

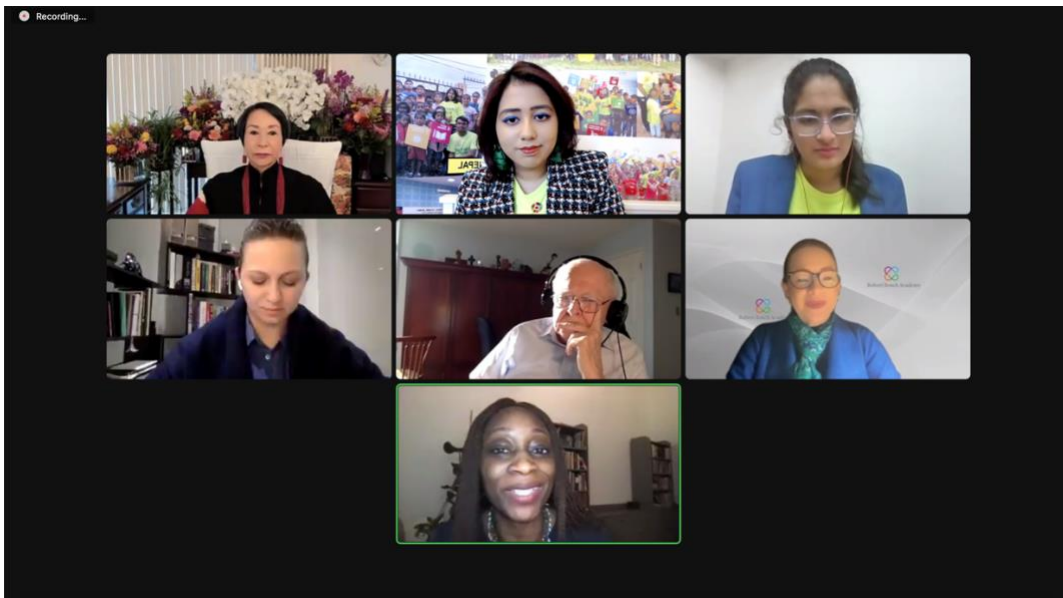


Green Hope Foundation Side Event at the 2022 ECOSOC Partnership Forum

Summary of Side Event: Rebuilding Better in Vulnerable Communities

Through the Creation of Local Circular Economies

2nd February, 1pm-1:50pm EST



This side event brought together a group of eminent, multidisciplinary, and intergenerational speakers to discuss the importance of adopting a circular economy model to ensure that we do not leave behind our world's most vulnerable communities as we strive to rebuild better, addressing the questions of why we must move away from the linear mechanism of production and consumption, that is at the root of inequality and environmental degradation, and what must we do to raise awareness, to gather consensus, to motivate and accelerate this change so that we can truly build forward equal.

The side event began by emphasizing how we are almost at the halfway mark in terms of elapsed time on the road to Agenda 2030, but in reality, on many accounts, our world has even regressed beyond the starting line. The panelists highlighted how it would be very easy to put the entire



blame for this regression on the pandemic, but to truly ensure a life of dignity for all, one had to recognize the myriad challenges that already existed globally and were just amplified by the pandemic. HE Maria Fernanda Espinosa, Former President of the UN General Assembly and Senior Fellow at the Robert Bosch Academy, spoke about the importance of taking into account the role of cities in moving towards the circular economy model and how this could alleviate urban poverty. Hon. Douglas Roche, O.C., former Canadian Senator & Author of *Hope Not Fear: Building Peace in a Fractured World*, spoke about how we needed to rethink the military industrial complex and spending large amounts of money on building weapons of mass destruction and instead, try to adopt a stronger moral approach as a global community to ensure greater security. Audrey Kitagawa, JD, President/Founder of the International Academy for Multicultural Cooperation called for a shift away from the single use mindset and instead, adopt the circular economy model that takes into account wellbeing over GDP. Dr. h.c. Hafsat Abiola, Executive President of the Women in Africa Initiative, highlighted how the world needed to adopt a circular understanding of one another in order to ensure the success of a circular economy model, as well as speaking about the importance of moving away from charity and pity and instead, showing empathy for our fellow human beings to ensure a life of dignity for all. Feraye Ozfescioglu, CEO of the World Humanitarian Forum, shared the WHF's work on building forward better and reiterating how crucial a circular, sustainable economic model is to create a more equitable world. The lead discussant, Anshita Hegde, Chapter Head of Green Hope Foundation India, summarized the panelists' ideas while at the same time sharing how Green Hope Foundation is implementing them on the ground, bringing the ground-level perspective to the table. The event was moderated by the Founder-President of Green Hope Foundation, Kehkashan Basu, M.S.M..