Summary of Side Event

''Enablers for Transformative Change to Sustain People and Nature Centred World''

8:15 - 9:30 AM (EST) 3 May 2023
In-person side event inside UN Headquarters - CR-9

- **Background on the event**

The speakers at this side event focused on three thematic areas based on the approved Science-Policy Brief abstract for the Multi-stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology, and Innovation for the SDGs 2023. under the title: **'Enables for Transformative Change to Sustain People and Nature Centred World'** and explore three thematic areas:

1) **Bio-regional collaboration**
2) **Nature-based sustainable industrialization**
3) **New collaborative and people-nature-centered partnerships**

Multidisciplinary experts in science, technology, and policy will share their opinions of a publication:
'Habitat: Vernacular Architecture for a Changing Climate'[1] (Thames & Hudson, May 2023).

Event website and speakers: **https://www.gstic.org/upcoming-events/sti-forum-habitat/**

- **Key Issues discussed**

In order of presentations:

- **Dr Sandra Piesik of 3 ideas -** The HABITAT' summary and contemporary adaptation of vernacular architecture in the context of science-policy-society brief recommendations: Sandra Piesik et al., Enablers for Transformative Change to Sustain People and Nature Centred World, 3 ideas, the Netherlands

- **Mr Fernando Santiago Rodrigues** of UNIDO - Nature-based sustainable industrialisation
with a focus on developmental nature-based policies, research, and innovation.

- **Ms Karen Rizvi of** WCS - Bioregional Approach to Wetlands. Case Studies for the Bay of Bengal, Climate Vulnerability, and inter-regional collaboration.

[1] '*Habitat: Vernacular Architecture for a Changing Climate'*(Thames & Hudson, 2023) https://thamesandhudson.com/news/habitat-vernacular-architecture-for-a-changing-climate

- **Professor Mark Dike DeLancey** of DePaul University - Vernacular Architecture in Africa: Recognizing African Architects and contemporary socio-cultural dynamics of architecture in Africa.

- **Mr Rajiv Wanasundera** of Lord Aeck Sargent - Referencing the vernacular: a new hospital in Ragama, Sri Lanka. A case study in the deployment of vernacular architectural typologies in the context of health and well-being strategies in the post-pandemic era.

- **Assistant Professor Dr Lola Ben-Alon** of Columbia University - Catalyzing natural, low-carbon, and non-toxic building materials in construction, with a special focus on adobe mud construction technologies, with a special focus on research, development, and education

- **Key recommendations for action**

  Science-policy interface
  Bio-regional collaboration

- Further explore alignment between the science-policy-society brief recommendations: Sandra Piesik et al., Enablers for Transformative Change to Sustain People and Nature Centred World, 3 ideas, the Netherlands with the General Assembly resolution adopted on 26th April 2023 entitled: '***Building Global Resilience and Promoting Sustainable Development Through Regional and Interregional Infrastructure Connectivity'*** Ref. A/77/L.59 and adopted by 84 countries.

  Nature-based sustainable industrialization

- Research and innovation will be essential to support the emergence of nature-based solutions and industrialization. This may imply recognizing the value of social and other non-technological forms of innovation.
- Explore bio-regional approaches to achieve the right scale for the markets, which will be necessary for nature-based industrialization, to foster the systemic transformations required to achieve the SDGs (Ref. Sachs et al. 2019).

  New collaborative and people-nature-centered partnerships

  Adaptation of indigenous knowledge

  (…) *We acknowledge the natural and cultural diversity of the world and recognize that all cultures and civilizations can contribute to, and are crucial enablers of, sustainable development.(…)*[2].

[2] The new Agenda, item 36, p.10, Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, 2015, UN A/RES/70/1

- According to the World Resources Institute, "*decisions to mitigate climate risks should ideally be informed through a convergence of scientific and local, traditional, Indigenous, and generational knowledge.*" Community-based knowledge and local expertise are essential parts of a comprehensive and well-informed framework for climate change adaptation. Funders and governments must design and implement a participatory model with scalable mechanisms for including local actors in the decision-making process.
- Build in a way that is suitable for each climate zone using local materials with low embodied energy and overcome the perception that the local is inferior, that imported ideas or materials are superior. Reinforce the notion that local, vernacular building typologies are still suitable to meet today's needs.
- Involve local building practices, local materials, and local craftsmen in the production of new buildings.

Education and capacity building

- International support/funding for the development of architecture programs in less developed nations.
- Increased exchanges of scholars and practitioners between more and less developed nations, but also between less developed nations, to enhance the exchange of ideas and solutions from multiple parts of the world.
- Conscious exploration of the contemporary utility of historic solutions drawn from vernacular architecture, in the same manner, that many new pharmaceuticals are being developed from traditional medicine. And in the same manner, as the pharmaceutical industry, nations furnishing such knowledge from their cultural heritage should be compensated for its use.