- Increase teachers’ and teaching assistants’ time to attend to school children left at home without sufficient attention and support
- Speed up vaccination, invest in production of vaccines in non-industrialised countries (great majority of world population) through existing flexibility of the WTO TRIPS Agreement, otherwise recurrence of infections and new variants inevitable.

Some of these policy choices could involve the private sector and other non-state actors, such as philanthropic organisations, religious groups and community groups to participate through a People First PPP mechanism. Guiding principles for People-First PPPs in Support of the UN SDGs exists already and disseminated<sup>57</sup>

Build better futures requires participation and engagement of all!

*What are your thoughts for countries that have a large percentage of the population in the informal sector with a general lack of social protection for the formal sector? In this context, for the people facing the challenge of the COVID-19 pandemic, what do you think the role of public procurement could play for encouraging PPP-related provision of goods and services?*

**Mr. Raymond Saner:** Public procurement could be organized in a way that the procurement call for tenders emphasizes not just value for money efficiency in terms of cost, but should also focus on the effectiveness of what the tendering company plans to do for infrastructure development. The whole procurement call should be structured that it requires green investments. The PPPs need to have a multi-

---

<sup>56</sup> [https://unctad.org/system/files/official-document/gdsinf2020d3\\_en.pdf](https://unctad.org/system/files/official-document/gdsinf2020d3_en.pdf)

<sup>57</sup>

[https://unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/ceci/documents/2018/PPP/Forum/Documents/The\\_8\\_Guiding\\_Principles\\_for\\_People-first\\_PPPs\\_in\\_support\\_of\\_the\\_UN\\_SDGs-Part\\_II.pdf](https://unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/ceci/documents/2018/PPP/Forum/Documents/The_8_Guiding_Principles_for_People-first_PPPs_in_support_of_the_UN_SDGs-Part_II.pdf)

sector focus, not just cost-efficient roads, but also something that will be aligned with a green agenda.

From that point of view, public procurement could greatly direct traffic as to where the society would go and what the society plans to build. I would also like to conclude by saying that there are different ways of organizing our communities from a financial and management point of view. I have left out my presentation not saying anything about cooperatives, which for many European countries and other countries, can be a formidable member of the economy. From 13 per cent up to 16 per cent of the GDP is generated by cooperatives, for instance, in Switzerland, Italy and some other European countries, regional development through cooperatives movement could add to sustainability more than purely private sector development (Note: check the case study from the case presentation of Trentino Region of Italy by Mr. Gianluca Salvatori, 23.03.2021). Different forms of ownership of participation are available already today, and others could also be explored, for instance, through social entrepreneurship initiatives. We can be innovative in how we generate and organize our economy and society.

Comment from **Ms. Lichia Yiu-Saner**: You highlighted that we have to think about the society as a whole. As a member of society, what value do we bring for future generations? That is a very important reminder. Earlier, I have shown a chart on business engagement and contributions, and I welcome you all to go into the recording and take a look at it. It is based on a study done in Canada by the Canadian Government in 2019 (Stranberg, 2019)<sup>58</sup>. Businesses need to be encouraged and supported to do good. Some of them have already found a much larger, inclusive purpose in their undertaking (see Figure 21). You can see that there are different levels of engagement by the businesses, from providing grants or in-kind donations, to transfer of knowhow and capacities, to social procurement and co-location. Many innovations for non-financial partnerships are happening. It is a very positive development. Without creating wealth in a society, it is impossible to achieve equity and well-being for all through the creation and made available of public goods to all (Bardy et. al. 2021)<sup>59</sup>.

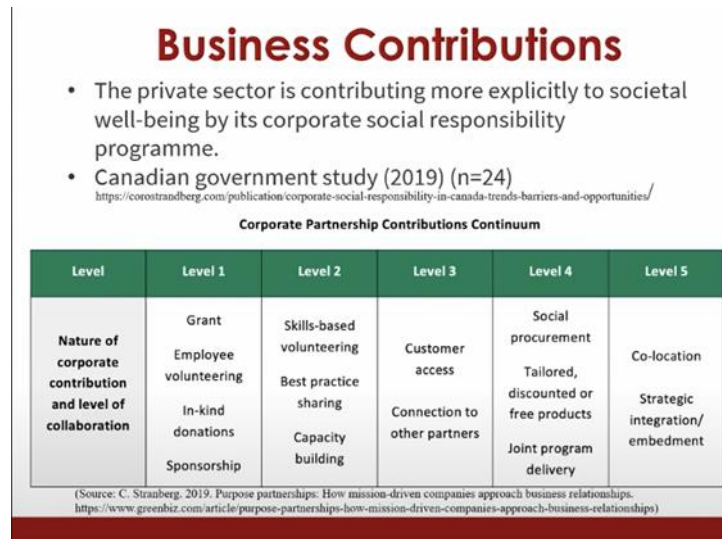


Figure 22: Business Engagement & Contributions in Canada (N=24) (Source: Stranberg, 2019)

<sup>58</sup> C. Stranberg, 2019. "Purpose partnerships: How mission-driven companies approach business relationships". <https://www.greenbiz.com/article/purpose-partnerships-how-mission-driven-companies-approach-business-relationships>

<sup>59</sup> Bardy, Rubens, Saner & Yiu, 2021, "Public Goods, Sustainable Development and the Contribution of Business", Cambridge Scholar Publishing.

#### Session D5.4: “Why should PPP Practitioners keep ESG in Mind?”

**Speaker:** [Mr. Ziad Alexandre Hayek](#), Vice Chair of the Bureau of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Working Party on PPP

“More and more we see PPP not as a tool for procurement purposes, but as a tool for development. It's a tool for achieving the SDGs.”

The story of ESG investing began in January 2004 when former UN Secretary General Kofi Annan wrote to over 50 CEOs of major financial institutions, inviting them to participate in a joint initiative under the auspices of the UN Global Compact and with the support of the International Finance Corporation (IFC) and the Swiss Government. The goal of the initiative was to find ways to integrate ESG into capital markets. The report made the case that embedding environmental, social and governance factors in capital markets makes good business sense and leads to more sustainable markets and better outcomes for societies (Kell, 2018)<sup>60</sup>.

ESG tackles environmental, social, and governance factors in capital markets, leading to more sustainable markets and better outcomes for societies. Currently, ESG investment values at 30-40 trillion dollars globally and continues to gain traction as more investors recognize the implication of ESG for their customers. Governments, investment managers, and companies are integrating ESG compliancy into their systems. 49 stock exchanges and 350 large asset managers have committed to the ESG principles alone. We are witnessing a shift in major markets and society as long-term investors, particularly the younger generation of investors and customers, become open to sustainable investments and abiding by environmentally friendly standards (see Figure 22).



Figure 23: ESG Investment Landscape in 2021 (Source: Hayek, 2021)

Despite the shift in the global market, most PPP projects are still far from being impacted by the developments in ESG. Governments award PPP projects in similar fashion as traditional construction contracts leaving Environmental and Social Impact Assessment to the winning bidder to do as afterthoughts. Information about the project and the pipeline is not communicated to investors early on. Stakeholders and rating agencies tend not to be consulted. In general PPP investments are still perceived as tools for procurement rather than development. Therefore, PPP projects often fail to qualify for ESG financing upfront and have also garnered a negative image in many countries because they are short-circuited under political pressure.

<sup>60</sup> <http://www.georgkell.com/opinions/https/wwwforbescom/sites/georgkell/2018/07/11/the-remarkable-rise-of-esg/3dd3f3501695>

### *Recommendations and Next Steps*

There is neither “one best way” nor a “silver bullet” to do ESG integration. Governance is the ESG factor most investors are integrating into their process. Environmental and social factors are gaining acceptance, but from a low base. Portfolio managers and analysts are more frequently integrating ESG into the investment process, but rarely adjusting their models based on ESG data. Following recommendations need to be taken into consideration:

- Implement third-party tools that allow governments to analyse projects and ensure that it is ESG compliant before presenting it to rating agencies.
- Consult stakeholders to manage expectations and ensure that the project is necessary. Stakeholders can mean international donors, other government entities, or the local communities that the project will affect.
- Internalize the concept of ESG for financial benefits, the satisfaction of the customers, increased stakeholder engagement and ensuring sustainability for future generations.

### *What is the risk of large, multi-national firms coming into poor countries?*

**Mr. Ziad Alexandre Hayek:** This has been an issue for many countries. We all heard about the term ‘banana republic,’ which comes from major banana producers becoming too powerful within a country that they end up controlling the government for their own interest. I think this has played in the memory of people and stayed as something people are concerned about.

But the world has moved on. We are no longer in the age of countries being reliant on only one crop, mineral, extractive industries. Today, every country is much more diversified. They have much more intelligent leadership. There is much more transparency through social media and otherwise. Therefore, I don’t think this is a risk to stop us from looking at PPP projects with large companies in developing markets. This is a risk to be conscious of, but not to be afraid of to the point of stopping us to consider PPP projects.

**Comment from Ms. Lichia Yiu-Saner:** I think your message is very encouraging, and perhaps the starting point is better dialogue and information sharing, which you also called for the government to make background thinking and data more transparent and available, so that rating agencies can help out, so to speak, to promote their projects and use huge pools of money that are underutilized. This probably also explains the phenomenon of why the economy is stagnating and declining, but stock markets continue to go up. PPP readiness, which was highlighted by you, will be the first point to consider by the governments who are interested in this financing instrument for infrastructure development and post-COVID-19 reconstruction regarding public health, education and other social and environmental services.

## Session D5.5 Reporting on SDG 17 partnerships for sustainable development – Experience from Vietnam

**Speaker:** [Ms. Phuong Chi Nguyen](#), Vice Director, International Cooperation and Communication, Vietnam Bank for Social Policies

“Partnership, especially multi-stakeholder partnership, really plays a key role in our success.”

The Vietnam Bank for Social Policies (VBSP) has been providing inclusive finance products and services for vulnerable communities since 2003. The bank conducts business in 63 provincial branches, with 6 million active borrowers nation-wide. VBSP mainly caters to the needs of private households, farms, and

micro-businesses, The Central bank's main agricultural focus includes forestation, industrial trees, poultry, aquaculture, and biogas

Green-agriculture partnership programme is one of the flagship programmes of the VBSP and started in 2003. It consists of a US\$ 4.5 billion green agriculture loan portfolio with 3 million clients, mainly private households, farms, cooperative, micro-business.

Green agriculture includes activities in the following domains, such as forestation, industrial trees, fruit trees, wood trees, poultry, aquaculture, biogas, biometric etc. The financing model is presented in Figure 23 below:

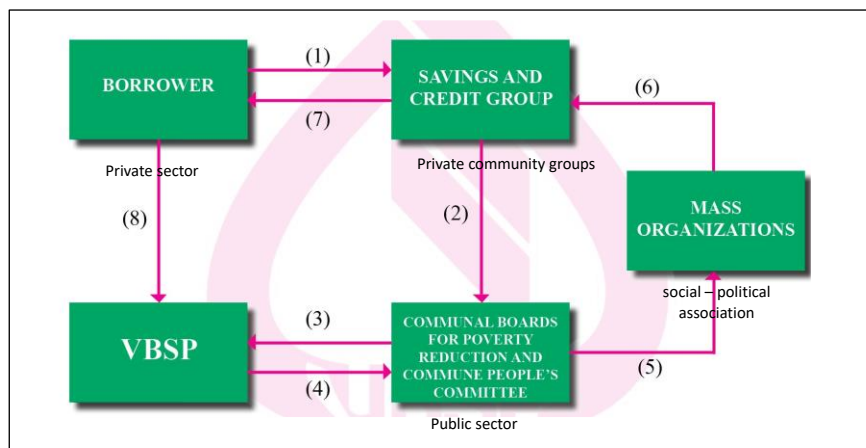


Figure 24: VBSP's Partnership Engagement Model (Source: Nguyen, 2021)

#### Questions, Challenges, Gaps Noted

One challenge in achieving green-agriculture partnerships in Vietnam is the **limited capacity for multi-stakeholder engagement** due to the lack of coordination, information exchange and dialogue among partners. There exists a coordination committed for each farm. Yet, horizontal coordination is challenging.

Limited public awareness of green solutions leads to client reluctance to use the funding opportunities. The legal framework for green credit is still incomplete in Vietnam. Combined with a general lack of green credit related information and VBSP's inexperience in this field, green agriculture financing is not as dynamic as it could be in contributing to the national policy expectation and related SDGs.

#### Recommendations and Next Steps

VBSP is to form social and environmental risk management function in their internal operation and business system. Green financial literacy education should be made available for VBSP staff members, and especially clients from vulnerable communities, to improve awareness of applying green energy solutions for the improvement of their livelihood. VSP is also looking to develop preferential credit policies for green micro-financing. Enhancing IT application, promoting non-cash payments, and creating easy-to-use payment means for rural communities is expected to be prioritized.

Lessons learned for Vietnam and recommendations for other countries:

- Integrate green agricultural development goals into socio-economic development goals of the country.
- Coordinate close communication between central-to-local units.
- Promote the benefits of green growth for the economy and environment.



*You mention that the bank and your stakeholders are not sufficiently equipped with the understanding of green agriculture, or environmental impact of agriculture. What do you see as the potential risk or vulnerability in the bank's operation?*

**Ms. Phuong Chi Nguyen:** In our green agriculture program, we are focusing on national targeted programs. This component is related to the multi-stakeholder partnerships, especially in terms of the departments or agencies of rural/agriculture development. At the local level, there is not a strong coordination mechanism or practices to enhance the capacity building for our business members in green agriculture. Also, we have a limited technical and financial support. We lack consultants and experts to guide us on how to formulate and develop green agriculture for our members.

The potential risks in our bank comes from many aspects. We have now invested in financial services for the poor because our clients are very special. They are not familiar with the visitor banking, so we must develop this step-by-step, and enhance our capacity building in terms of green agriculture.

**Comment from Ms. Lichia Yiu-Saner:** I can see that VBSP has really expanded their services to remote and mountainous areas, where I know the population is very scarce. It is a huge undertaking. As a banking institution, I would say that in order to manage the risk and also to build up the capacity, the starting point could be at SDG 17.18, collecting data and looking at where you have strong and weak performance. I'm venturing into proposing experience sharing and mutual learning among the staff and the partners, because experience is what I see directly accessible in building up internal capacities. I think your bank and stakeholder groups could be stronger than you are afraid of. Seeing the performance of the country in the last 20-30 years, one is confident that better knowledge management and mutual learning could be the first steps in identifying the knowledge accumulated in the practices and in finding the gaps for further development and transfer.

Discussion on impactful and **SDGs aligned partnerships** are crucial especially when resources are severely constrained due to the COVID-19 pandemic, especially the poorer and poorest countries. Economic disruption and consequent loss of livelihoods are affecting lives in all countries and exasperating existing vulnerability. Without intelligent investment vehicles, impactful partnerships, the government and public sector alone won't be able to progress on the SDGs on all targets and within reasonable time frame.

"Leaving No One Behind" pushes for innovations and bold actions. Partnerships bring likeminded stakeholders together at different levels from communities to countries, regions and the world. As said, the whole is greater than the sum of the parts. Partnership is that behavioural ingredient to make things happen!

## Closing Ceremony

**Speaker:** [Mr. Jean D'Aragon](#), Senior Sustainable Development Expert, UNOSD

### *Introduction and Key Information*

Mr. D'Aragon thanked the presenters and moderators from all the sessions for their knowledge and presentations throughout the 2020-21 ETC, which contributes to the implementation and review processes

of SDGs in respective countries. Special thanks were given to Ms. Lichia Yiu-Saner and Mr. Raymond Saner for their lively and interaction discussions.

## The Concluding Remarks of this Training Report

This report has chronicled the 2021 ETC course as how it happened during 22-26 March 2021 in the virtual space provided by UNOSD. This training report is prepared keeping different readers in mind, i.e., the participants who attended the 2021 ETC course, individuals who missed the course and are more in tune with text information format, interested actors and advocates of the 2030 Agenda and a general public who observes with interest this global policy movement.

While trying to capture the key messages and salient points made by the family of presenters of the course, efforts were made to make links to a broader debate on the whole of 2030 Agenda and SDGs and the in-depth view of five SDGs that will be addressed through the VNR process in July. This approach is justified by the fact of the interconnected nature of the 17 SDG goals and its 169 targets. Recognition of the wealth of knowledge has been created since the work started during the sunset period of the Millennium Development Goals era cannot be adequately captured in this report.

Efforts were made to point to the significant links and critical convergences that could be considered to amplify the interventions and accelerate their transmission to the whole ecosystem of the SDGs implementation. Keeping this concern in mind, the consultant took some liberty in shaping the process and giving nuances to some of the observations shared by the presenters and, at times, by the online participants. Therefore, the text quoted from different speakers and interactive segments are not exact verbatim.

References and citations are added directly in the narrated text, instead of introducing an extensive bibliography at the end. The personal experience of this consultant is that end-of-publication references are not user-friendly, making it more difficult for the reader to connect with a complex text when citations are not visible. In addition to indicating the intellectual origins of specific comments and positions taken by the speakers, these in-text footnotes are intended to also extend the thinking and perspectives of the readers when thinking about specific aspects of sustainability under review in the ETCs. Hopefully this effort will contribute to a better-informed constituency of the 2030 Agenda and stimulate their future engagements in the SDGs implementation.

Progress has been made since 2016 but many sustainability gaps and vulnerabilities persist. Building Better Futures starts from national consultation and engagement. VNR preparation provides that needed platform for citizens, communities, conscientious actors (state or non-state) to gather, to exchange, to reinforce and to brainstorm for new solutions. Through engagement of the people who are at the same time owners, beneficiaries and contributors to a shared and better future, this report hopefully enriches the field of SDG exchanges and fosters greater people ownership.

Finally, it is important to keep the advice of the Independent Group of Scientists who produced the Global Sustainable Development Report 2019 (GSDR 2019), as they reminded us that to be effective is to be strategic. The 2030 Agenda is huge. Recalling that the final scorecard of the MDGs (2000-2015) was boosted by the performance of one major country being successful in pulling most of its people out of

poverty. While many other poor developing countries lagged further behind. From the lessons learnt, no actors, government, international organisations, philanthropic organisations, NGOs and CSOs, and private companies should act alone and pursue its own agenda. Instead, SDGs serving as the roadmap and many data partnerships and SDG trackers will make it easier to align individual initiatives to the greater whole. Global vision, local actions still apply (Figure 25). Then, the next operational challenge shall be policy prioritisation and sequencing, once alignment is in place!

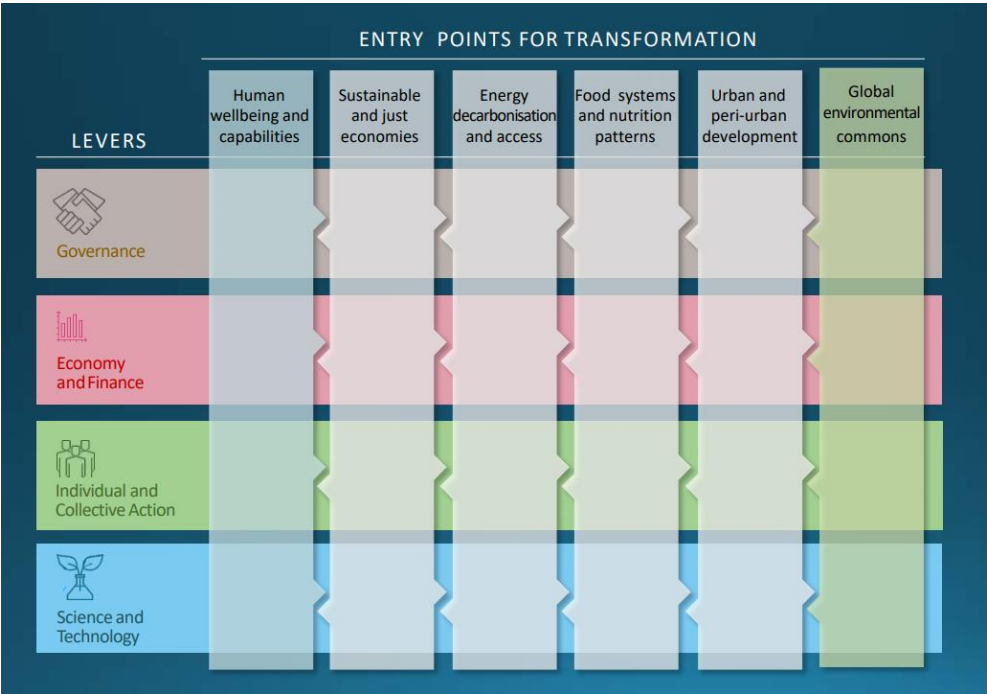


Figure 25: Strategic Planning and Innovation through combined levers to achieve transformative impact by all (GSDR 2019)

■

## Annex 1:

### ETC 2021 Programme Design Draft

Revised based on discussion with Dr D'Aragon on 08.03.2021. Initial draft was prepared on 06.03.2021

Duration of each session will be 2.30 hrs from 20.00-22.30 (Incheon time)

- I. Speaker Mix
  - a. Different stakeholder perspective: representing government, business, CSO, and academia
  - b. Different level perspective: from global (UN), regional to national (local)
  - c. A volunteer from participants to make a presentation (10') on the key challenges and key critical path in preparing VNR.
- II. Each module will consist of the following segments:
  - a. Framing (A) and Closing (B) segments (5 minutes each)
  - b. Two substantive presentations, in addition to the survey inputs and Q&A
- III. Prototyping of each segment (approximately 50') within each daily module

Element	A	Prototype of Each Segment						B
		1	2	3	4	5	6	
Activity	Introduction of the topic & Key issues	Summary* of the survey inputs from participants	Introduction of the speaker	Thematic presentation	Discussion between the presenter & discussant/moderator	Q&A from participants	Closing Remark on this segment	Closing Remark on this Module
Time Allocation	5'	5'	2'	20'	3' (1 Q)'	15'	5'	5
By Whom	UNOSD Chair/Moderator	M	M	Speaker	M	Speaker	M	M
Total Time Allocation per Segment							50	

## Annex II Questions Raised Including Questions that Could Not be addressed by the panellists

The inventory here is meant to capture the reactions from the participants who responded to the discussion by raising questions. Some of them were presented to the speakers, others not.

This inventory represents a useful pool for future webinars or research.

### Questions from Day/Session 1 of 2020-21 ETC (22 March 2020) Concerning VNR Briefing and SDG 3 Good Health and Wellbeing

#### **August Melody Andong to all**

"Leave No One Behind" is like a 'mantra' as we geared towards SDGs, and yet, in this time of COVID-19 pandemic, access to effective vaccine is quite difficult especially for least developed countries, aside from the limited supply there is also the factor of an expensive price of the vaccines, and those countries that cannot afford is basically dependent on the available donation or worst cannot even buy it for their citizens. So where is the context of "Leave No One Behind" on this scenario?

#### **Adiza Ouando to Irena**

How to ensure at national level that the largest part of the population that don't understand official languages are involved in the NVRs?

#### **Patrick Seitiso to Irena**

how are countries reporting for the second and third time addressing data gaps to have progressive reports?

#### **Joseph Njuguna to Irena**

What is the timeframe for consultations that non-stake actors could provide their inputs to VNRs at national level?

#### **Samar Ihsan to Eun Mee Kim**

Professor Kim, thank you for a very good presentation. As you highlighted there is transformation now. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, cross country inequalities have increased. I would like to know if there would be a revised edition of the Sustainable Development Report 2019 or a new report this year because the COVID 19 pandemic has totally changed the global development scenario now and new strategies are badly needed to tackle socio economic impacts .

#### **Sarina Joy Odivilas to Eun Mee Kim**

How do we introduce advocating mental health to a developing country specially if it is always tagged as just being lazy and too sensitive?

#### **Patrick Seitiso to Eun Mee Kim**

As western countries are rolling out COVID vaccines and accelerating the process while a lot of low-income countries are still yet to receive the vaccines, what are the challenges to global COVID-19 recovery?

**Mohsin Khan to Eun Mee Kim**

Also, would like to know your stake on the digital divide and internet poverty, hampering the SDGS, particularly in this covid scenario?

**Aldo Perfetto Alexandrow to Eun Mee Kim**

I join others in thanking UNOSD/UNDESA for convening this new edition of the ETC this year, and the extraordinary presentations made so far. During the presentation of Prof Eun Mee Kim, it was mentioned that recommendations of the GDSR 2019 report are critical to tackle the root causes of COVID 19. Would you please elaborate a bit more? Does this may mean that (for instance), poverty, inequality, environmental degradation, or unsustainable consumption-production patterns could be pointed out as root causes?

**Olebogeng Thelma G Eyman to Eun Mee Kim**

How do we deal with mental illness at every level of the society hierarchy into people already suffering from it and because of COVID-19 matters deteriorated such as the homeless and the elder who couldn't meet their children as usual?

**Phuong Tran to Eun Mee Kim**

Thank you very much for the presentation. I would like to ask you a question. One of the important objectives of SDGs is trying to tackle the COVID-19 to guarantee no one is left behind. Which mechanism should be applied for stateless person, particularly one who don't have legal documents, migrant who live illegal resident and even vaccine for them? And in many countries, the data collecting about stateless person is not sufficient? Thank you very much!

**Emanuel Mejia to Eun Mee Kim**

We know that one of the most viable ways to improve long-term well-being is education, in this sense, has an analysis of the long-term effects on well-being of the school dropout currently being experienced by the pandemic been considered?

**Ma Gloria Daluddung to Fayez**

Please elaborate on how you did manage and respond to the spread of fake news and misinformation on COVID-19. Thank you.

### Questions from Day/Session 2 of 2020-21 (23 March 2021) Concerning SDG 8 Decent Work and Equitable Economic Growth

**Sarah Mahe to Daniel**

Why the GSC model has led to this non-responsibility problem? And how to rebalance wages and responsibility?

**Herve Azemtsa Fofack to Daniel**

Great presentation. Thank you. Part of the Global Supply Chain is Mobility of People (workers, businessmen) and mobility of Goods. The COVID-19 has shown the weakness and the unsustainability of Mobility... How can we address that? especially in the developing world? bringing down mobility-based trade infrastructure barriers... Any thoughts?



**Irena Zubcevic to Daniel**

What can be done that stimulus packages can help decent work?

**Herve Azemtsa Fofack to Joshua**

I am in Cameroon and we are facing the same situation... I believe that the youth is trained to failed (from scratch) ... The GAP to be addressed is the Public-Private Partnership that will make sure Education Content and System IS A RESPONSE to the demand of the industry... even R&D should focus on our industrial and development need.... at the moment you follow a program, finish it and hustle for a decent job.... (we need spinoff, university creating start-up to solve problems...)

**Adiza Lamien Ouando to Joshua**

I would add monitoring and evaluation to ensuring young people at the centre of policy formulation and implementation. Monitoring and evaluation is very important to make the voices of the youth heard

**Maysaa Shaqaqha to Joshua**

When we talk about digital transformation, we know that it might cause losing jobs so how do you balance between creating jobs and losing other job as a result of digital transformation

**Pradip Paudel to Gianluca**

Just a quick question. what was the role of local government and central government? in facilitating these cooperative models?

**Roxanne Yap to Gianluca**

Society which led to how things are right now. Is there a governing body that steers the long-term development direction of the City?

**Alejandro Cabaña to Gianluca**

Was Trentino able to show a better resilience to the pandemic than the rest of the country because its characteristics?

**Kostadin Kolarov to Gianluca**

How do you assess the role of trust in the studied region for the formation of cooperatives?

**Chun Kyoo Park to Gianluca**

Are there any ways or recommendation to maintain the quality of products compared to those produced from other area?

**Alenine Neda to Gianluca**

Is there a specific group/organization for policy makers?

Questions and Comments from Day/Session 3 of 2020-21 (24 March 2021)  
Concerning SDG 12 Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns

**Adiza Lamien Ouando to Everyone**

I am very happy of this part of the presentation as I am designing a project to bring back the use of tradition tolls of water collection, storage and food conservation. I will send a picture of one of these artisans made food conservation recipient

**Rochelle Whyte to Walter Stahel**

Very interesting presentation. In our country we have issues with the production cycle stemming from drought and severe rainfall events leading to scarcity and gluts. Utilising some of these methods would significantly smooth out supply side issues but how affordable are these approaches for developing countries?

**Roxanne Yap to Walter Stahel**

In third world countries such as the Philippines, the circular economy isn't quite there yet. What do you suggest could be done to get more adopters of this movement?

**Damion Hylton to Walter Stahel**

I am from a developing country as well (Jamaica). Our imports far exceed our domestic production. How can we practically promote a circular approach given this reality?

**Miguel Alonzo Macias to Walter Stahel**

Thanks, Mr. Walter, for your presentation..., very, very interesting. Circular economic seems to be a good way out of the environmental debacle. I'm thinking about the difficulties of planned obsolescence, maybe the circular economy, with its focus on sustainability is the answer.

**Mary Descery Joy Bongcac to Walter Stahel**

Which is more overarching, SCP or circular economy?

**Irena Zubcevic to Walter Stahel**

For decades now we have been hearing about advantages of globalization. Circular economy brings us back to local level, so how could policy makers but also producers oriented only to profit be incentivized to change.

**Heba Ismail to Walter Stahel**

Thank you for your presentation, I have a question: some people debate that personal use of resources does not have enough effect on SDGs in comparison to the corporation's practices and use of resources.

**Patrick Seitiso to Seung-Whee Rhee**

Are food production methods in South Korea sustainable and/or environmentally friendly, especially the agricultural sector?

**Chun Kyoo Park to Seung-Whee Rhee**

Prof. Rhee, your presentation is really touching every aspect of Circular Economy. Indeed, it offers future direction, which should be applied to all process of socio-economic activities of society from finding raw materials to circulating all of resources circulation using reusing and recycling.

**Seung-Whee Rhee to Everyone**

To Cameroon participant. The best approach of CE may be a more organized approach, regardless regions and countries.

**Seung-Whee Rhee to Everyone**

It should be considered the situation and condition of regions and countries to establish the scheme of CE.

**Adiza Lamien Ouando to Rosemarie Casimiro**

I would like you to share with us some constraints or difficulties or barriers to the promotion of this kind of households?

**Maysaa Shaqaqha to Rosemarie Casimiro**

Thank you for your presentation. I have a question regarding the bamboo and eco-bricks, in structural point of view, do you have special structural studies for these materials you relied on and, if yes, can you share it with us?

**Roxanne Yap to Rosemarie Casimiro**

Great to hear that initiatives are being done in many parts of the country. the challenge I guess is wider acceptance and adoption. are there efforts being done to bring these projects to other parts of the country?

**Louin Adayo to Walter Stahel**

What do you think should be done on current business models of supermarkets and groceries that produces heavy amounts of packaging & plastic pollution?

**Shuaib Al-Zaghir to Seung-Whee Rhee**

How can we stimulate the private sector contribution to the circular economy in countries where Public Private partnership laws are not in place?

**Miguel Alonzo Macias to Everyone**

Thank you very much for the presentations on this third day. Without a doubt, the Circular Economy seems to be a way to give a little breathing space to our planet. However, we need strong public policies to generate a culture of domestic and industrial responsibility. Human beings need to make a pact of respect and self-care with Nature.

**Lichia Saner-Yiu to Rosemarie Casimiro**

Do you see that some of these innovations have already been incorporated into the national development strategy or as part of the voluntary national report?

[Questions and Comments from Day/Session 5 of 2020-21 \(25 March 2021\)](#)

[Concerning SDG 16 Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions](#)

Not available

[Questions and Comments from Day/Session 5 of 2020-21 \(26 March 2021\)](#)

[Concerning SDG 17 Partnerships](#)

**From Toan Ngo Huu to Ms. Lichia Saner-Yiu**

What are the main factors that affect Countries' sustainable development?

**From Toan Ngo Huu to Ms. Lotta Tahtinen:**

What is the role of people during the sustainable process?

**From Toan Ngo Huu to Ms. Lotta Tahtinen:**

Can racism, natural disasters, pandemics and wars be sustainably developed?

**From Samar Ihsan to Mr. Ahmad Mukhtar:**

Hello Ahmed. This is Samar Ihsan. Thank you for your presentation. It was indeed important and highlighted the good work FAO is doing. I was particularly impressed by your 'agripreneurs' initiative. Just wanted to know is it for African countries only or this can be introduced in South Asia as well because Pakistan too is an agriculture country. Thanks

**From Louis Meuleman to Mr. Ahmad Mukhtar:**

During HLPF meetings I got the impression that governments, CSOs and private sector are often not aware that joining SDG partnerships requires a change of mindset, and collaboration skills. This is different from e.g. advocacy/lobbying skills and mindsets. How can this awareness be increased?

**From Myrna Clara Asuncion to Mr. Ahmad Mukhtar:**

The new FAO partnership approach compared to traditional approach seems to work better when led by non-state actors. How then should government strengthen itself in this new approach?

**From Louis Meuleman to Mr. Ahmad Mukhtar**

Do you agree that SDG partnerships should generally not be based on the template of public-private partnerships where the partners are often not equal? See my 2016 article to move from PPP to ABC partnerships, with Administrations, Business and Civil society on equal footing? see <https://tinyurl.com/233z2uat>

**From Alejandro Cabaña to Mr. Raymond Saner:**

we must be careful with PPP. In most of countries they didn't function well. In Argentina, for instance, the actual government had to cancel all the PPP contracts because the final costs of such partnerships often exceeded significantly the initial budget (and could increase the debt burden of the country).

**From Adiza Lamien Ouando to Mr. Ziad Alexandre Hayek:**

I would like you to focus on the risks of PPP of poor countries with foreign rich strong firms? (Lichia Saner-Yiu, weak national PPP units of many developing countries are not equipped with the technical competence nor financial management know-how in dealing with sophisticated financing instruments often used by the multinational companies. These PPP units lack also the market information and data needed to prepare adequate Terms of Reference for procurement and contracting.)