



2024 SDG Global Business Forum






Co-creating business impact to drive transformation

Tuesday, 16 July 2024, 8:00am-10:00am (ET), Virtual

Key Takeaways

Session I: Poverty Eradication, Just Transition and Future of Work

POVERTY ERADICATION, JUST TRANSITION AND FUTURE OF WORK

High-level Keynote	Moderator	Panelists		
 Roberto Suárez-Santos Secretary-General International Organisation of Employers (IOE)	 Carolien De Bruin Senior Director, Equity Action, World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD)	 Sarah Steinberg Global Public Policy Partnerships LinkedIn	 Solange Ribeiro Vice President Neoenergia	 Adewale Smatt Oyerinde Director-General/ Chief Executive Nigeria Employers' Consultative Association (NECA)


- **Mismatches and skills gaps in the labor market.** Technological disruptions and climate change policies are driving mismatches in the labor market. Demand for green skills is growing at a much faster rate than supply across all occupations and sectors. (22% growth in demand vs 12% growth in supply). Skills gaps exist in areas such as reporting and compliance, sustainable finance, renewable energy transition, energy efficiency, supply chain change management, among others.
- **Need to invest in training, education and awareness raising.** To effectively adapt to the future of work and deliver on climate adaptation across all sectors and along supply chains, large-scale upskilling and reskilling will be among the top-priorities. No matter what sector it is, one cannot ignore the human capital required to realize the transformations.
- **Need to ensure inclusion in just transition, especially youth, women and girls.** With over 1 billion people in poverty and over 1.2 billion people possibly impacted by climate-induced migration, as well


as persistent gender disparities in the labor market, it is important to emphasize that no transition is going to happen if it's not a transition for all. It is important to ensure that the benefits of the transition are shared with youth, who constitute more than half of job seekers globally, and to close the gender gap in green economy.


- **Roles of shared actions and coalitions in co-creation, innovation and learning.** Advocacy and shared learning are among the key roles that coalitions, public-private partnerships, business associations and employer federations can play, owning the conversation, translating grand agenda to small practical steps for businesses and employers, taking mini-steps and macro-steps at the same time.

Session II: Corporate Accountability in Food Systems


CORPORATE ACCOUNTABILITY IN FOOD SYSTEMS
THE ROAD AHEAD TO THE NEXT FOOD SYSTEMS STOCKTAKE


Welcome Remarks

Stefanos Fotiou
 Director
 UN Food System Coordination Hub


Setting the Scene

Inger Andersen
 Executive Director
 United Nations Environment Programme


Moderator

Ignace Beguin Billecocq
 Senior Manager, Programmes
 UN Global Compact

Panelists


Muhammad Tariq
 CSO
 Tanmiah Food Company


Gijbert Appels
 Group Sustainability Director
 Al Dahra


Barbara Sapunar
 Executive Director
 Business Transformation & Sustainability
 Nestle Brazil

Closing Remarks

Peter Bakker
 President & CEO
 World Business Council for Sustainable Development

- **Importance of food systems transformation.** Food systems account for about 1/3 of GHG emissions, roughly 80% of biodiversity loss, and more than 2/3 of global freshwater usage. The private sector holds the key to reversing these trends. Ecosystem restoration boosts livelihood lowers poverty and builds resilience. Food systems transformations are both challenges and opportunities.
- **Businesses have an important role to play.** Businesses can step up and lead the charge for creating sustainable, healthier and more equitable food systems for people and planet. By leveraging resources, expertise, market-driven processes, the private sector can significantly increase productivity, enhance the resilience of communities, and ensure that business practices do not create negative environmental externalities. Businesses, in particular big multi-national corporations as the largest employers in food systems especially in developing countries, have the power to save food systems at every level. Smallholders also have an important role to play, especially on the adoption of regenerative farming practices.
- **Corporate accountability in food systems in key.** The UN Food Systems Coordination Hub and the UN Global Compact are working closely with a diverse group of stakeholders to develop a voluntary framework on corporate accountability on food systems transformation.

- **Regenerative agriculture makes business sense in the long term, but there's need for support and capacity building.** Regenerative agriculture is a win-win and is more resilient to climate change. Showing convincing data to show positive impacts for nature and for community help with the adoption of regenerative practices. It was emphasized that farmers need support and capacity building to help them manage the transition to regenerative agriculture practices.
- **Limitations exist in the regulatory environment.** A common understanding of what sustainable farming or regenerative agriculture means is needed. Conflicting regulations exist in different countries or regions. More integrated policies should be developed. Incentives could be employed to accelerate the transition to sustainable practices. It was also highlighted that water and biodiversity are both local. Regulations should be informed by local knowledge as well as regional collaboration.