

European Development Days

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EDD 2019

Proceedings



**Addressing inequalities:
Building a world which leaves no one behind**

European Development Days 2019

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Introduction

This year, the EDD focused on **"Addressing inequalities: building a world which leaves no one behind"**. For its thirteenth edition, the EDD aimed to bring together the EU's commitment to promote equality and shared prosperity with the Agenda 2030. Strong evidence indicates that high levels of inequality negatively affect all dimensions of sustainable development, including economic growth and prospects for poverty reduction. Addressing inequalities is therefore crucial both for sustainable development and to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. This edition was framed around three major themes emerging as key aspects in the current context:

- Why inequalities matter for sustainable development,
- Understanding the structural causes of inequalities,
- Working better together through more effective policies to address inequalities.

Under each theme, a number of topics were identified and linked with the five Ps of the preamble of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace and Partnership.

EDD 2019 Topics

Why inequalities matter for sustainable development	Understanding the structural causes of inequalities	Working better together through more effective policies to address inequalities
People: Reducing inequalities: a catalyst for economic growth, poverty reduction and ensuring that no one is left behind	People: Inequality of opportunity	Prosperity: Taxation, public financial management, financial flows and equity
Peace: Reducing inequalities: a precondition for peaceful, inclusive and resilient societies	People: Gender inequality	Prosperity: Inequalities, trade and private sector development
Partnership: Addressing the challenge of inequalities in middle income countries: tailoring tools and priorities to the circumstances and inequality dynamics of these countries	Planet: Climate change and environmental inequalities: exploring the interlinkages between climate change, environment and inequality	People: Social protection and the EU Social Market Economy Model

Partnership: Addressing the challenge of inequalities in low income countries: tailoring tools and priorities to the circumstances and inequality dynamics of these countries	People: Education and health inequalities	Prosperity: Investment and financial inclusion
	Partnership: Territorial inequalities	Prosperity: Bridging the digital divide: managing digitalisation and technology for inclusive growth
		People: Mobility and inequalities

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Opening Ceremony

Speakers

- Jean-Claude Juncker, President of the European Commission
- Her Majesty the Queen of the Belgians
- Paul Kagame, President of Rwanda
- Jorge Carlos Fonseca, President of Cabo Verde
- Macky Sall, President of Senegal
- Lotay Tshering, Prime Minister of Bhutan
- Antonio Tajani, President of the European Parliament

The Opening Ceremony was moderated by Femi Oke.

Key Points

- The EU's commitment to tackling inequalities closely matches the UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. EDD 2019 is bringing the two together.
- Development trends have been largely positive in recent years, but there is a real danger that they will reverse.
- The EU is the world's largest development donor; not out of charity but as an investment in growth, jobs and a better future for all.
- The causes of illicit migration must be tackled at source, by ensuring better opportunities in the countries of origin.
- Private investment must play more of a role in development.

Synopsis

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development aims to provide a universal commitment to ensure safe, orderly and regular migration; respect for human rights; and the humane treatment of migrants, refugees and internally displaced persons. Leaders at the EDD opening session all shared these aims. 'Europe does not exist just for itself,' insisted European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker. That is why the EU is the world's biggest development donor, he added. But, he said, the age of charity is over. 'What we need is a partnership of equal dignity. Private investment must also be stimulated, with the aim of creating 10 million new jobs in Africa within five years.' He hoped that a free trade area could one day be created between the African and European continents. 'There is no doubt that we have made progress,' said Belgium's Queen Mathilde. But that progress has often been too disparate, and the 2030 goals may not be met, she said. In fact, 'trends that have been positive until now are reversing, she warned. Access to clean water is a case in point. 'Nobody must be left behind.'

Rwanda's President Paul Kagame declared: 'Those on the receiving end of assistance should drive their own development agenda.' This requires investment in human capital and technology, as well as an emphasis on the role of women and youth in Africa's future. The EDD are all about 'narrowing the gap', agreed Bhutan's Prime Minister Lotay Tshering. 'The most powerful social levellers in the world are health and education. Senegal President Macky Sall pointed to 'a concern we have in common – the fight against inequalities both within and between nations'. Illicit migration and people smuggling from Africa to Europe demonstrate a joint interest in tackling the causes of that migration at source by providing new opportunities in the migrants' home countries. 'Inequality is the source of nationalisms and populisms,' warned Antonio Tajani, the President of the European Parliament. 'If we want to tackle the

issue of migration from Africa, we have to see it through African eyes.' He suggested that African transformation of African raw materials could be promoted, so creating new industries and jobs.

Insight

Leaders all agreed on the urgent need to reach the development goals. But this will have to be done through a partnership of equals.

1. Why inequalities matter for sustainable development

1.1 Reducing inequalities: a catalyst for economic growth, poverty reduction, and ensuring that no one is left behind

Reducing inequalities is an important goal in its own right. But it has other benefits. It can also be a catalyst for economic growth, poverty reduction and ensuring no one is left behind. Inequalities threaten long-term social and economic development while attacking people's sense of self-worth. They can be a barrier to the economy itself as they eat away at the productive potential of people living in poverty, and disincentivise effort.

Inequalities are also an obstacle to poverty eradication, as economic growth is less efficient in lowering poverty in countries with high initial levels of inequalities. The European Union can offer an example of growth and equality working in hand: over the last quarter of a century, the EU's single market has been a catalyst for the economic and social development – bolstered by an aid policy that addresses regional inequalities to promote inclusive economic growth.

1.1.1 HIGH-LEVEL PANELS

Fostering inclusive growth: Matching efficiency with fairness for sustainable economic development

Organised by the European Commission, Directorate-General for Economic and Financial Affairs

Speakers:

- Maoyu Zhang - Vice-Chairman – China International Development Cooperation Agency
- Pierre Moscovici - EU Commissioner for Economic and Financial Affairs, Taxation and Customs – European Commission
- Rejoice Namale - Young Leader – Malawi
- Tanya Cox – Director – CONCORD Europe
- Albert G. Zeufack - Chief Economist – World Bank Group
- Grete Faremo - Under-Secretary General and Executive Director - UNOPS

Moderator: Elena Flores – Director for International Economic and Financial Relations – European Commission, Directorate-General for Economic and Financial Affairs

Key Points

- In Europe, inequality is top of the EU's political agenda.
- There needs to be a rethink of policies to put people and the planet before profit.
- Everyone, including young people, should be involved in the process.
- Investment in infrastructure and training is needed.
- International cooperation is vital for inclusive growth.

Synopsis

This session emphasized the link between both economic and development policy, which could spur inclusive growth. It offered angles from a diverse group of speakers. It was pointed out that pre-market, in-market and post-market policies should be combined to achieve this kind of growth. In Europe, inequality is top of the European Union's political agenda, which wasn't

the case just a few years back. The life quality of all EU citizens should be improved through the sharing of income. The last European Commission addressed the financial crisis; the next must tackle inequalities and fight climate change. In addition, there should be an integrated strategy to share prosperity. Prosperity of all requires the inclusiveness of all – everyone, including young people, should be involved in the process. It was then questioned why growth has become sluggish in some countries despite much investment. Meanwhile, the planet is suffering due to economic growth. Moreover, the benefits of growth don't necessarily trickle down fully, leaving the poorest even further behind.

A rethink is needed of what policies are taken, to put people and the planet before profit. It was also suggested that to break the cycle of poverty, it is essential to: Invest in education. Enhance physical and digital connectivity. Improve public institutions. Provide data on household income and consumption. The need for investment in infrastructure for people to realise their potential was also highlighted. After all, if education, health and administrative facilities are substandard or non-existent, how can cities and towns and their residents flourish? The People's Republic of China has provided aid to some 160 nations, funding 3,000 infrastructure projects and training more than 300,000 people. There was a call for further EU-China cooperation in this area. It was concluded that stakeholders need to be clear about what they mean by growth – there are differing opinions.

Meanwhile, being inclusive and sustainable should always go together. It was also agreed that education and training are vital for citizens to become actors in inclusive growth. Finally, international cooperation is crucial. Without it, the entire process would fail, according to one speaker.

Insight

There is a serious issue with developing countries receiving loans to grow but getting into debt afterwards, which is hampering their chances of achieving inclusive growth. This needs to be addressed.

1.1.2 LAB DEBATES

Sight-by-side: One country, two perspectives

Organised by the European Commission's Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development

Speakers

- Guillem Trius Soler – Photographer - EuropeAid
- Paola Trevisan – International aid cooperation Officer – European Commission, Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development
- Simon Muliisa - European Union Delegation to Uganda
- Esther Ruth Mbabazi – Freelance photographer

Moderator: Meabh Mc Mahon – Euronews

Key Points

- Refugees must have access to housing, clean water, nutritious food, security, credit, transportation and jobs if they are to thrive in a new country.

- Uganda is a world leader in refugee policy by offering land, the right to work and create businesses, freedom of movement and access to education.
- Uganda is leading implementator of the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees as home to more than 1.2 million refugees – more than any other African country and among the most in the world.
- The European Union Emergency Trust Fund for Africa has provided EUR 65 million for job training, education, conflict management and other initiatives to complement national refugee measures. It trained more than 2,400 people and created 3,100 jobs in Uganda alone.
- Unlike refugee camps, settlements together with political representation allow inhabitants to integrate into society with dignity and a sense of belonging.

Synopsis

After walking for five days to reach the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) buses, one refugee at the Bidi Bidi Refugee Settlement in Uganda found some flour to make food for her child along the way. This story highlights two major issues for refugees and host communities: food security and access to transportation, especially to job centres. Such challenges were documented by young photographers from Uganda and Spain who visited refugee settlements in northern Uganda and youth slums in the capital of Kampala. They were funded by the EU's Sight-by-Side initiative, which supports African and European art and media projects for promoting cultural understanding of African countries. Refugees were asked what they took with them when they were forced to leave their homes and locals were asked what they would miss most if they became refugees tomorrow. Their responses were visually captured in items such as a container of flour, a sewing machine or certificates of education. Refugee access to housing, clean water, nutritious food, security, credit, transportation and jobs is critical. Uganda has some of the most progressive refugee protection policies in the world. It is leading implementation of the UNHCR's Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework as home to more than 1.2 million refugees – more than any African country and among the most in the world. The Ugandan government takes an inclusive approach to integrate refugees, offering them land, the right to work and open businesses, freedom of movement and access to education. The European Union Emergency Trust Fund for Africa complements these efforts by earmarking some of the EUR 65 million it provides for job training, education, conflict management and other purposes in Uganda and other countries.

The Support Programme for Refugees and Host Communities in Northern Uganda (EUR 20 million) paid to train more than 2,400 people and created 3,100 jobs. These initiatives allow refugees to integrate into society with dignity and a sense of belonging, unlike their experience in refugee camps. Bidi Bidi, which is one of the largest refugee settlements in the world with a population of 250,000, is now a primary city in northern Uganda. It is integrated into local governance and refugees are allowed to participate in the political process, which helps integrate and represent them. Bidi Bidi was established in September 2016 to host South Sudanese refugees. Uganda is also home to refugees from the Democratic Republic of Congo, Burundi, Somalia and Rwanda. Less populated regions like northern Uganda are ideal for hosting refugees because they have space to grow. The photographers were impressed by the hopeful and welcoming attitudes of refugees and their host communities.

Insight

Photographs say so much about people who have so little.

Podcast

The role of decentralised cooperation to address rising inequalities

Organised by Junta De Andalucia, PLATFORMA and UNDP

Speakers

- Marlene Simeon – Director - PLATFORMA
- Gabriel Ferrero - General Director of Sustainable Development Policies – Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, Spain
- M^a Luz Ortega Carpio – Agencia Andaluza de Cooperacion Internacional para el Desarrollo
- Paolo Ciccarelli - Head of Unit – European Commission, Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development

Moderator: Johannes Krassnitzer – International Coordinator ART Initiative - UNDP

Key Points

- Decentralisation and inequalities between and within regions rank high on the development agenda.
- The drive towards decentralisation is fuelled by the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and the recognition that resources are scarce.
- Decentralisation demands a place-based, multistakeholder approach.
- Many local governments have found success by using the SDGs to reinvent their development strategies.

Synopsis

Decentralisation and efforts to address inequalities between and within regions have long played central roles in development cooperation. Agenda 2030 and the drive to meet the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are pushing decentralisation to the forefront as a potentially transformative strategy. This is reflected in the new cooperation plan in the Spanish region of Andalusia. The plan is designed to address the needs of all generations and to stand on the main pillars of development: environmental, economic and human. Given tight budgets, the quality of outlays matters at least as much as quantity. In this context, a “multi-level” and multi-agency approach can help ensure success. Finally, citizens in rich countries should be encouraged to play a greater role in the SDG process, especially since it applies to everyone and not just developing countries.

A European Union initiative that involves municipalities is trying to encourage greater cooperation at the local level. This includes working with local governments and forging partnerships with civil society, the private sector, universities and others. Contracts for the first phase of this programme are set to be signed soon. After another round of project approvals next year, the programme should encompass 50 partnerships worth about €150 million. Agenda 2030's success will depend in large part on local policies that encourage inclusion, participation and coordination. Some efforts put local governments at the forefront of planning and the provision of basic services. They apply a place-based, multi-stakeholder approach.

The most successful initiatives are using Agenda 2030 to reinvent their development strategies. One partnership between Benin and Belgium has helped boost the number of newborns who receive birth certificates. In addition to the personal benefits for the young citizens and their families, birth registration helps the government better understand the nature of population growth and plan the construction of roads, hospitals and schools.

Insight

One speaker provided five rules for aid agencies that work in developing countries:

1. Stay out of domestic politics
2. Align your efforts with national development plans
3. In Africa, keep in mind that many leaders have dovetailed Agenda 2030 into the African Union's own Africa 2063 framework
4. Focus on institutional capacity building

Podcast

AfCFTA: Women & youth crucial to Africa's economic transformation: Beyond Capacity Building

Organised by TradeMark East Africa, UNCTAD, ITC and Department for International Development, UK

Speakers

- Allen Sophia Asimwe - Chief Technical Officer – TradeMark East Africa
- Andrew Mold - Acting Director – United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
- Ashish Shah - Director, Division of Country Programmes – International Trade Centre
- Isabelle Durant - Deputy Secretary-General - UNCTAD
- Liz Kiambi - Participant – African Wildlife Foundation

Moderator: Dorothy Tuna – Facilitator - TradeMark East Africa

Key Points

- The African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) should bring major economic benefits to African countries.
- Women and youth will not benefit automatically from these opportunities.
- Large companies will be the first beneficiaries of the free trade deal.
- Women make up a large part of the workforce and they can benefit.
- The challenge is how to turn women involved in small cross-border trade into meaningful traders.

Synopsis

With the hopes of a continent-wide, African free trade area moving closer to becoming reality, one fundamental question posed was: How can we ensure that women and youth also benefit from the economic opportunities on offer? There was general agreement that the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) presented opportunities for increasing cross-border trade. Fifty-two countries have signed up to the agreement so far out of a possible total of 55. These benefits, however, will not automatically benefit women traders and young people.

One of the main challenges is that of scale. It will be easier, for instance, for businesses transporting container loads of goods, while women selling smaller amounts of products – often with only one or two bags of products to sell – face bigger obstacles. Nevertheless, women could benefit from a clearer legal framework, helping them to move from subsistence to being traders in a meaningful sense. As women make up the majority of the workforce in manufacturing, they could also benefit as the trade deal is expected to benefit labour-intensive industries. Those engaged in the services sector could also see more opportunities. As far as the youth are concerned, speakers said it was important that African countries that had joined the free trade deal also signed up to an accompanying arrangement for free movement. This

would benefit young people as many African countries have skills shortages and freedom of movement would allow them to avail of employment opportunities in neighbouring countries.

In East Africa, the trade deal was expected to generate 2 million new jobs a year although the same number of people entered the jobs market in one country, Ethiopia, each year. For the free trade deal to deliver the promised economic benefits, access to education is another significant factor, including, in some cases, training on how to take advantage of the opportunities on offer. This was especially true for women living in isolated rural areas. Speakers pointed out that the free trade area would not automatically reduce existing inequalities. Despite the challenges, there was a lot of optimism about the deal. There has been high-level political commitment by African leaders and economic integration has already taken place. Examples include a single network for mobile telephony and shared visa procedures so tourists can now apply to visit African countries at the same time.

Rural revitalization: Addressing inequalities - Creating vibrant and healthy places to sustainably live and work

*Organised by IFPRI, GIZ, Thomson Reuters Foundation and European Commission
- Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development*

Speakers

- Leonard Mizzi - Head of Unit – European Commission, Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development
- Marc Nolting- Deputy Head of Division Rural Development, Agriculture - GIZ
- Dr. Shenggen Fan - Director General - International Food Policy Research Institute
- Ismahane Elouafi - Director General – International Centre for Biosaline Agriculture

Moderator: Thin Lei Win – Food Security Correspondent - Thomson Reuters Foundation

Key Points

- It is important to close the gap between rural and urban areas.
- Rural communities need to have a greater share of the value chain.
- A holistic approach by governments, donors and international institutions is needed.
- Connectivity in terms of transport or internet access is crucial.

Synopsis

The gap between urban and rural areas needs to be closed as it accounts for more than 50 % of the inequalities in developing countries. Communities in rural areas suffer from a lack of access to health and education and other basic services as well as those essential for economic development such as transport infrastructure and internet access. Now they also face challenges such as the effects of climate change and conflicts. While poverty and malnutrition continue to be major challenges, the issue of balanced diets also needs to be addressed. There are pockets of undernutrition in areas where hunger itself is not a major problem, while people in rural areas often have difficulty in eating a diverse diet with the correct range of nutrients. Obesity could become a major health problem in developing countries if issues of healthy diets are not addressed now. One way to tackle this is to encourage farmers to diversify their crops to provide the range of nutrients. Rural communities must be helped to take a bigger share of the value chain in food production. While farmers in developing countries produce the crops, there are greater profits to be

made in processing and at the final retail stage. In one project, the processing of an agricultural product is carried out in the same area as the crop is grown. As a result, the communities have improved their prosperity level. This sort of project could serve as a model for rural development. It is also important to help farmers to produce their own inputs, especially seeds, as the cost of buying these from international companies is too high.

Speakers stressed the need for a more integrated and holistic approach to reducing rural poverty and ensuring food security. Governments, donor organisations, international development banks and agencies need to work closely together to deliver solutions to problems with complex and multifaceted causes. There is too much fragmentation at various levels with, for example, different United Nations agencies responsible for different policy areas that have an impact on rural poverty such as food and the environment. While international development agencies and donors are starting to revise their approach towards a more holistic approach, the same problem of fragmentation exists in partner countries. Agencies have to work with a series of different ministries responsible for different policy areas such as agriculture and fisheries. Getting away from the silo mentality – a reluctance to share information among stakeholders – is also essential if real progress is going to be made in tackling rural poverty.

Insight

While hunger and malnutrition remain major problems, developing countries face a public health crisis in the coming decades if the issues of diet and obesity are not addressed urgently.

Podcast

How Can Digital Technology Support Gender Equality in the MENA Region? Applying an analytical lens to structural barriers and exploring possible solutions towards an inclusive digital economy in the MENA region

Organised by UNIDO, UN Women and FAO

Speakers

- Houda Ghazzi - Professor, Founder Open Startup Tunisia
- Susan Kaaria - Senior Gender Officer - FAO
- Liat Shentser - Director Systems Engineering Sales - CICS
- Yilka Gerdovci Cancel - Policy and Programme Specialist on Women's Economic Empowerment – UN Women Regional Office for Arab States

Moderator: Monica Carco - O-i-C Agri-Business Development, Rural Entrepreneurship, Job Creation and Human Security Division - UNIDO

Key Points

- The Middle East North Africa (MENA) region has the lowest rate of women entrepreneurs in the world.
- The business case for digitally empowering women to contribute fully in the workplace is clear.

- Role models are needed to cut through cultural barriers and show that women can be successful in the world of work.
- ICT tools that enable women to control their financial situation equips them to plan their futures and play a greater economic role in society.

Synopsis

Failure to integrate women in the manufacturing and engineering sectors will lead to a widening of the gender gap. The EU launched an initiative in 2013 to address this issue in the MENA region, where barriers to information communication technology (ICT) access persist. For example, often even if a woman owns a smart phone, it is likely to be registered for a man. Gender disaggregated data is needed to target the gaps, but many governments are not equipped to gather such data.

Questions must be relevant and not addressed solely to the head of the household, who is likely to be a man. Technology could help women farmers in North Africa, for example, but it is important to ensure that applications, their content and language, are relevant to women. In this case, therefore, a thorough gender analysis would allow for the better design of ICT tools. In Tunisia, although more than half of university places are taken up by women, just 8 % of women head up SMEs. Cultural, as well as technological barriers, are clearly a factor. Education may not be geared to equipping people, women in particular, for finding employment, and marketplace incentives for women are also often lacking. Attitudes to maternity leave and the traditional role of women represent an obstacle to women who may want to pursue a career.

The private sector can be a valuable partner in closing the gender gap through digital technology, as Cisco Systems is demonstrating in the MENA region. It runs networking academies and ICT days for girls that have a track record of aiding them to find employment. Cisco says that cultural diversity is the fabric of the business. With an executive board that is around 60 % women, it benefits from different voices. But it has achieved this culture without the use of quotas – and so has avoided the negative optic of positive discrimination. Quotas may be helpful to kick-start a change in business culture, but they should be temporary. The importance of positive role models cannot be overstated. They show what is possible and help inspire others to pursue similar goals. As well as lacking the same access to funding as men, as they are less in control of their finances, women often do not make the same demands.

Insight

Female architects in Palestine engaged in a project to redevelop public squares made sure that designs were gender responsive: they relocated toilets to the better-lit, 'women friendly' side of the square.

Podcast

Tackling Inequality through targeting the 'Furthest Behind First': How to make the Sustainable Development Goals a reality for everyone

Organised by Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Ireland

Speakers

- Marcus Manuel - Overseas Development Institute
- Sophie Healy-Thow - Irish Aid

- Aidan Fitzpatrick - Senior Development Specialist - Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Ireland
- Susanna Moorehead - DAC CHAIR - OECD
- Joseph Okecho Olwenyi- Coordinator-Financing for Development – Oxfam Uganda
- Kaba Urgessa - State Minister – Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Ethiopia

Moderator: Tom Arnold - Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Ireland

Key Points

- Aid must be targeted at the people who need it most.
- Taxation can play a major part in tackling inequality.
- A transformative approach is essential to promote gender equality.
- Young people and citizens must be involved in decision-making.
- By 2030, 80 % of the poorest people will be living in conflict states.

Synopsis

Getting finance to the people who need it most is a key challenge for development aid programmes. The United Nations has set a target of allocating 1.7 % of gross national income (GNI) to Official Development Assistance (ODA) by 2030. Some countries are clearly doing this better than others. Ireland, seen as a success story in putting the “furthest behind first”, gave EUR 181 million in ODA in 2017. Reaching 130 countries, its ODA programme is regarded as one of the world’s best. Myriad examples of practical aid include cooperation with Malawi to provide free cookstoves to the 10 % of the poorest households. Ireland has also given 800 scholarships to girls in rural Zambia to enable them to attend secondary school. Ireland chose the session as a “fantastic time and place” to launch its A Better World policy for international development. This highlights that aid must go to the people “furthest behind” instead of ending up in middle-income countries (MICs). Indeed, the Overseas Development Institute (ODI) September 2018 report, *Financing the End of Extreme Poverty*, said the fact that 60 % of the “extreme poor” live in MICs must not be used to justify 66 % of country programmable aid going to these states. This fails to factor in that they have 10 times the level of taxation resources per person. Aid allocations must be rebalanced, focusing on countries that even after maximising their own taxation can least finance their public spending to end extreme poverty. Over the next five years, aid to the least-developed countries should increase from 30 % to 50 % of all ODA. It is also essential to identify where the poorest and most marginal people are, as they are often invisible to donors, governments and policy-makers.

Many programmes are still developed “blind”. Notably there is a clear mismatch between the supposed “growing economy” – when this growth is neither inclusive nor “falls into the pockets of citizens”. Governments must implement a fair tax system to promote equity and greater spending on health, education and social welfare. The ODI said an extra USD 2 trillion dollars can be raised by low- and middle-income countries, and “enormous resources are out there”. Finding work is also essential, particularly in sub Saharan Africa. In Ethiopia, there are more people aged under 30 – 72 million – more than in the whole UK – and they need jobs. It may be a truism, but unless unemployment is tackled it will be difficult to stop poverty. Gender inequality is another big issue – with improvements only being seen now. Oxfam wants governments to promote tax systems to address inequalities and it is also demanding more investment in essential services such as health and education. There are basic women’s rights. Finally, everyone should be involved in decision-making. Citizens need to know their rights and responsibilities as they have the power to influence people. They can monitor taxes and ensure that governments allocate money where it is needed. Young people should also be made to feel more welcome “around the table” at high-level international discussions on poverty so

that knowledge and experience can be shared. Finally, despite progress made, by 2030, 80 % of the poorest people will be living in conflict states. Stopping poverty is much more complex than providing resources. In recognition, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) has recommended its members do better in joining up development and humanitarian aid and invest more than the current 2 % in conflict prevention.

Insight

If all countries spread their net as wide as Ireland to help people overcome poverty and are as generous in investment aid as Sweden and the UK, poverty can be stopped.

Podcast

Social enterprises: A relevant tool to reduce inequalities in the Sahel? Sharing experiences and testimonials of implementing partners, artisans and farmers from Mali, Burkina Faso and Ghana

Organised by European Commission's Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development, British Council, ITC and SNV

Speakers

- Didier Versé – Head of Unit - European Commission, Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development
- Paula Woodman - Head of Social Enterprise – British Council
- Simone Cipriani - Chief Technical Adviser, Ethical Fashion Initiative - ITC
- Jean Muthamia-Mwenda - Global Youth Coordinator – SNV Netherlands Development Organisation

Moderator: Dorota Panczyk-Piqueray – Economist/Head of Sector of Gulf of Guinea, West Africa – European Commission, Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development

Key Points

- Social enterprises need solid financial discipline and control to succeed.
- As labour costs rise, the social enterprise has to be sustainable.
- Social enterprises can be used to cross-subsidise other social actions.
- They can be a platform to train new entrepreneurs.
- The EU can play a key role in supporting pilot projects.

Synopsis

Social enterprises in Africa are starting to bridge the inequality gap in key areas. Their goals are promoting and encouraging social change, while addressing gender inequalities, skills acquisition, health and safety at work, financial inclusion and all of the relevant factors linked to a decent jobs agenda. Today's economic model is focused on GDP growth. It has seen the poorest get poorer while inequality increases. The business model needs to change from one based on shareholder value to one that looks at the wider issues of stakeholders. The model must be able to prevent inequalities, and social enterprises can address this.

They are businesses that address environmental and social needs – and returns the benefits to the community. In Ghana, the Meringa Connect social enterprise supports farmers. Training farmers to plant the Meringa trees helps them grow a nutritious product and earn a good income. In this system, the farmer is no longer beneficiary - he is the customer. Other

examples include Soronko Solutions, an IT company set up by a woman who uses its profits to fund work with women and jobs across Ghana; and Tebita Ambulance in Ethiopia sells healthcare insurance and uses the profits to subsidise ambulance services. The Ethical Fashion Initiative, which runs fashion projects in Mali and Burkina Faso on behalf of big fashion brands, has a business model centered on paying a living wage to artisans. In this model, labour costs will be more expensive. The social enterprise has to be sustainable and run for a profit, although they can run for a loss for the first three years. Clients such as Vivienne Westwood have to commit to working with the Ethical Fashion Initiative for the long term. These systems need a strong financial control system. Artisans are paid decently but savings have to be made elsewhere. There is no room for waste. Social enterprises also need an enabling framework to help them succeed. This involves access to markets, and services from banks and lawyers. It is also important to raise awareness about their operation to improve credibility.

The European Commission can play a role in encouraging the development of social enterprises. It is in a position to promote pilot projects and social enterprise initiatives. Indeed, the EU – as Africa's largest donor - recognises that SMEs are the main providers of jobs (60 %). It has a role as a catalyst for such developments, particularly through creative finance instruments. The EU is able to support the testing of new approaches and pilot models that are sustainable and support local ecosystems.

Insight

The low-cost structure of social enterprises could match the needs of Africa's many unemployed youths.

Podcast

1.1.3 BRAINSTORMING LABS

Towards the sustainable reintegration of migration returnees in Africa

Organised by IOM and the European Commission's Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development

Speakers

- Guglielmo Schinina - Head - Mental Health, Psychosocial Response and Intercultural Communication - IOM
- Christoph Pelzer - EU Trust Fund Programme manager in Delegation to Guinea – European Commission, Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development
- Tsion Zeleke - Thematic Director for Child Protection and Migration – Save the Children
- Katharine Barwise - IOM

Moderator: Hans Christian Stausboll – Acting Director – European Commission, Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development

Local Communities Matter: From vocational education practices to policies

Organised by ETF, El-Argoub Laghouat, LEPL Mermisi Community College, Hotel Education Centre and MENA Apps

Speakers

- Darejan Gulaziani – Teacher - Mermisi Community College
- Nona Gudushauri – Director - Mermisi Community College
- Anita Mitrovic Milic – Director – Hotel Education Centre
- Arman Toskanbayev – CEO – Kazakhstan Association of Young Entrepreneurs

Moderator: Pirita Vuorinen – Specialist in Human Capital Development – European Training Foundation

1.1.4 PROJECT LABS

Water Science and Capacity Development: Empowering people to leave no one behind

Organised by the European Commission's Joint Research Centre and UNESCO

Speakers

- Abdellatif Zerga - Director of Institute – Pan African University Institute of Water and Energy Sciences, including Climate Change
- Joanna Fatch - Project Manager – AU/NEPAD Southern African Network for Water Centres of Excellence
- Canisius Kanangire - Executive Secretary – African Ministers' Council on Water
- Ivan Davor Kulis - Head of Unit – European Commission, Joint Research Centre
- Claudio Bacigalupi - Head of Water and Sanitation sector – European Commission, Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development
- Murray Biedler - Programme Coordination - UNESCO

Moderator: Ole Houmoller – European Commission, Directorate-General Joint Research Centre

Podcast

Regional connectivity in Afghanistan: From instability to opportunity

Organised by AGA KHAN Foundation

Speakers

- Kishwar Abdulalishoev - Chief Executive Officer - AGA KHAN Foundation in Tajikistan
- Hameed Hakimi - Research Associate – The Royal Institute of International Chatham House
- Marilyn Josefson - Ambassador - EU Delegation to Tajikistan
- Romana Vlahutin - Ambassador at large for Connectivity – European External Action Service
- Paola Pampaloni - Director, Deputy Managing Director - European External Action Service

Moderator: Sana Safi – Chair - BBC

Podcast

Meeting a new generation of social changemakers

Organised by Institut Français

Speakers

- Fatimah Salim Nasr - Yummy
- Christian Jekinnou – Innovation Africa
- Rachid Abidi – Directeur – Laboratoire de l'Economie Sociale et Solidaire
- Fatima Saar – CEO Associate – Aterliers des Genies Sas
- Samir Abdelkrim – Emerging Valley

Moderator: Marianne Vidal – Marin – Programme Officer - Institut Français

Podcast

#UEMAGIC Tour

Organised by European External Action Service and the Delegation of the European Union to Côte d'Ivoire

Speakers

- Magic System

How projects from the Inequality Challenge support the fight against inequality

Organised by GIZ, OXFAM and Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development, Germany

Speakers

- Barbara Summers - Community Planning Lead – Collaborative Media Advocacy Platform
- Byoung Hwa Hwang - Technical Advisor - Digital Financial Services - GIZ
- Katia Maia - Executive Director – Oxfam
- Johanna Hauf - Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development, Germany

Moderator: Joachim Goeske – Head of Department, Global Policy – GIZ

Podcast

1.1.5 LARGE DEBATE

What will it take to win the battle against hunger?

Organised by IFAD and the European Commission's Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development

Speakers

- Agnes Kalibata - President - AGRA (Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa)
- Nick Austin - Director, Agricultural Development - Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation
- Victoria Tauli-Corpuz - UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous People
- Paul Conal Winters - Associate Vice-President, Strategy and Knowledge Department - IFAD
- Ismahane Elouafi - Director General – International Centre for Biosaline Agriculture
- Gilbert Houngbo - President – IFAD

Moderator: Anya Sitaram – Founding Director and Executive Producer – Rockhopper TV

Key Points

- Increased fragmentation in development assistance is hampering the battle against hunger.
- More investment is essential for eradicating hunger.
- It is important to work with the marginalised and hungry to target action.
- Food insecurity is exacerbated by conflict.
- More research is needed to understand the extent of the hunger problem.

Synopsis

After years of progress, food insecurity is growing again, and now affects more than 821 million people. Sustainable Development Goal 2 – to reach zero hunger by 2030 – must be put back on track. Concrete action is needed, or millions of rural people will suffer. The problems are particularly acute among indigenous populations. Some 370 million such people and small farmers depend on lands that are being taken away from them by mining industries and business corporations. Here the mantra 'ensuring no one is left behind' remains just that – a mantra. EU Member States, multilateral foundations, European institutions and NGOs are all trying to help. But the layers of intervention in agriculture are far too complex. It is particularly difficult to coordinate aid among the plethora of international and financial organisations. Analysis of the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa found more than 72 % of development assistance is not synchronised. The answer is not to get rid of a foundation, but to make the best of what there is. While countries such as Ethiopia and Rwanda have fared well, Somalia and South Sudan are deemed to be seriously off-track. This is particularly frustrating taking account of the fact that investment in food is not difficult. The right crop takes just one season, which means that ten years should be sufficient to eradicate hunger.

Meanwhile, "investment, investment and investment" remains essential for zero hunger. Funding must not only be sustainable in the long term, but must also address short-term challenges and must be channelled into land and expertise to help rural populations. One way to tackle the severest food insecurity is to target action with the help of people who are hungry and have been side-lined. Improving technology and increasing productivity goes some way, but inclusion and sustainability are also needed. Africa has access to technology, but issues not being addressed are how food markets can be involved and how policies should be designed to stimulate these markets. Technology can be a solution, but is not accessible for the very poor. Most problems of food insecurity are caused by droughts, floods and climate change, but technologies that can combat these are not in place. Conflict is another factor in food insecurity, but no amount of technology can help a war-torn state. Research is key to understanding not only where the people suffering from food poverty are, but also what can

be done to alleviate the problem. Resources must be targeted where needs are greatest. The Bill Gates Foundation will carry out 50 country surveys by 2030 to clarify food distribution problems, excess food waste and other issues.

Insight

Although developing the rural sector is complicated by agriculture being portrayed as backward, much of the population would stay on the land to improve their income and food security.

Podcast

1.2 Reducing inequalities: a precondition for peaceful, inclusive and resilient societies

Reducing inequalities is often essential for building peaceful, inclusive and resilient societies. All along the conflict cycle, countries remain fragile. Inequalities are often linked to the root causes of conflict and fragility. Reconstruction, recovery and rehabilitation impact therefore all dimensions of resilience, including social and economic resilience.

The resilience of a country is not only its ability to withstand and recover from external shocks, but also the adaptability of states, societies, communities and individuals to progress towards sustainable development in spite of a number of pressures, depending on structural issues, coming from the economic, social, political and environmental dimensions. Evidence shows that inequality erodes trust in public institutions. It can hurt society, stifling mobility, undermining job and livelihood prospects for vulnerable groups, and creating social unrest.

Inclusive institutions support stronger states and trust in the same. They also contribute to societal and household resilience. People need to see that their system is transparent, accountable and democratic. Strengthening legitimate institutions and good governance to provide citizen security, participation, inclusion, justice, livelihoods, jobs and sustainable and equitable management of natural resources, can be crucial to break cycles of violence and rebuild societies.

1.2.1 HIGH-LEVEL PANEL

Power, resources and participation: Addressing inequalities for sustainable peace - Ensuring access to resources, decision-making and participation for peace and development

Organised by European External Action Service and EPLO

Speakers

- Glenton Mashinini – Chairperson – Electoral Commission of South Africa
- Yasmine Ouirhrane - Young Leader – Italy
- Ricardo Fuentes Nieva - Executive Director – Oxfam Mexico
- Ulrika Modeer - Assistant Secretary General – UNDP

Moderator: Sonya Reines-Djivanides – Executive Director – EPLO

Key Points

- Inequality is a powerful driver of conflict around the world.
- Any discussion of inequality and peace is really a discussion about power – who holds it and how it is distributed.
- Across Europe, the issue of migration is winning and losing elections, but the real issue is poverty and exclusion.
- Women and young people are heavily under-represented in peace processes, for example, in Syria and Libya.

Synopsis

Inequality – social, economic and political – is a powerful driver of conflict around the world and overcoming it will require a multipronged approach. Women and young people must take a leading role in finding and promoting solutions. Both women and young people are heavily under-represented in peace processes, for example in Syria and Libya. Too often they are seen as only as victims of violence rather than voices that need to be heard. Discussion of inequality and peace is really a discussion about power – who holds it and how it is distributed. Seen from this perspective, issues of development are really about power relations. When people live in extreme poverty, they are denied the means and the capacity to take decisions about their lives; they struggle to be active citizens.

Action by the EU in the Sahel region provides an example of a holistic approach to the question of conflict resolution. Climate change, the struggle for scarce resources, which can trigger large displacement of populations, and ethnic divisions are among the problems being faced. The EU has mobilised some EUR 8 billion in support of the Sahel and adopted an approach that combines a strong diplomatic and development dimension. It has created an early warning system to alert the risk of fresh threats to stability and cohesion in the region, facilitating the taking of prompt action both at the security and the development level. Across Europe, the issue of migration is winning and losing elections. But the real issue is poverty and exclusion. Poverty and exclusion, often combined with a lack of access to education, lead to prison and religious radicalisation. Societies in Europe, Africa and beyond are profoundly divided in terms of access to the benefits of economic growth. Too often, a person's name will define their future. Perceptions about inequality and injustice are important. Even though economies may be growing in Europe, for example, there is a perception among many that things are still not moving in the right direction or are not moving fast enough. Perceptions of injustice and inequality can be important causes of conflict.

South Africa's recent political elections – the most peaceful in the country's post-Apartheid history – offer an example of the importance of empowering local communities and making sure their voices are heard. The South African electoral commission trained a thousand people to go out into the communities to defuse potential disputes, giving local people a role in decision-taking. In Mexico's Oaxaca region, indigenous groups have come together to demand that local authorities respect their rights of access to water. Civil society and aid groups can help in the struggle of indigenous communities for greater political influence. Civil society organisations are under pressure in many parts of the world from authoritarian governments. They need to reach out to the international community and perhaps work more closely with journalists, who often share their predicament. Authoritarian governments listen to what the United Nations says about them or what gets written in the New York Times.

Insight

Inclusion is not only social and economic. Political inclusion is just as important. People, particularly the marginalised, must get a voice in issues affecting their lives.

1.2.2 LAB DEBATES

Applying a nexus approach to transcend the humanitarian-development divide - How differently do we need to work to leave no one behind?

Organised by NGO Voice, EPLO and INTERSOS

Speakers

- Sonya Reines-Djivanides - Executive Director - EPLO
- Pedro Campo Llopis - Deputy Head of Cooperation – EU Delegation to Myanmar
- Hugh MacLeman - Policy Advisor Crises and Fragility - OECD
- Alda Cappelletti - Director of Programmes – INTERSOS

Moderator: Kathrin Schick – Director - VOICE

Key Points

- The nexus of humanitarian, development and peace-building actions is working badly – It needs better and more flexible operational structures and coordination.
- Humanitarian missions are often too long and development missions too short.
- The humanitarian “ask” has risen from EUR 8 billion a year to EUR 20 billion a year.
- Bilateral actors, especially state governments, need to be more closely involved and cooperative rather than dismissive and/or coercive with development, humanitarian and peace building representatives.
- There needs to be better joint risk analysis. Too many risks currently exist where principled humanitarian actions run into complex political and military emergencies, where the State is often a main source of violence and corruption.

Synopsis

The nexus approach is in flux and in some cases outright distress, with the vast majority of the extremely poor and those vulnerable to militarised violence living on the verge of obliteration. The security situation on the ground is unstable, leading to finger pointing about mission creep or lack of understanding or expertise in providing shifting “assistance” roles. This was the main thrust of the comments and findings of an expert panel debating the nexus approach to humanitarian and development work.

The nexus approach is not about throwing more money at the problem: ODA (official development assistance) is around US\$148 billion per year. It is about getting money to the right place at the right time. This is particularly true in central Sub-Saharan Africa, Syria and Myanmar, where the national state is in conflict with various ethnic groups but often claims the right to be the sole hub for external assistance. Six pilot programmes are underway in Uganda, Chad, Sudan, Nigeria, Myanmar and Iraq, which the EU is undertaking with its partners in DEVCO and ECHO as well as various state and international NGOs. But the confusion about roles and strategies has led to many humanitarian missions going on far too long: a humanitarian crisis was designed to last six weeks; now the average is closer to 17 years. Conflict prevention still gets short-changed: only 2 % of ODA is allocated to it per annum. Some countries on the frontline – such as Myanmar, Syria and Nigeria – even block aid. Effective joint risk assessment remains sorely lacking. Development needs to come in earlier to take over from humanitarian assistance. Large aid programmes should not be started in high conflict areas because the potential for misuse and outright abuse is high.

Insight

There is more than enough money out there, but it is still allocated inefficiently. There is also a glaring knowledge gap – and subsequent underinvestment – in conflict prevention. The 'nexus' needs to improve with more active work by NGOs on the operational level rather than simply on the donations side. If operations in high-risk regions concentrate only on high-profile counterterrorism and stabilisation efforts, then they will put everyone on the ground in danger.

Podcast

How electoral processes can promote inclusivity and build stronger societies Exploring similarities and differences between Africa, the Middle East and Asia. Africa's three economic giants - Nigeria, South Africa and Ethiopia - compared to Jordan and Afghanistan

Organised by ECES

Speakers

- Chiara Adamo - Head of unit – European Commission – Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development
- Dr. Zuhair Abdel Qader Hussein Abu Faris - Vice Chairman – Independent Election Commission of Jordan
- Dr. Christian Joly - Political Advisor - European External Action Service
- Hon. Glenton Mashinini – Chairperson – Electoral Commission of South Africa
- Prof. Anthonia Okoosi Taiye Simbine - Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture, Nigeria – Independent National Electoral Commission of Nigeria
- H.E. Samar Khaled Subhi Haj Hasan – Commissioner - Independent Election Commission of Jordan

Moderator: Marielle Sandrine Petroni, Programme Manager – European Commission, Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations

Key Points

- Elections are a pivotal moment in the political process but also potentially attract violence.
- How to reach women, youth and marginalised groups (internally displaced, people with disabilities) has become a key issue.
- Social media are an urgent emerging issue affecting elections, including incitement to violence.

Synopsis

Elections are a core mechanism of political participation. But they also tend to deepen political polarisation, mobilise potentially violent actors and invite manipulation and disinformation. They act as a catalyst for democracy, but may also be a focal point for violence. Electoral processes reflect and deepen broader societal inequalities – between genders, ethnic groups and regions.

Organising and managing free and fair elections in democratising divided societies is a challenge involving a variety of domestic and international actors. To prevent electoral processes from deepening structural inequalities and provoking violence requires inclusive and

transparent institutions with sufficient capacity to register voters, monitor voting on polling day, and adjudicate post-election disputes. The EU, together with other international partners, supports such institutions and helps strengthen their capacity. It provides a range of technical support services to partner governments, especially those engaged in democratic reform or recovering from armed conflict.

The EU also conducts long-term and short-term election observation missions and follows up on the recommendations issued by them. In recent years the EU, together with other election observers, has shifted its attention away from polling day to the entire electoral cycle. Two major structural challenges have become more prominent in recent years as governments strive to organise inclusive elections and involve outside actors. The first is how to ensure that various groups – especially marginalised ones – are meaningfully included in electoral processes and in the broader political process. The second is how to deal with the emerging threat of technologically enabled disinformation, notably on social media. Since electoral processes not only reflect but often deepen societal divisions, the question of how to reach out to various groups and communities and ensure their equal participation in the political process is crucial for the integrity of elections and for the quality of a country's democracy. For example, countries such as Nigeria, Afghanistan and Jordan have large youth populations, large parts of which are not engaging in politics and may not be open to mobilisation through traditional outreach such as civic lessons in school or political advertising in legacy media. Their continued exclusion from mainstream politics could engender cynicism or, worse, radicalisation. Women are another large group whose participation in the political process is frequently below its numerical strength, even though electoral violence may affect them disproportionately.

Empowering citizens, and especially those from core constituencies that are not currently equally included in the political process, to participate in and monitor elections has become a main focus of the EU's capacity- building work around the world. This includes the promotion of women candidates or the prevention of electoral violence directed against women. A final emerging issue is the rapidly growing use of social media for political mobilisation, including incitement to violence. Since monitoring social media is delicate, the best insurance against their negative effects is an educated, critical- minded population and equitable, participatory institutions that together make democracy more resilient.

Insight

Political and social inequalities tend to spill over into electoral processes. Technocratic solutions are far less promising in tackling these effects than resilient democratic institutions.

Podcast

Breaking the cycle of inequality in the MENA region through cultural approach - Culture brings young people together to construct personal and cultural identities, providing voice and contributing to resilience

Organised by the British Council

Speakers

- Amina El Abed – Consultant – Impart Peace
- Rahaf Alsharif – Globally Connected, Syria
- Sakar Abdulkader – Blogger – British Council
- Muradha Kanaan - Artist – Genesis

- Muaamar Dhannoon - Artist – Muaamar

Moderator: Fatme Masri – Director Programmes and Partnerships – British Council

Key Points

- Culture, including music, digital platforms and social media, can give voice to disadvantaged youngsters.
- The EU-funded Aswat Faeela project gives young people a safe space to interact together.
- Experience shows there is no one-size-fits-all solution to a myriad of problems.
- The next step is to build bridges with other participants from the MENA region.

Synopsis

Culture and communication tools such as Facebook can help bridge the gap in Middle Eastern and North African countries between those with influence and marginalised groups. One notable European Commission-supported programme provides evidence of what can be achieved. The Aswat Faeela project is led by the British Council, the UK's international organisation for educational opportunities and cultural relations. It is implemented via two consortium partners - International Alert and Search for Common Ground. Aswat Faeela (translated as Active Voices) encourages young people to work in their communities to find solutions to issues that may challenge them on a daily basis. It aims to supply them with opportunities to be heard on topics such as conflict transformation and 'community resilience.'

There are many inspirational stories about how Aswat Faeela has helped young men and women. One concerns Tarek, a young Syrian refugee who fled his war-torn homeland for a new life in Denmark. But he did not always feel welcome in his new home. A year ago, after attending a Aswat Faeela workshop, he started conducting focus groups and interviewing immigration officials in Denmark to try and improve the integration of Syrians in their new host community. Another story is that of an Iraqi journalist-turned-activist who used a novel approach to combat Islamic State, which had cut off communication in parts of the country. He launched a letter-writing campaign in Iraq which saw 1,000 letters distributed by military aircraft across five provinces. The message – that liberation was at hand – was taken so seriously by IS that they tried to collect the letters by hand. The Aswat project is important, not least because it helps bridge what is seen as a widening gap between refugees and the European host communities where they resettle. But there is no one-size-fits-all solution and something that may work in, say Iraq, may not be quite so effective in Syria or Lebanon. Even so, the project is providing one of the few platforms that physically brings together a diverse range of people around common issues. The next step is to build new bridges, this time with other participants from the wider MENA region. Wrapping up the session, two activist rappers, Muaamar Dhannoon and Murtadha Kanaan, showcased their work that seeks to focus on youth inclusion across communities in Iraq and on current affairs such as the Basra water crisis and youth unemployment.

Insight

We live in an age where people's sense of identity is connected to their nationality. One key challenge therefore is to help people adapt while, at the same time, staying connected to their roots.

Podcast

The guardians of the territory - Strengthening international solidarity and support to indigenous peoples and environmental human rights defenders

Organised by ProtectDefenders, European External Action Service and International Land Coalition

Speakers

- Ariane Assemet – Advocacy – Centro de Derechos Humanos de la Montaña Tlachinollan
- Joan Carling – The Indigenous Peoples Major Group for Sustainable Development
- Sabine Pallas - Partnerships Officer - International Land Coalition
- Stella Matutina - Human Rights Coordinator – ProtectDefenders

Moderator: Luisa Ragher – Head of Division Global.1 Human Rights – European External Action Service

Key Points

- Indigenous communities must be able to fight for their rights without being intimidated or killed.
- Efforts to defend rights and resources should not be considered criminal.
- There is a responsibility for international donors and governments to act.
- UN declarations should go further than they do and include a participatory process involving indigenous communities.
- Partnerships with indigenous people are necessary to protect their rights and deliver equitable benefits.

Synopsis

Indigenous peoples and environmental human rights defenders risk their lives when they try to defend their territories against projects that exploit natural resources. Two hundred and seven environmental human rights defenders were killed in 2017. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development emphasizes the crucial role of securing land rights and natural resources to eradicate poverty, and to achieve gender equality and sustainable development. However, corruption and weak government result in poor enforcement. As a result, indigenous communities are being broken up and destroyed alongside environmental degradation that is driven by political and economic interests. Efforts by indigenous communities to protect their resources are often regarded as criminal acts.

The private sector or government just come and take what they want. If the local people take action, the law is used to punish them. In Columbia, for example, 60 people were killed protecting their land. All laws that criminalize indigenous people for defending their land rights should be repealed. A major obstacle is that these rights are not recognised by a number of States and are therefore not secure. Resources are held collectively, but only 10 % are recognised formally. When foreign investors arrive, the land can be just taken away. Increasingly the term sustainable development is used as a cover for land grabbing, and for separating communities from their land and resources. Governments must be persuaded that this is unacceptable, and that these communities must be treated with respect and their rights respected. This means the indigenous people should be treated as partners with a right to their land and equitable benefits from the exploitation of the natural resources on that land. More needs to be done at the international level.

The UN Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous People (2007) is often not recognised. The indigenous lands are extremely rich in natural resources and are a particular target for extractive industries. At the same time, agri-business plantations are occupying land and forcing the local communities into slums. Governments in the EU and US, where the headquarters of major multinational corporations are located, and major donors have a key responsibility in influencing positive policy implementation. Financial institutions should factor in respect for indigenous communities in their funding packages, and UN declarations should go further and stipulate participation from indigenous communities in the exploitation of natural resources.

Insight

Foreign governments are in a better position than national ones to insist that international corporations respect indigenous populations.

Podcast

When youth and police talk – reducing inequalities through social cohesion Fighting inequalities by preventing idle youths to engage in conflict and violent extremism – innovative approaches from East Africa

Organised by the European Commission's Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development, Search for Common Ground, RUSI, Altai Consulting, Uganda Police and Green String Network

Speakers

- Asan Kasingye - Assistant Inspector General of Police – Government of Uganda
- Angi Yoder-Maina - Executive Director – Green String Network
- Mathilde Verdeil – Project Manager - Altai Consulting
- Charline Burton - Executive Director, Europe – Search for Common Ground

Moderator: Galgallo Abagaro – Royal United Services Institute

Key Points

- The anger and resentment of many young people living in the slums of East Africa make them easy targets for radicalisation and recruitment by extremist groups.
- Problems with police corruption, arbitrary detention and confrontational approaches to law enforcement have fuelled resentment.
- A new, community-based approach to policing has been shown to break this cycle and bring positive change.

Synopsis

Levels of crime and gender-based violence in the slums of Kampala are high – driven by anger that people feel towards heavy-handed security forces and the acute lack of sanitation, healthcare, education and jobs. Terrorist groups Al Qaeda and Al Shabab have exploited this anger by radicalising young slum dwellers and recruiting them as fighters. However, a new programme of community policing initiated in 2016 has begun to make a difference. Through training and town hall meetings with the community, police have begun to understand social problems and spot signs of radicalisation. The programme has delivered vocational training to 500 young people and improved social services. The aim is to reduce root causes of anger and build community cohesion.

It is beginning to show results. But with one third of Ugandan police believing this approach is too soft, there is still a way to go. The police must change its mindset. But more laws and bans are not the answer. Authorities need to understand the factors that drive violence in slums and meet affected people halfway. Police arresting youth and putting them in cells doesn't solve the problem. It fuels resentment, radicalisation and more anger. Green String Network, a Kenyan NGO, has taken a "social healing" approach to address similar issues in Majengo slum, Nairobi. At the moment a traumatised police force with a high rate of suicide is providing security to a traumatised population. Slum dwellers who are victims of violence feel their victimhood justifies further violence. The police also feel victimised. Local people attack them in anger at their sometimes brutal and corrupt practices. Junior police officers are under pressure to bring in the cash for their seniors. Along Kenya's border with Somalia, disaffected youth in the Lamu district are vulnerable to radicalisation by Al Shabab. Local grievances around discrimination and lack of job opportunities reached a peak when the authorities banned night fishing in 2011. The reason given was that Somali Al Shabab operatives were infiltrating Kenya at night posing as fishers. But the ban affected 6,000 local fishers in an area that depends heavily on the industry. Some locals turned to violence to survive. Search for Common Ground, an international peacebuilding organisation, set up the Kiunga Youth Bunga initiative to tackle the problems in Lamu. They organised dialogue sessions between the community and the County Commissioner, who was responsible for coordinating police and coastguard operations. The dialogues slowly replaced feelings of mutual hostility with a sense of trust. The Commissioner agreed to lift the ban with the right safeguards in place. The community agreed to carry out background checks on all fishers and issued 3,000 registration cards. As a result, night fishing resumed in 2017. With the ban lifted, piracy has gone down and fewer youth are being recruited into Al Shabab. The police and community meet up every month and even play soccer on the beach together. A survey which asked participants to describe the nature of collaboration between local communities and security forces showed an upswing from 18% positive before the programme to 57 % positive after 18 months.

Insight

Asan Kasingye, Uganda's Assistant Inspector General of Police, has 50,000 followers on Twitter. He endears himself to young Ugandans by referring to the music they love and speaking their language.

Podcast

Making inclusion in humanitarian settings a reality **DG ECHO's guidance note on the inclusion of persons with disabilities in EU-funded humanitarian aid operations**

Organised by the European Commission's Directorate-General for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management, Humanity & Inclusion, Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland and European Disability Forum

Speakers

- Ioannis Vardakastanis – President – European Disability Forum
- Sien Andries - Global Specialist Inclusive Humanitarian Action - Humanity & Inclusion
- Mohamad Jolo – Self advocate
- Santala - Director General of the Department for Development Policy - Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland

- Christos Stylianides – EU Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management
– European Commission

Moderator: Monique Pariat – Director General – European Commission, Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations

Key Points

- Persons with disabilities must be involved in the design and development of humanitarian assistance.
- Conflict areas heighten the vulnerability of persons with disabilities and assistance is often not adapted to their needs.
- Recently introduced Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO) guidelines seek to improve the inclusion of disability considerations in humanitarian assistance; they aim to identify and address gaps in aid.
- Women are especially vulnerable to assault in humanitarian settings; they are four to 10 times more likely to suffer an attack.
- Disabled persons' organisations are not just beneficiaries of aid but a source of expertise and must be an integral part of a humanitarian response

Synopsis

Though Disabled Persons' Organisations (DPOs) have welcomed the European Union's focus on the issue of inclusiveness in humanitarian aid, they highlight the inadequate provision of assistance across the world. In South Sudan, for example, visually impaired persons were allocated separate camps – ostensibly for their own protection. However, examples abound of discrimination in crisis situations. A particular challenge relates to the perception of persons with disabilities as a homogenous group. They are often seen as having special needs or treated as having a medical issue. In Syria, one refugee reports that children with disabilities were seen before the civil war as not being able to make a valid contribution to society and their education was neglected. The refugee, who now lives in Germany, says he encountered a similar lack of inclusiveness along his migration route. He surmises that humanitarian aid is insufficient to address the vast gaps in assistance, raising the issue that aid must be adequately resourced if it is to be effective. Finland has been a trailblazer for inclusiveness. The country played a key role in bringing governments together on the issue at a summit in 2016 that led to the drawing up of a charter on inclusiveness.

This charter has now been signed by 29 countries, along with the EU. Finland will continue to raise this issue on the agenda as it takes over the presidency of the EU in the coming weeks. Persons with disabilities are especially vulnerable in conflict areas; they are less able to flee dangerous sites and more likely to be targeted by thieves. They are, moreover, less likely to be able to access humanitarian assistance and may even be subject to negative attitudes if they do so. For this reason, campaign organisations are calling for more people with disabilities to be part of the humanitarian effort and to be present on the ground. DPOs argue that not only should people with disabilities, and their representative organisations, be involved in the design of policy but also in its implementation. Stakeholders agree that the paucity of quantifiable and qualitative data is an urgent issue that must be addressed. Gathering data on the effectiveness of policies and their implementation will help better target assistance to address the gaps to inclusiveness. Adherence to ECHO guidelines – a living document that can be amended as needed – must be tracked to ensure that provision is moving towards the better inclusion of the most vulnerable in humanitarian settings, that is persons with disabilities.

Insight

It is reportedly rare to find persons with disabilities working in humanitarian assistance, even though their first-hand experience would be invaluable in ensuring efforts are adapted to the most vulnerable.

Podcast

Promoting inclusive peace, security and development in the Sahel **The role of women and communities in the media, dialogue initiatives and the security sector in Central Mali and beyond**

Organised by Foundation Hirondelle, Interpeace and the EU Delegation to Mali

Speakers

- Nene Konate - Executive Director -Malian Institute of Action Research for Peace
- Julien Bouzon - Team Leader - Governance and Economics – EU Delegation to Mali
- Mouhamadou Toure – Studio Tamani
- Jean-Herve Jezequel - Project Director – International Crisis Group

Moderator: Nona Deprez – Head of Unit – European Commission, Service for Foreign Policy Instrument

Key Points

- Stabilising the Sahel has become a priority of the EU's cooperation. This entails resolving violent conflicts, while improving social services and access to food and water.
- Trust-building measures can help empower local populations and strengthen their resilience to conflict.
- In conflict-torn Niger, women are playing a vital part in building trust between the security forces and civil society. Recruitment of more women into the military could provide a boost.
- Access to information via the media is key to promoting peace, but only if coverage of the various parties to the conflict is accurate and balanced.

Synopsis

The situation in the Sahel, and more particularly Central Mali, is highly complex. It involves a range of militias, Jihadists and self-defence groups. Community conflicts, notably over scarce resources, are also an important issue. In some areas, the State and its security forces are no longer in control. The prevailing insecurity has hit social service provision and led to the widespread closure of schools. The immediate need is to halt the violence and disarm the various groups. Reconciliation must then follow, together with the return of the State. This will require a change in governance, away from the previous top-down approach.

One task for the authorities will be to regulate access to natural resources. But they will first have to gain more credibility among the population. So access to resources must be seen to be fair. Women have been playing a major part in promoting peace. Often particularly keen to end conflict, they can wield considerable influence in their communities. Notably, they have been active in building trust between the military and civil society. The security forces have now designated focal points to improve contacts with civil society organisations. Recruitment of more women into the security forces would improve this process. Women would be more

willing to share useful information, and to report rape and other abuses, if they knew that the forces had female personnel. One issue here is the low representation of women (8.8 % overall) at the various levels of political life, despite a commitment to gender equality in the Malian constitution. Through its instrument for contributing to stability and peace, the EU is also promoting contacts between communities and the security forces.

It is emphasising action in the region's transborder areas, given their role in people trafficking and militia movements. Practical EU support ranges from safeguarding airports to providing vehicles for the security forces.

Insight

Given the urgency of the situation in Mali, the challenge now is to rapidly stabilise the country, but without losing sight of its longer-term development needs.

Podcast

1.2.3 PROJECT LABS

Cooperatives and peace: A case study approach

Organised by Cooperatives Europe

Speakers

- Amanda Benson - Projects and Research Officer - Co-operative College UK
- Juan Cuervo - Executive Secretary - Revolusolar
- Agnes Mathis – Director – Cooperative Europe
- Samar Khalil - Programme Coordinator – AVSI Foundation

Moderator: Peter van Sluijs – Coordinator CSPPS – Catholic Organisation for Relief and Development Aid

Podcast

The Role of Young People in Peace Processes

Organised by The BogotArt Foundation, Search for Common Ground and UNOY

Speakers

- Yasmine Ouirhrane - Young Leader – Italy
- Reuben James Barrete - Editor of the EDD Young Leaders for Development blog
- Irena Grizelj – Search for Common Ground

Moderator: Leonardo Parraga – Executive Director - The BogotArt Foundation

Podcast

Women's health and empowerment for community resilience

Organised by AMREF Health Africa

Speakers

- Bitania Lulu Berhanu - AMREF Health Africa
- Habtamu Adane Zerihun – EU Delegation to Ethiopia
- Kalkidan Yimer Ahmed – Christian Aid
- Sintayehu Abebe Woldie - Programme Manager - AMREF Health Africa

Moderator: Roberta Rughetti – Head of Programs - AMREF Health Africa

Podcast**Does equality in peace matter?**

Organised by Kofi Annan Foundation and Interpeace

Speakers

- Maud Roure - Head of Programmes, Transitions to Peace and Promoting Youth Leadership
- Kofi Annan Foundation
- Daniel Hyslop - Director of Policy and Learning - Interpeace
- Hager Alsharif – Together We Build It
- Antje Herrberg - Senior Mediation Advisor - European External Action Service
- Susanna Moorehead - DAC CHAIR – OECD

Moderator: Hanna Lehtinen – Ambassador – Permanent Representation of Finland

Podcast

1.3 Addressing the challenge of inequalities in middle income countries: tailoring tools and priorities to the circumstances and inequality dynamics of these countries

After a historical decline in most parts of the world from the 1920s to the 1970s, income inequality is on the rise in nearly all countries. Gini-coefficient-based rankings of inequality show that some of the most unequal places are middle-income countries, home to five billion people and 73% of the world's poor.

However, different countries have experienced widely different inequality trajectories, highlighting the importance of political and institutional factors in shaping income dynamics. Latin American countries, starting from extremely high levels, have made significant progress in terms of inequality reduction in the first decade of the 2000s and have positive experiences and lessons learnt to share. Asian countries, historically more egalitarian, have seen inequality surge by over 5 percentage points in the last 20 years, despite the economic growth registered by the region during the period. Successful poverty and inequality responses need to look at the sources of inequality and adapt policies accordingly.

In terms of global lessons learnt from recent research, income tax progressivity is considered a key tool to combat rising income and wealth inequality at the top. But tax systems are highly regressive in large emerging countries. More equal access to quality education and good paying jobs is also considered key to countering the stagnation and sluggish income growth rates of the bottom half of the population. There can be enormous gaps between the beliefs evinced in public discourses about equal opportunity and the realities of unequal access to education.

Related Sessions:

1.3.1 HIGH-LEVEL PANEL

The role of international cooperation: Enabling new responses for inclusive growth - The European Launch of the Latin American Outlook 2019 – Development in Transition

- *Organised by the European Commission's Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development, OECD Development Centre, EuroSocial, OECD and ECLAC*

Speakers

- Margarita Cedeño - Vice President – Dominican Republic
- Stefano Manservigi - Director-General – European Commission, Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development
- Alicia Bárcena - Executive Secretary – Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
- Mario Pezzini – Director – OECD Development Centre
- Luca Jahier – President – European Economic and Social Committee
- Aina Calvo Sastre – Director – Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation
- Angela Ospina de Nicholls - Director General – Presidential Agency for International Cooperation
- Juan Pablo Lira – Chilean Agency for International Cooperation for Development

- Andrea Vignolo - Executive Director – Uruguayan Agency for International Cooperation
- Carlo Angeles - Young Leader – Peru

Moderator: Jolita Butkeviciene – Director for Latin American and Caribbean – European Commission, Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development

Key Points

- International cooperation is in transition and now needs to start producing results rather than promises.
- The example of EU-Latin American relations shows that tackling extreme poverty has been a success but its structural causes need to be dealt with.
- GDP cannot be the leading indicator for wealth generation.
- In a world of social protection with numerous informal workers, it is not enough to have donors and beneficiaries who do not speak to each other.

Synopsis

International cooperation and inclusive growth are in transition. While there has been progress in providing overall wealth to smaller traditionally feeble economies, more concrete results need to be achieved. The march against globalisation and multilateralism may cheer the populists, but they provide no answers to bringing more equitable opportunity and modest prosperity to the poor and lower middle classes. Some of the world's poorest economies have been in Latin America. There have been great strides made, but still 14 out of 15 countries with the highest levels of income and capital ownership disparity are located in Latin America. The example of Latin America and its evolving relations with the European Union are instructive. Structural poverty remains a challenge. Financial resources have not been in short supply, but the efficiency that comes with development cooperation has been lacking. Development in transition in Latin America mirrors the painful reality of trying to decisively move from developing to developed country status.

International cooperation has too often led to a "development trap". Many countries, like the Dominican Republic, which with a 6 % growth rate in 2019 has graduated to "middle-income" country status, have moved to taking an active part in international cooperation. But that level of growth as in other similar Latin American countries such as Chile, has not been accompanied by a reduction in the structural causes of poverty and inequality. Inequalities continue to widen in key areas of the market. Social cohesion is also fraying. GDP long used as the misleading yardstick for measuring growth, wealth and its aspirational cousin "opportunity", does not reliably measure the social gaps that threaten opportunities among the working and extreme poor in society. It also does not provide useful comparisons of wealth and opportunity with more developed countries in the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development tables. In the informal economy, of which up to 50 % of the working population participate in much of Latin America, the donors and beneficiaries aren't speaking effectively with each other, but past each other.

Some basic social protections exist universally in Latin America, but the international development community needs to be talking more to Latin America on a country-to-country basis – not with governments, but with those civil society organisations and private sector firms that have been on the ground for a long time. Local knowledge and experience needs to be better utilised and not ignored by the EU and other major players. The EU has to step up more. Sharing many of same historical and cultural values with Latin America, with strong inward investment, is a good start. But this investment stock could be lost through taking it for granted. China looms large in the wings.

Insight

Europe and Latin American countries need to move away from looking at indicators like GDP exclusively and pay more attention to stakeholders on the ground. Latin American countries are now neither developed nor developing.

1.3.2 LAB DEBATES

Comprehensive Development Plan of El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Mexico - A new cooperation paradigm for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Organised by SRE and the European Commission's Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development

Speakers

- Stefano Manservigi - Director-General – European Commission, Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development
- Mauricio Escanero - Head of Mission - Mission of Mexico to the European Union
- Alicia Bárcena - Executive Secretary – Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
- Jolita Butkeviciene - Director for Latin America and Caribbean - European Commission, Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development

Moderator: Luis Felipe Lopez-Calva – Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean – UNDP

Key Points

- Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras have agreed a plan – the Comprehensive Development Plan – to tackle non-voluntary migration in the region.
- Thirty million people in Central and North America live outside their country of birth, 20 million of them in the United States.
- More than half of migrants cite economic hardship as their reason for moving, with violence and insecurity the second most-cited motive.
- Central America faces a huge jobs deficit; it needs over 360,000 new jobs every year but creates only 127,000.
- Proposals put forward by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) seek to create a dynamic free trade zone linking Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras.

Synopsis

Migration within and out of Central America is a long-term phenomenon, driven largely by poverty and violence, and it is on the rise. Currently, some 30 million people in North and Central America live outside the country in which they were born. The solution to the problems generated by mass migration will need time because there are no quick fixes. Mexico, El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras – in an action that pre-dates the recent focus placed on the issue by the Trump Administration in the United States – have launched an initiative to meet the challenges posed by the large-scale movement of people across borders. It seeks to switch the emphasis from national security – essentially the security of the host country – to

questions of sustainable economic and social development. The four-country initiative is based on a plan drawn up by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

The European Union shares the approach being adopted, which is to tackle the economic and social drivers of migration without shying away from issues such as trafficking. Among migrants, 52 % give hoped-for improvements in living conditions as their principal motivation for moving; 45 % cite lack of security and problems of gang violence. Almost all of them accuse their local governments of being incapable of resolving the problems. The ECLAC plan sets out to promote economic integration between the four countries. The plan has been presented and is now being studied by the four governments. It took as its point of departure the four-point migratory cycle highlighted in the intergovernmental Global Compact for Migration, signed by countries at a meeting in Morocco in December 2018, and which seeks to honour international commitments in the 2016 New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants. The migration cycle is origin, transit, destination and return. People migrate primarily for lack of economic opportunities or because their jobs are precarious and/or poorly paid. There are some 362,000 young people entering the jobs market in Central America every year, but only 127,000 jobs are being created. Salaries in the US are 10 times those of Central America. Family reunification is another important factor, particularly when it comes to migration to the US, which is home to 20 million people not born there.

The ECLAC plan has four pillars – economic development, social integration, sustainability and integrated management of the migration cycle. It proposes creating an economic zone with free trade and integrated value chains linking southern Mexico and its three Central American partners. The tools include trade facilitation – to reduce red tape – infrastructure investment, the integration of energy networks and regional digitalisation. It also involves commitments to fight tax evasion and develop more progressive fiscal policies. It would strengthen systems of well-being, particularly schooling, by seeking to ensure that all children attend secondary school. However, some criticisms were raised of the ECLAC plan, notably its failure to stress trade issues, such as the price of coffee. The price of coffee in Europe, for example, is currently 75% below the level of 1983.

Insight

There will always be migration. But it should be a voluntary decision rather than something forced on people by economic hardship and violence.

Podcast

Critical challenges in reducing inequality – Learning from South Africa What can the international development community learn from South Africa's efforts to overcome inequality?

Organised by the Department of National Treasury of South Africa, IFPRI, United Nations University, SARS, TIPS, the Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation of South Africa, the Department of Trade and Industry of South Africa, the European Commission's Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development and the Delegation of the European Union to South Africa

Speakers

- Rudi Dicks - Deputy Director-General - Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation, South Africa
- Ingrid Woolard – Professor – Stellenbosch University

- Catherine Macleod - Chief Director Macroeconomic Analysis - Department of National Treasury, South Africa

Moderator: Bernard Rey – Head of Cooperation - European Commission, Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development

Key Points

- South Africa has some of the world's highest levels of inequality.
- Major increases in social safety nets for the most vulnerable in the population have reduced disparities.
- Living conditions for many South Africans still remain unchanged in recent years.
- A significant proportion of the current middle class are at risk of falling into poverty.

Synopsis

South Africa is one of the most redistributive middle-income countries, but it also has some of the world's highest levels of inequalities. Major increases in social safety provision for the most vulnerable in the population has reduced disparities. However, extended low economic growth, poor educational outcomes and structurally high unemployment mean that living conditions for many South Africans remain persistently unchanged.

The first democratic elections in South Africa in 1994 brought about the prospect of equal opportunity and an overall improvement in living standards for the majority of South Africa's population. But well over 20 years after the country's return to democracy, inequality remains remarkably high largely due to the labour market. Currently, 16 million people are employed in South Africa but 6 million are out of work. The overall unemployment rate is 27 % but this rises to 55 % for the 15-54 age group. The average 40 % employment rate compares with a global mean of 60 %. Perhaps most damning, more than 50 % of those of a working age are out of work. There has been significant and impressive progress in improving access to essential services, such as water and electricity, but even here inequalities remain, not least along racial lines. The fact remains that while whites are a minority in the population, they still control wealth in South Africa. Another key driver of high levels of inequality is low economic growth. In the mid-2000s it was about 4-5 % but this has steadily declined to 1.5 % today.

The relative failure of government policy is also a factor. For instance, 52 % of government expenditure goes on education and health but data shows that a high proportion, over 70 %, of youngsters leave school unable to read or do even basic maths. Large disparities in earnings are yet another cause of inequality. Top earners have done well both in absolute and relative terms in the past 20 years, but this has merely served to increase inequality. The good news is that efforts are being taken to address these assorted problems which other African countries could possibly learn from. They include the introduction of a minimum living wage, equivalent to about € 200 a month. The distribution of social grants and the Income Guarantee Scheme, which guarantees anyone of working age one day's work a week, have helped cut poverty levels. South Africa also has an impressive social welfare system which means that one in three of the population, about 16 million people, receive some form of welfare. The country is also credited with an efficient, equitable, progressive and well-administered taxation system. Innovative projects like Africa Unite, which promote social cohesion, are also working with the country's youth to fight inequality. Despite this, 25 years after democratisation, economic inequality persists and South Africa is a deeply unequal society with a significant proportion of the current middle class now also considered at risk of falling into poverty.

Insight

South Africa deserves credit for progress in reducing poverty rates but, today, the super poor remain super poor. This is still a deeply unequal society so the need for action is now, not tomorrow.

Podcast

Middle-income countries and inequalities, bridging the two sides of the mirror - Can digital technology, public procurement, public social spending and active citizenship shape new priorities to address inequalities?

Organised by UNOPS, Oxfam and UNICEF

Speakers

- Ricardo Fuentes Nieva - Executive Director – Oxfam Mexico
- Patricia Moser - Director Procurement Group - UNOPS
- Rositsa Zaimova - Co-founder – Dalberg Data Insights
- Julianna Lindsey – Representative – UNICEF

Key Points

- New methods of collecting data in middle-income countries (MICs) can give a more nuanced view of growth, unemployment and poverty rates.
- Governments need donor support in capacity building, strengthening public institutions and making public procurement more effective.
- Civil society institutions play an important role in opening up space for public participation.
- Given the importance of employment in boosting MIC growth, what employment opportunities are there?
- MICs need EU support in learning new methods to do things and in holding governments to account.

Synopsis

Traditional data collection systems in middle-income countries (MICs), such as census or employment data, often fail to give the full picture or ignore the way people live at the micro level. New methods of data coprollection give a more accurate picture, for example, when carefully analysed, the 11.5 % unemployment level in Kenya, turns out to be closer to 75 % When Oxfam carried out an analysis of the structure of poverty and the use of government services in Mexico City, it discovered there was a very poor take-up by both the lowest and the highest 20 % of the population, which a general data sweep would not have discovered.

A more useful way to draw up policies about the use of these services is to focus on the narratives people give about the use of the services. Unfortunately, sometimes governments are unwilling to accept a new vision offered by new figures, as they have a vested interest in maintaining the status quo. Turning to the type of donor support that MICs need, it was agreed that the nature of the support has changed. It is no longer a case of giving budget support, as often it is more useful to help build government institutions, increase administrative capacity or offer advice on how to distribute services. The United Nations also offers governments advice on how to increase the efficiency of public procurement, which can save lives by saving money. One study found that by improving public procurement, the Guatemalan government reduced the cost of medicines from US\$ 200 million to US\$ 160 million and was then able to spend the saved US\$ 40 million on immunisations.

As countries become richer, their governments grow in capacity and resources, and begin to develop a stronger public space and stronger government institutions. When MICs reach this stage they need to build a strong relationship with civil society, which plays a role in holding the government to account. An integral part of Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals is for governments to work with civil society to build democratic institutions. Given that employment is a measure of a country's growth, what methods should be used to boost employment? One way is to offer more focused training for young people, and to offer young entrepreneurs the opportunity to build businesses. It was also suggested that more needed to be done in MICs to build trade unions to support workers, and to offer state social protection; evidence shows that a more secure stable workforce is more productive. The EU and other donors should continue to play a role in MICs by helping governments deliver services in a more efficient way – for example adopting mobile technology and in evaluating service delivery. Donors needed to play a more political role, such as challenging governments on their behaviour, and where necessary offering support to civil society.

Insight

The implied conflict between least developed countries and middle income countries in terms of funding is a false dichotomy, as total ODA and other funds represent such a small proportion of global wealth.

Podcast

1.3.3 BRAINSTORMING LAB

Financing mechanisms of local councils to reduce inequalities

Organised by FEICOM Cameroun, UCLG Africa and FMDV

Speakers

- Severin Zo'Obo Belinga - General Manager Assistant - FEICOM
- Jean Pierre Elong Mbassi - Secrétaire Général – UCLG Africa

Moderator: Jean-François Habeau – Executive Director – Global Fund for Cities Development

1.3.4 PROJECT LAB

Serving Development and fighting inequalities through quality statistics

Organised by Expertise France, Eurostat, INSEE, AITRS and GEOSTAT

Speakers

- Heidi Saidi – General Director - Arab Institute for Training and Research in Statistics
- Beata Suszterova - Head of Statistical Cooperation Unit – Expertise France
- Dominique Francoz - Head of "international technical assistance" – INSEE
- Gogita Todradze – Executive Director – National Statistical Office of Georgia

Moderator: Avis Benes – Head of Unit – EUROSTAT

Podcast

1.4 Addressing the challenge of inequalities in low income countries: tailoring tools and priorities to the circumstances and inequality dynamics of these countries

The good news is that there has been a sharp fall in the number of people living in absolute poverty, measured in dollar-a-day terms. The Millennium Development Goal (MDG) of reducing extreme poverty rates by half was met five years ahead of the 2015 deadline. The bad news is that poverty has not gone away, and relative poverty remains a particularly stubborn problem in developing countries, with the inequality gap widening.

In relative terms, low income countries like those in sub-Saharan Africa, have remained stable, staying at extremely high levels. But experts disagree on the long-term dynamics of income inequality in low-income countries. More research is needed, especially given that official estimates are likely to understate existing levels of inequality.

However, there are some factors that drive inequality in low income countries, notably:

- Education: it matters in ensuring parents know how to raise their children safely, in helping people find jobs, and in building communities.
- The rural-urban divide: opportunities are fewer when rural communities lack basic water and sanitation, electricity, fuel and education.
- Gender discrimination: being a woman explains the bulk of inequality in access to full-time employment more than any other factor, including education.
- Wealth: it shapes inequalities of outcome and opportunity.

So, how can policymakers ensure poverty reduction goes hand-in-hand with the inequality reduction? Positive progress has mostly been seen in countries that prioritise investments in the social sector, including through social protection. Long-term investment is needed in critical sectors like infrastructure, transport, energy and ICT. The challenges include capacity building, trade facilitation, debt management, corruption, good governance, and disaster risk management. A main aim is to help raise the state of human development: by simply providing health, education and basic freedoms, policymakers can do wonders to improve life opportunities.

1.4.1 LAB DEBATES

What's religion got to do with it? Faith-based approaches to addressing inequalities in the field of development

Organised by Islamic Relief Worldwide, World Vision, Actalliance EU, BROT für die Welt, EUCORD Network, Baha'I International Community and Pax Christi International

Speakers

- Christo Greyling - Senior Director Faith and External Engagement – World Vision
- Mohammad Abou Zeid - Faith Scholar/ judge – Islamic Relief
- Shreen Saroor - Gender Consultant - BROT für die Welt
- Patricia Ryan – Pax Christi International
- Henriette Geiger – Director for People and Peace – European Commission, Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development
- Merete Bilde - Policy Advisor – European External Action Service

Key Points

- Given the way that the Christian world has tried to impose its religious beliefs on the rest of the world in the past, it is not surprising that new overtures are met with scepticism.
- When development actors work with faith-leaders, they must guard against instrumentalising them.
- Development organisations, including those that are faith-based, should respect local communities’ religious practices.
- Indigenous organisations, such as those in the Peruvian Altiplano, have a cosmic view of religion – their belief is based on nurturing the natural world.
- When examining Muslim practices, one should go back to the Holy book to see whether current practices in Islam are based on what the Prophet wrote.

Synopsis

For the past 800 years, many countries have had to submit to attempts by outsiders to impose their culture and religion, so it is not surprising that when well-meaning development actors arrive in the Middle East or other Muslim countries, they are met with suspicion. The key to opening the way to local people, most of whom are religious, is to begin by approaching faith leaders and to ensure their actions are not at odds with local religious practices.

At the same time development actors must guard against “instrumentalising” religion or faith-based leaders –using religion as a way to make their development message more palatable, and to get people to work with them. The key to working with religious communities is to facilitate and catalyse, not to impose, but to learn from local people and build capacity around what they want. Working to develop a mutual understanding and tolerance within “safe spaces” to discuss these issues, makes it less likely that this approach could be interpreted as “instrumentalisation”. For example when one development organisation went into African countries to fight the Ebola pandemic, they approached the situation from a medical viewpoint, insisting that all those who had died were buried immediately, in order to stop the virus from spreading. However, as this was against local religious traditions of ceremonial burials, people were hiding their dead in order to bury them with dignity.

The development practitioners revised their medical practices to adhere to the local religion. This is a good example of how outsiders, including faith-based organisations, have learned to respect local religions. Participants also heard about indigenous people living on the Altiplano in Peru, who have a cosmic view of religion, believing that people must live in harmonious coexistence with the totality of humanity – referring to the earth as Pachamama (Mother Earth). These people have welcomed the Pope’s Encyclical Call to Care for our Common Home, which is a call for people to discuss how to plan the future of the planet, saying: ‘We finally have a Pope who understands us.’ One question frequently raised in relation to Islam is about some cultural practices, such as female genital mutilation (FGM), or child marriage, which are sanctioned in the name of religion, but are viewed as human rights’ violations. The practising imam on the panel said it was necessary to refer to the Quran to see what the Prophet had written, as some of these are cultural pre-Islamic practices. FGM has always been common in countries such as Sudan. While there is nothing about this in the Quran, some religious leaders have sanctioned this, saying it is an integral part of Islam. Instead, to judge Islamic religious practices, one should abide by the written law of “do no harm” and judge whether FGM or child marriage is in keeping with this.

Insight

Given the predominance of faith across Europe, it was suggested that there should be a reference to faith in future European Commission documents.

Podcast

Ensuring equal access to basic health services: To pay or not to pay? Can cost recovery and performance-based financing support the development of inclusive health systems in the Central African Republic and other fragile countries?

Organised by the European Commission's Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development

Speakers

- Androulla Kaminara - Director for Sub-Saharan Africa, Asia, Latin America and Pacific – European Commission, Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations
- Christophe Lemiere - Human Development - Program Leader – Sahel – World Bank Group
- Marie Philips - Health Policy Advisor – Médecins sans Frontières
- Nicolas Gonze - Team Leader Central Africa – European Commission, Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations

Moderator: Francesca Di Mauro – Head of Unit and Acting Director for Central & Southern Africa, Indian Ocean - European Commission, Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development

Key Points

- Even low fees deter patients from seeking care when their health deteriorates.
- Universal access to free healthcare has been introduced in a number of African countries.
- Further reforms are planned in the Central African Republic, which remains in a state of crisis.
- Equitable healthcare means provision of care is ensured based on need.
- Healthcare systems risk remaining underfunded.

Synopsis

The Central African Republic is still in a state of conflict and requires humanitarian assistance. With a quarter of the population displaced, most services are supplied through emergency aid and nutritional support. There are plans to build up a system with free healthcare for all, but there are considerable challenges in terms of funding and management. The future system is at risk of underfunding unless more public revenue is generated through measures such as more systematic tax collection. The new system must also provide for efficient distribution of both pharmaceutical products and supplies.

There is a broad understanding that the most disadvantaged groups of the population should benefit from free healthcare, even if care were not to be free for all. Maternal healthcare is a priority and combined with free clinical care for children under the age of five, it is a measure

that has proven successful in other countries and would be favoured by the Central African Republic's current government. If user fees were to be determined based on income in a country with a great deal of instability, only very few would be able to meet the cost. As the state of emergency in the Central African Republic has dragged on, large parts of the population would be considered vulnerable. Public registers are insufficient and parts of the population do not possess any identification. Universal and free access to healthcare would require commitment by donor countries and healthcare partners alike.

Experience in neighbouring countries has shown that control functions are indispensable; performance-based financing could be established in a fragile country based on indicators and external verification of costs to prevent misallocation, even if audit systems add to the management cost. As long as the country remains in conflict and a state of emergency that leads to a higher rate of mortality due to armed violence, any healthcare measures must be accompanied by better civil protection and access to education. In the wake of the country's transition from a state of emergency towards assuming a development agenda, the EU's Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO) continues to provide a mobile response to meet both nutrition and health needs. The EU contributes to the reform of the healthcare system in CAR, both by providing training and structural planning. Improved healthcare also requires complementary systems such as improved sanitation and transport infrastructure. Even for a healthcare system with only minimum coverage, the need for funding and international assistance is considerable. Universal healthcare coverage in CAR would not be achieved only by domestic funding. Donors would expect domestic revenue to provide the basic funding for the future healthcare system, even if it were partially free for most patients.

Insight

Levels of infant mortality in the Central African Republic are alarming due to the protracted armed conflict. There is a dire need to address the situation of maternal and early childhood health in the reform of the healthcare system

Podcast

Access to sustainable energy to reduce inequalities: New partnership models: Innovating public-private partnerships to achieve large-scale

Organised by ENI

Speakers

- Sanoussi Bilal - Head of Trade, Investment and Finance – European Centre for Development Policy Management
- Alberto Piatti - Executive Vice President, Head of Sustainability - ENI
- Jason Zhengrong Lu - Head of Global Infrastructure Facility (GIF) – World Bank
- Megan Richards - Director for Energy Policy – European Commission, Directorate-General for Energy
- Stefano Signore - Head of unit – European Commission, Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development

Moderator: Sonja van Renssen - Freelance

Key Points

- Access to clean energy is an enabler of sustainable development.

- More than 600 million Africans lack access to electricity, the highest proportion of households without power in the world.
- To share the benefits of clean, reliable electricity, new-style private-public partnerships must deliver small-scale, off-grid energy to rural communities - as well as large-scale generation and transmission infrastructure.
- Action on the climate crisis overlaps renewable energy supply, with opportunities for Africa to bypass the worst fossil fuel polluters.
- Sound regulatory and financial environments are both essential to persuade the private sector to take investment risks in Africa's energy sector.

Synopsis

The public sector alone cannot deliver clean, renewable energy to more than 600 million Africans currently without access to electricity, the highest proportion of the population without power in any region of the world. Instead, development and energy experts are looking to a new generation of public-private partnerships to deliver a sound regulatory environment, and good financial governance. The objective is to unlock billions, if not trillions of euros of private investment in large-scale electrical generation and transmission infrastructure. These partnerships are seen by the development community as key drivers to achieving the 2030 Agenda's sustainable development goal of universal access to clean energy. The new partnerships can act as a focus for innovative financial and operating models to help private investors to mitigate the risks of delivering both large-scale energy projects and small-scale, off-grid generation and storage.

These small-scale projects are vital for rural Africa, which is often unlikely to have electricity. Technologies such as mobile phone banking have made payments from remote villages and homesteads possible. However, development experts say subsidies will be needed if marginalised communities are to benefit from the health, education and social protections provided by reliable supplies of electricity. Donor financial support and technical assistance will continue to feature in new-style public-private partnerships, with both the EU Commission and the World Bank's Global Infrastructure Facility among their active supporters. The World Bank is also aiming to shift the debate about investment in Africa away from demands for more spending in favour of better targeted spending on services such as water, sanitation, irrigation and flood protection, as well transport and electricity infrastructure. The Bank's recent Beyond the Gap report, for example, spelled out detailed scenarios for different infrastructure investment choices.

The report concluded that with the right policies and targets, investment in fully decarbonised infrastructure by the end of this century "need not cost more than more-polluting alternatives." Italian oil and gas firm ENI warns that becoming carbon-neutral will take time in Africa, although European Commission officials believe the region can bypass the worst fossil fuel polluters, and develop clean energy from hereon. In the meantime, public organisations and private businesses still have to find a common culture in to avoid white elephant projects of the past. Public-private partnerships will also have to move away from an aid-based approach to the energy sector and instead ensure that African resources and infrastructure are being managed by Africans for Africans.

Insight

The buzzword was "bankable", with every power project – big or small – required to meet that benchmark to get the go-ahead.

Podcast

Innovation against inequalities: Bridging divides in the Sahel
How social and digital innovations can help fight against the roots of gender, territorial and digital inequalities in the Sahel

Organised by the French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs

Speakers

- Juliette Averseng – Associate - KOIS
- Mantchini Traore – Founder – L’instant thé
- Hatoumata Magassa - Executive Manager – AFD for Inclusive & Digital Business in Africa
- Gautier Uchiyama - Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, France

Moderator: Alizée Lozac’hmeur – Co-founder – MakeSense

Key Points

- Innovation in the Sahel covers digital technologies, delivery methods for development projects, and new financial and legal frameworks.
- The region faces multiple challenges: gender inequalities, territorial and ethnic divides, plus armed conflicts and the climate crisis.
- Disillusionment and radicalisation among its young population is another challenge.
- On the plus side, fresh ideas include reality TV as a vehicle to motivate young people to work on behalf of their local communities.
- Finance is also being mobilised through innovative development impact bonds.

Synopsis

Innovation in the Sahel region falls into three broad categories: digital technology, innovative delivery methods for development projects, and innovative financial and legal frameworks. African experts say innovation in the region works best when it builds on local structures and traditions. Yet it also has to overcome disillusionment and religious radicalisation, particularly among the 60 % of the population that is under 30 years old.

Malian Mantchini Traore offered L’instant Thé as an example of innovative methods of bringing development to the youth of the Sahel. L’instant Thé, roughly translatable as a moment for tea, is the name of her reality TV show that encourages young Malians to develop projects to improve their communities. Run as a competition over 25 shows, the idea that gained the most local support won matched funding from the organisers. At the end of the first series, two out of the three winning projects were run by women.

For financial innovation, Brussels-based KOIS showcased development impact bonds, which are designed to attract social investors to support projects that traditional donors deem too risky or uncertain to back. The social or private investors agree success criteria with traditional donors up front. If independent evaluators confirm the project has achieved these targets, the donor reimburses the original investors, potentially with a premium payment on top. If the project fails to reach its impact targets, the social or private investor takes the financial hit. First created in the UK in 2010, impact bonds aim to increase efficiencies and improve monitoring of developmental outcomes. KOIS outlined a women’s menstrual hygiene project in Niger and Ethiopia, which it is developing with support from the French government, and which would have had difficulty attracting traditional grant funding. Impacts to be monitored include raised awareness of menstrual cycles and sexual health, which are both taboo subjects in traditional communities. In terms of digital innovation, the multistakeholder AFD for

Inclusive and Digital Business in Africa, said it has 23 digital start-ups lined up for support in the region. These include an online networking platform in Morocco, where people can publicise their skills to potential employers. The main technical challenge for digital businesses in the Sahel region is the lack of reliable electricity supplies, especially in rural areas, which may have no electricity at all. The AFD for Inclusive and Digital Business has also encountered a certain cultural reluctance to engage with digital technology, as well as limited availability of formal training opportunities and financial support.

Insight

For a region facing such deep gender, religious and territorial divides – as well as digital inequalities – each of the presenters at the EDD2019 seemed to brim with energy and confidence for the future.

Podcast

1.4.2 BRAINSTORMING LAB

Addressing inequality for the improvement of global food security

Organised by Nottingham Trent University and NGFP

Speakers

- Pablo Garcia Campos - Nottingham Trent University
- Xanthea Heynes - Nottingham Trent University
- Clara Hagedorn – Student - Nottingham Trent University
- Katherine Hardy - Nottingham Trent University
- Tawanda Bake - Nottingham Trent University
- Heather Watkins – Lecturer in Global Studies - Nottingham Trent University
- Andrew Telford - Nottingham Trent University

Moderator: Roy Smith – Senior Lecturer - Nottingham Trent University

1.4.3 PROJECT LABS

Mobile technology is revolutionising healthcare in Africa. What can Europe learn from Africa?

Organised by Pharm-Access Foundation

Speakers

- Anouk Aarts - Senior Policy Advisor- Ministry of Foreign Affairs, The Netherlands
- Mary Asantewaa Anane Sarpong - Quality Officer - Pharm-Access Group
- Ashling Mulvaney – AstraZeneca
- Charlotte EJM Wilming - Project Director HealthConnect - Pharm-Access Group

Moderator: Kwasi Boahene – Director Advocacy - Pharm-Access Group

Podcast

Every voice counts: Fighting inequalities by working on inclusive governance

Organised by CARE

Speakers

- Lori Cajegas - Programme Manager - CARE Nederland
- Chiara Adamo - Head of unit – European Commission, Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development
- Gerald Kweri - Programme Manager/Trainer – The Hague Academy for Local Governance

Moderator: Céline Mias – EU Representative and Director – CARE International

Podcast

2. Understanding the structural causes of inequalities

2.1 Gender Equality

More than half of humanity is female, yet women and girls are still underrepresented – or even excluded - in many parts of society.

Ensuring gender equality at all levels of development is at the very heart of human rights and is a moral duty. It also provides a vital lever for prosperity, offering a vast boost to the economy. Gender balanced workplaces result in increased labour productivity and innovation, higher returns and a greater ability to attract and retain talent. And gender equality is essential if global challenges like climate change and healthcare are to be addressed in sustainable and inclusive ways.

How do we tackle gender inequality? Education is a start: more girls than boys remain out of school worldwide, and the overwhelming majority of adults who lack basic literacy skills are women. Hinderances to women's advancement include gender stereotyping and discriminatory social and cultural norms, sexual and gender based violence, violation of their sexual and reproductive health and rights, limited access to affordable childcare of good quality, and lack of equal employment opportunities and social protection and lack of voice and participation in decision making, among others. Specific gender and rights based approach responsive policies are needed across the board to tackle discrimination and break the glass ceiling in all spheres.

Related Sessions:

2.1.1 HIGH-LEVEL PANEL

If not now, when? Our health, our rights, our choices! Ending inequalities by realising sexual and reproductive health and rights for all

Organised by UNFPA, WHO and EPF

Speakers

- Jane Ellison - Executive Director - World Health Organization (WHO)
- Alexander De Croo - Deputy Prime Minister – Belgian Federal Government
- Carin Jämtin - DirectorGeneral – Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
- Aaron Atimpe - Young Leader – Ghana
- Natalia Kanem - Executive Director - UNPF
- Jeanne d'Arc Gakuba - Vice President – Senate of Rwanda
- Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus - Director General - World Health Organization (WHO)

Moderator: Bruno Selun – Founder – Kumquat Consult

Key Points

- Sexual and reproductive health and rights underpin numerous Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- There cannot be universal access to healthcare without access to sexual and reproductive health services.
- Sexual and reproductive rights have major economic and development implications.

Synopsis

Sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) are a pre-condition for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); they underpin numerous SDGs that are not directly related to health. An obvious example – but there are others – concerns education. If girls drop out of school because of unwanted pregnancy, the best education system will not be able to provide them with the skills they need to succeed in life. Twenty-five years ago, the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in Cairo affirmed the pivotal role of reproductive health in closing inequalities affecting women and girls in income, education, employment and other areas. Providing and realizing SRHR is challenging due to cultural sensitivities and attitudes. Many people who are most in need of access are living – sometimes for very long periods – in settings of conflict and violence, such as refugee camps. Such difficult conditions require special sexual and reproductive health services, especially since victims may have suffered above-average incidence of sexual or gender-based violence.

Development and humanitarian actors are responding to these needs by listening to those directly affected, for example in putting together dignity kits containing sanitary items for displaced women and girls that are adapted to their particular circumstances. Sexual and reproductive health is not simply a human right. It brings massive benefits in terms of development, which means that financial support to sexual and reproductive health services should be seen as a long-term investment to unlock these benefits. Girls who remain in education rather than deal with unwanted pregnancy and childbirth stand a far better chance of overcoming poverty. In Rwanda, focusing on SRHR has helped the country achieve Millennium Development Goals 4 and 5, reducing child mortality and improving maternal health. Even though these dynamics are well understood, there are still massive numbers of women and girls dying due to preventable causes, especially during childbirth. In many countries, they have unequal access to healthcare in general and sexual and reproductive health in particular.

The quality of care remains low in many countries. In response, the UN Population Fund (UNFPA) has declared the three zeroes as its overall goal: zero unmet needs or family planning, zero preventable maternal deaths, and zero gender-based violence and harmful practices such as female genital mutilation. The EU has also made SRHR a focal point of its humanitarian and development assistance.

Insight

The development community has moved away from a tendency to view sexual and reproductive health and rights as a 'women's issue' and now understands that men and boys must be involved as well.

2.1.2 LAB DEBATES

Edutainment for social change: Addressing youth and gender inequalities through communication campaigns for social change in sub-Saharan Africa

Organised by RAES, AFD, Forward and Equipop.org

Speakers

- Thierno Seydou Diop – President – Réseau Africain Education a la Santé
- Alexandre Rideau – Director – Keewu Production
- Elise Petitpas - Innovation and Advocay Expert – Equilibres et Populations
- Fionah Komusana - Lawyer – Forward

Moderator: Angela Muruli – Programmes Officer - Forward

Key Points

- Mainstream TV in Africa can promote debate and dialogue on a wide range of important health-related issues.
- These issues range from maternal health and contraception to domestic violence and family planning.
- “Edutainment” can generate dialogue in communities and help tackle a range of inequalities in society.
- Social media and communication strategies have a key role in raising awareness of such issues in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Synopsis

Two Senegalese television programmes – *C’est la Vie* and *Bruits de Tambours* – seek to combine the use of mass communication with a community approach to promote debate and dialogue on issues ranging from high rates of maternal deaths to lack of access to sexual health. The two series employ up to 200 professional actors, writers, directors and technicians, with one of the aims being to raise public awareness of issues on access to health information on the African continent. Both programmes strive to combine entertainment and education – “edutainment” – with sometimes hard-to-stomach realism. Their efforts are underpinned by the Black No Sugar project in Uganda, which has spotlighted sexual violence in higher-learning institutions.

Since its launch, the *C’est la Vie* coverage has highlighted the tragic death of a 15-year-old girl who had a clandestine abortion and related in detail the plight of four women whose negative experiences illustrate current shortcomings of health systems in Africa. The series seeks to stimulate debate and dialogue on issues as diverse as maternal health and early pregnancy to contraception and domestic violence, all matters of direct concern to some of the most vulnerable in Africa. *C’est la Vie*, part-funded by the Gates Foundation, is currently available mostly via local TV in Africa but is seeking to reach an even wider public audience to generate more widespread debate and reflection. It does this through telling personal stories, both through the TV series and multi-media games, and by combining traditional entertainment with education, hence the phrase “edutainment”. This shows it is possible to match entertainment with hard-hitting social issues which, hopefully, can then help bring change across a range of areas, such as domestic violence.

C’est la Vie alone is translated into French and English and broadcasts in 44 African countries. Its relative success shows the power of TV and other mass communication tools to educate and change cultural perceptions and behaviour on everything from reproductive health to sexual and gender-based violence and equity. The fact that the series is already watched by tens of millions shows the potential of social communication strategies and digital media. However, the scope to do even more is obvious. For example, *C’est la Vie* has so far broadcast 62 episodes but these are almost entirely in French. There are now plans to dub the series into English and/or the local language to reach an even wider audience. Other issues, such as citizenship, will also be dealt with in upcoming episodes. The series gives a voice to the voiceless by trying to promote debate on otherwise taboo subjects such as gender equality. The use of a TV series, plus radio programmes, digital platforms and games present a great

opportunity to grasp public attention. But just as important is evaluating the public impact of such endeavours. Demonstrating the added value of programmes like C'est la Vie will also help unlock the all-important further funding to allow the continuation of such initiatives.

Insight

Retailing harrowing personal stories on TV screens may not always make for pleasant viewing but, when done in an educational and entertaining way, it can help foster public debate.

Podcast

Gender equality = LGBTI equality? The correlation between gender equality and sexual minority rights

Organised by GIZ, ILGA Europe, HRAPF, COC Nederland and FARUG

Speakers

- Joyce Hamilton – COC Nederland
- Adrian Jjuuko - Executive Director – Human Rights Awareness and Promotion Forum, Uganda
- Gloria Mutyaba – Freedom and Roam, Uganda
- Micah Grzywnowicz - Co-Chair of the Executive Board – ILGA Europe (European LGBTI Association)
- Diana Rutabingwa - Technical Advisor – GIZ

Moderator: Angela Langenkamp – Gender Commissioner - GIZ

Key Points

- Discrimination against women and girls often affects LGBTI persons disproportionately, yet the gender and LGTBI communities do not always see their activities as part of the same fight.
- Donors and external policymakers need to understand the systemic linkages between gender equality and the rights of sexual minorities.
- Gender activists are perhaps afraid of associating with LGTBI groups.
- LGTBI associations are constantly thwarted.

Synopsis

Gender equality has been the focus of development cooperation for decades and has by now been mainstreamed into all policy areas in which development actors operate. But many stakeholders – including donors, gender activists, and political and community leaders – fail to understand that very often the exclusive focus on gender equality is reductive and operates on a binary model that only includes men and women, rather than all gender identities. Too often feminists and gender activists fail to include lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) people, or even to acknowledge them, even though both groups are fighting for social justice. In practical terms, this exclusion may be based on fears by gender activists of losing influence with their governments or societies, or of jeopardising the achievements of the past by associating with the LGBTI struggle. In some countries, LGBTI people are systematically excluded from social and political space and silenced. Their associations are not allowed to register or cannot receive funding unless they redefine their purpose by erasing their true character, for example, by focusing on “population programmes” or “minorities”.

Against this background, it is important to understand that the struggle for the rights of sexual minorities is of one piece with the struggle for gender equality.

Both are fighting against marginalisation and exclusion, and for justice for all. Discussing gender equality without including sexual minorities is exclusionary and fails to deliver on the emancipatory promise of the feminist movement. Many of the forms of discrimination and exclusion experienced by women and girls affect LGBTI persons disproportionately, including sexual harassment and gender-based violence. In many developing countries, LGBTI persons and their associations are fighting against very practical exclusion, including legal bans on their activities, systemic harassment by the police, and discriminatory attitudes by religious and community leaders. They are branded as anti-government simply because there are no legal ways for them to organise. The attempt to silence them and erase them from public space is a form of institutionalised violence.

Donors can support the fight for sexual justice by consistently pushing back against attempts to silence LGBTI persons by development stakeholders including governments, community leaders and activists. Giving LGBTI activists a platform at the EDD has allowed them to embark on a dialogue – however difficult – with their own government representatives who would have continued ignoring them had it not been for the endorsement of LGBTI causes by the EDD.

Insight

Policymaking needs to take account of evident linkages between gender-based forms of discrimination and violence, and those directed at LGBTI persons.

Podcast

Leaving no one behind: Shining a spotlight to end violence against women Addressing inequalities by confronting one of the most systematic and widespread human rights violations in world

Organised by United Nations and the European Commission's Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development

Speakers

- Marjeta Jager - Deputy Director-General – European Commission, Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development
- Erin Kenny - Head of Technical Unit & Senior Technical Spotlight Initiative Advisor
- Henrique Banze - Assistant Secretary General – ACP Secretariat
- Katia Maia - Executive Director – Oxfam

Moderator: Barbara Pesce-Monteiro – Director Brussels office – United Nations

Key Points

- Violence against women and girls is deeply rooted in cultural norms.
- Abuse and violence often take place behind closed doors; to fight it, campaigns must enter these private spaces.
- Male attitudes to stereotyped gender roles must be challenged to end domestic violence, so must girls' expectations that marriage is the limit of their life chances.

- Strong legislation to protect women from violence is not enough; enforcement of existing laws is too often “disastrous”.
- The Spotlight Initiative, a EUR 500m joint UN-EU programme, aims to persuade presidents and prime ministers to champion the end of gender-based violence in their countries.

Synopsis

Violence against women and girls is among the most systematic and widespread of human rights violations, with UN statistics showing that of 87,000 intentional killings of women in 2017, 30,000 were committed by the woman’s current or former intimate partner. In total, partners and family members committed 58 % of homicides of women that year, up from 47 % in 2012, suggesting the problem of gender-based violence is growing. Murder is at the far end of a continuum of stereotyping, discrimination and abuse. Gender-based violence incorporates female genital mutilation, trafficking and child marriage as well as sexual harassment and rape. One-in-three women will experience gender-based violence at some point in her life, with the specifics likely to reflect the culture of her own country. In Mexico, the murder of a young woman by her husband was accepted by the police and judiciary as suicide until her female lawyer took the case to an international court.

In the Middle East, rape victims can be forced into marriage with the rapist, perpetuating the original act of violence. In Brazil, a survey by Oxfam found gender-based violence was perceived as ‘normal’, with 56 % of 20 to 25 year-old males knowing a woman who had suffered violence from a man in the previous year. Campaigners say that to reverse these trends, it is essential to change the mentality of individuals who normalise violence against women, as well as the beliefs and values of communities that accept or condone it. They say youth must be mobilised to combat violence against women, and journalists and social media influencers bought on-side. They add that official programmes cannot be left to ministries for women alone, since these departments are often under-resourced, and pigeon-holing gender-based violence tends to marginalise the issue, allowing lip service to be paid to equality with little or no real action.

The EUR 500 million Spotlight Initiative, a joint UN-EU programme, aims to raise the global profile of the campaign to end gender-based violence, and includes efforts to involve government leaders. In addition, it seeks to engage traditional community and religious leaders in Latin America, the Caribbean, Africa, the Pacific and Asia. So far Spotlight has launched programmes in 13 developing countries, with a final target of 26. Spotlight officials see gender-based violence as a cross-cutting development issue, one that prevents girls and women making their own life choices, often accepting marriage as their only option, rather than believing they can participate fully in society and work. Campaigners add that gender-based violence is more than a development issue; it affects all generations, nationalities and communities. Female homicide data, for example, released by the UN’s Office on Drugs and Crime to coincide with the 2018 International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, illustrated regional patterns within the global total. At 20,000 murders, Asia saw the largest number of women killed by partners or family members in 2017, followed by Africa at 19,000 and the Americas at 8,000. In terms of risk, African women were most likely to be killed by a partner or family member, with a homicide rate of 3.1 per 100,000 female population. This was followed by the Americas at 1.6 deaths per 100,000.

Insight

The passion behind the campaign to end violence against women and girls was palpable in the room, despite the grimness of the statistics and the embedded discrimination which lies at the heart of this worldwide problem.

Podcast

The business case for gender-lens investing - How investors can drive performance in their investments and advance gender equality

Organised by Women's World Banking

Speakers

- Mary Ellen Iskenderian - President and CEO – Women's World Banking
- Teodora Nenova – Director – Steward Redqueen
- Ineke Bussemaker - Board Member - Women's World Banking
- Milena Messori - Head of Division – European Investment Bank
- Antti Karhunen - Head of Unit – European Commission, Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development

Moderator: Teodora Nenova – Director – Steward Redqueen

Key Points

- To promote gender equity, banks can invest in women-owned or -led enterprises; enterprises that promote workplace equity or those that offer products or services substantially improving the lives of women.
- Gender equality is essential to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.
- One major obstacle to women accessing loans is men unwilling to grant them.
- Gender-lens investment makes economic sense for banks since women make up 50 % of their customers.

Synopsis

If countries want to reach Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), they must achieve gender equality first. The world cannot afford to continue with today's gender gap. According to an International Monetary Fund study, closing the gender gap could increase GDP by 4 % in Japan or Canada and up to 32 % in Niger. One way is through gender lens investing – the use of capital to generate financial return and simultaneously advance gender equality. This requires an integration of gender analysis with financial analysis.

Key gender lenses typically include access to capital, workplace equality, value chains and products and services that benefit women and girls. Aware that some investments can have a negative impact on gender equality, the European Commission and the European Investment Bank have developed gender strategies and gender action plans. Using sex-disaggregated data the aim is to identify how projects can be improved to cater to the needs of women and to favour projects that target gender equality. One of the United Republic of Tanzania's largest banks, Bank of Africa Tanzania, has decided to invest in women, as there is a clear business case to do so. One-third of micro businesses and small businesses are predominantly run by women, yet often they do not have access to formal financial services. The bank develops products targeting women's needs. Women tend to want to invest in the education of their children and seek a safe way to invest. Since 80 % of the workforce in Tanzania works in

agriculture, the bank also sends technical experts to the fields to train farmers to become bankable. Land ownership, property ownership, women not being able to represent themselves or upgrade their skills, including digital ones, to become entrepreneurs or managers are some of the gender-related difficulties that need to be unlocked to allow women easier access to finance.

Another issue that needs to be addressed is the “tone at the top”. Whether an organisation promotes gender equality depends on top management. If the managers decide there are other priorities and gender equality will be tackled later, chances are they never will. The adoption of rules regarding movable collateral registries is critical to adapt credit infrastructure. Being able to pledge movable collateral brings power to women and makes a huge difference to their financial situation and their eligibility for loans. Linked to that and also crucial is digital identity. In many countries people do not have any proof of identity yet banks are required to request one from all customers. Digital identity should particularly help women to access formal financial services.

Insight

Traditional investors often assume women entrepreneurs manage small, low-growth businesses and thus tend to invest more in men. So doing, they miss tremendous investment opportunities. According to recent data, women-run companies outperform their male counterparts by 63 %.

Podcast

2.1.3 BRAINSTORMING LAB

Promoting Gender Equality through Culture and Creativity

Organised by Culture et Développement, Africalia, British Council, InterArts, Arterial Network, UNESCO, International Music Council, Territoires Associés and Culture 21

Speakers

- Rosanna Lewis - Senior Programme Manager, Culture and Development – British Council
- Teresa Badia - Secretary General – Culture Action Europe
- Davide Grosso - Project Manager – International Music Council
- Farai Mpfunya - Executive Director – Culture Fund of Zimbabwe Trust

Moderator: Valeria Marcolin – Co-director of Culture et Développement – Culture et Développement

2.1.4 PROJECT LAB

Standing #RightByHer: Leaving no woman behind

Organised by DSW, GIZ, IPPF European Network, Alianza por la Solidaridad, IPPF Africa Region, KIT Royal Tropical Institute, World YWCA, Faith to Action Network, OAFLAD and Tu...Decides

Speakers

- Anouka van Eerdewijk - Senior Advisor Gender - KIT Royal Tropical Institute
- María Salvador - Women's Right's Coordinator - Alianza por la Solidaridad
- Dawn Natallie Corrie-Kordas - Expert, Humanitarian Matters and Civil Society – ACP Secretariat
- Adriana Mendoza - Women Youth Leader – Red Nacional de Lideres y Lideresas Juveniles Tu Decides
- Vitalis Mukhebi -International Advocacy Office - Faith to Action Network

Moderator: Angela Bähr – Programme Director – Deutsche Stiftung Weltbevoelkerung

Podcast

2.2 Inequality of opportunity

Fighting inequalities means promoting opportunity for everyone in society. That means giving people chances by clearing the barriers that might hold them back. Promoting inclusion irrespective of age, sex, disability, sexual orientation and gender identity, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status can ensure equal opportunity and reduce inequalities of outcome.

Equality and non-discrimination are cornerstones principles of international human rights law, and there is a broad consensus that policies should ensure that no-one is left behind. But how can this be done in practice? How can the poorest countries dismantle the structural, institutional and policy barriers?

There are many policies that encourage opportunities: access to equitable quality education; empowering women and girls; access to social services; fair competition; good governance; participation in democratic process; equal access to justice and political inclusion. Successful programmes may need to mix some or all of these.

Related sessions

2.2.1 HIGH-LEVEL PANEL

Education and employment opportunity for all - Overcoming inequalities through inclusive socioeconomic development

Organised by BEES 55, UNIDO, SAP, SES and Global Africa

Speakers

- Arancha Gonzalez - Executive Director - ITC
- Philippe Scholtès - UNIDO
- Marie Chantal Uwitonze - CEO – Boost Employability and Entrepreneurship Skills in Africa
- Marita Mitschein – SAP SE
- Caroline Kamaitha - Vice President Africa – SES Networks
- Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca - Former President of Malta and UNIDO Good will Ambassador and Patron of Global Africa – Office of the President Emeritus Coleiro Preca
- Inota Cheta - Young Leader – Zambia
- Papa Sarr - General Delegate for Entrepreneurship - Republic of Senegal – Government of the Republic of Senegal

Moderator: Raj Kumar – President & Editor-in-Chief – Devex

Key Points

- Identify the barriers standing in the way of people's access to education.
- Promote circular migration and see Africa as an investment opportunity.
- Address the skills mismatch by mapping the skills needed against the skills taught.
- Ensure that what is taught in schools is what the market needs in the future.

Synopsis

According to a World Bank report, learning levels are alarmingly low in Africa and this severe learning crisis is hampering economic development. When people have access to education, they can start to overcome poverty. It is essential to identify the barriers that hamper people's access to education. Issues such as lack of adequately trained teachers, poor conditions in schools, difficulties accessing education, for example, for children living in rural areas, need to be examined in detail and solutions identified.

Europe and Africa need to develop a common ambition to solve youth unemployment problems. Senegal is trying to move forward with circular migration policies – policies that allow talent to move back and forth between the two continents more easily. Easier access to visas and residence cards will help that circular migration process. There is a vibrant younger generation in Africa who are increasingly well trained and who have the capacity to transform the continent's economies and turn Africa into a big investment opportunity. There is a skills mismatch in Africa between what universities are teaching and what the market needs. There are a lot of people being trained in the humanities in Africa.

However, what Africa needs most of all are people who can work with machines, who have digital skills and who can build infrastructure. Mapping skills that are really useful against the skills that are taught is a good way to tackle the issue. The nature of the job market is changing and so it is all the more important to take that into account and to ensure that what is taught in schools is what the market needs. Rather than being too focused on existing industries, such as on the needs for more accountants or lawyers, it is important to look at where demand will be in the future. For example, the renewables sector is an area that has a lot of job creation potential.

Insight

Small businesses have the potential to create many new jobs, but too many get stuck at the micro level. They often need assistance to help with marketing and to grow.

2.2.2 LAB DEBATES

Refugee integration through inclusive policies - A whole-of-society approach to fighting cultural divisions

Organised by Friends of Europe, UN, GIZ, EIB, JICA, UNDP, World Bank Group, Coca Cola Company and ENI

Speakers

- Rozina Spinnoy – Director – Business Improvement Districts Belgium
- Yasmine Ouirhrane - Young Leader – Italy
- Shaza Alrihawi - Refugee activist – The Network for Refugee Voices
- Jenny Hornisch - Programme Manager Qudra Iraq – GIZ

Moderator: Shada Islam – Friends of Europe

Key Points

- As the EU leadership is changing, now is the time to challenge the groupthink on immigration and integration.
- Refugees need access to training, education, affordable housing and jobs – those designing these services must take an inclusive approach so all community members are treated equally.
- Programmes focusing on refugees alone can evoke feelings of exclusion or being discriminated against among local communities with similar needs, especially other vulnerable groups within them, such as women, the disabled or the unemployed.
- If we neglect inclusion at the cost of “one-way” integration of newcomers, we run the risk of an even more fragmented and polarised Europe.

Synopsis

With a panel led by the Brussels think tank Friends of Europe, which recently published a discussion paper on the issue, the session focused on the need to challenge certain well-worn practices of refugee integration. Any approach that does not take into account the needs of refugees as expressed by themselves, as well as those of the local community hosting them is bound to fail both and play into the hands of current “us and them” tropes promoted by populist politicians. Real or perceived inequalities, among the local community – which might well contain people with a longer migration background – as well as towards the newcomers, will make it easier for this rhetoric to become accepted. From the panel, the participants heard about several programmes currently run by local authorities and NGOs in Germany and Italy that have taken an inclusive approach, and with very positive results. A panelist who came to Germany from Iraq in 2015 recalled the story of the small German town of Ascheberg, where the mayor was initially opposed to having 400 refugees transferred to his town of 15,000 inhabitants. Told by higher authorities that refusal was not an option, he started to communicate with refugees and locals to take both their needs and fears into consideration. Today, 250 of the refugees have settled in the town and 70 of them are employed, filling much-needed vacancies in the local job market. At the same time, populist and right-wing parties in government – Italy, in particular, came into focus here – are actively trying to criminalise those who help refugees voluntarily.

While there might well be a need for the new EU leadership to step in if human rights and the rule of law are threatened on national level, the most effective level of an inclusive integration of migrants remains at local and regional level, the panel and participants agreed. A member from the European Committee of the Regions announced a new initiative – Cities and Regions for Integration – in this respect. It was pointed out that issues of inclusion could only fully be addressed once the legal status of the newcomer had been sorted out and that this part of integration remained a prerequisite for anything more. Another insisted that there are needs specific to the newcomer that are not shared by the local community, most notably language courses.

However, while the first remark was broadly acknowledged by the panel, the second one was rebuffed. Local communities might perhaps not have the need for but could well have an interest in, the language of the newcomers and should certainly be open to learn about their culture – and they usually are, panelists claimed. From within the migration policy community present at the session, it was mentioned that a tendency to work unaware of each other was creating “policy silos”. This will have to be overcome if inclusion is to become the lodestar of integration.

Insight

Recognition of local and regional authorities as the most important government actors to make refugee integration inclusive is needed on the side of national and supranational authorities as well as NGOs.

Podcast

Energy for refugees and host communities - Inducing real change for displaced people

Organised by SNV, GIZ, Practical Action and Hivos

Speakers

- Tracy Tunge – Practical Action
- Sixtus Odumbe - Project Lead Advisor - Renewable Energy (Refugees) – SNV Netherlands Development Organisation
- Thomas Fohgrub - Head of the Coordination Unit for the Global Plan of Action for Sustainable Energy Solutions in Situations of Displacement – United Nations Institute for Training and Research
- Glada Lahn - Senior Research Fellow – The Royal Institute of International Affairs Chatham House

Moderator: Dean Cooper - SNV Netherlands Development Organisation

Key Points

- There are an estimated 70 million refugees worldwide with many in camps lacking access to basic facilities for cooking, heating and lighting.
- This presents significant potential for private-sector engagement which could benefit both refugees and host communities.
- There needs to be more productive use of energy, including renewables, on refugee camps.
- Cost-effective energy solutions are possible by working with the private sector and developing new markets.

Synopsis

There are, according to the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), about 70 million refugees worldwide with many living in camps without access to essential services. Humanitarian organisations help, but their financial and technical resources are limited. Until recently, most of the focus has understandably been on providing water, food and shelter with little attention given to energy supplies on camps. But this mindset is rapidly changing, not least by the adoption of a more market-based approach. Provision of adequate cooking fuel and fuel-efficient stoves to camps is one pressing challenge. Refugees generally have limited access to modern cooking facilities and most either depend on insufficient humanitarian agency handouts or have to travel long distances to collect firewood.

There is significant potential for private-sector involvement in this context. It could result in win-win scenarios, most of all for refugees themselves. Refugee camps and other 'displacement settings' present opportunities for fuel companies in the private sector to expand their activities.

One example is the Kakuma camp in Kenya, home to some 160,000 refugees, which has directly benefited from the Moving Energy Initiative (MEI). This innovative project has engaged with the private sector to expand sales and the distribution of cooking fuels in the camp. There are 2,000 registered businesses on the camp and 30 % of its residents are deemed able to afford to pay for the fuel they use. The initiative, launched 18 months ago, is considered a big success. Nearly 30,000 camp residents can now access clean energy. One of the lessons from the Kenyan project is that larger, longer-term investments by the private sector in infrastructure can reduce costs and support a gradual transition away from subsidies.

The MEI also found that thousands of refugee families are prepared to pay for better energy supplies if it means taking control of their lives. Many said they would pay for cleaner and more efficient energy technologies, including better camp street lighting. The study also highlighted the fragmented and inefficient response to energy provision for displaced people from humanitarian organisations. The last five years have, though, seen a shift from ad-hoc handouts to projects that develop local markets. They show how better and more coordinated access to renewable energy could seriously cut energy costs every year, kick-starting economic activity and transforming camp culture away from one of dependency. More needs to be done. Conflict-driven migration as well as the prospect of increased climate-induced migration, will require new and sustainable modes of humanitarian aid and delivery.

Insight

As the number of displaced people in the world increases, and with aid budgets coming under further pressure, the imperative to identify cost-effective and sustainable solutions for delivering energy to refugees is more pressing than ever.

Podcast

Flexible skills development for vulnerable young people **Innovative approaches to increase technical and vocational education and training and labour market access among young women, youth with disabilities and rural youth**

Organised by HUMANA People to People

Speakers

- Belinda Hall - Managing Director – Addax and Oryx Foundation
- Minke van Rees - Program Director Education – Turing Foundation
- Lara Hager - Partnerships Development Manager – Voluntary Services Overseas
- Moses Chibwana - Director DAPP Mikolongwe Vocational School – Humana People to People

Moderator: Aubert Ouango – Programme Manager - Edukans

Key Points

- Marginalised people need flexible options.

- Organising internship programmes with local firms results in many students getting jobs.
- It is important that courses include life and business skills and learning how to work as a team.
- The number of dropouts can be reduced through targeted organisation of courses.
- Training needs to be linked to real job opportunities in the business world.

Synopsis

Youth unemployment globally stands at 71 million. Even among those with jobs, an estimated 156 million (International Labour Organization statistics) are living in poverty. Young women, disabled youth and those in rural areas are disproportionately represented in these statistics. Solutions to finding them jobs and ending their social exclusion are being explored by various projects in Africa, many with promising results. In Malawi, 34 % of the population is aged between 15 to 34 – 81% of these are in rural areas; 73 % of youth are underemployed; and 86% are engaged in irregular employment.

The majority of the youth do not complete their education for various reasons and girls cannot enroll in formal educational system. DAPP, the NGO, works to promote increased access to inclusive quality education while improving food security and economic growth among smallholder farmers. It conducts projects in close partnership with the national government, local and district authorities and a range of national as well as international partners. Since 1995 DAPP has been working to equip youth with technical and entrepreneurial skills. This includes working for vulnerable women and girls in rural areas. It organises training in 12 trades. To date, over 10,300 students have been trained. The key focus of training programmes is trade skills, entrepreneurship and life skills; many are targeted at young women in rural areas. The content of all courses has a practical focus but delivery is around a variety of options. In addition to class-based teaching, it offers a mobile training centre, a satellite learning centre and a community outreach initiative. The mobile centres can cater for 30 students and are often located in a village for up to four months.

Outreach programmes typically involve local communities and focus on agriculture. A number target young people with disabilities. What emerges from this experience is the realisation that marginalised people need flexible options. This has to cater for time, location, social and financial capacity and previous learning. It is important that courses include life and business skills and how to work as a team. They have to be equipped for local labour market conditions. The Addax & Oryx Foundation funds sustainable development projects implemented by non-profit organisations in Africa and the Middle East. The aim is to help poor communities to sustainably rise out of poverty. The programme has demonstrated the impact of internships. It has funded vocational training of 1,390 young students. Of these, 54 % have found internships and 42 % are fully employed by the end of the project. It is important to explain to local businesses the importance of offering internships, even when unpaid. To avoid drop-outs, experience suggests that the teaching methodologies are important. The courses have to understand the students' needs and be entrepreneur-centric.

Most organisations will be using wrong training methodologies and assume that that people "should be there". More important is what is being offered. Ensuring that jobs will be guaranteed at the end of the process is very important. There is a winning formula for bringing jobs to young vulnerable people and this is to build strong partnerships with companies, being able to link training to a job opportunity at the end. Finding employment afterwards is vital.

Insight

Working with business to identify their needs is the priority when designing training programmes. Promoting internships with these businesses then delivers a successful transition into employment.

Podcast

Non-Discrimination – Addressing inequalities through a human right lense

Organised by European External Action Service and The Danish Institute for Human Rights

Speakers

- Margaret Orech – Director – Uganda Landmine Survivors Association
- Petter Wille – European Network of National Human Rights Institutions
- Luisa Ragher - Head of Division Global.1 Human Rights - European External Action Service
- Joan Carling – The Indigenous Peoples Major Group for Sustainable Development
- Ashif Shaikh – Director – Jan Sahas Social Development Society

Moderator: Birgitte Feiring – Department Director – Danish Institute for Human Rights

Key Points

- There is a clear correlation between human development and discrimination.
- The EU has adopted new guidelines on non-discrimination to guide policymaking and implementation.
- Data on discrimination on ethnic grounds is not available complicating the search for solutions.

Synopsis

Discrimination takes many forms. It can be against women, ethnic minorities, the LGBTI community, people with disabilities, indigenous people and many more. There is a clear correlation between the degree of discrimination and its effect on development as measures of human development show. One of the most prevalent forms of discrimination is against women. There are some striking figures. For example, in 100 countries women are prevented from pursuing job opportunities because of their gender. LGBTI communities face discrimination in 77 countries and in many of these the penalties for illegal activities are extreme. More than 370 million indigenous people worldwide face discrimination in the form of exclusion from education and other services while there are about 1 billion people with disabilities who face discrimination globally.

Representatives of different groups suffering from discrimination took part in the session. These included a speaker from the Dalits community in India and south Asia which collects human waste from the streets. They face huge discrimination from the broader population and are exploited by the government as they clean the rail network and defence properties. In some countries, indigenous peoples cannot integrate because they are denied access to education in their own language and are excluded from political representation. In some African countries, the disabled suffer discrimination. They have poor access to transport and

employment opportunities where employers were prejudiced against jobseekers with disabilities.

Some of the measures taken to combat discrimination include the recent move by the 28 countries of the EU to adopt guidelines on non-discrimination. These guidelines would be used by EU staff working in around 140 countries worldwide and applied in their work implementing policies on the ground. The EU's Delegations will have to report after 12 months how they have applied the non-discrimination guidelines in their work. ?Brussels, 18-19 June 2019 ? As these guidelines had been discussed and approved by the EU's national governments, these countries should also apply these principles in their work with third countries. National human rights institutions play an important role in advocating for human rights at national level and monitoring government and public institutions to ensure that they are respecting principles of non-discrimination in their activities. It is crucial to implement existing commitments and ensure that they are applied on the ground. Many governments do not collect data broken down by ethnic group, making it very difficult to analyse the reality of discrimination and seek new solutions.

Insight

There are 80 countries in the world where women require their husbands' approval to work.

Podcast

2.2.3 BRAINSTORMING LAB

Restore the Balance

Organised by CERA

Speakers

- Tom Gelade - Microinsurance program coordinator – Belgian Raiffeisen Foundation
- Valeria Rainisio - European Project expert - FILSE
- Tapiwa Nyandoro – Impact Hub Global
- Goda Neverauskaite – Advisor – International Trade Union Confederation

Moderator: Trees Vendenbulcke – Advisor cooperative entrepreneurship - CERA

2.2.4 PROJECT LABS

Improving access to quality mental healthcare for those left behind

Organised by Dignity, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, Danish Red Cross and Save the Children

Speakers

- Marie Høgh Thøgersen - Clinical Psychologist, Researcher and Head of Danish Trauma and Refugee Database – Danish Institute Against Torture
- Arz Stephan - Regional MENA Child Protection Technical Advisor – Save the Children Denmark

- Ahlem Cheffi - Psychosocial technical advisor - International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
- Fatimah El Jamil - Clinical Assistant Professor – American University of Beirut

Moderator: Sarah Davidson – Head of Psychosocial – British Red Cross

Podcast

The indigenous navigator – Data by and for indigenous peoples

Organised by IWGIA

Speakers

- Joan Carling - The Indigenous Peoples Major Group for Sustainable Development
- Stanley Kimaren Riamit – Indigenous Livelihoods Enhancement Partners
- David Berger Program Coordinator – International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs
- Chiara Adamo - Head of unit – European Commission, Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development

Moderator: Julie Koch – Executive Director - International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs

Podcast

2.2.5 LARGE DEBATES

Getting it right for children: Meaningful participation and equal opportunities - Equal opportunities to engage for equal opportunities. How to empower children to reduce inequalities and be real agents of change?

Organised by European External Action Service, Plan International, World Vision, SOS Childrens Villages International, UNICEF, the European Commission's Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development and Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement and Save the Children

Speakers

- Kailash Satyarthi - Nobel Peace Laureate - Kailash Satyarthi Children's Foundation
- Eamon Gilmore - European Union Special Representative for Human Rights
- Anna Maria Corazza Bildt - Member of the European Parliament
- Oliver Chapman - Senior Social Development Specialist – Asian Development Bank
- Sarifina - youth representative from Ghana – World Vision
- Mary, member of the Youth Council - SOS Childrens Villages in Zambia
- Samila - youth representative - Brasil

Moderators:

- Benyam Dawit Mzemur – Member of the Committee on the Rights of the Child – UNHCR
- Mariam – youth representative - UNICEF

Key Points

- Three decades after the adoption of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, the term “meaningful child participation” still has to be defined.
- Young people are playing a significant role on issues such as bullying, child marriage and climate change.
- One way to encourage more child participation is to support current activists.
- Input can also be encouraged at home, in school and in the community, notably in areas that often impact children disproportionately such as public transportation.

Synopsis

This year marks the 30th anniversary of the adoption of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). Yet, questions remain about the definition of “meaningful child participation” and how to achieve it. The process that led to the approval of the UNCRC did not involve significant child participation, but the text did include a clause advocating the concept. Subsequently, there have been several high-profile examples of young people playing integral roles in developing public policy.

Two decades ago, a global march of activists centred on Geneva, headquarters of the International Labour Organisation, to demand the adoption of anti-child labour regulations. Since then the number of under-age workers around the world has dropped from 260 million to 152 million. More recently, young people have played a huge role in the global fight against climate change and, in the United States, against gun violence. The panel included three girls who are active on issues such as bullying and child marriage. One discussed the creation of “child friendly corners” and the designation of “people of trust (POTs)” in local communities, giving children a safe place to tell their troubles when they feel they have nowhere else to turn. One way to encourage more child participation is simply to support such young people when they speak up and step out. On many issues, children are more likely to listen to their peers than to adults.

Adults need to create a culture of child rights and participation. It should be done in a child-friendly manner that builds and is based on trust. The process starts in the home, where children can be included in the family budget-making process, for example. It continues in school, where pupils can be involved in question such as the establishment of classroom rules and disciplinary procedures. Input from children at a community level is needed in areas where they are directly affected, including neighbourhood safety and public services, notably public transportation. Consultation on such issues should be a right and not a privilege. The Asian Development Bank has introduced procedures that include input from young people on certain projects. In Indonesia, a young project designer helped develop a survey about financial services. More than 100 young ambassadors helped to reach more than 5,000 individuals. That led to the founding of Y-Bank, a financial education and career exploration programme.

Insight

Migrant children say the most important thing for them is to have friends.

Podcast

Bridging differences and inequalities through culture: Utopia or reality?
Documentary screening – Finding Harmony, an Afro-European music experiment

Organised by the Delegation of the European Union to the African Union

Speakers

- Samuel Yirga Mitiku – Musician
- Hatoumata Magassa - Executive Manager – AFD for Inclusive & Digital Business in Africa
- Stefano Manservigi - Director-General – European Commission, Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development
- Bernard de Launoit - Executive President – Queen Elisabeth Music Chapel
- Guido Gryseels -Director General – Royal Museum for Central Africa

Moderator: Jack Parrock – Journalist/Moderator - Euronews

Key Points

- The successful MAISHA project united 12 musicians from both the African Union (AU) and European Union (EU) to co-create musical works.
- The experiment demonstrated the importance of music to bring different cultures together.
- However, it also highlighted the lack of opportunities for African musicians
- There is a therefore a need for more investment in the cultural and creative sectors, especially in the AU.
- This makes good business sense, as there is a direct link between culture and job creation.

Synopsis

This session screened a short documentary on a two-week music residency in Addis-Ababa, Ethiopia called MAISHA, which means 'life' in Swahili. The project united 12 musicians from both the AU and EU to co-create music. It culminated in a live performance in the Ethiopian National Theatre, which was itself partly refurbished under the project. The exchange was a great success in that it brought diverse groups of people together, who despite the short time frame and language barriers, produced impactful and beautiful music. The experience emphasized dialogue between cultures, freedom of expression and the importance of artist mobility. The project also highlighted the inequalities between Africa and European musicians.

There is a distinct lack of opportunity for artists in Africa. It is difficult to source information on art in general and even harder to find out about funding opportunities. Not many women are involved in the creative sector due to the fact that music and art are not considered proper professions. Things are slowly evolving but more work is needed to change attitudes. The importance of setting up cultural networks in the AU was also emphasised. There are many such networks in Europe. A good example is Music Moves Europe, which promotes music across the continent. There should be a similar network set up between the EU and AU. This would give unprecedented international opportunities to artists.

Overall, culture and creation must be allowed to flourish. This means that relevant authorities, including the European Commission, should commit funds to building the necessary

infrastructure, ensure access to funds and credit, and encourage artist mobility. This makes good economic sense as there is a direct link between culture and job creation. In Europe, for example, the cultural and creative industries make an enormous contribution to the European Union's GDP – this could be replicated in the AU. But the mindset needs to change in Africa. Many governments on the continent do not fully understand or appreciate music and culture and fail to realise the positive impact it can have on the economy. But this will hopefully change through effective lobbying from the creative sector. The EU must also commit more funds to culture. It has taken various steps such as setting up the MAISHA project but more initiatives are needed.

Insight

Many African artists cannot travel abroad due to visa issues. The EU is looking into this and may in the future issue special visas to both artists and scientists.

Podcast

2.3 Climate change and environmental inequalities: exploring the interlinkages between climate change, environment and inequality

The most vulnerable people are more exposed to environmental risks and hazards, disproportionately affected by environmental degradation and climate change often excluded from environmental decision-making processes.

Fighting poverty means ensuring the sustainable management of natural resources. Resource politics revolves around the access, use and control of resources. This covers farmland, fisheries and forests; and other raw materials; and access to affordable and sustainable energy for all.

The path towards sustainable development should take in issues like resource and energy efficiency, renewable energy, sustainable use of natural resources and the transition towards a climate resilient and green economy. Solutions will come from a mix of environmental, economic and social responses. And also from the inclusion of the most vulnerable.

Related sessions

2.3.1 HIGH-LEVEL PANEL

Finding the path towards an inclusive and green transition leaving no one behind - How best to promote solutions that successfully address inequalities while tackling climate change and protecting biodiversity?

Organised by AFD, Sida, IRD, European External Action Service, OECD, DBSA and Wecyclers

Speakers

- Paul Currie - Chief Investment Officer – Development Bank of Southern Africa
- Christian Leffler - Deputy Secretary-General for Economic and Global Issues - European External Action Service
- Bertrand Walckenaer - Associate Chief Executive Officer – AFD
- Carin Jämtin - Director – General – Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
- Val Amiel Vestil - Young Leader – Philippines
- Olawale Adebisi – CEO - Wecyclers
- Jens Sedemund - Head, Environment and Climate Change, Development Co-operation Directorate – OECD

Moderator: Jean-Paul Moatti – Chairman and Executive Director - IRD

Key Points

- Economic growth and the green transition are not contradictory – with the right incentives they can enhance each other.
- Climate change is both a consequence of and a multiplier of social inequality and instability – 40 % of the world's conflicts are climate-related.
- The green transition demands cooperation at many levels – both developed and developing countries are responsible, and finance from the private sector as well as the public sector is needed.

Synopsis

Over the past 30 years, the EU's GDP has increased by almost 60 %. In the same period, its CO2 emissions have decreased by a quarter. This suggests there is no contradiction between economic growth and tackling climate change. Agencies working in the developing world have similar experiences. In Madagascar, the French Development Agency has worked with vanilla producers to ensure sustainable use of forests and fair working standards. Vanilla farmers have found they can charge a higher price for a product certified as sustainable. Meanwhile, Nigerian NGO Wecyclers is working with the poorest in society to get rid of their waste by unlocking the value of plastics. Rather than preaching about the environment, Wecyclers has found a solution by enabling poor people to sell their waste to recycling companies.

The Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA) is embracing a "Just Transition" approach by linking climate-positive policies to its work fighting social inequality. In Africa, SIDA is helping countries transform their public transport systems from dirty, diesel minivans to electric buses. This means fewer jobs for drivers, so SIDA is providing vocational training to help them find new work. The impacts of climate change are both a consequence of and a multiplier of social inequality and instability. Weather-related disasters hit the poorest hardest, displacing populations and provoking competition for scarce resources. Up to 40 % of violent conflicts around the world today have their origin in climate-related events. Hurricane Matthew caused a lot of damage in the Caribbean and Florida but hardly any loss of life. By contrast, the storm killed over 1,000 people in Haiti and caused massive damage to critical infrastructure. Why? Extreme inequality drives Haiti's poor to cut down their trees for fuel, increasing the risk of devastating landslides during hurricanes. The opposite is also true – less social inequality and poverty can combat the effects of climate change. If you can afford a concrete house and home insurance instead of an uninsured tin shack, you will be far more resilient in the face of disaster.

There is a global dimension to inequality and climate change, eloquently put by Young Leader Val Amiel Vestil. 'The least wealthy countries like the Philippines are the most vulnerable, but the wealthiest countries are the most responsible for climate change. If that doesn't spell inequality, I don't know what will,' he said. It will not be possible to reach the climate goals the world set itself in Paris without working multilaterally. 'It's blindingly obvious that you cannot address climate change on your own,' said Christian Leffler, Deputy Secretary-General for Economic and Global Issues, European External Action Service. Developed countries have to look hard at their own records. Since 1990, the UK's CO2 emissions have gone down 50 % but emissions generated to produce the UK's imports have gone up by the same amount. 'We will not reach our climate goals by focusing only on the poor countries of the world,' said Carin Jämtin, Director-General of SIDA, adding. 'We need to focus on ourselves at the same time.' Governments and development banks have a role to lead the way for private finance to follow. SIDA has organised 17 institutional investors – pension funds, banks, insurers – to work together to invest in climate change adaptation and mitigation measures. The Development Bank of Southern Africa is supporting entrepreneurs and community-based businesses that are focusing on the green transition.

Insight

'The moment you create the proper incentive, people's mindsets change and they become the engine for the solution', said Olawale Adebisi, Chief Executive Officer, Wecyclers, Nigeria.

2.3.2 LAB DEBATES

Local climate and energy action to fight inequalities in Sub-Saharan Africa. Tackling territorial inequalities through local climate action and innovative finance

Organised by Covenant of Mayors in Sub-Saharan Africa and UNCDF

Speakers

- Carin Jämtin – Director-General – Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
- Ndeye Rokhaya Sarr – Planner, City of Dakar
- Antony Philip Emenyu - Kasese Municipal Council
- Andrew Marcelin Komba - Director of Sector Coordination – PORALG, Tanzania

Moderator: Etienne Coyette – European Commission, Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development

Key Points

- Tackling climate change by renewable energy installations locally requires a participatory approach.
- The active participation by all sectors of society contributes to solving the energy challenges.
- Support can be channeled through existing local community groups for improved implementation.
- Inequality is addressed through localising small-scale sustainable energy solutions.

Synopsis

Many African cities have problems with uncontrolled urbanisation that presents ecological challenges, including Dakar, the capital of Senegal. The city has experience of mobilising local stakeholders to engage the public in action on reforestation and in cleaning up the city and its surroundings. There is an emphasis on involving students in training to raise awareness of the energy challenges and to come up with ideas for a local approach. The approach allows for every level of society to be involved. It includes adapting public infrastructure to minimise the need for electricity by constructing public buildings that optimise daylight and solar power for lighting, electricity and cooling.

In Uganda, the local approach builds on an ambitious renewable energy objective set for 2020, when all outlets should have established access to renewable energy sources. However, more work remains on improving the reliability of those sources. Both private sector actors and government bodies are involved. There is also a focus on enabling a switch from the burning of biomass to alternative sources and on integrating the infrastructure across sectors to allow for continuity. The aim is to introduce and integrate the renewable infrastructure with the existing public energy infrastructure.

To provide a further incentive, any investments in renewables are free of tax. To address inequality, the experience in many sub-Saharan African countries is that all civil society groups should be involved from the beginning in the planning on renewable energy sources. Local community groups should talk to the private sector to allow for genuinely local energy solutions. Even so, the challenges are similar across the world whereby the local approaches overlap with the global planning on tackling the need for sustainable energy to halt climate change. Equal access to electricity is crucial and here the role of the local authorities is enhanced as the need for funding and implementation require strong local institutions. Support

to develop local authorities is important not only for sustaining change but also regarding local energy solutions. To achieve tangible benefits at the local level, channelling funds remains a challenge. Currently, global estimates show that as little as 10% of the overall climate funding benefits the local community. An intermediary is required to channel funds from, for instance, ministerial level to viable renewable energy projects. For local-scale energy solutions to develop, local authorities must have the capacity to apply innovative solutions and elaborate on investment proposals. It is crucial to have both good proposals for renewable energy solutions as well as easier and quicker access to finance for local authorities. As projects are strictly local in terms of decision-making, donors, as well as national governments, should be prepared to work with grassroots organisations and maintain a practical approach to community development, providing the necessary training.

Insight

Small-scale, off-grid energy solutions have proven successful in Tanzania and there is hope that the private sector will pick up on that line of investment. The European Union also funds off-grid initiatives in many countries as those have proven to be feasible and sustainable. Grassroots organisations are important in developing local energy generation but there is often an issue with access to finance. Unless that is solved, there will not be equality in terms of access to sustainable energy.

Podcast

How can nature reduce inequalities and increase resilience? **Three stories about better management of natural resources, more inclusive governance and access for all**

Organised the European Commission's Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development, IUCN, FAO and NRT

Speakers

- Marjeta Jager - Deputy Director-General – European Commission, Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development
- Trevor Sandwith - Director Global Protected Area Programme – International Union for the Conservation of Nature
- Mette Loyche Wilkie - Director Forestry Division - FAO
- Kaddu Sebunya - Chief Executive Officer – African Wildlife Foundation
- Tom Lalampaa - Chief Executive Officer – Northern Rangelands Trust
- Olivia Mufute - African Wildlife Foundation

Moderator: Andre Murphy – Senior Expert – European Commission, Directorate-General for Environment

Key Points

- The poorest people are the most affected by environmental degradation and must be part of the solution.
- Social justice and environmental protection are interlinked. The World Health Organization predicts that around 250,000 additional deaths a year will occur between 2030 to 2050 because of climate change.
- Successful initiatives combining local empowerment with conservation benefit biodiversity, the environment and local development.

- Community-led initiatives that recognise the rights of indigenous communities and devolve decision-making to the lowest level spur the sustainable use of natural resources.

Synopsis

EU co-funded projects in the African, Caribbean and Pacific region, such as the CAMPFIRE initiative in Zimbabwe, have demonstrated that devolving rights to natural resources to the local community can help protect wildlife. Kenya's community-ownership model has emphasised the need to focus on local governance. Building the capacity of local populations to form their own organisations and conservation groups can prevent conflicts by forging strong relationships and interdependencies that improve a community's resilience to climate change and other threats. A community-based approach to conservation is in fact a traditional approach. The key is to ensure that costs and benefits are distributed equally. Otherwise certain sectors may become discouraged and reduce their participation.

Tiger conservation efforts are being carried out in the Myanmar/Thailand border region, an area that is now stabilising after conflict that has displaced indigenous peoples. Returning populations have a role to play in the ecosystem that supports the presence of tigers. They are being encouraged to participate in regulatory bodies that lay down hunting restrictions and harvesting periods, for example. Such involvement ensures that these communities benefit from the sustainable management of the land, while respecting emblematic species. Eco-tourism offers another significant economic boost to protected areas. Conservation needs to have a development outcome, and development needs to have a conservation outcome. Win-win scenarios are achievable and should be encouraged.

One example is the market for wild meat, which is unsustainable and is threatening around 280 mammals. An EU-supported project is raising awareness of the problem of hunting for wild meat among city dwellers where demand is highest as well as promoting sustainable livestock farming that provides an alternative to further depleting natural resources. The free consent of the community is paramount and women, as often the chief food providers, are especially important. Their soft skills can also be harnessed to stop poaching. But it is not sufficient to simply halt habitat deterioration; restoration is also vital, not just as an environmental measure, addressing climate change and boosting biodiversity, but also as a way of increasing natural resources that can be sustainably used. The General Assembly of the UN recently acknowledged this need by declaring a decade of restoration from 2021.

Insight

Bottom-up approaches that devolve decision-making to the local level have proven to be successful in protecting natural values along with the livelihoods of land users.

Podcast

Let oceans breathe and people live a better life - The nexus between cleaning up the oceans and reducing inequalities

Organised by EIB, AFD, KFW, UN Environment and UNOPS

Speakers

- Francoise Jacob - Representative to the EU institutions - UNOPS

- Richard Amor - Head of Unit - EIB
- Gilles Kleitz - Director for Natural Resources, Agriculture, Water, Forests and Oceans, Agence française de développement
- Klaus Gühr - Head of Division - KfW
- Tatjana Hema - Deputy Coordinator Mediterranean Action Plan - Barcelona Convention Secretariat, United Nations Environment Programme

Moderator: Richard Amor – European Investment Bank

Key Points

- Marine pollution is an urgent problem.
- International financial institutions have a key role to play in providing necessary funding.
- Local solutions need to be scaled up and applied globally.
- Funding for innovation to find new solutions is essential.

Synopsis

With 40 % of the global population living within 100 kilometres of the coast, the state of the world's oceans is intrinsically linked to development goals. Often fishers and their families are some of the most vulnerable communities. The threat to ocean health and to people's livelihoods from plastic pollution is well known and the urgent need for solutions is clear. Around 200 million tonnes of plastic are produced every year and each square kilometre of ocean is estimated to contain 46,000 pieces of plastic. Fortunately, there is high-level political commitment to addressing the problem.

At the Ocean Summit in Bali last year countries pledged to work together to improve the state of the seas and tackle the problem of marine pollution. International lenders such as the European Investment Bank and Germany's Kreditanstalt fuer Wiederaufbau need to provide funding for new solutions as well as the programmes designed to tackle marine pollutions such as the Clean Oceans Initiative and the Blue Ocean Fund. As most of the pollution comes from the land, sewage and wastewater treatment projects continue to help reduce the quantity of contaminants entering the world's seas. Although strategies for tackling marine pollution should be worked out and coordinated at global level, the implementation of effective action involves local authorities as they are generally in charge of waste water treatment and refuse. Funding is vital for innovative companies as they stand the best chance of developing new technological solutions to the problems facing the world's oceans. It is important to learn from small-scale and community-based projects worldwide that have been effective in reducing marine pollution.

The lessons from these schemes should be scaled-up and shared globally. The private sector must also be involved in tackling the problem. Reducing pollution at source is a worthwhile goal and consumers themselves must be involved in making informed decisions to reduce the amount of single-use plastics. Consumers, businesses and governments continue to throw their waste into the sea free of charge. They need to accept that money should be spent on collecting, recycling and reusing plastics as part of effective solutions to the problem. People should get used to the idea that when you take a fish from the ocean you should pay towards protecting the marine environment. The need for action is urgent. Every year without decisive action means hundreds of thousands of tonnes of plastic waste enter the world's oceans. Even if there is effective action to tackle marine pollution in the short term, a huge clean-up job will still have to be done.

Insight

Each square kilometre of ocean contains 46,000 pieces of plastic, and the world produces 200 million tonnes of plastic a year.

Podcast

Climate change inequality: Reducing vulnerability of ACP countries **Understanding the relationship between inequality and climate change vulnerability**

Organised by ACP and the European Commission's Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development and Directorate-General for Climate Action

Speakers

- Stefano Signore - Head of unit – European Commission, Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development
- Shahr-yar Sharei – Director – Center for United Nations Constitutional Research
- Kaire Mbuende – Ambassador – Embassy of the Republic of Namibia
- Patrick Gomes - Secretary General – ACP Group
- Philip Owen - Head of Unit – European Commission, Directorate-General for Climate Action
- Luca Lazzaroli - Director General - EIB
- Samson Sithole - Chief Executive Officer – Eswatini Agriculture and Water Development Enterprise

Moderator: Pendo Maro – Team Leader Intra-ACP GCCA+ Programme – ACP Secretariat

Key Points

- The ACP dialogue has moved in the past few years from development priorities to climate impact goals in concluding new economic agreements.
- The EU and ACP are deepening their mutual climate agenda goals at a time when leading global emissions players such as populist-government led India and Brazil are backing away.
- Countries hit by recent unprecedented disasters because of climate change have found common cause in demanding tougher guidelines.

Synopsis

Environmental degradation was already viewed in recent years as an acute threat by the ACP (African, Caribbean and Pacific) countries. Its Members States have struggled to even stay on track for the first Sustainable Development Goal (SDG 1) on poverty reduction by 2030. Now, after the devastating cyclones Idai and Kenneth earlier this year, which left more than 1,000 dead and millions homeless in Mozambique, ACP countries have stepped up plans to counter the devastating impact of climate change. At the same time there is recognition that the "Global North" is the main culprit for CO₂ emissions, while the "Global South" has become its understandably guilty conscience. A CO₂-enhanced Mother Nature has thrown infrastructure vulnerabilities into stark relief, such as the devastation of the development-funded renovation of the port city of Beira in Mozambique, as noted by the panel, in the recent storms.

Protecting development gains in ACP countries against environmental shocks have become top priorities in the area of ACP-European Union cooperation. The EU views the ACP as a key partner in achieving the Paris Agreement, which was the successful outcome of a bottom-up approach, in contrast to that taken in Kyoto. There is expected to be a new agreement reached between the EU and ACP in 2020. However, NDCs (nationally determined contributions) are still not legally binding as international commitments. They remain, as one speaker described it, as only the first step on a 1,000-mile journey. Nonetheless, the renewed determination of the ACP's 79 countries plus the EU Member States can provide a powerful lobby to combat increasingly powerful and more frequent droughts and catastrophic wind and rainfall in the ACP region. Although such man-made catastrophes are becoming regular features in India, Russia and the United States, there appears to be a state of denial among government leaders. Meanwhile, through a combination of public and private investments and strong input from the European Investment Bank, wind power now makes up 20 % of the sustainable energy mix in Africa.

In addition, climate finance, using the Paris Accord as alignment, means that even if future projects are not directly linked to combating climate change, they must still achieve carbon neutrality by 2050. Despite that, the track record on international legal safeguards remains woeful. In global governance terms, meeting the SDGs is proving difficult because many of the proper oversight tools are lacking. There is no International Climate Court, or an enshrined right to a clean environment such as exists in the Belgian constitution. As one legal expert noted, you can take your next-door neighbour to court for poisoning your garden, but not a neighbouring country for polluting the skies overhead.

Insight

International accountability for climate change remains largely a pipe dream and there is no international court access to deal with violators. Until this international legislative issue is resolved it will be difficult to enforce compliance beyond rhetorical naming and shaming.

Podcast

Climate change, renewable resources and food security: From global to local scale - Understanding the global and local context to better design efficadaptive strategies

Organised by IRD and WFP

Speakers

- Etienne Coyette - European Commission – Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development
- Gernot Laganda - Chief of Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction Unit – United Nations World Food Programme
- Djiga Thiao – Researcher – Centres de Recherches Océanographique de Dakar - Thiaroye
- Jenny Springer - Director Global Programme Governance and Rights – International Union for the Conservation of Nature

Moderator: Philippe Cury – IRD Representative Brussels - IRD

Key Points

- Climate change is leading to food security problems.

- Breaking the vicious circle connected to climate change is critical.
- It is key to increase access to land resources for women and indigenous people.
- It is important to provide information about the weather, help small farmers organise themselves in cooperatives, and work with natural ecosystems.

Synopsis

The discussion focused on the links between climate change and production systems such as marine and terrestrial renewable resources and how they reinforce inequalities at the global and local scale. It was pointed out that one of the effects of global warming is that the seawater off western Africa is getting warmer. This is leading to some species of fish moving northwards towards Morocco and southern Europe. In addition, rising sea levels mean that fishing infrastructure/housing along the coast is being lost. Many communities depend on fisheries in Senegal, which is the top fish consumer in western Africa. As stocks decline, fish becomes more expensive, leading to food insecurity.

A potential health problem is that women sometimes buy fewer vegetables so they can buy fish. It was pointed out that there is a vicious cycle between climate change and inequality: climate change in the developing countries makes the most vulnerable become even more vulnerable. If inequalities are not addressed, there is a risk of reinforcing them and missing opportunities for nature conservation and sustainable development. It is important to break this cycle. Potential solutions include investing in training and education, boosting collaborative research between African countries to help leaders make decisions based on science, the transfer of efficient technology and promoting fair trade. It was pointed out that many people in developing countries depend heavily on natural resources for their food security. A solution here is to increase the security of tenure of women and indigenous people to land resources, including via collective tenure systems. This is not politically easy but is workable. It was highlighted that this is a fundamental enabling condition for food security and the reduction of inequality. One participant suggested a solution to the problem of climate change and inequalities. Make information about the weather more accessible. That means information about what sort of weather, such rainfall patterns and extreme weather events, will be affecting farmers in the next agriculture season. Other solutions include helping small farmers organise themselves in cooperatives so that they can have access to weather information, to financial capital, and, for example, go to the bank together to ask for a loan for agricultural machinery such as tractors. Another solution is to work with natural ecosystems so that they act as protective buffers against climate change (for example, mangroves on the seashore).

Insight

While all parts of the agriculture food chain are vulnerable to climate risks, there are solutions to each of the problems – including having storage systems on stilts so that rainfall does not damage the harvest or having better drainage on transport routes.

Podcast

2.3.3 BRAINSTORMING LAB

Rise of the Eco Village

Organised by CTCN, UNIDO, UN Environment, UNFCCC, REDES, GROBUND, INFORSE and the European Commission's Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development

Speakers

- Tore Muurholm Dahl – Representative – Grobund Eco Village Denmark
- Judit Szoleczky – Project Manager - International Network for Sustainable Energy
- Ousmane Aly Pame - University teacher and Community leader – Network for Ecovillage Emergence and Development in the Sahel

Moderators:

- Karina Larsen – Knowledge and Communications Manager/Gender Coordinator – UNFCCC
- Irma Juskenaitė – UNFCCC

2.3.4 PROJECT LABS

Water, peace and security in the Sahel

Organised by Wetlands International, World Resources Institute and Partners for Resilience

Speakers

- Karounga Keita - Regional Director for Sahel – Wetlands International
- Dr Hans-Harald Jahn - Head of Division – EIB
- Leonard Mizzi - Head of Unit - European Commission, Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development
- Yamide Dagnet - Senior Associate – World Resources Institute
- Carmen Marques - Policy coordinator, Environment and Water Diplomacy – European External Action Service

Moderator: Alexander Griffin – Wetlands International

Podcast

Due Diligence for the defenders of global goods and commons

Organised by Alianza por la Solidaridad, ECCJ and Observatorio de Responsabilidad Social Corporative

Speakers

- Almudena Moreno - Responsible on local development - Alianza por la Solidaridad
- Ana Rutilia Ical - Woman Human Rights Defender - Alianza por la Solidaridad
- Elena Salgado Rodriguez – Observatorio de Responsabilidad Social Corporative
- Adriana Espinosa González - Policy Officer - ECCJ
- Sonia Sánchez - Woman Human Rights Defender – Movimiento de mujeres de Santo Tomas

Moderator: Nele Meyer – Amnesty International

Podcast

2.3.5 LARGE DEBATE

Inequalities in agriculture: A threat to sustainable development **How climate change and environmental inequalities prevent farmers from reaching their potential**

Organised by CABI, AfD, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands and SciDev.net

Speakers

- Josefa Sacko - Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture - African Union Commission
- Sarah Cardey - Associate Professor, School of Agriculture, Policy and Development – University of Reading
- Pacita Juan – Founder - ECHOStore
- Dennis Rangi - Director General Development – CABI

Moderator: Ben Deighton – Managing Editor – SciDev.net

Key Points

- Smallholder farmers are innovative by nature; the innovative processes they use must be supported.
- Young people and women must be given more support so they can become farmers in their own right.
- Agriculture must be made more interesting to encourage young people to return/stay on the land.
- Creating an enabling environment for farmers to develop their land is key.

Synopsis

The world's 500 million smallholder farmers face a variety of environmental, economic and educational inequalities. Inequalities are wicked problems. There is not one solution, and solutions will be messy and will take a long time. However, we can unpick those complexities. While the changing nature of those inequalities makes them difficult to address, one way is to disentangle the communities and talk about different groups within communities and their different needs. Young people, for example, are not necessarily recognised as full members of the economy or as agricultural producers in their own right. This can drive them away from the land leaving older farmers to work well into their eighties. To address this issue, older farmers should be allowed to retire. To keep young people on the land, we need to recognise and encourage them, and create an atmosphere where agriculture is seen as interesting and a rewarding career option. This can be done through using new technologies or simply by asking young people what they want and actively listening to them.

Beyond young people we need to acknowledge that people in general have a more interrogative understanding of their own lives than we tend to credit them with. Here again the key is listening to them and encouraging them by developing an enabling environment. Smallholder farmers are fundamentally innovative. They know what they are doing and their innovative processes need to be supported, especially those relating to marginalised groups because not all farmers are equal. The lack of information and training among farmers also needs to be tackled. For example, farmers in the developing world tend to know very little

about fertilisers, weed killers and pesticides and they often fall prey to those who promote only chemical products. Even small information initiatives encouraging them to switch to organic farming or grow niche products can have far-reaching benefits.

Consumer awareness can also play a part in this. Since we are all co-producers, it is what we eat every day that will determine what the farmers plant. Women in agriculture, like men, face the challenges of a lack of access to education and information. Women often also lack access to finance. Despite this, opportunities abound. For example, women are becoming more involved in coffee production and are doing so successfully. Thanks to various initiatives, women are taught how to make better coffee and how to access speciality markets. Climate change is one area where not enough is being done and where information is crucial. We need to teach smallholder farmers resilience in the face of climate change and we need to communicate the urgency of addressing the threat of climate change at all levels. Small farmers in Africa, for example, must learn the importance of not chopping down their forests. They must also be taught the importance of changing some of their farming practices to reflect climate change. Developing countries may not be major contributors to climate change and pollution, but this does not mean they can rest on their laurels. They also need to protect their own environment. Agriculture should be a source of both pride and income.

Insight

The use of “colonial languages” in information videos geared towards farmers was widely criticised. This is due to the huge difference between those living in cities and those living in the countryside who have next to nothing. Measures must be taken to ensure that country dwellers, young people and women do not receive second-best information. They should also receive information in their local language and not in English or French, which often they do not understand.

Podcast

2.4. Education and health inequalities

Education and health should be a human right, yet it cannot be taken for granted. Around a quarter of a billion children do not complete education. Even where children are in school, many do not achieve minimum proficiency levels. Basic medical services are absent in many parts of the world.

Access to quality public services is a key determinant of opportunity. It gives people a better chance to get a decent job, to escape poverty, to support their families, and to develop their communities.

Education is one of the strongest instruments for reducing poverty and improving health, gender equality, peace, and stability. Places with few or no schools are more likely to have child labour and human trafficking. They are also the hardest to reach, as they are in countries held back by conflict, disaster, and epidemics. Quality education ensuring that children acquire an appropriate level of knowledge and skills is one of the most important factors to promote economic and social development. Likewise with health, while between 7 and 9 million children will die this year, 70% from preventable causes, roughly 28 000 every day, more than 50% will die in urban areas.

Europe puts a particular focus on inclusive and equitable educational and health services, including mental health, lifelong learning and '21st century skills' like critical thinking and digital literacy. Can its experience help?

2.4.1 HIGH-LEVEL PANELS

Partnership and innovation to overcome inequalities in health **How can we leverage the power of partnerships for health to reach the last mile and leave no one behind?**

Organised by the Global Fund and Gavi

Speakers

- Donald Kaberuka - Chair of The Global Fund Board – The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria
- Bruno Mettling - Chairman Orange Middle East and Africa - Orange
- Marjeta Jager - Deputy Director-General – European Commission, Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development
- Seth Berkley - CEO - GAVI the Vaccine Alliance
- Louison Bitilo - Young Leader - Democratic Republic of Congo
- Samira Bawumia - Founder & CEO - Samira Empowerment & Humanitarian Projects, Second Lady of Ghana
- Stefano Manservigi - Director-General - European Commission, Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development

Moderator: Roopa Dhatt – Executive Director – Women in Global Health

Key Points

- Without access to healthcare, prospects for development look dim. Progress has been made in the last two decades but many challenges remain, not least with preventable and treatable diseases in the most fragile regions.
- On this backdrop, universal health care coverage seems like a utopian concept but, in fact, technological advances have shifted the idea closer to reality.
- Partnerships can unlock the potential of digital innovation in a way that traditional models of development aid cannot. When state actors, NGOs, the private sector and civil society come together, such partnerships “with a purpose” can be formed and deliver miraculous results.
- There are many reasons for inequality in healthcare - gender, poverty, instability and remoteness - but none of them are unsurmountable if the political will is there to do tackle them

Synopsis

This high-level debate on partnerships and innovation in health care in the context of development brought together representatives from the European Union, the World Health Organization (WHO), leading international organisations in the field, a leading telecommunications company and civil society. In his opening address, the European Commission’s Director General for International Cooperation and Development announced the signing, on the same day at the Development Days, of a new contribution agreement with the WHO. The money will be used building health care systems in more than 80 African, Caribbean, Pacific, and Asian countries, as part of the Health Systems Strengthening for Universal Health Coverage Partnership Programme.

The WHO representative illustrated the need for this programme by stressing that despite the progress of recent times we are currently not on track in eradicating preventable diseases or bringing down mother/infant mortality in fragile and remote regions. The Chair of the Board of The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, one of the important “partnerships with a purpose”, added that four years after the updating of the Millennium Development Goals, many governments’ priorities have changed and the agenda has shifted, creating political headwinds. However, we must not be discouraged but instead “step up the fight”, a battle cry that will also serve as the motto of the next replenishment conference of the Global Fund next October. On the issue of malaria in the Democratic Republic of Congo, which is still the principal cause of morbidity and mortality in the country, the audience heard an impassioned plea for “commitment from all” to defeat Malaria from EDD19 Young Leader Louison Mbombo Bitilo, founder of the Mbomo Initiative Against Malaria (Solidariedade Na Mokili) that works in partnership with Google and Microsoft.

Ghana’s Second Lady, Samira Bawumia, who runs her own charity, working on healthcare, education and women’s empowerment, gave examples of how technology is helping to reach people in remote areas. One of them is the introduction of delivery drones by Zipline, a US digital logistics company. Zipline first started to operate in Rwanda, and are now trying to repeat their success there in the much larger Ghana. And, according to the CEO of GAVI, the Vaccine Alliance, even the company’s home country is interested in their services, which he called a welcome case of South to North innovation. From the panel, the Chairman Orange S.A.’s Middle East and Africa operations, made the case for tech and telco companies to join the ‘partnerships with a purpose’. For Orange, it was only logical to become involved. Apart from participating in the development of telemedicine in rural areas, mobile phones today offer unprecedented opportunities to provide governments and NGOs with health and epidemiological data analysis services.

Insight

Given the revolutionary advances in technology and their potential to revolutionise healthcare, it is now up to politics to clear the road to universal healthcare coverage.

The potential of a classroom - How can education in mid- and low-income countries become a catalyst for change in reducing inequality?

Organised by the Romanian Presidency of the Council of the European Union and UNICEF

Speakers

- Kailash Satyarthi - Nobel Peace Laureate - Kailash Satyarthi Children's Foundation
- Bernard Yvetot - Vice President, International Strategy - Orange
- Akosua Peprah - Young Leader – Ghana
- Lucas Odhiambo - Youth Advocate - UNICEF
- Julianna Lindsey – Representative - UNICEF
- Maria Magdalena Grigore - Secretary of State – Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Romania

Moderator: James Elder – Regional Chief of Communication - UNICEF

Key Points

- Barriers stopping children (especially girls) from going to school must be removed.
- The use of child labour prevents children from attending school; it is time to join forces with the private sector to end child labour.
- Digital technologies may provide a partial solution to the shortage of teachers faced by many African countries.
- Focused government spending on education is needed – in cities, in rural areas and on areas such as early child development.
- Teaching skills need to be improved.

Synopsis

Education is an essential tool in reducing inequality and a key question is how to harness its potential. The barriers that prevent children going to school must be removed. In Ghana, for example, many girls from rural areas are missing school because they cannot afford sanitary pads, which have a 20 % import tax. As a result, they are spending more time on domestic activities such as cooking. Another challenge is the poor level of infrastructure, including a lack of information communications technology laboratories. In rural Ghana, children are failing exams because they have to use computers they have never seen before. One major reason why children are not attending school is because they are the cheapest source of labour. Child labour denies children education. The solution lies in freeing them from this slavery/labour so they can attend school. The private sector has to share leadership here.

The Dutch government has passed a law making due diligence in the supply chain of companies mandatory. The European Union should pass a law to ensure an end to child trafficking. Given the shortage of teachers in many African countries, digital technologies could provide a partial solution – digital technology remote learning combined with traditional physical classes. Private sector programmes are being set up in African countries to enable young people to learn coding or other digital skills. And business incubators can be established

to foster young people after they leave school. Governments need to allocate enough money to the education budget and ensure that it is spent in the right way and in the right place. For example, if all the money goes to cities and not to remote rural districts, children in those areas will not benefit from education opportunities. Another example is the need to focus on early childhood development – stimulating brain development at a young age helps children to read, write and do maths.

Currently, too little money is spent on this in many African countries. Other keys to success include investing in teachers and teaching methods, improving the curriculum, and teaching parents to stimulate and be involved in their children's teaching. Governments also need to invest in school infrastructure (electricity, gas, blackboards, chalk) so children do not feel that going to school is a punishment. Teachers can make a difference by caring about their pupils, even if they are not doing well at school. They need to serve the top achievers and those at the bottom too, identifying children who are struggling, and making the space and time to give those children the extra help they need. It is important to train school heads about leadership so they can lead teaching staff, who in turn can help children learn as much as possible.

Insight

Education needs to be made a right. Everyone needs to have access to education, regardless of where they are born or live. One idea put forward was to create a sense of urgency to deal with education challenges by encouraging mass mobilisation led by young people.

2.4.2 LAB DEBATES

Efficiently Tackling Educational inequalities: Looking at data differently Alternative ways of analyzing and sharing data can better highlight in qualities and help donors reach people with the greatest need

Organised by UNESCO

Speakers

- Amelie A Gagnon - Senior Programme Specialist – Development - UNESCO
- Javier Teran – Statistician - UNOCHA
- Alain Mingat – Independent Scholar

Moderator: Manos Antoninis – Director – Global Education, Monitoring, Report - UNESCO

Podcast

Access to Contraception: The challenge of a decade What will 2030 look like for reproductive health supplies

Organised by Reproductive Health Supplies Coalition

Speakers

- Jillian Gedeon - Co-founder – International Youth Alliance for Family Planning
- Frank van de Looij - Health Expert – Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Netherlands

- Aminata Sow Lenormand - SECONAF Regional Advisor - Reproductive Health Supplies Coalition
- Temitayo Erogbogbo - Director of Advocacy – Merck Sharp & Dohme

Moderator: Brain McKenna – Deputy Director - Reproductive Health Supplies Coalition

Podcast

Creating equitable and inclusive schools: How to prepare teachers for the future we want?

Organised by International Task force on Teachers for Education 2030, VVOB, UNESCO and Education International

Speakers

- Dennis Sinyolo - Senior Coordinator – Education International
- Robert White – Professor – Le Moyne College
- Line Kuppens - Education Advisor - VVOB
- Akosua Peprah - Young Leader – Ghana

Moderator: Inès Theodora da Silva – Communications officer - International Task force on Teachers for Education 2030

Key Points

- Quality education is key to human well-being and sustainable development.
- One reason for poor quality education is the lack of adequately trained teachers.
- In addition to training for competence in subject matters, teachers need training in values, sensitivity to student diversity and classroom management.
- Teachers should be trained to value every student and avoid stereotypes and biases.

Synopsis

As recognised in UN Sustainable Development Goal 4, obtaining a quality education is the foundation to improving people's lives and for sustainable development. In addition to improving quality of life, access to inclusive education can help provide the tools required for innovative solutions to the world's greatest problems. According to the UN, some reasons for poor quality education are lack of adequately trained teachers, poor conditions of schools and equity issues related to opportunities provided to rural children. For quality education, investment is needed in educational scholarships, teacher training, school building and improvement of water and electricity access to schools. Significant, but not sufficient, progress has been made in getting children into classrooms. But once in the classrooms, education quality depends critically on the training, competence, commitment, empathy and values of the teachers.

According to the International Task Force on Teachers for Education, no education is possible without an adequate number of qualified and motivated teachers. Key components of quality education are inclusiveness and equity. What are the implications of teacher development, school policy and classroom practices that provide inclusive and equitable education? Worldwide, there are not enough teachers, and many are inadequately trained. Teacher training is largely traditional, focusing on curriculum.

In addition to training for competence in subject matters to be taught, teachers need training in values, sensitivity to student diversity and classroom management, particularly how to deal with large class sizes and disruptive students. Teachers should be trained to value every student whether a fast or slow learner, whether fully able or dealing with disabilities. Teachers should be trained to impart to students social and problem-solving skills. Teachers should be trained in using inclusive techniques. Teachers need training both at the beginning and throughout their careers. Professional teacher groups are useful for exchanging best practices and providing emotional support. Teachers should be tolerant of the diversity of their students, their families and their cultural and socio-economic backgrounds. Teachers should also be familiar with the UN Sustainable Development Goals. They should support female students and avoid sexist, religious and cultural stereotypes and biases. Teachers who are racist or sexist should not be teachers. All people have certain biases. Teachers should be trained to recognise their biases and refrain from acting on them. Well-trained teachers capable and committed to providing quality, equitable and inclusive education need much better pay and social status.

Insight

Policymakers and citizens should recognise that children are key to our futures and teachers are key to our children's futures.

Podcast

Community health worker programmes for universal health coverage - Highlighting components of community health systems and lessons learned from a range of contributors

Organised by Johnson & Johnson

Speakers

- Emma France - Global Development & Strategic Engagement Director – Mothers 2 Mothers
- Angela Gichaga – CEO – Financing Alliance for Health
- Elizabeth Wala - Programme Director, Health Systems Strengthening – AMREF Health Africa
- Henriette Geiger – Director for People and Peace – European Commission, Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development
- Thomas Onyango - Country Director – Living Goods

Moderator: Ben Davies – Global Community Impact Lead EMEA – Johnson & Johnson

Key Points

- More than half the world's population has no access to basic quality healthcare.
- The world needs some 18 million more health workers.
- A community health worker prevents a child dying somewhere in the world every three seconds.
- Most community health workers are volunteers. One of the biggest challenges facing health systems, particularly in developing countries, is how to pay them.

Synopsis

More than half the world's population has no access to basic quality healthcare and over 400 million people have no access to health services of any kind. Meeting the UN Sustainable Development Goal on universal health – SDG 3 – will mean more and better spending on health, particularly on primary healthcare. It will also require shifting the emphasis from cure to prevention. The cost of additional health workers needed to meet the UN health goal amounts to half of the financing gap. Currently, the world needs some 18 million more health workers, mainly at primary care and community health level. Nurses account for 9 million of this figure, with community health workers accounting for another 4.5 million. Most community health workers are volunteers.

One of the biggest challenges facing health systems, particularly in developing countries, is how to pay them when health budgets are tight and how best to integrate them into national health services. Some level of remuneration is considered crucial. Women already have too many non-paid tasks – it is unfair to add another. The value of community health workers to health systems is immense. It is estimated that a community health worker prevents a child dying somewhere in the world every three seconds. They are from the community they serve and know how to translate the medical jargon into language that is comprehensible to their patients. It is not just a question of fairness.

Paying health workers brings wider economic benefits. Not only does the money contribute to the wider economy, but the provision of better health services helps reduce migratory pressures. One way to provide income to voluntary health workers would be to adopt an entrepreneurial approach and allow them to sell certain health commodities, for example, bed nets in malaria-prone areas. But spending on community health workers, as spending on other areas of health systems, needs to be seen as an investment and not pure expenditure. This requires a change of mindset on the part of budgetary authorities. South Africa offers an example of how paying community health workers generates positive results. The mother2mothers programme, which focused initially on stemming the transmission of HIV from mother to child, has around 10,000 paid women mentors. Transmission of HIV from mother to child has been practically eliminated in South Africa. The service has reached over 10 million women and their families. Male nurses were initially circumspect but have become firm supporters because they see the mentors as fundamental to the delivery of services to pregnant women.

Insight

There needs to be a change of mindset on the part of budgetary authorities. Health spending has to be seen as an investment and not just expenditure.

Podcast

2.4.3 BRAINSTORMING LABS

Building connections: Clean energy to reduce health and social inequities

Organised by WHO, ENERGIA, UN DESA, UNDP and Hivos

Speakers

- Samira Bawumia - Founder & CEO – Samira Empowerment & Humanitarian Projects, Second Lady of Ghana
- Heather Adair-Rohani - Team Leader on Energy and Health - WHO
- Rita Poppe - Policy Advisor – Hivos

Moderator: Nathalie Roebbel – Coordinator, Air Pollution and Urban Health – WHO

Art Fair(s) and unFair Art: Does culture reduce or consolidate inequalities?

Organised by Open Earth Foundation and Gabarron Foundation

Speakers

- Aaron Atimpe - Young Leader - Ghana
- Victor Gama - Artistic director - PangeiArt
- Angel Carro Castrillo - Founder and Director - Open Earth Foundation
- Cris Gabarron – Founder - Gabarron Foundation
- Greta Dupont – Artspace “De 11 lijnen”

Moderator: Mercedes Giovinaz – Interarts Foundation

2.4.4 PROJECT LABS

Migration, displacement and education: Building bridges, not walls. Building inclusive education systems

Organised by UNESCO

Speakers

- Haldis Holst - Deputy General Secretary – Education International
- Abdulkarim Albrem - Youth Ambassador - UNHCR
- Manos Antoninis – Director - UNESCO
- Joseph Nhan-O'Reilly - Head of Education Policy & Advocacy – Save the Children
- Henriette Geiger – Director for People and Peace - European Commission, Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development

Moderator: Raj Kumar – President and Editor-in-Chief – Devex

Key Points

- It needs to be recognised that refugees may be in host countries for a long time, maybe a generation.
- Education is needed in the transition process of migrants and refugees.
- Schemes for community sponsorship of refugee support are successful and need to be scaled up.
- Host governments must be empowered to provide education services to migrants.
- Educational support is needed for both refugee populations and the host community.

Synopsis

The latest UNESCO Global Education Monitoring Report provides plenty of food for new thought about the importance of effective education systems to help long term integration of

migrants and refugees. Education can help societies manage the challenges and opportunities presented by migration and needs to be looked at in an integrated way to address what is a critical gap. Every child without an education is lost capital. Education is viewed as a top priority by refugee families. They currently face an interrupted education, which needs to be ensured in the transition process.

It is important that education should no longer be treated as the exception. It needs to be recognised that refugees may be in host countries for a long time, maybe a generation. Most do not live in refugee camps but in communities. It is important to focus on trying to empower the host governments to provide education services. For example, in Turkey, support is given to the government to help refugees integrate into society. A crucial debate centres on who picks up the bill. It is difficult to integrate the private sector into funding core services. They can provide complementary aid but privatisation is not the solution. A pilot action is under way with the Bill Gates Foundation to set up and fund health centres. This could free up capital for other investments. Local corporations can also be leveraged to support initiatives for motives of Corporate Social Responsibility. If countries improve tax collection, a good revenue basis could be found to finance this education process. Countries also need to live up to their pledges as many fail to deliver the funding they publicly promise. Refugees are often found in the countries which are least able to provide services, such as Uganda as it faces an influx of Sudanese.

A new approach is needed to support such countries with material aid for both refugee populations and the host community. Multi-year resilience plans are already being developed which go beyond the short-term emergency cycle. Community sponsorship of refugee support is on the increase and proving successful in Canada and Britain. Such schemes need to be scaled up. Teachers and planners must respond to challenges of a diverse classroom. The teaching of migrants and refugees should be included in national education systems. Having enough suitably qualified teachers for refugee communities is a key issue. The UNESCO report stresses that migrants have a right to education. For refugees this is guaranteed but definitions of migrants are very fluid. Education should be for everyone without discrimination on grounds of religion or ethnicity. The key findings and recommendations in the 2019 edition of *Migration, Displacement and Education: Building Bridges, Not Walls* will be discussed by a high-level panel where representatives from key education stakeholders will discuss the responsibilities of the international community, governments and local actors to build inclusive education systems in line with Sustainable Development Goal 4 – Quality Education – and the commitment to leave no one behind.

Insight

The need for the education of refugees and migrants to start as soon as they arrive in the host country is not sufficiently recognised. They are generally displaced for a long time and education eases their integration.

Podcast

HOPES against inequalities!

Organised by DAAD, British Council, NUFFIC and Campus France

Speakers

- Feras Ouyoun - Master student – University Paris-Sud

- Nesma Desouki – Teacher – Ain Shams University
- Isabelle Combes - Deputy Head of Unit (Trust Fund Manager)– European Commission – Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations
- Rabih Shibli- Director – American University of Beirut

Moderator: Nina Salden – Director - DAAD Brussels

Podcast

EU-Bhutan Cooperation for Disaster Risk Reduction

- *Organised by the European Commission's Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations*

Speakers

- Raffaella Iodice - Head of Unit - European Commission, Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development
- Androulla Kaminara - Director for Sub-Saharan Africa, Asia, Latin America and Pacific – European Commission, Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations
- Ned Olney - Country Director Nepal and Bhutan – Save the Children
- Jigme Thinley Namgyal - Director General – Ministry of Home and Cultural Affairs – Department of Disaster Management - Bhutan

Moderator: Paola Albrito – Chief Regional Office for Europe – United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction

Podcast

2.5 Territorial inequalities

More than half of the world's population lives now in cities, and projections show that this number is drastically growing. But this development has very different expressions across regions depending on several factors such as the proliferation of economic activities in cities. Citizens oftentimes move to bigger agglomeration in the run for a better quality of life and for employment. Cities have the capacity to attract industrial activities, investments and other economic opportunities, leaving peripheral and rural areas behind and creating even more inequality of opportunities. But even more worrying are the intra-urban inequalities which can be even starker than the rural-urban divide: slums, where people lack even basic amenities, exist in close proximity to luxury developments.

One of the major challenges facing policymakers in today's developing countries is managing the rural-urban transition in a way that preserves growth and promotes equity. This means taking account of transport infrastructure, access to markets, urban development and capacity building. In this context, can territorial development policies reduce poverty and social exclusion caused by galloping urbanisation?

Related sessions

2.5.1 HIGH-LEVEL PANEL

Innovation for sustainable development: Leaving no one and no place behind - Territorial innovation policies for the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals: A world which leaves no one and no place behind

- *Organised by the European Commission's Joint Research Centre*

Speakers

- Christel Alvergne – Regional Coordinator for West and Central Africa – UNCDF
- Souad Abderrahim - Mayor of Tunis
- Leticia Pinheiro Rizério Carmo - Young Leader – Brazil
- Arup Banerji - Regional Director – World Bank Group
- Charlina Vitcheva - Deputy Director General – European Commission, Joint Research Centre

Moderator: Jamira Burley – Head of Youth Engagement and Skills – Global Business Coalition for Education

Key Points

- Rwanda's decision to provide public services online has improved access for the people and helped to develop the knowledge-based economy.
- When properly used, digital technology can reduce the gaps between rich and poor within and between countries, and between urban and rural communities. If not used properly it can increase the gaps.
- Developing country governments must create institutional structures to ensure a flow of inward investment.
- Public policies must take gender perspectives into account when developing urban public spaces.

Synopsis

When Rwanda was rebuilt after the civil war the government realised it needed to build a digital economy to move the country forward and create opportunities for young people. It began by putting all public services online, to make them fully accessible. This move to digitise public services encouraged the use of ICT and for everyone to become connected.

This has generated networking opportunities across the country. To encourage entrepreneurship, and support small and medium-sized enterprises, the government introduced enabling regulations, gave strong financial support, and leveraged support services. It estimates that digitisation has reached 7.5 million people and created 40,000 jobs.

The massive increase in mobile phone use prompted the government to encourage a foreign investor to open a factory in Kigali to make affordable smart phones. The factory is now almost ready to start exporting them to surrounding countries.

Economic growth can also increase the gaps between rich and poor. In Europe, some inhabitants enjoy considerable wealth, while only a few miles away people live in abject poverty. Some of the most economically advanced countries could learn from the example of Rwanda and help SMEs to network, so the flow of knowledge will provide them with a window on the wider world.

At times this inequality within countries is mirrored by the differences in educational achievement, often because the education system fails to realise that the world is changing. Given how fast digitisation is changing the world, policymakers should be careful not to use outdated solutions to solve 21st century problems. Instead, they should seek new solutions and policies that include digital technology.

However, there is a downside to economic growth in Africa. Guinea's economy has grown by 10 % a year over the last three years because of revenue from the bauxite mines. If not managed carefully, this could increase the gap between rich and poor as well as destroy the local environment. The government is now working to transform this situation into an opportunity. It has introduced institutional structures to support the population, and is using incoming investment for public services such as health and education. It is also boosting small businesses by supporting banks to provide loans to SMEs, which otherwise cannot obtain loans. It is also giving the most vulnerable people, who do not have bank accounts, access to services via digital transfers.

Another form of inequality in Brazil is between men and women in cities. Women are often afraid to use cities' public spaces because of the strong possibility of being harassed by men. Today, the majority of city policymakers and administrators are men, who fail to understand or to consult women about their security fears. Women must be brought into decision making in order to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 11: To make cities and human settlement inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.

Insight

One of the powerful images of the Bolsa Familia (state funding for the poorest families in Brazil) is of people holding a yellow card, which says they are entitled to cash from the state. They are smiling because for the first time they are made to feel they are members of a state that is working to support them.

2.5.2 LAB DEBATES

Addressing inequalities and building a local Africa leaving no one behind
An enabling environment for decentralization in Africa opens tremendous paths of opportunities to redress inequalities

Organised by UCLG Africa, Association des regions du Maroc, The Hague Academy for Local Governments and CAMPS

Speakers

- Joseph Hyacinthe Owona Kono – President - Afruibana
- Inota Cheta - Young Leader – Zambia
- Aaron Atimpe - Young Leader – Ghana
- Ghita Ait Ben Lmadani – Mayor – Commune Ait Zdeg

Moderator: Abdelkrim Marzouk – Dean – Al Akhawayn University

Key Points

- Inequalities in Sub-Saharan Africa are most marked between urban and rural areas with young people and women suffering most.
- One way to boost rural economies is to invest in small-scale enterprises, particularly those owned by women.
- In North Africa, inequalities between regions and between regional cities and the capitals need to be addressed.
- There are also inequalities within cities; authorities in Nairobi have taken innovative measures to integrate the urban poor into the local economy.

Synopsis

Growth in Sub-Saharan Africa has been spectacular in the last 20 years, with GDP in double figures. However, this growth has been uneven, with 34 % of the rural population, particularly women and youth, most affected by poverty, lacking basic facilities like water or electricity, while the urban population enjoys Western-style living. However, this urban/rural divide is not inevitable as many rural areas are rich in agriculture, growing tropical fruits and staples such as coffee or chocolate. One way to encourage young people to stay and to lift women out of poverty is to generate new forms of employment. This will also help integrate these zones into the wider economy.

Governments are now investing in the local population, helping them to set up as small entrepreneurs, in turn encouraging larger industries to invest. Speakers noted that rural areas are always last in line for facilities such as hospitals or schools, forcing the population to migrate to towns. Instead, opening rural hospitals and more education colleges will serve the local population and generate employment.

North African countries such as Morocco currently enjoy GDP growth of up to 4 %, but again this is spread unevenly, with remote regions lacking the investment enjoyed nearer the capital, Rabat. The lack of facilities and of decent infrastructure such as roads is driving young people to the big cities, draining these remote areas of future wealth-producing generations. A Moroccan town mayor suggested three approaches: Common ownership of land to open up more land to small farmers; fairer taxation for the regions, so those in less developed regions pay less than in big cities; and employment packages for state employees such as medical staff or teachers to encourage them to move to outlying regions. As well as inequality between regions, there are huge differences in some big cities. In the Kenyan capital Nairobi, a small elite of 15 % enjoy good facilities and services, while the remainder live in slums, eking out a

living with few services and little chance of formal employment. Initially the authorities stigmatised the 85 % as criminals and a threat to urban order. Recently they have adopted a more enlightened approach, "harnessing the hassle". They have introduced a City Urban Watch to improve security; created Street Parliaments to contribute to urban planning and legalised the informal economy.

Insight

In many Sub-Saharan countries, local chiefs oversee land ownership and have the power to decide who is can lease arable land. This approach needs to be modernised to encourage women's agricultural enterprises.

Podcast

Addressing inequalities through territorial inclusive governance **What are the strengths and challenges of sub-national governments and territorial policymaking to address inequalities? Lessons learnt from Zambia, Lebanon, Albania and Spain**

Organised by PLATFORMA, CLGF and Diputacio Barcelona

Speakers

- Valbona Karakaci - Programme Manager – HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation
- Christopher Chishimba Kang'ombe – President – Local Government Association of Zambia
- Marta Marin Sanchez - Delegate to the EU – Basque Government
- Béchir Odeimi – President – Cités Unies Liban

Moderator: Stefano Marta – Coordinator Territorial Approach to SDGs - OECD

Key Points

- The main advantage of the territorial approach is that it gives a voice to all stakeholders, especially those acting on a local level.
- Local governance has a key role to play in development, particularly in regards to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.
- Networking with other actors facing similar challenges can help share experiences and spread best practice.
- Good governance helps attracts the corporate sector in private-public partnerships.

Synopsis

The territorial approach to local development is multisectoral, bottom-up and context-specific. It is often characterised as being decentralised although national governments can be a partner as well as a hindrance to local decision-making. In Zambia, for example, a municipality wanted to create an industrial development park. But rather than simply hand over the running of the site to the national government, it recognised the benefit of working with the national government as a partner. A year's extensive preparation resulted in the creation of a park far greater in scale than those established in other areas. Conversely, the country also provides an example of how good decision-making on a local level can be thwarted if a truly territorial governance approach has not been applied. Local actors had established a social housing fund and wanted to contribute to it with money raised from a levy on cement, which would also serve as a deterrent to slum housing. Such a levy, however, can only be introduced on a

national level and the government has not used the additional income to support the fund, though local action groups are continuing to lobby it to do so.

Similar problems relating to over-centralised governance can be found in Lebanon. Nevertheless, local mayors have a responsibility to address inequalities in their municipalities, many of which have experienced large influxes of refugees in recent years. It has launched specialised training on sustainable cities, recognising the specific environmental and inequality challenges that urban areas present. By the year 2050, 70 % of the world's population will live in cities. Such inequalities were evident in the Albanian town of Lezhë, an urban area that has expanded rapidly as rural populations migrated to cities for work. These movements created peri-urban areas, where the greatest social deprivations can be found. The local government, however, is using a territorial approach to address these problems. It assessed the interactions between people to inform a reshaping of urban spaces. As a result, the population is now more stable, and access to social services and the labour market has improved. The Basque region of Spain is another area that has demonstrated the value of territorial governance. Its focus is to ensure multisectoral governance that is transparent and accessible.

The emphasis is on implementing the UN's 2030 Global Agenda for Sustainable Development, noting that it must be adapted by society to meet its needs – not the government – with the private sector brought on board from the start. The Basque region has also issued sustainable bonds amounting to EUR 500 million, about 90 % of which are social development and 10 % environment.

Insight

The time of social development actors working in silos is over. All stakeholders need to join forces to create the right conditions for development.

Podcast

2.5.3 BRAINSTORMING LAB

Right to food, right to cities

Organised by ECDPM and European Think Tanks Group

Speakers

- Katarzyna Dembska – Researcher – The Barilla Centre for Food and Nutrition Foundation
- Daniele Fattibene – Researcher – Istituto Affari Internazionale
- Guido Santini - Chief Technical Advisor - FAO
- Christophe Ramont - North-South civil servant – City of Ghent
- Paulina Bizzotto Molina - Policy Officer - ECDPM
- Leonard Mizzi - Head of Unit – European Commission, Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development
- Stephen Otieno - City Advisor, Nairobi (Food Systems) - C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group
- Nina Pattyn - Rikolto
- Hanne Knaepen - Policy Officer – ECDPM

Moderator: Giulia Maci – Programme Coordinator - ECDPM

2.5.4 PROJECT LABS

Measuring spatial inequality with AI technologies

Organised by UBOS, Global Pulse and Actogether

Speakers

- Sumayiya Nalubulwa - Research Assistant – Actogether Uganda
- Bernard Justus Muhwezi - Manager, Geo-Information Services – Uganda Bureau of Statistics
- Silas Labedo - Senior Data Engineer – Pulse Lab Kampala

Moderator: Paola Hidalgo Sanchis – Manager Pulse Lab Kampala – United Nations

Podcast

Towards more equitable city economies

Organised by Cities Alliance, UN Habitat, CLGF, WIEGO, UNCDF, HIS, The World Bank and UK Aid

Speakers

- Dorcas Ansah - Accra Focal Cities Advisor - WIEGO
- Lena Simet – The New School
- Christopher Chishimba Kang'ombe – President – Local Government Association of Zambia
- Paul Isolo Mukwaya: Senior Lecturer – Makerere University

Moderator: Peter Rene Hohmann – Head of Global Programmes – Cities Alliance – UNOPS

3. Working better together through more effective policies to address inequalities

3.1 Inequalities, trade and private sector development

Free trade is sometimes described as a rising tide that lifts all boats, but the reality is that it can foster inequalities. The benefits are not always equitably shared between or within countries. Free trade is not always fair trade. Cheaper imports can undercut domestic sectors, destroy jobs, and harm the environment. But protectionism is not the answer either. How can we find the right balance to address the anxieties of those who are likely to end up on the losing side from globalisation? The new EU Policies Trade for All and Aid for Trade highlights how trade and development policy can complement one another.

Having a decent job is widely recognised as the best way out of poverty. The private sector provides 90 per cent of jobs in developing countries, and is thus an essential partner in the fight against poverty. The private sector looks different in different countries, often there is a large informal sector of micro entrepreneurs that are key to provide employment. The private sector also provide access to essential products and services, as well as income to the state. Supporting a sustainable and inclusive private sector is key to tackling the challenge of income inequalities and poverty reduction. The EU policy a Stronger Role of the Private Sector in Achieving Inclusive and Sustainable Growth in Development Countries highlights the priorities areas for EU's development action.

3.1.1 HIGH-LEVEL PANEL

Promoting sustainable agriculture and trade for inclusive growth **Addressing inequalities through private sector development and investment**

Organised by CTA, GIZ, IFPRI, ACP, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (Germany) and PAFO

Speakers

- Zhi Yong Heng - Principal / Head of Trade Finance & Special Situations Group – TLG Capital
- Mwala Mooto - Young Leader – Zambia
- Patrick Gomes - Secretary General – ACP Group
- Isabelle Durant - Deputy Secretary-General – United Nations Conference on Trade
- Leonard Mizzi - Head of Unit - European Commission, Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development
- Maria De La Concepcion Blanco Aguado - Head of Sustainable Finance Solutions – BBVA Microfinance Foundation
- David Laborde - Senior Research Fellow - IFPRI

Moderator: Michael Hailu – Director - CTA

Key Points

- African agriculture holds important potential for economic growth, job creation and import substitution.
- African farmers will need to take advantage of new smart technologies, but should not necessarily follow the mechanisation models of industrialised countries.

- There is some evidence that small-scale rather than large-scale farming is more productive.
- Private investment could provide some of the finance for African agricultural expansion, but foreign investors are looking for predictability and reliable judicial systems.
- Transparency throughout the agricultural value chain will be needed, to ensure that both the producers and the consumers really benefit from the sector's potential.

Synopsis

Agriculture will provide many opportunities for economic growth and job creation in the coming years, particularly in Africa. The advent of the African Continental Free Trade Area will liberalise the potential of the African agricultural market and could create millions of jobs for young Africans. Most of the growing demand for food could be met through increased national and regional production in Africa. But if the current reliance on imported food continues, Africa's import bill is projected to increase to US\$110m by 2025.

However, regionalisation of agricultural trade faces a number of obstacles, not least the very large gap in agricultural technology between some African countries and others. It could also conflict with the national self-sufficiency policies of some African countries, for example as regards rice. But achieving an agricultural value chain that truly benefits all is a matter of policy as much as economics. It should be made easier for the private sector to participate in the development of African agriculture. The pyramid of the agricultural industry has a "missing middle" when it comes to financing, it was suggested. The big corporations have no difficulty in attracting capital. The smallest farmers are increasingly well catered to by microfinance initiatives. But medium-scale agricultural businesses are left out. Investment from outside Africa could help here. However, foreign investors are looking for predictability, transparency and reliable judicial systems. African agriculture needs to modernise. But it should not necessarily follow the mechanisation and industrialisation models adopted by Europe and North America in the 20th century.

There is evidence that small agricultural enterprises are more productive than the larger ones. Smallholders manage only 12 % of the agricultural land, but produce more than 80 % of the world's food. Capacity building will be important to enable small and medium agricultural enterprises to take advantage of smart technology. The growing demand for organic food could also open up new market opportunities for African farmers. In addition, greater African processing of African agricultural produce could create many new jobs both in both rural and urban areas. One case mentioned by several speakers was cashew nuts, which Africa mainly exports unprocessed

Insight

Climate change is already having a significant impact on African agriculture. Farmers often grow just one kind of crop and this can leave them vulnerable. Maize, for example, is a major staple crop, but needs a lot of water. Diversification will be needed towards more drought-resistant crops.

3.1.2 LAB DEBATES

Partnerships for broad-based and inclusive economic development in ACP Countries

Organised by World Bank Group, TradeCOMII Programme, ACP, UNIDO, ITC and the European Commission

Speakers

- Philippe Scholtès – Managing Director - UNIDO
- Christine Zhenwei Qiang - Practice Manager – World Bank
- Viwanou Gnassounou - Assistant Secretary-General – ACP Secretariat
- Patrick Gomes - Secretary General – ACP Group
- Hernan Manson - Head Inclusive Agribusiness – ITC

Moderator: Antti Karhunen - Head of Unit – European Commission, Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development

Podcast

Advancing businesses that empower the base of the pyramid **How development practitioners can fund, support and propel inclusive businesses that serve low-income communities**

Organised by IBAN, German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development and the European Union

Speakers

- Zissimos Vergos - Head of Sector - European Commission, Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development
- Robert Haynie - CEO / Team Lead – SPRING Accelerator
- Temie Giwa-Tubosun – Founder - LifeBank
- Veerle Berbers - Board Member – AlphaMundi Bastion Fund

Moderator: Andrew Kaiser-Tedesco – Director for Africa and Impact Investment – IBAN

Key Points

- Reaching rural areas – the base of the pyramid – is risky. Grant capital can help.
- Some risk capital is needed to try unproven technologies.
- As a business grows, the initial funders need to speak to each other and perhaps pass the business on to another type of funder.
- Impact finance: Funders need to look at the results that have been achieved, and get involved

Synopsis

There is a big funding gap between the private sector's ingenuity and resources needed to reach the Sustainable Development Goals. The discussion looked at what can be done to improve the chances of growth for small businesses in developing countries. The example of LifeBank was explained to show how unexpected financing arrangements can be supportive. LifeBank is a small technology and logistics business that helps ensure health teams have access to an inventory of information from blood banks, which is vital in dealing with postnatal haemorrhaging. It also offers a call centre and delivers blood provided by donors. LifeBank has three core markets. It cross-subsidises its secondary market (for people with some income but unable to pay in full for services) with income from its premium market (for people who

have a lot of money). The third market is the base of the pyramid, where people do not have the money to pay. Grant capital can help ensure that these people are reached by paying for the services on their behalf. Grant capital is useful for a business to test, for example, a new product or technology or test its entry into a new market. LifeBank has received grants to partner with aviation company to use drones to deliver specific health-related products to remote areas. A key takeaway here is that grant capital can be very useful where businesses are trying out unproven technologies and when the business model is not clear.

Generous capital support is usually needed at the early seed stage of a small business. But when a company graduates from the start-up phase, it often cannot raise the funds from the private or public sector to grow further. This is the 'missing middle' and is a point where many business fail. There are business accelerator companies that can help these companies. But as a business grows, these different funders generally do not speak to each other and pass the business onto another type of funder. One speaker recommended doing this. Impact finance is a form of funding that allows banks and other financial institutions to invest in projects that generate measurable social and environmental impact as well as a financial return.

One speaker noted that people were sitting on the fence regarding impact finance and stressed that there is a proof of concept and funders need to look at the good results that have been achieved from it and get involved. There is an online platform, Impact Finance, which brings together the best entrepreneurs to showcase them to investors.

Insight

There are high costs for potential investors of carrying out due diligence checks in terms of employee and management time. One speaker suggested that building a repository of previous due diligence reports could save time and money.

Podcast

3.1.3 BRAINSTORMING LABS

Hacking the 2030 Agenda – Blockchain solutions for private sector development

Organised by the European Commission's Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development

Speakers

- Grzegorz Tajchman - IT Solutions Manager - ITC
- Wiebke Bartz-Zuccala – Policy Analyst - OECD
- Heinz Zeller - Principal Sustainability – Hugo Boss Ticino SA
- Jane Hwang - President & CEO – Social Accountability International
- Marieke de Ruyter de Wildt – Founder – The Fork

Moderator: Efrem Garlando - Investment and Innovation Policy Officer, European Commission, Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development

How fighting corruption can strengthen female entrepreneurship

Organised by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, GIZ and Alliance for Integrity

Speakers

- Silvina Coria - Global Director Risk & Controls – OLX Naspers Classifieds
- Clara Luisa Machado – Writer - Freelance
- Dela Dwita Suyoso - Program Manager Development – Indonesia Global Compact Network
- Florian Lair – Advisor – Alliance for Integrity

Moderator: Joachim Goeske – Head of Department, Global Policy, GIZ

3.1.4 PROJECT LABS

Ethical clothes = decent work : Enhancing informed consumer choices

Organised by UNECE, ITC, the European Commission's Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development and ILO

Speakers

- Maria Teresa Pisani - Acting Head Sustainable Trade and Outreach Unit - UNECE
- Joseph Wozniak - Head, Trade for Sustainable Development (T4SD) - ITC
- Ivo Spauwen - Senior technical specialist - ILO
- Chloé Allio - Head of Sector for Investment Climate, Trade and Sustainable Value Chains, Private Sector and Trade unit - European Commission – Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development
- Heinz Zeller - Principal Sustainability - Hugo Boss Ticino SA
- Aleix Busquets Gonzalez - Global Head of External Stakeholder Engagement-Sustainability – C&A
- Marjeta Jager - Deputy Director-General - European Commission, Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development
- Olga Algayerova - Under-Secretary-General & Executive Secretary - UNECE
- Ben Vanpeperstraete – Clean Clothes Campaign

Moderator: Francesca Romana Rinaldi – Academic Fellow - Bocconi University

Podcast

Let's talk ! Public-private dialogue

Organised by DAI

Speakers

- Laura Atienza – Policy officer - European Commission, Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development
- Filip Tack – Trader – RESUE Trading
- Maria Gonzalez Mata - Team Leader, European Commission – Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development

- Mikel Berraondo - Director Social Innovation Department – Zabala

Moderator: Emmanuel Moyart – Associate Consultant – DAI Brussels

Podcast

Are value chains a driver for equality?

Organised by AgriNatura

Speakers

- Catherine Allen - Social Specialist - Value Chain Analysis for Development - AgriNatura
- Froukje Kruijssen - Senior Advisor Sustainable Economic Development and Gender – Royal Tropical Institute
- Gideon Onumah – Presenter – AgriNatura

Moderator: Isolina Boto – Manager of Brussels Office – CTA

Podcast

3.1.5 LARGE DEBATE

Linking people, land and unique products to reduce inequalities Using Geographical Indications to raise the income of the poorest communities in Africa and Least Developed Countries

Organised by UNCTAD, The Republic of Niger and ARIPO

Speakers

- Isabelle Durant -Deputy Secretary-General – United Nations Conference on Trade
- Pierre Claver Runiga - Head of Policy, Legal and International Cooperation Department - ARIPO
- Maimouna Soumaye EP A Zene - Transformatrice de fromage, Niamey – Fromagerie Niamey
- Ousman Abdou – Ministry of Agriculture, Niger
- Euloge Vidégla - Secrétaire Permanent – Ministère de l’Agriculture, de l’Elevage et de la Pêche, Bénin

Moderator: Stefano Inama – Chief, Technical Cooperation and Enhanced Integrated Framework, Africa and Least Developed Countries Division - UNCTAD

Key Points

- Geographical indications (GIs) can raise the income of the poorest communities in Africa and Least Developed Countries.
- GIs add value to products, offer intellectual property (IP) protection, bring economic benefits, create jobs and ultimately reduce inequalities.
- There are three GIs registered in the entire African Union. There are 6,000 in France.
- Investment is required yet public awareness of GIs is lacking in the African Union.
- More EU and international investment in GIs is critical.

Synopsis

A geographical indication or GI is a distinctive sign used to identify a product whose quality, reputation or other characteristic is linked to its geographical origin. This session looked at how GIs have the potential to raise the income of the poorest communities in Least Developed Countries (LDCs). Usually only IP specialists understand GIs, but it is clear that these indications can significantly strengthen the economies of developing countries and more awareness of them is needed.

The example of Italian Parmesan cheese was given, which has had an extremely positive impact on Italy's economy. African countries have a huge biodiversity and should therefore also exploit GIs for their own economic benefit. GIs add value to the products themselves, offer intellectual property (IP) protection, bring economic benefits, and create jobs. There are also sociocultural benefits such as tourism to the area where the product originates. But there needs to be consumer demand, investment is required and marketing is critical. Despite efforts since 2009, there are still no GIs in Benin and only three in the entire African Union. Holding one takes considerable investment in research and development as well as a collective dedication from producers, which has been lacking. Moreover, people are confused about what the concept actually means, so there needs to be a clearer definition relayed to the public. GIs are today not seen as a priority.

Nevertheless, Africa is home to a lot of products with links to tradition, culture and biodiversity. Tapping in to this potential would boost rural development; promote local culture, protect the environment, and combat counterfeiting. Examples of successful GI's in Africa include Cameroon Penja pepper, of which 40% is exported and which has seen production increasing threefold in four years. Other products like the White Honey of Oku and Café Ziamacenta of Guinea tell a similar story. Several countries in Africa have the will to set up a GI system, but there is no accurate database of potential GI products, the legal framework is incomplete, coupled with a lack of synergy among IP offices, trade ministers and cooperatives. Niger is an exception and progress is being made on a number of products including cheese from Niamey, which should soon achieve the coveted GI status. It was agreed that there is a need for more funding from the EU and international community to make progress.

Insight

There should be a website with examples of GIs or potential GIs across the African Union, which would create awareness and inspire other players to become involved.

Podcast

3.2 Taxation, public financial management, financial flows and equity

Collect fairly, spend wisely - Government budgets can be powerful instruments for tackling inequalities, both through fair and equitable taxation and through strategic and efficient public spending.

Policies for taxation and public spending are key factors for tackling inequalities within societies.

Many countries have put in place progressive income taxes, corporate income taxes, as well as taxes on wealth, inheritance and consumption to help redistribute internal resources. Furthermore, the fight against tax avoidance, tax evasion and illicit financial flows can be seen as means to increase tax fairness and more equitable taxation.

International tax cooperation can complement effective national policies to support a fair, sustainable and modern tax system. If countries can keep more resources within the system, it means more money to spend on social policies and public service provision.

Smarter and more efficient expenditure policies and public financial management can also enhance equality. Good economic governance, transparency and accountability are crucial. Credible and well-managed budgets in line with national development priorities for SDG implementation can ensure the delivery of essential public goods and services, a strengthened infrastructure, reduced inequality, and promote macroeconomic stability. Open and competitive systems for government procurement, prudent debt management and sustainable public investment underpin efficient use of resources for poverty reduction.

Related sessions

3.2.1 HIGH-LEVEL PANEL

Fighting inequality through fair taxation and public service provision for all
The role of aid and fiscal policies in reducing inequalities: Promoting
progressive taxation, public services and gender equality

Organised by Oxfam, ActionAid and Eurodad

Speakers

- Cécile Duflot - Executive Director – Oxfam France
- Lucas Chancel - Codirector of the World Inequality Lab – Paris School of Economics
- Félix Fernández-Shaw – Director for International Cooperation and Development Policy
- European Commission, Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development
- Sephutile Mhlongo - Young Leader - Eswatini
- Victoria Perry - Deputy Director, Fiscal Affairs Department - IMF

Moderator: Michael Peel – European Diplomatic Correspondent – Financial Times Group

Key Points

- Reducing inequality by 1 % will have a far greater effect on combatting poverty than increasing annual growth by 1 %.
- Global inequality has fallen but in-country inequality has risen. The best way to fight inequality is through fiscal redistribution and gender-sensitive budgeting.
- We have to look at raises taxes and public spending jointly.
- Redistribution through taxation only works if taxpayers see they get something useful in return over the long-term and if governments are seen to be accountable for their spending.
- The world urgently needs a new international tax regime.

Synopsis

Reducing global inequality by just 1 % would be a much more effective way of combatting poverty than increasing annual growth by 1 %. The good news is that global inequality has fallen over the past three decades, due largely to China's and India's success in lifting more of their citizens out of extreme poverty.

Nevertheless, according to Oxfam, some 82 % of global wealth generated in 2017 went to the richest 1 % of the world's population, while the poorest half of the world saw no increase in their wealth. 'Fiscal redistribution and better gender inclusion are key to reducing inequality,' said Victoria Perry, Deputy Director, Fiscal Affairs Department, International Monetary Fund. But, said Perry, we have to address tax raising and public spending jointly, because redistribution will only tackle inequality if spending priorities target the right areas.

Many emerging economies face a choice between using tax revenues to finance direct cash transfers, which can alleviate inequality in the short term, or to finance investments in health and education. These cash transfers have been shown to deliver better long-term results. Some larger Latin American countries have had success with conditional cash transfers – offering households cash as long as they enrol their children in full-time education or take advantage of available healthcare. Another way to boost equality is to ensure income taxes do not capture the poorest.

For Sephuthile Mhlongo, a young leader from Eswatini (formerly Swaziland), what governments do with the money is more important than how they collect it. Who sets the priorities for government spending? She called on far greater engagement with civil society on the issue. 'We don't have sufficient young voices who criticise the budget and its implications,' said Mhlongo. She also called for more allies or 'change agents' within government to ensure tax revenues are directed towards reducing inequality.

An economy's ability to raise taxes relies on a long-term compact between government and society, in which taxes are seen to deliver benefits and the government is held accountable for its spending. Félix Fernández-Shaw, Director at the European Commission's DG DEVCO, put it simply: 'What makes people pay taxes is that they get something in return.' Wealthy countries should also do more. Currently they direct just 0.1 % of their US\$146 billion of global aid towards supporting developing countries collect taxes.

Several panellists called for an overhaul of the international tax system. The IMF's Victoria Perry suggested setting a level for global minimum taxes to minimise the tax competition that often harms low-income countries. Cécile Duflot, Executive Director, Oxfam France, called for

concerted action to ensure multinational companies pay their taxes in the countries where they make their profits.

Insight

'I do not like aid because it creates dependence. I am happy to encourage my government to take more responsibility for their people.' Sephuthile Mhlongo, Young Leader, Eswatini

3.2.2. LAB DEBATES

Transformative change: Addressing inequalities through taxes
Exploring the role for progressive taxation vis-à-vis progressive spending
and the contribution of fiscal systems to the Sustainable Development Goals
in developing countries

Organised by IRD, Oxfam, ActionAid and Eurodad

Speakers

- Anne-Sophie Robilliard - Research Fellow - IRD
- Nuzhat Jabin - Manager – Democratic Governance – ActionAid Bangladesh
- Joseph Okecho Olwenyi - Coordinator-Financing for Development – Oxfam Uganda
- Jon Jellema - Economist and Deputy Director, Commitment to Equity Institute – Global Development Network

Moderator: Olivia Lally – Senior Policy and Advocacy Officer – Eurodad

Key points

- Lower-income countries are still favouring regressive taxes such as VAT, despite the burden it puts on poorer people.
- Historic and entrenched vested interests, and a 'race to the bottom' to attract foreign direct investment, are derailing efforts to adopt fairer tax systems in pursuit of the sustainable development goals.
- A social contract to agree fairer, more progressive taxation requires equality for all, not just wealth redistribution from the rich to the poor.
- In the fight against extreme poverty, is it time for policymakers to decide that spending on health and education is more important than trying to address inequality through tax reform?

Synopsis

At a time of deepening climate and social crises, and yawning chasms between the incomes of the rich and the poor, the popularity of 'regressive' taxes such as VAT in lower-income countries raises serious questions about how far fiscal policies can be harnessed in pursuit of the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development.

Value-added-tax (VAT), a sales tax paid at the point of sale, costs consumers the same amount regardless of their income, a regressive quality that economists maintain is only partially offset by exemptions on staples such as food. Poor women in particular are likely to be disadvantaged by fiscal policies that favour VAT. For governments, however, the appeal of VAT is manifold. It is easy to administer and hard to evade. Sales taxes also allow finance ministries to avoid challenging entrenched vested interests that oppose more progressive taxation, such as higher income tax for wealthy individuals, capital gains and property taxes.

For lower income countries, falling import tariffs are shrinking government revenues that are needed to fight inequality and extreme poverty. Competition for foreign direct investment is also fuelling downward pressure on corporate taxes, and encouraging tax concessions, adding to the attraction of VAT as a revenue source. Despite well-known connections between inequality and taxation, and the increasingly urgent need to fund adaptations to climate change, research evidence suggests that progressive taxation is becoming harder to implement. This in turn is raising fresh policy challenges when trying to use domestic resource mobilisation to achieve sustainable development goals. This causes some economists to question how taxation can effectively address development issues, or whether progressive spending initiatives should be used instead to offset regressive taxation.

Such a wide-ranging debate highlights the importance of agreeing a 'social contract' between taxpayers and governments to legitimise tax and spending decisions. Economists maintain that local realities are particularly important in this regard: one size does not fit all; difficult choices between progressive and regressive tax instruments will inevitably reflect complex national and regional factors.

Nor is progressive taxation a straightforward matter of redistributing income from the richest to the poorest. In Bangladesh, for example, VAT impacts the urban middle-classes who can afford VAT-rated goods and services more than the most marginalised communities, which cannot afford them, but are the beneficiaries of development spending. Elsewhere, income tax paid by wage earners in the formal sector can create "horizontal" inequalities if entrepreneurs in the informal sector avoid taxes and keep all of their income.

Challenges to official fiscal policies to achieve development goals also have an impact on wider social debates, including how far civil society ought to take the lead when citizen-led campaigns could have greater democratic legitimacy than donor or NGO lobbying. With many governments in developing countries focused on how to raise revenue through taxation, and much of that revenue spent on servicing debt rather than reducing poverty or fighting inequality, the "fiscal space" for education and health is reducing. This is the political context within which citizens must act to reverse regressive spending and tax decisions.

Insight

For anyone who has followed international debates about sustainable development since the 1987 Brundtland Commission report, today's discussion would, sadly, have sounded familiar. Optimism for the future seemed, in this meeting at least, to rely on people power to challenge inequality in tax and spending policies, rather than a continued collective, global effort.

Podcast

Ending business as usual – a bold vision for closing Sustainable Development Goals' financing gaps. A step change in resourcing for Sustainable Development Goal 6 – Clean Water and Sanitation – and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Organised by WaterAid, AFD, ONE and Eurodad

Speakers

- Jan Van de Poel - Policy and Advocacy Manager - ENDD
- Friederike Röder - EU and France Director – The ONE Campaign
- Celine Robert – Project Manager - AFD

- Pratibedan Baidya - Business Development Manager – WaterAid Nepal

Moderator: Milagres Carvalho – Global Advocacy and Campaign Director - WaterAid

Key Points

- The annual financing gap for the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to be met in developing countries totals US\$2.5 trillion.
- Governance, policy coherence and support for developing countries must be enhanced to address this financial gap.
- Other strategies include increasing tax revenue and government spending in developing countries.
- EU countries need to follow through on their long-time target of donating 0.7 % of Gross National Income to Official Development Assistance (ODA). Developing countries must be more accountable for how ODA is spent and improve governance
- Different financial tools, both grants and loans, should be adapted to each sector and socio-economic levels.

Synopsis

The US\$2.5 trillion annual financing gap for the SDGs to be met in developing countries is daunting yet attainable. Strategies include increasing governance, tax revenue and government spending in developing countries, and boosting private financial flows. Strategies also include increases in tariffs and user fees, the blend of public and private finance, and the amount and effectiveness of ODA.

ONE Campaign, a non-profit that fights extreme poverty and preventable disease in Africa and elsewhere, acknowledges that after four years into the SDGs, it is already off-track. The year 2015 was the first time the international community set such ambitious goals. At the current rate, water SDGs can only be met in the next century and gender equality will take 108 years. This signals the need for a more radical plan. Besides ODA, this should include a financial transaction tax, domestic revenues from governments in low-income countries and efforts to reduce corrupt financial flows. Taxing domestic resources has more potential than international investment. This is because for every dollar flowing in, US\$2 flows out because of tax evasion and corruption, which is equivalent to about 5% to 10% of developing countries' gross domestic product (GDP). Resources must be tapped within each country to meet basic needs such as sanitation and clean water. However, domestic resource mobilisation is not realistic in rural or poor areas. For example, one-third of Nepalese population is living below the poverty line. As a result, the country needs more ODA and outside investment to avoid transferring loans to the next generation. The universality of the SDG agenda, leaving no one behind, must be kept in mind.

But ODA is not a silver bullet. It is important to look at the spending side and integrate financial frameworks. Developing countries must be more accountable for how ODA is spent with improved governance and EU countries need to clean house, not serving as tax shelters, and follow through on their long-time target of donating 0.7 % of GDP to ODA. On both sides, there must be strategies to crack down on illicit financial flows and invest in human capital for more productive financial sectors. More governance and policies to support financial investments are critical. This includes having different financial tools, both grants and loans, and adapting them to each sector and socio-economic level. For example, sanitation is less profitable than other sectors, so it requires more grants, as do the poorest households. Pricing should be adapted to each section of the population to make sure loans can be repaid. Demand

for better governance should also come from civil society. SDGs are a global responsibility and countries need to follow through on their promises. The private sector offers many solutions to mobilise funding with best practices. But governments are ultimately responsible for putting these solutions into action as rapidly as possible.

Insight

We need to dream but let's not sleepwalk, summarised the moderator. Time and climate change are not on our side.

Podcast

3.2.3 PROJECT LAB

Leaving no one behind: Better data on financing for sustainable development

Organised by OECD and the European Commission's Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development

Speakers

- Laurent Sarazin - Head of Unit – European Commission, Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development
- Luca De Fraia - Deputy Secretary General ActionAid Italy – ActionAid International
- Haje Schütte - Senior Counsellor & Head of Financing for Sustainable Development Division – OECD

Moderator: Mariella Di Ciommo – Policy Officer – ECDPM

Podcast

3.3 Social protection and the EU Social Market Economy Model

The European model of society is based on the concept of a social market economy aiming at full employment and social progress. EU Member States provide a wide range of social protection models all of them built on the principles of solidarity and aiming at high levels of social inclusion and social justice, which are continuously adapting to important phenomena affecting the global economy (demographic change, global competition, urbanisation, migration, chronic disease...), and have proved very relevant to support the challenges faced by partner countries in the fields of employment and social protection. Logically, the 2017 EU Consensus on Development enshrines the commitment from the EU and its Member States to support "efficient, sustainable and equitable social protection systems to guarantee basic income, prevent relapses into extreme poverty and build resilience... and support innovative social practices". Throughout the developing world, a growing number of middle- and low-income countries are formulating and implementing national social protection strategies. Despite these progresses, such schemes leave behind an important part of the populations due to weak coverage, often limited to people working in the formal private and public sectors or to some extreme poor through targeted social assistance programmes. Given its strong experience in social protection, the European Union has a decisive role to play to support partner countries' efforts towards the strengthening of social protection systems, as access to employment, decent work, and social protection is an essential building block of inclusive and sustainable development.

Related sessions

3.3.1 HIGH-LEVEL PANEL

Social protection and the EU Social Market Economy Model - Identifying current and future challenges

Organised by the European Commission's Directorate General for Employment, Social Affairs, Skills and Labour Mobility

Speakers

- Kailash Satyarthi - Nobel Peace Laureate - Kailash Satyarthi Children's Foundation
- Lourence Balatbat - Young Leader – Philippines
- Marianne Thyssen - EU Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs, Skills and Labour Mobility – European Commission
- Bea Cantillon – Professor – University of Antwerp – Centre for Social Policy Herman Decleek

Moderator: Patrick Develtere – Principal Advisor – European Political Strategy Centre

Key Points

- The European model of combining social protection with a market economy is a success story that has led to unprecedented wealth and social security, but it has been under pressure, most recently because of the financial crisis.
- The recovery from the crisis is under way but inequality is rising, and the demographic trend is not on the side of social protection models based on solidarity, reciprocity and universalism.

- The model needs to be improved and adapted, and while it will remain a prerogative of Member States, the EU must play a bigger role than before; the creation of the European Pillar of Social Rights is a step in that direction.
- The EU model remains an inspiration for countries outside Europe and in particular for the developing world. However, Europe also has to lead by example when it comes to fixing the priorities for the most marginalised in society.

Synopsis

This session on the history, present state and future of the EU's social protection model was organised by the European Commission. The Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs, Skills and Labour Mobility, Marianne Thyssen, opened the session by reminding participants that social security was invented in Europe more than 100 years ago by the German Chancellor Otto von Bismarck, who introduced first a universal health insurance, followed by provisions for a fully-fledged welfare state in the 1880s. The modern welfare state remains very popular in Europe today, with eight out of 10 Europeans supporting it in combination with a market economy. While the model has withstood, and to an important extent absorbed, the shock of the recent financial and economic crisis, it remains under pressure on other fronts. Inequality is rising and the demography of an ageing population raises the spectre of unsustainability.

To safeguard it, the EU has created the European Pillar of Social Rights with its 20 principles. Thyssen's predecessor, László Andor, the EU Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion 2010 to 2014, and once again working as an economist in an academic and think-tank environment, offered an overview of social policymaking in Europe. It cannot and should never reach a conclusion, being formed in constant dialogue among government, labour, industry, civil society and special interest groups such as minorities, which has to constantly be adapted to a changing environment.

This model is now also catching on globally with the G20 process, which has seen the subsequent creation of a L20 for the labour side and a B20 for the business side. In the EU, this process is and will remain the business of Member States, but the Union has important roles to play, not least by striving for cohesion and convergence between Member States. A Europe that drifts further apart in terms of wealth and social security rather than becoming more equal will not be able to remain united. Bea Cantillon, a professor at the Centre for Social Policy Herman Deleeck of the University of Antwerp, presented participants with what she called the lessons of history for use in the future. By means of labour-market regulation, protecting workers' rights, a social protection which is universal and based on solidarity and reciprocity, and by organising welfare not solely by the state but with strong involvement of civil society, European nations successfully created welfare for the many, if not for all. Looking to the future and to meet the challenges – increasing child poverty and rising precarity among others – Cantillon suggested not to reinvent the wheel but to strengthen social protection by providing a "social floor", including an adequate minimum wage and unemployment benefits.

Kailash Satyarthi, Nobel Peace Laureate and director of the Kailash Satyarthi Children's Foundation, took the audience outside Europe but he stayed with the principal topic of this session: growing inequality. While progress has been achieved in reducing child labour globally from 260 million children to just over 150 million, notably through some effective policies by governments in his home region of the Indian subcontinent, it remains true that the most marginalised person in the world is a child, particularly a girl child. Europe should lead the way in addressing child poverty and slavery as one of the root causes of rising inequality. Speaking for young people, EED19 Young Leader Lourence Balatbat from the Philippines felt obliged to be blunt. The Global South, he claimed, has seen a dramatic and worrying reversal of investments in social security which had reached a welcome peak during the crisis. Now, with the crisis over but its consequences hardly addressed, an obsession with rapid growth and

industrialisation is creating the risk that the fragmentation of healthcare systems will become entrenched.

Insight

The EU model remains attractive inside and outside Europe even under continued pressure from a changing environment. It would be foolish to trust this to continue without addressing the challenges. In many ways, because the changes are now predominantly transnational in nature, the EU has to play a bigger part than before, and the Pillar of Social Rights points in the right direction.

3.3.2 LAB DEBATES

Universal social protection: From poverty to inequality **How social protection in developing countries is evolving as a driver of inclusive growth, not just a safety net for those left behind**

Organised by SOCIEUX+ and OECD Development Centre

Speakers

- Teresa Munzi - Director of Operations – LIS Cross-National Data Center in Luxembourg
- Audrey Le Guével - Programmes and Operations Officer - ILO
- María Gladys Valero Vivas - Directora General – Instituto para la Economía Social
- Dharendra Wardhana - Deputy Director on Social Protection – Ministry of Planning, Indonesia
- Koen Vleminckx – SOCIEUX+ EU Expertise on Social Protection, Labour and Employment
- Jérémie Pellet - Director General - Expertise France
- Ben Davies - Global Community Impact Lead EMEA – Johnson & Johnson

Moderator: Alexander Pick – Economist – OECD Development Centre

Key Points

- Sustainable economic growth doesn't take place without inclusion, studies say.
- Universal social protection consists of policies designed to ensure income security for everyone, help the neediest and build resilience to economic shocks.
- The link between universal social protection and poverty reduction is clear.
- Many experts see it as an investment instead of an expense.

Synopsis

Sustainable economic growth does not happen without inclusion, according to a consensus of studies published over the past three decades. Public policies designed to share the wealth are essential for individuals, communities and nations. They make all three more resilient to economic shocks. They help vulnerable households from slipping back into poverty during economic crises. Universal social protection can mean many things to many people. One largely accepted definition calls it an "integrated set of policies and programmes designed to ensure income security and support to all people across their entire life cycles – paying particular attention to the poor and the vulnerable".

Policies can be expanded horizontally to reach larger numbers of people or vertically to add benefits or boost benefit levels. It is supposed to remain affordable for taxpayers and to adequately focus primarily on people who really need help. Universal social protection should go down on the investment side of the ledger and not as an expenditure, according to many experts. In addition to providing protection and resilience, it can help break the cycle of poverty from generation to generation. It can be used to move resources from the rich to the poor, but also from the healthy to the sick, urban areas to rural ones, from the childless to people with children, etc. The link between social protection policies and poverty reduction is clear. The one to reduced inequality is less so.

A widely accepted economic theory postulates that, as they grow, countries first show wider income disparities but that the gap closes over time. However, recent evidence shows disparate results around the globe – including increasing inequality in places where it was expected to shrink. This may be due to new factors such as globalization and digital technology. There is convincing evidence that public policies, notably universal social protection and assistance, can address even this new-found strain of inequality. Around the turn of this century, Latin America began to make headway in its attack against poverty and inequality. In recent years, inequality seems to be creeping back in some places. In Bogotá, the capital of Colombia, the phenomenon has been exacerbated by the influx of rural immigrants, many escaping a decades-long guerrilla war in the countryside and, more recently, by Venezuelan refugees. The municipal government has launched a series of programmes that include education, training, psychological treatment and efforts to bring informal workers into the mainstream economy. Indonesia has pursued social protection policies, including cash transfers and subsidies, that are credited with helping reduce the poverty rate from 24.2% in 1998 to 9.6% last year. The numbers continue to improve, but progress has become incremental. A few regional pockets of poverty are proving hard to eliminate.

Insight

Official development assistance (ODA) will never be sufficient to provide universal social protection. Policy-makers in developing countries must deal with it themselves. Some observers blame their foot-dragging on the lack of political will. Others believe that governments prefer to reward groups with the loudest voices. Still others argue that pervasive informality presents a nearly insurmountable barrier to implementing comprehensive social security programmes, for example

Podcast

Financing social protection to reduce income inequality: Ways forward **What type of tax policy is needed to guarantee the universality of social protection? Good practices and possible ways forward**

Organised by Oxfam, ETUC CSI IGB, OECD and Development Pathways

Speakers

- Stephen Kidd - Senior Social Policy Specialist - Development Pathways
- Evelyn Astor - Policy Advisor – International Trade Union Confederation
- Alexander Pick – Economist – OECD Development Centre

Moderator: Hilde Van Regenmortel – Thematic Officer (Active Citizens for Social Justice) - Oxfam

Key Points

- Social protection is an investment to generate sustained economic gains; this understanding changes the way we think about social protection.
- Social protection should not target “the poor” or “the vulnerable”; for maximum political legitimacy it should aim to be universal over people’s life-cycles.
- Creating universal coverage is less a matter of resources than of political will.

Synopsis

Whether the potential of social protection to reduce income inequality is realised depends crucially on the way its implementation is financed. Two basic domestic sources of finance should be distinguished: contributions based on labour; and general taxes. For example, the share of social protection systems covered by value-added tax is far higher than in Europe, which relies more on direct contributions. The exact mix will shape the effectiveness and legitimacy of social protection programmes. But the general acceptance of social redistribution schemes also depends on their coverage and on the way social protection is conceptualised.

As long as these are designed or presented as “programmes for the poor”, they will meet with far less general acceptance than when coverage is universal; that is, citizens from all social and income backgrounds have, in principle, access to it (such as pensions or child support). Social protection for everyone throughout the life-cycle, rather than simply for “the poor” or “the vulnerable” as distinct social groups, is an investment in future economic growth that is sustainable, and in an inclusive society that works for all. It is crucial in building up a broad constituency for social and economic justice. The poorest segments of the population are those holding the least political power, which means that less is invested in social protection and that social protection schemes tend to be of lower quality.

Building viable systems, however, is also a question of rights, and of governments’ commitments under Sustainable Development Is Target 1.3. Some 55% of human beings worldwide have no access whatsoever to any form of social protection, contributory or non-contributory. For older persons, this share rises to close to 70 %; for children, it is close to 40 %; and for people with severe disabilities, around 30 %. In Africa, less than 20 % of the population is covered by any kind of social protection, while in Europe it is more than 80 %. Building a system that reaches virtually every household during its life-cycle is possible by spending less than 2 % of GDP. Universal coverage, which is central to the system’s democratic legitimacy, can be created by phasing in specific schemes such as pensions or child benefits gradually. Various developing countries have taken this approach, which has proven to be viable. Recent research based on 125 countries established that 80 % of these countries could close their social protection gaps by devoting less than 5 % of their GDP to it. This suggests the policy choice of building viable universal coverage is less a problem of finding resources than of mobilising political will.

Insight

Research has established the relatively low cost (below 5 % of GDP) of creating viable social protection systems.

Podcast

3.3.3 PROJECT LAB

Inequalities in the labour market: New challenges ahead for the EU and Latin America

Organised by EUROsocial, Expertise France, FIIAPP, IILA, SISCA and SICA

Speakers

- Chiara Saraceno – Expert – Collegio Carlo Alberto
- Alfredo Suárez Mises - Secretary-General – Central American Social Integration Secretariat
- Mauricio Dierckxsens – Employment Specialist - ILO
- Eduardo Lepore – Director – Ministry of Social Development Secretariat for Social Security

Moderator: Francesco M. Chiodi – Coordinator – EU's Programme EUROsocial+ - EUROsocial

Podcast

3.4 Investment and financial inclusion

Before equitable distribution of income can occur, it must be generated with the use of investment which may be difficult in particular in Least Developed Countries and fragile environments. For growth to benefit all population through equal opportunities, growth has to be sustainable, or inclusive: the opportunities – jobs, access to finance etc. – are accessible and benefit all income groups in the society.

Financial inclusion means that all individuals and businesses have access to useful and affordable financial products and services that meet their needs. However, in the world today, there is a highly unequal access to financial services. One third of adults, 1.7 billion people, are still outside the financial system. This has great implications on their ability to manage day-to-day life, handle economic risks, or invest in productive activities. How could donors support local banks to bridge the unequal gap of financial services? And how could investments in local financial institutions ensure that services are inclusive?

Related sessions

3.4.1 HIGH-LEVEL PANEL

Addressing inequalities with EU-backed investment - How sustainable investment tackles inequalities and promotes financial inclusion in developing countries

Organised EDFI, EBRD and the Secretariat of the External Investment Plan

Speakers

- Mary Ellen Iskenderian - President and CEO – Women’s World Banking
- Bruno Wenn - Chairman of the Board - EDFI
- Sandra Ajaja - Young Leader – Nigeria
- Pierre Heilbronn - Vice-President for Policy and Partnerships - EBRD
- Zied Ladhari - Minister of Development, Investment and International Cooperation – Republic of Tunisia
- Feyinwa Ugochukwu – The Tony Elumelo Foundation
- Christian Danielsson- Director-General – European Commission Directorate General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations

Moderator: Marjeta Jager - Deputy Director-General – European Commission – Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development

Key Points

- Sustainable economic development should be driven by the private sector.
- Development agencies are using a new generation of tools to “crowd in” private sector investment.
- Structural reforms can help make a country’s business climate more attractive by improving governance, labour markets, financial services, and social protection – and by reducing corruption.
- Inequality cannot be tackled without addressing the needs of women in financial inclusion, entrepreneurship and other issues

Synopsis

At the first Development Days over 10 years ago, debates focused on how to improve the efficiency of development assistance. Today's catchwords include "blended financing" and "crowding in" – the latter a reference to attracting private sector funds. Sustainable economic development should be driven by the private sector, according to current thinking.

The European Union's External Investment Plan (EIP) is emblematic of this approach. It stands on three pillars: (1) mobilising finance, often by using a new generation of tools, including guarantees, risk sharing, and "blending" (mixing grants and loans); (2) providing technical assistance for local authorities and businesses; and (3) improving the investment climate and business environment. Guarantees and risk sharing can help convince local institutions to make loans to underserved populations that might not seem creditworthy based on conventional analysis. One such initiative in Jordan is designed to help underserved entrepreneurs, notably women and Syrian refugees. Structural reforms can help make a country's business climate more attractive by improving governance, labour markets, financial services, and social protection. Reducing corruption is another factor, while better public administration translates into both more and better public services. Inequality cannot be tackled without addressing the needs of women on several fronts, including financial inclusion and entrepreneurship, notably in the realm of high technology.

The Women in Business programme of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) provides beneficiaries with access to credit, training, mentoring, and financial products tailored to their needs. It provides guarantees to commercial banks that make loans to women entrepreneurs. It also works with the banks to help them to develop the ability to turn this new group of clients into a profitable source of revenue in the future. In much of the developing world, women entrepreneurs play a dynamic role in local economies. Yet, male-led firms are more likely to receive funding. That is linked to the fact that men are more heavily represented in the "investor-friendly" high technology sector. Also, women are more likely to work alone, and investors prefer to bet their money on teams rather than individuals. Fempower Africa is a community of women tech enthusiasts who learn from each other, provide mentoring, and organize networking events such as hackathons. It helps members establish unique businesses that are more likely to appeal to investors. Few budding start-ups need EUR 1 million. Some could launch with just EUR 5000.

Small businesses that receive this sort of financing create more jobs per euro than those that benefit from multi-million-euro programmes. Women entrepreneurs often find themselves hamstrung by the lack of access to financial services. Compared to men, they are less likely to have the proper official identification card needed just to open an account. They have lower levels of financial and digital literacy. And they are less likely to own a mobile phone. Lacking sufficient personal document trails, they are often sidelined by regulatory requirements known as KYC (Know Your Customer) rules designed to clamp down on money laundering. Even when they open bank accounts, many women rarely use them.

Insight

Many emerging market governments run high deficits, which they finance at high interest rates. Government bonds are purchased mostly by local commercial banks. Those institutions have little incentive to loan money at lower rates to relatively high-risk small businesses and entrepreneurs.

Podcast

3.4.2 LAB DEBATES

Financial inclusion: A catalyst for reducing inequalities - Reducing inequalities spurs economic growth

Organised by Convergences, the European Commission's Directorate-General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs and European Microfinance Platform

Speakers

- Sophie Maysonnave - Head of Unit for Financing for development, Innovation and Partnerships – French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs
- Gabriela Erice García - Senior Microfinance Officer – European Microfinance Platform
- Craig Churchill - Chief of the Social Finance Programme - ILO
- Karel Vanderpoorten - Policy Officer – European Commission, Directorate-General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs

Moderator: Carin Valette – Senior Communication and Publications officer – Convergences

Key Points

- Financial inclusion is a reality for some people, but not for 1.7 billion adults in the world.
- Looking at financial needs is not the only issue at stake.
- Mobile money is an exciting new development to reduce inequality.
- Proximity and co-ownership are key to successful financial projects.

Synopsis

Financial inclusion is a target in eight of the 17 goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It reduces inequalities by cutting the number of unbanked people, today estimated at 1.7 billion, and boosts economic growth.

Financial inclusion should be a means to an end, such as helping in a search for a better job, healthcare and education. Governments have a key role to play in reducing inequalities and in providing capital to developing countries, particularly for small enterprises that have limited access to cash. Finance will be addressed as part of the special focus on improving women's access to social inclusion on the agenda of the United Nations Sustainable Development summit in New York in September.

Another key issue is to work out the financial service that best fits customers' needs. The International Labour Organisation is carrying out projects in Asia to look at people's abilities to manage risk. It is important to go beyond the traditional narrative of enterprise loans to encompass all financial services. But financial needs are not everything. Social responsibility and sustainable aims must also be taken into account. Research is underway to devise indicators that would measure whether finance actually leads to better lives.

Digitalisation is radically changing financial business models and the way people raise capital. Facebook has just announced its own blockchain currency, while mobile money allows people to save and obtain loans through their phones. However, while mobile money and digital solutions have thrived in Kenya and elsewhere, this is not the case in poorer countries such as Burkina Faso, where people can be mistrustful of new technology.

The future does not hold a choice between blockchain or traditional banking: there will always be both. While the aim of blockchain was to block the banks, in the end banks transformed it

for their own needs. Meanwhile, it is essential to develop solutions for a computer-illiterate population or where Internet access is minimal. In Niger, Internet coverage amounts to only 8 %. Offline help must be at least a temporary solution. The French government is working to provide coding schools in Abidjan, the Ivory Coast. There were 700 applicants in the first five days.

Two key factors for success are proximity and co-ownership. A small bank in Greece survived the financial crisis better than its traditional rivals by working closely with the local development agency and local community. The citizens were co-owners and there was support for start-ups. It was not just a case of handing over some money and seeing what happens.

Insight

At the beginning, it was taken for granted that giving microfinance would have a positive impact, but this has not necessarily been the case.

Podcast

Leveraging Investment for Low-Income Housing: Housing Microfinance Business Case - Housing microfinance, micro- insurance and micro-mortgages as contributors to financial inclusion and equitable and inclusive housing markets

Organised by HABITAT for Humanity

Speakers

- Werner Wallner - Chief Executive Officer – Hilti Foundation
- Daniel Rozas - Senior Microfinance Expert – European Microfinance Platform
- Christophe Bochatay - ESG & Impact Manager – Triple Jump
- Heather Alner - Resource Development Director – HABITAT for Humanity International

Moderator: Zoe Tabary - Property Rights Editor – Thomson Foundation

Key Points

- Targeted microfinance schemes have great potential for providing housing to low-income families.
- Some 1,6 billion people across the globe lack adequate housing.
- Housing is a basic need but must remain affordable.
- Affordable housing should also be disaster-resilient.

Synopsis

Low-income households should have access to funding for affordable homes. The financial sector should continue to adapt for this market. Already innovative financial products are being developed, particularly small loans for construction. Any further improvement would help meet the objective of financial inclusion as part of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development. In many countries, households wishing to build a home need to rent land that is often undocumented or unregistered. For many low-income families, lack of access to funding is a reason to forgo building a home.

Housing programmes need to pick up on the need for credit, with the private sector developing new approaches for funding basic housing. So far, this has been considered more of a social issue that is the responsibility of government. But there is a case for business to fund this sector, since risk has proven manageable. The loan portfolio on micro-financed housing

schemes has expanded, but the risk is still diversified and repayment rates remain high. Successful schemes have combined funding with technical assistance provided by trained teams of local advisors. The financial institutions providing the loans locally have also been tasked with advising both on the construction and on ensuring that the building materials are up to standard. Sometimes the financial institutions also pay the supplier directly against the credit, which allows them to oversee the quality of the material being used. Experience shows that traditional materials can be applied in new ways. Bamboo is used to reinforce concrete in order to withstand storms and even earthquakes.

There are three regions in the world most in need of microfinancing for housing: Africa, Asia and South America. Such schemes have in proven viable in most cases, except for those in Africa, where so far they have not worked out. The challenge is that the target households are located in vulnerable areas, with the result that the borrowers risk losing their homes and having to repay their loans. As Africa clearly need to benefit from this model of new home ownership, thought must be given as to how this can be achieved. Another important issue is the quality of housing. Poverty index assessments often have no indicators on housing standards, even though the quality of homes has a great impact on a person's wellbeing and quality of life. In terms of household expenditure, housing remains a major concern for families across the world, and surveys show that the fear of losing one's home is a big concern in West Africa.

Insight

The involvement of commercial actors is crucial for financial inclusion under the Sustainable Development Goals. Micro-financed housing schemes blend funding with technical assistance, and the approach has great potential once scaled up.

Podcast

Accelerating gender responsive innovative financing for sustainable development - Financing mechanisms to enhance development impacts

Organised by the Mission of Canada to the European Union

Speakers

- Félix Fernández-Shaw – Director for International Cooperation and Development Policy – European Commission, Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development
- Rachel Turner - Director of Economic Development - DFID
- Haje Schütte - Senior Counsellor & Head of Financing for Sustainable Development Division - OECD
- Christina Madden - Director for Engagement – Criterion Institute

Moderator: Elissa Goldberg – Assistant Deputy Minister – Global Affairs Canada

Key Points

- Significantly increased investment will be required to achieve the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 5 objectives of gender equality and female empowerment.
- Gender equality and female empowerment also helps other development goals, including poverty reduction and economic growth.
- Innovative financing approaches are needed; new partners and funding sources must be found; greater efficiencies obtained, and efforts must be more result oriented.

- Efforts to increase gender responsive investments should be evidence-based and challenge existing biases.

Synopsis

Significantly increased investments will be required to achieve SDG 5's objectives of gender equality and empowerment of all women and girls. They are focusing on gender-responsive investment cuts across other development objectives because women are also disproportionately poor; women are also migrants, refugees and internally displaced persons; and they are also young.

According to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the full tool box of development financing must be used, including (1) mobilising financial resources from all sources dedicated to gender equality and female empowerment; (2) integrating gender equality into all development investment, public and private; and (3) ensuring, at least, that development investments do not undermine gender equality and female empowerment. OECD analyses indicate that 38% of Official Development Assistance (ODA) integrates gender equality, but only 4 % of ODA is dedicated to gender equality programmes.

Data reported to the OECD from philanthropic foundations shows that only 16 % of financing targets gender equality. Innovative financing approaches are needed to achieve the SDGs. New partners and funding sources must be found; greater efficiencies must be obtained; and efforts must be more result-oriented. "Gender lensed" investing is currently receiving much attention. It means considering gender impacts in investment decisions. One result is increased investment in female-owned businesses; another is investment in businesses producing goods and services that improve the lives of women and girls.

A further result is considering the risk of gender-based violence in investment decisions. Women investors are increasingly making investments with a gender lens. Female and male participants in pension funds can encourage their funds to make gender-lensed investments. Efforts to increase gender responsive investments should be evidence-based and challenge existing biases. Loans to women are not necessarily high risk. Equality advocates should work with fund managers and loan officers to understand why many women entrepreneurs often do not complete business plans. The reasons could be lack of experience requiring skill development, or lack of trust in male dominated financial institutions requiring trust building. Care should be taken to uncover implicit and subconscious biases. The burden should not be placed on female loan applicants to prove they can repay loans when a similar burden is not placed on male applicants. Laws that inhibit women's access to financing should be reformed, such as laws that bar women from property ownership. Government guarantees can help de-risk loans to female applicants.

European Union efforts to increase gender-responsive financing focus on three pillars: (1) blending public and private sources of financing; (2) improving the business climate, and (3) providing technical assistance. Technical assistance should include support for people who have good business ideas, but do not know how to present them persuasively.

Insight

Financing gender equality and female empowerment helps everyone, not just women.

Podcast

3.4.3 BRAINSTORMING LAB

Diaspora remittances : A new opportunity for financial inclusion

Organised by SOFTline, AEQUANS Partners and AG Consulting

Speakers

- Annick Gouba-Guibal - Manager - AGC
- Olivier Stintzy - Partner - AEQUANS Partners

Moderator: Edouardo Peterlini - SOFTline

3.4.4 PROJECT LABS

Latin America and Caribbean investment facilities

Organised by the European Commission's Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development, AFD, EIB, IDB, KfW and AECID

Speakers

- Maria Shaw-Barragan - Director of Lending in Africa, Caribbean, Pacific, Asia & Latin America – EIB
- Bruno Leclerc - Director, Latin America Department – AFD
- Andrea Delbrueck- Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean – KfW Banking Group
- Fernando Jiménez-Ontiveros - General Manager of FONPRODE – Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation
- Ignacio Corlazzoli - Representative for Europe and Israel – Inter-American Development Bank

Moderator: Jolita Butkeviciene – Director for Latin American and Caribbean – European Commission, Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development

Podcast

Can impact investing move the development needle ?

Organised by IFC, EDFI and IFAD

Speakers

- Dagmawi Habte-Selassie - Programme Officer - IFAD
- Adolfo Cires Alonso - Finance and Investments Programme Manager - European Commission, Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development
- Carole Maman – CIO – BIO Belgian Investment Company for Developing Countries
- Soren Peter Andreasen – General Manager - EDFI

Moderator: Christian Rosenholm – Senior Operational Officer - IFC

Podcast

3.5 Bridging the digital divide: managing digitalisation and technology for inclusive growth

A digital revolution may be bringing information and communication technologies (ICTs) into almost every part of the developed world's economy and society. However, four billion people remain offline, excluded from the digital economy. People and communities in developing countries risk being cut out of the online world, because of a digital divide between the ICT haves and have-nots.

How can we bring the benefits of ICT to the wider world? It is not enough simply to provide people with internet access. Developing countries also need affordable devices, essential skills, digital inclusion and capacity to manage and protect data.

New technologies offer the promise of delivering sustainable development, giving hope to poor and vulnerable communities that they too can be dynamic players in the digital economy. But more needs to be done to share the full benefits of the digital revolution with every part of the world.

Related sessions

3.5.1. HIGH-LEVEL PANEL

Bridging the digital divide: Digitalisation and technology for inclusive growth - Taking full advantage of the digital transformation of the economy and society

Organised by the European Commission's Directorate General for Communications Networks, Content and Technology, UNESCO, SES, GSMA and the World Bank Group

Speakers

- Amani Abou-Zeid - Commissioner for Infrastructure & Energy - African Union
- Inès Tatiana Houndjo - Young Leader – Benin
- Mariya Gabriel - EU Commissioner for Digital Economy and Society – European Commission
- Abze Djigma – Chair – H.R.H. Princess Abze Djigma Foundation
- John-Paul Hemingway – CEO – SES Networks
- Pierre Guislain - Vice-President, Private Sector, Infrastructure and Industrialization- African Development Bank
- Hisham Ezz Al-Arab - Chairman and Managing Director – Commercial International Bank, Egypt (CIB)
- Claudette IRERE - Permanent Secretary - Ministry of ICT, Republic of Rwanda

Moderator: Sasha Rubel – Programme Specialist - UNESCO

Key Points

- The African Union and the European Union have released an important report describing how the digital transformation in Africa can accelerate the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

- The digital transformation can reduce poverty, create jobs, facilitate commerce, improve healthcare and education, provide access to finance and other banking services, improve governance and protect human rights.
- For the digital transformation to enhance equality, rather than exacerbate inequality, access to technology and the skills needed to use it must be available to all people.
- Wide access to technology will require bringing electric power and connectivity to all areas of the continent, including rural and hard to reach areas.

Synopsis

In June 2019, the African Union and the European Union released a report written by the AU-EU Digital Economy Task Force entitled New Africa-Europe Digital Economy Partnership: Accelerating the Achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. The Digital Economy Task Force provides a platform of partnership for the private sector, donors, international organisations, financial institutions and civil society based on a shared understanding of how an already fast evolving African digital transformation can achieve cross-border integration and bring benefits to all people.

The report rests on four interrelated pillars: expanding connectivity and access to digital technologies; development of skills needed to use and benefit from the technologies; entrepreneurship and development of a digital ecosystem; and acceleration of adoption of e-services in many sectors, including healthcare, education, finance, commerce and government. Inclusive digital transformation is critical to achieving SDG 1 (poverty elimination), SDG 5 (gender equality) and SDG 8 (decent work and sustainable economic growth). After the release of the Report, implementation of its recommendations is critical. The report focuses on achieving results. It emphasizes the need to scale up adoption of digital technologies and the development of human skills to fully obtain potential benefits. The digital transformation can produce jobs and economic growth, support for human rights, more robust democracy and greater government responsiveness and transparency.

As one example, Sierra Leone recently became the first nation to use blockchain technology for its elections. As another, banks are using blockchain technology to reduce transaction costs for remittances. Mobile technologies are bringing access to financial services to millions of previously 'unbanked' people. The digital transformation can produce greater equality. However, if its promises and benefits are not shared by all people, it can lead to great inequality. There is a need to move from multi-stakeholder collaboration to 'omnistakeholder' participation. This will require bringing electric power and internet connectivity to rural and hard-to-reach areas. To finance the digital transformation, government and private sector contributions will be necessary. Several African countries are enhancing access to needed finance through co-investment programmes for start-ups. Most successful programmes involve public-private partnerships. To achieve needed scale, free trade areas encompassing many nations are needed, as well as harmonised and flexible regulatory schemes among nations. New players should be allowed to participate and compete in traditional sectors such as telecom and finance.

Insight

As there remains a staggering number of people without access to digital technology, much work remains.

3.5.2. LAB DEBATES

Can Open Innovation be an answer to development challenges? **Open Innovation: Inequalities in developing countries, new technologies, blended competencies and implications for the future**

Organised by Agenzia Italiana Per la Cooperazione Allo Sviluppo, Fondazione CARIPLO, Amani Institute, Campagna di San Paolo, BRCK and Move the Elephant for Inclusiveness

Speakers

- Mark Kamau - Director of User Experience – BRCK LIMITED
- Cristina Toscano – Speaker - Fondazione CARIPLO
- Tinna Nielsen – Speaker – Move THEelephant
- Emilio Ciarlo – Italian Agency for Development Cooperation

Moderator: Francesca Folda – Global Communication Director – Amani Institute

Key Points

- Open innovation can help address development challenges, if it is adapted to local cultures and languages, and is both scalable and replicable.
- Access to the internet and digital content can boost education.
- Easier to use tools are needed to get internet-illiterate people online.
- Affordability, lack of local adaptation and high learning curves are barriers to innovation.
- Public entities like universities need to partner with the private sector to scale up innovation.

Synopsis

Open innovation – which promotes an information-sharing mindset instead of proprietary research or technology – can speed up development when it is adapted to local cultures and languages. But it must be scalable and replicable.

The task of finding solutions to development challenges begins with listening to the needs of affected stakeholders. For this, entities must create a psychologically safe space for people to express themselves and leaders must be open to emotional communication.

Translating tools into local languages is also important. This is especially true in Africa where knowledge is usually passed on with stories.

Research shows that education improves when people have access to the Internet and digital content, noted a speaker from the largest public wifi company in sub-Saharan Africa. But four billion people in the world cannot afford to connect to the internet and many of them are in Africa. Africa is the largest smart phone market in world, yet 80% of its citizens cannot afford to join it. Open innovation can facilitate a much-needed technology transfer.

Financing is critical. In addition to building up infrastructure like satellites, it is critical for getting more people online, as affordability is a major barrier to access. A case in point is an

African wifi provider that is able to recruit 500,000 new Internet users every month by offering free service.

Africa also needs easier digital tools to help people who are Internet illiterate. For example, 74% of young people online in Kenya are using betting apps because the developers made them easy to use. More useful tools should follow suit.

While technology advances create new jobs, they also put some people out of work. That's especially true if they cannot adjust to advances, such as artificial intelligence. The International Labor Organization (ILO) set up a commission to prepare for such challenges with a human-centred agenda. Entities must help people change jobs, protect them financially and regulate data used. Public-private partnerships can help.

Sharing successful examples is helpful to being able to replicate them. For instance, a speaker shared a platform that lists 100 projects for others to learn from them. Micro projects like these can lead to macro changes.

When innovation works for development, it involves information gathering, training, technology transfer and in-country adoption. Open innovation can be leveraged to create job opportunities in all countries while helping businesses fulfil their social responsibilities.

Insight

Open innovation can be a guiding light for the future of development.

Podcast

Unlocking digital opportunities: Promoting e-commerce for inclusive trade growth

Organised by Trade Com II Programme, CTA, Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie, ACP Group

Speakers

- Axel de la Maisonneuve – Deputy Head of Unit (Private Sector, Trade) – European Commission, Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development
- Paolo Ciccarelli – Head of Unit (Civil Society and Foundations) - European Commission, Directorate-General for Development Cooperation and Aid –
- Ifeyinwa Ugochukwe – CEO – Tony Elumelu Foundation
- Patrick Gomes – Secretary General – ACP Group
- Shamika Sirimanne – Director, Division on Technology and Logistics – UNCTAD
- Merewalesi Falemaka – Permanent Representative – Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS)
- Viwanou Gnassounou – Assistant Secretary-General – ACP Secretariat

Key points

- Digitalisation offers many opportunities to developing countries but a number of issues need to be addressed before they can be harnessed.
- ACP, small-island and land-locked economies face the challenges of a weak private sector, high trade costs and lack of proper technology and trade data in order to bolster opportunities for SMEs traders and intra-regional trade.

- Digital infrastructure must be developed to allow young Africans the full potential offered by the internet.

Synopsis

Where do developing countries stand in terms of digitalisation and are they ready to develop e-commerce strategies? These two questions need to be answered to ensure these countries harness the potential that digitalisation offers in terms of growth and job creation. The current situation is that there is a decline, or at best a stabilisation, of the share of the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries in international trade. In Africa, 300 million people live more than 50 kilometres from a fibre or cable broadband connection. It is also a challenge to ensure that trade is inclusive in terms of the redistribution of trade revenues.

This longstanding issue is one that is complicated by digitalisation and the increase in the digitalisation of the trade nexus. Yet on the other hand, the latest statistics show that e-commerce sales in 2016-17 were worth USD 29 trillion. Selling online allows dropping the middleman, offering a fantastic opportunity to small African producers. Research also shows that SMEs are benefiting from e-commerce in niche areas while the internet, as gender-neutral, offers opportunities to women entrepreneurs. The list of benefits offered by the internet is almost endless but 50 % of the world's population does not have access. Bridging the digital divide is one issue that developing countries need to address. Others include the need to develop a legal regulatory framework offering consumer protection, fiscal legislation, e-signature and payment systems as well as cyber security systems. Without at least a minimum system in place one cannot think of doing international trade. In addition, the currency exchange situation across Africa is cumbersome with every currency having to be changed into dollars before being converted into another currency. Fragmented markets are another issue: while a pan-African free-trade agreement has recently been signed, it is not yet in place.

The problem of infrastructure across Africa is an issue that needs to be addressed urgently if the continent is to benefit from a unified market with free trade and services. There are millions of young Africans with ideas waiting to transform them into reality. What they need is an enabling environment, training and funding, provided perhaps by the private sector working with development organisations

Insight

There are many examples of young Africans successfully harnessing the potential of digitalisation. For example, an entrepreneur in Benin started an e-commerce platform called 'export-unity'. Another entrepreneur involved in agriculture developed drone technology to monitor his crops and he has now taken this technology to Singapore.

Podcast

EQUALS in Tech: Driving capacity and skills for women in ICT **Innovative ways of supporting the development of women leaders in digital technology**

Organised by ITU, GIZ, UN Women, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, United Nations University, ITC, GSMA and Internet Society

Speakers

- Lars Erik Forsberg – European Commission – Directorate General for Communication Networks, Content and Technology

- Adam Vink – Policy and Advocacy Manager - The ONE Campaign
- Seynabou Thiam – CEO – Smart Ecosystems for Women
- Claire Gillissen-Duval - Director Corporate Social Responsibility EMEA – SAP SE
- Arancha Gonzalez - Executive Director - ITC
- Joyce Dogniez - Vice President, Community Engagement and Development, ISOC and Chair of EQUALS Steering Committee – Internet Society
- Carla Licciardello - Policy Analyst, International Telecommunication Union – United Nations

Moderator: Belinda Exelby – Head of International Relations - GSMA

Key Points

This session is an engagement opportunity for delegates to learn more about EQUALS Global Partnership and explore opportunities to leverage this global initiative to achieve the shared goal of bridge the gender digital divide. Further, this will be an opportunity to understand why and how delegates can:

- Raise awareness on initiatives aimed at enhancing women's digital skills to increase participation of women in the ICT workforce and as business owners.
- Increase representation of governments and the private sector in our shared effort of bridging the gender digital divide.
- Take action towards increasing the technical capacity of women and girls and the inclusion of women in tech organizations at all levels and with equal conditions.
- Highlight opportunities and ways to engage with the EQUALS community and support our work, making it visible and sustainable.

Synopsis

This discussion was organised by EQUALS, a global partnership initiated five years ago by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and UN Women with the aim of reversing the increasing gender digital divide. It now has 90 partners around the world. All speakers were either members of or deeply involved with EQUALS, so the session also served as an introduction to the partnership's work. The Executive Director of International Trade Centre, which is underlining female leadership in the industry, reported that it takes three aspects into account to improve the situation: the leader herself, her skillset and her confidence; the ecosystem and its possible bias; and access to financing.

A similar approach was revealed by the representative of the European Commission's Directorate-General Connect. The fight against stereotypes, funding and support for training, and the fostering of female entrepreneurship top their agenda. He admitted that the European Commission is not yet a partner of EQUALS but he professed to be confident that it will be in the near future. An important contribution to the work of the partnership is made by its research group, led by the United Nations University and comprising teams from 30 universities across the world. It has recently published its first report: Taking stock: Data and evidence on gender equality in digital access, skills and leadership. For the industry, the Director of Corporate Social Responsibility EMEA of the software company SAP SE told the audience that one of her company's pledges to the partnership is to have 30 % women in leadership positions by 2022, and to have also closed the gender pay gap by then. SAP also took a leaf out of the European Commission's book by transferring the idea of European Code Week to Africa, focusing on girls and women. Africa Code Week was established in 2015 and has so far seen 1.4 million girls and women participate in workshops across the continent.

Insight

The gender digital divide is entrenched and growing, but with the efforts of EQUALS and other partnerships and organisations dedicated to removing the barriers for girls and women there is hope that it will be possible to reverse the trend.

Podcast

Smart Villages: The road to reduce territorial inequalities and bridge the digital divide - Innovative solutions to reduce territorial inequalities using Digital for Development and access to connectivity to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals

Organised by SES, GIZ, Orange and L'Afrique C'est Chic World

Speakers

- Maguette Mbow – CEO - L'Afrique C'est Chic World
- Joachim Goeske - Head of Department, Global Policy - GIZ
- Christine Leurquin - VP, Institutional Relations - Société Européenne des Satellites
- Laila El Hankari - Business Development Director – Orange

Moderator: Christophe Robeet – Freelance

Key Points

- “Smart villages” are defined as the rural answer to globalisation. They let people meet their basic needs, connect them to others and open business opportunities.
- Affordable digital connectivity and electricity are the two most important elements needed to transform rural Africa. What good is a smart phone without internet access or power to recharge it? Solar power has tremendous potential as an affordable energy source.
- Smart villages must also include digital literacy.
- Rwanda is a digital model: 97 % of government services can only be requested online and blood is delivered to hospitals using drones.

Synopsis

A “smart village” applies connectivity and energy to meet basic needs, improve local economies and livelihoods, and foster entrepreneurship, said Laila El Hankari, business development director at Orange. Some 70 % of Africans live in rural areas and many are without electricity. Smart villages are their answer. Only 20 % of people living in rural Africa have electricity and 50% of them are not reached by digital connectivity, noted Christine Leurquin, vice president, Institutional Relations, Société Européenne des Satellites (SES), a company that “connects the unconnected”.

Connectivity ensures options, such as staying in a village rather than moving to a city. Energy goes hand-in-hand with connectivity. Satellites may help reduce costs and increase speed, said Leurquin, lowering the cost of connectivity 10-fold. The private sector has a role to play and it must work with local operators to empower citizens. For example, SES helped Burkina Faso during its 2012 and 2015 elections with satellite connectivity so citizens from all areas could vote and results could be tallied within a day.

Maguette Mbow, CEO of an e-platform called L'Afrique C'est Chic World, said solar energy has big potential along with video e-learning. But all digital platforms must be culturally adapted. Public-private partnerships and decentralized cooperation are also key to reach most remote

villages. Moreover, government policy reforms must prioritise digital development. African governments must have policies to support smart villages and business-friendly economies. Improved, sustainable connectivity will help Africa meet the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals for 2030, said Joachim Goeske, head of Global Policy, GIZ. Being connected is not just about internet access, but also connecting people and getting meaningful results. Imagine a future where e-health services can save lives in remote areas, women can launch e-businesses, farmer can harvest agricultural tips and students can get online diplomas.

Claudette Irere, Permanent Secretary of Rwanda's Ministry of Information and Communications Technology (ICT), said her country was turning itself into a visionary continental leader with ICT. Some 97 % government services can only be requested online and the private sector has been brought along at same time. It even delivers blood to remote hospitals via drones. But while the country has 96 % coverage, usage is low. It is like walking on a newly built highway. To increase usage, Rwanda must localise content and give citizens digital skills.

Insight

Reliable, fast internet access equalises geographies, genders and people of all ages in terms of e-commerce, e-education, communication and more. But low-cost energy, like solar power, and digital literacy must go together with digital connectivity.

Podcast

Digitalisation – a path towards a more inclusive Iberoamerica **How digitalisation will build inclusive growth in Iberoamerica by promoting 21st century skills and providing digital competencies**

Organised by 70 EI

Speakers

- Silvia Montoya – Director – UNESCO Institute for Statistics
- Sebastian Nieto Parra - Head of the Latin America and the Caribbean Unit – OECD Development Centre
- Ana Capilla Casco - Coordinator of Higher Education, VET and Science – Organización De Estados Iberoamericanos Para La Educación, La Ciencia Y La Cultura
- Benoist Bazin – Cooperation Advisor - European Commission, Directorate General for International Cooperation and Development
- Leticia de Rato - Head of Global Partnership – ProFuturo Foundation

Moderator: José Manuel Sanz Mingote – Director of International Relations – Agencia EFE

Key Points

- The digital transformation of the economy could open the way for Latin America to pursue its own version of sustainable economic growth.
- Digitalisation could contribute to the solutions of several difficult problems, such as poor productivity and socioeconomic vulnerability.
- While data are scarce, there appears to be a severe gap between the skills needed in the economy and what students are learning in school.
- Teachers must develop their own 21st century skills before they can effectively transmit that knowledge to their pupils.

- Latin America boasts several benchmark initiatives in digital teaching and learning.

Synopsis

The digital transformation of the economy could open the way for Latin America to pursue its own version of sustainable economic growth. Recent decades have brought significant increases in per capita income in many countries, but the region faces a new set of challenges. All of them will be affected by digitalisation. Productivity has always been a sore spot in Latin America. The region lags well behind Europe in research and development (R&D) expenditures. Judging by the number of patents per monetary unit, it also gets less bang for its buck. Latin America needs to spend more on R&D, but it also needs to spend better. Big Data analysis and other digital tools can help, but they will not help e-commerce businesses get around transportation bottlenecks or energy shortages. Latin American citizens outshine most people around the world in their distrust of their institutions.

There has been progress in areas such as e-government, especially by some forward-thinking mayors, but the widespread use of e-innovation to improve governance and increase transparency could help boost institutional credibility. Many Latin Americans have been newly catapulted into the middle class, but they remain vulnerable. Access to quality education remains a problem. While reliable data remain scanty, there seems to be a mismatch between the skills needed in the economy and those honed by the school system. Ideally, better data would be collected and analysed. Based on that, new pedagogical tools would be developed and teachers trained to make good use of them. Indeed, 21st century skills are particularly important for teachers. If they are going to impart the art of computational thinking to their students, teachers are going to need new methodologies and more advanced training.

The term “21st century skill” does not mean merely learning how to use information and communication technology (ICT). It means being able to analyse data, resolve new problems and learn in new ways. Technology is no substitute for good public policy and a commitment to progress. If policymakers and taxpayers are willing to make the necessary investments, it would be relatively easy to boost access to education and improve its quality – in part by adding digital technology to the mix. It is important to look first at the needs of the students and society and only subsequently at the technology. If used properly, digitalisation can help improve the learning outcome. There several benchmark programs trying to address these issues in Latin America. One is ProFuturo. Among other things, it provides ICT training for teachers along with an online platform with resources they can use in their planning. They can also collaborate by uploading their own materials.

Insight

To process information better, citizens will need to become better at critical thinking. As machines begin to learn more and more things, people will focus more on areas where machines cannot match them – often defined as soft or human skills.

Podcast

3.5.3 BRAINSTORMING LAB

How to make digitalisation SDG – proof?

Organised by UNITAR, CO2 Neutral Event, Lie Detectors, HackYour Future Belgium, Close the Gap and GIRLEEK

Speakers

- Didier Appels - Business Director – Close the Gap
- Maïté Cluydts – Coordinator – HackYour Future Belgium
- Julie Foulon – CEO - Girleek
- Adeline Brion - Belgium Programme Coordinator – Lie Detectors
- Anne Sofie Van de Velde – Advisor – Cabinet Minister Philippe de Backer

Moderator: Peter Wollaert – Fellow / Managing Director - UNITAR

3.5.4 PROJECT LABS

Breaking barriers: How virtual exchange fosters inclusive and global education

Organised by Search for Common Ground, Anna Lindh Foundation, Erasmus+, Sharing Perspectives Foundation and UNICollaboration

Speakers

- German Bernal Rios - Policy Officer - Cooperation with Southern Mediterranean countries – European Commission – DG for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture
- Stephanie Siklossy - Project Manager, Erasmus+ Virtual Exchange – Search for Common Ground
- Rawan Tahboub - Junior Facilitation Officer - Sharing Perspectives Foundation
- Francesca Helm – Researcher – UNICollaboration

Moderator: Paul Walton – Director Strategy and Partnerships – Anna Lindh Foundation

Podcast

Promise or peril? Automation and the future of work in Africa

Organised by Tony Blair Institute for Global Change, German Development Institute, ACET and Devex

Speakers

- Elvis Melia - Associate Researcher – German Development Institute
- Georgina Hutchinson - Senior Advisor – Tony Blair Institute for Global Change
- Edward Kofi Anan Brown – Senior Director Research and Policy Engagements – African Centre for Economic Transformation

Moderator: Jessica Abrahams - Devex

Podcast

3.5.5 LARGE DEBATE

New Africa - Europe Digital Economy Partnership **Presentation and discussion on the report of the Africa - EU Digital Economy Task Force**

Organised by the European Commission's Directorate-General for Communications Network, Content and Technology

Speakers

- Michael Pittelkow – Executive Development Policy Partner - SAP SE
- Vivian Loonela - Member of Vice-President Ansip's Cabinet – European Commission
- Amani Abou-Zeid - Commissioner for Infrastructure & Energy - African Union
- Hisham Ezz Al-Arab - Chairman and Managing Director – Commercial International Bank, Egypt
- Abze Djigma – Chair – H.R.H. Princess Abze Djigma Foundation
- Arancha Gonzalez - Executive Director - ITC
- Christine Leurquin – Vice President, Institutional Relations - Societe Européenne des Satellites

Moderator: Pierre Guislain – Vice President, Private Sector, Infrastructure and Industrialization – African Development Bank

Key Points

- Connectivity, infrastructure, skills, e-services are some of the issues that Africa needs to tackle in order to fully harness the potential of the digital economy.
- Digitalisation can help fight corruption.
- There many challenges ahead but also many opportunities.

Synopsis

The Africa-EU Digital Economy Task Force has adopted a report with proposals to promote the African digital economy and make it sustainable for decades to come. Four main pillars support this initiative: universal access to affordable broadband, guaranteeing essential skills for all, improving the business environment and facilitating access to finance and business support services, and accelerating the adoption of e-services. The digital economy is the fastest growing sector in Africa, contributing 10 % of overall gross domestic product (GDP).

The mobile sector alone has created more than 3 million jobs across the continent. Digital technology drives business creation, promotes sustainable development and reduces inequalities. It spurs efficiency, transparency and accountability, and consequently less corruption and stronger societies. As already seen in Europe, online services help citizens have a more direct contact with their governments. It also gives companies a more level playing field. The European Commission has recognised the role digitalisation could have in fostering Africa's development. It is the first time in history for such a tool to exist that, if well used, will lead to financial inclusion for all and empowerment for women. Most importantly digitalisation is a tool for Africa to develop a continent-wide strategy for the future. E-commerce is already flourishing, and is worth almost US\$50 billion a year, against US\$8 billion five years ago.

There is still a lot of untapped potential. But before this can be realised, the right policies and laws need to be put in place. Inadequate infrastructure, patchworks of laws in different countries, poor enforcement of cyber security rules and trade barriers like high taxes or custom duties need to be addressed urgently. Africans, and particularly women and young people, also need to acquire relevant skills to thrive in the increasingly digitised global economy. The basis for all of this is connectivity. The digital divide is the greatest in Sub-Saharan Africa despite the fact that mobile subscriptions are growing faster there than in any other region of the world. Broadband access and infrastructure are also a problem because they are unaffordable to many, particularly in rural areas. Africa is going through a digital revolution that will reshape the continent. Now that problems have been defined, challenges have been identified and recommendations have been adopted. The scene is set for a long-term European and African vision for an inclusive digital economy and society in both continents

Insight

The Africa-EU Digital Economy Task Force's report has brought together more information on digitalisation in Africa than ever before. But for effective implementation, content will have to be translated into local languages for people living in rural areas.

Podcast

3.6 Mobility and inequalities

Today there are over 258 million international migrants around the world living outside their country of birth. This number is expected to increase for reasons such as global population growth, increased connectivity, rising inequality, limited employment opportunities and climate change. Well-managed migration can bring significant positive benefits for the development of countries of destination and origin, and for the migrants themselves and their families.

However, when poorly regulated, migration can create significant challenges and negative effects on migrants, but also on countries of origin, transit and destination. In order to seize the opportunities of migration, while minimizing any negative impact, cooperation at international level is required, as no country can address migration on its own. Forced displacement is also on the increase: in 2017, there were 68 million people forced from their home, including 40 million internally displaced people.

Mirroring the UN 2030 Agenda, the European Consensus on Development reiterates the potential benefits of well-managed migration for inclusive growth and sustainable development, while recognizing its many challenges. So which policies can address the growing global mobility so that everyone benefits? How can we facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, making sure we leave no one behind?

Related sessions

3.6.1 HIGH-LEVEL PANEL

In search of equality: Migration, forced displacement and the SDGs

Organised by International Organization for Migration (IOM), UNHCR, International Rescue Committee and the Danish Refugee Council

Speakers

- David Miliband – President and CEO – International Rescue Committee
- Antonio Manuel De Carvalho Ferreira Vitorino – Director General – International Organization for Migration
- Stefano Manservigi – Director General – European Commission, Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development
- Kelly Tallmann Clements – Deputy High Commissioner – UNHCR
- Saadatou Mallam Barmou – Speaker Adviser on Humanitarian Affairs and Deputy Head of Cabinet of the Office of the Prime Minister – Government of Nigeria
- Judicaelle Irakoze – Young Leader – Burundi

Moderator: Marta Foresti – Director Human Mobility Initiative – Overseas Development Institute

Key points

- Migration can be positive. GDP often rises when migrants are integrated into a country's economic life.
- The cost of excluding refugees from the receiving countries' societies is higher than the cost of including them.
- One way to tackle the root causes of migration is to create jobs in the migrants' countries of origin.
- Another is to create the conditions for increased regular, legal mobility.
- The vast majority of refugees and displaced people go to developing countries. Financial assistance could help these countries to integrate them.

Synopsis

Safe, orderly and regular migration is one of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This target is crucial to achieving all of the SDGs. They can be met only if migrants and forcibly displaced populations - especially women and girls - are protected, and their livelihoods secured. The complex relationship between migration and inequality was discussed during this session. It is known that inequality is a driver of displacement. At the same time, mobility can promote development. Yet, in recent years, legal migration pathways have been reduced. We are facing a "triple emergency" around migrants and refugees. The first factor is an increase in the number of people fleeing conflicts and persecution. The second is "toxic politics" in the world's wealthiest countries, pushing back on the idea that they have responsibilities to address these problems. There is a retreat from multilateral engagement. The third element of the emergency is that the humanitarian sectors are not working effectively enough in this area. None of the sustainable development targets directly addresses the situation of people caught up in a crisis. Properly managed migration is one possible way out of this situation. 'If it's managed, it's manageable,' said one speaker. But the EU, for example, still does not have an agreed settlement policy, due in part to differences among its Member States on this issue. Improving conditions in migrants' countries of origin could be one way to ease the pressure – for example, by creating more new jobs there. This could involve more international cooperation on skills training and mutual recognition of skills. More work is needed to promote integration, not only among migrants, refugees and displaced people, but also among people in the receiving countries. Reintegration of returned migrants can also be a tool for the successful development of countries of origin, it was argued. And the relationship between migration and climate change needs to be more closely examined.

Insight

"The question to the EU is: How can you invest in African youth so we can keep them on our continent? We need them there." - Judicaelle Irakoze, Young Leader, Burundi

3.6.2 LAB DEBATES

Journalism against misleading communication about migration **The relevance of tackling inequalities in and with communication**

Organised by COP, Pijler, Lafedeocat, CISU, Fingo, RESACOOOP and Wilden Ganzen

Speakers

- Simona Carnino - Freelance
- Andrea de Georgio - Freelance
- Pieter Stockmans – Journalist – MO* Magazine

Moderator: Jara Henar – Expert on migration and mobility – Alianza por la Solidaridad

Key Points

- The media should portray migrants as individuals, not as a crowd.
- Through storytelling, the phenomenon of migration is broken down into personal experiences.
- Visual storytelling is a tool to present migrants on their own terms.
- The media has a role to play in providing migrants with correct information.

Synopsis

Through visual storytelling, migrants can relate their own story to a wider public. Reporters play a major role in bridging the information gap between the countries of origin and the destination countries for migration. Even-handed reporting should go beyond the political perspective and the legal issues to explain the complex phenomenon of migration. By relating migrants' personal stories, the media helps to nuance the language beyond the legal issues. A new terminology is created by letting the migrants address the audience in their own way. Even concepts known as push-and-pull factors are not unambiguous. It is income inequality rather than "abject poverty" that serves as a push factor for migration, as does gender-based violence and armed conflict.

But those factors provide only partial information because from an individual perspective, the reasons for leaving a country are more complex. Migrants are actors in their own right and even though the media often present them as victims, their own perception of their status is different. Reporters should deliver an honest and accurate depiction of people on a migratory journey, so as to counter the sensationalist approach that is spreading by "click-bait" online media. Visual storytelling is a means of challenging the eurocentric bias. This is the frame of reference for the European audience, where migration is discussed in terms of border controls and attempts to prevent people from moving from one country to another.

However, for ethnic groups in many West African countries, migration has become a modern rite of passage with young people either travelling to cities in the region or across the Mediterranean. By referring to someone merely as a migrant, there is focus only on the action of migration, whereas the people concerned act in their own right and are very capable of confronting obstacles. The media also has a role in informing the public in the migrants' home countries to avert exploitation, since much of the information they receive at home comes from the human smugglers. In-depth reporting in local media reveals the situation on the ground in terms of the human impact of migration. If those stories served as a counter-narrative, the European mainstream media would pick up on those themes.

Insight

The focus should be on humanising migrants and featuring their migration from their own personal perspective. The media has a major role to play in connecting the European audience with these people. Migrants are active individuals who are not just driven by socioeconomic push and pull factors.

Podcast

Maximising the benefits of South-South migration for development Transforming perspectives through action: How migration can contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals to end poverty and reduce inequality

Organised by Coventry University, OECD Development Centre, University of Ghana and UNRISD

Speakers

- Joseph Teye – Associate Professor – University of Ghana
- Katja Hujo - Senior Research Coordinator – United Nations Research Institute for Social Development
- Jason Gagnon - Development economist – OECD Development Centre

Moderator: Heaven Crawley – Research Professor – Coventry University

Key Points

- Intra-regional migratory flows are overlooked in European public discourse.
- Regional inequality is often reinforced by migration.
- There is huge potential for policy leverage such as by improving education in the countries of departure.
- The root causes for migration, such as instability and insecurity.

Synopsis

Globally, there is a multitude of migration corridors, notably within Africa, Latin America and towards China. For the most part, migration occurs as intracontinental flows across or within a region or towards another developing country, even while the policy focus is set on halting migration to Europe and North America. There are six migration corridors in the Global South, which see a constant two-way movement of people, knowledge and resources. In terms of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), South-South migration has four main aims: poverty reduction, attaining decent work conditions, gender equality and reduction of inequality in itself.

There is huge variation in migration volumes between developing countries, as people move more easily on the same continent. Academic research on migration focuses on the people that do move and where they move to, but often ignores the structural context and the structural drivers, such as social inequality and issues of class, gender and ethnic origin. Migration is a structural driver that refers to the broader context of change; there are significant links also with poverty levels and regional inequality, local labour markets and the education system in the countries of departure. The movement of people is still largely inter-regional and explained by the striving for better access to education and health services. In

fact, studies show that education is a major driver, since the migrants have been shown to have significantly better access to education in the countries they move to. In terms of social inequality, migrants' remittances play a big part in the economy in their countries of departure. The flow of remittances also risks contributing to greater social inequality, because not everybody benefits. Even though remittances are used to fund education and better livelihoods locally, they can also risk contributing to further gender inequality, for example, as women may not have the same access to the funds. In the receiving countries, there is some scope for policy efforts to channel the remittances in the right direction.

There are studies from West Africa that show that social protection programmes involving financial transactions in fact tend to lead to more migration to European countries, as households use the extra funds to sponsor a migrant's departure. There is significant scope for policy leverage to address inequality in the migrants' countries of departure by boosting the education system in particular. To the degree migrants return, they contribute with human capital in terms of new social networks, knowledge and impressions that they share. Migration in itself is also indicative of inequality, since migrants tend not to come from the poorest households in their countries of departure. There is also evidence that a higher degree of development achieved in a country equals more migration.

Insight

The drivers of migration need to be tackled as they are often the results of bad policies. For example, structural reform in rural areas could be a measure, as well as professional training programmes, but these have to be matched with the needs in the migrants' countries of origin; otherwise, they could prompt more migration.

Podcast

3.6.3 BRAINSTORMING LAB

The Global Coalition to Alleviate Poverty of Refugees and Host Communities

Organised by UNHCR

Speakers

- Cian O'Brien - Associate Economic Inclusion Officer (JPO) - UNHCR
- Galo Quizanga - Coordinator of Economic Inclusion for Latin America and the Caribbean - HIAS
- John Stephens - Executive Director – The BOMA Project

Moderator: Ellen Lee – Associate Livelihoods and Economic Inclusion officer - UNHCR

3.6.4 PROJECT LABS

African migrations: Changing the narrative

Organised by Mo Ibrahim Foundation

Speakers

- Yvonne Apea Mensah - Adviser and Head of Africa, Governance and Peace Directorate – The Commonwealth Secretariat
- Natasha Kimani – Academy Associate - Mo Ibrahim Foundation
- Judicaelle Irakoze - Young Leader – Burundi
- Jason Gagnon - Development economist – OECD Development Centre

Moderator: Camilla Rocca – Head of Research – Mo Ibrahim Foundation

Podcast

Migrants' contribution to the development of the Global North

Organised by Caritas Europa and Caritas International

Speakers

- Jean-Michel Lafleur - Research professor – Université de Liège
- Marie Chantal Uwitonze – CEO – Boost Employability and Entrepreneurship Skills in Africa
- Sohaib Alaaraj – Social Media Consultant - Caritas Belgium
- Agata Sobiech – Policy Officer - European Commission, Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development

Moderator: Karen Mets – Senior Advocacy Adviser – Save the Children

Podcast

Inequalities along the migration journey

Organised by the International Centre for Migration Policy Development, Mieux, MC2CM, The European Commission, Rabat Process and General Directorate for Migration and Nationality in Costa Rica

Speakers

- Lamine Abbad – Project Manager – MC2CM
- Audrey Jolivel – Focal Point for West Africa – IOM
- Laura Sanchez Solano – Legal Advisor – General Directorate for Migration and Immigration in Costa Rica
- Andrew Allieu – Social Protection and Labour Migration Expert - ILO

Moderator: Oleg Chirita – Head of Programme Global Initiatives – International Centre for Migration Policy Development

Podcast

EDD 2019 Special Events

1. Culture for the future

- *Organised by the European Commission's Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development, UNESCO and European External Action Service*

Speakers

- Rokia Traore - Artist
- Jorge Carlos Fonseca - President of Cabo Verde
- Sylvie Durán - Minister of Culture and Youth – Costa Rica
- Aina Calvo Sastre – Director – Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation
- Seydou Ouedraogo – FREE Afrika Institute
- Stefano Manservigi - Director-General – European Commission, Director-General for International Cooperation and Development

Moderator: Etienne Minoungou - Actor

Key Points

- Culture is not just decoration – it can play a vital role in promoting peace, social cohesion and development.
- Delivery on the ground is not matching the rhetoric – EU procedures make it hard to ensure that money earmarked for culture reaches the right people.
- For culture to flourish, the private sector needs to step up its funding and governments must create more enabling environments for artists.
- For the first time, the EU combined culture, fashion, business and sustainability in a two-day event in Brussels, culminating in the launch of a Manifesto on creative industries, as well as online knowledge-sharing platform CultureXchange.

Synopsis

The session will highlight how culture plays a role in sustainable development and the fight against inequalities. Culture and creative industries are a critical economic sector, contribute to create jobs and innovation, while supporting peace and social cohesion, including in fragile contexts. Culture can help to boost social cohesion, address urbanisation problems, and empower youth, women and vulnerable groups. The topic needs to be addressed to ensure the broader audience of EDD 2019 hears about concrete ideas emerging from the gathering of culture and development specialists and to give feedback on those proposals.

Insight

The audience will learn about the results of the Colloquium "Culture for the Future" which will propose tangible actions on culture and development, notably a manifesto to boost investing in cultural and creative industries, a platform for exchange among professionals and a list of concrete projects. Participants will be able to give feedback on the proposals from the Colloquium and identify how those initiatives can be useful to reach the sustainable development objectives of their own projects and actions.

2. Making visible the invisible - A disability-inclusive approach for leaving no one behind

Organised by ONCE, LUMOS, IDDC, European Disability Forum and Bridging the Gap

Speakers

- Henriette Geiger - Director for People and Peace – European Commission, Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development
- Margaret Orech – Director – Ugandan Landmine Survivors Association
- Veliko Velikov - Self-advocate - LUMOS

- Alberto Durán - Vice President - ONCE

- Ioannis Vardakastanis – President – European Disability Forum

- Mihret Nigussie Chengerei – Federation of Ethiopia National Association of Person with Disability

Moderator: Javier Marcelino Guemes Pedraza – International Relations Director - ONCE

Key Points

- Disabled people remain among the most vulnerable and marginalised groups, despite international conventions to promote their rights.
- Up to one billion people live with some form of disability, some 80 % of them in developing countries.
- Disabled people must be consulted in the decision-taking process on international aid – on planning, budgeting and implementation – as experts and not beneficiaries.
- The European Union has the chance to become a global leader in the promotion of inclusive assistance that fully meets the demand to include disabled people.
- In Africa, disabled women can suffer from “double discrimination”.

Synopsis

Some 13 years after the United Nations adopted the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, people with disabilities remain among the most vulnerable and discriminated against sectors of any population. From the provision of health services, to education, from the availability of job opportunities to personal mobility, people with disabilities face exclusion and indifference. Up to 1 billion people around the world live with some form of disability, some 80 % of them in developing countries. It is vital their voice be heard in policymaking and decision-taking, particularly in the provision of development cooperation and assistance to developing countries. Participants urged that people with disabilities be fully included in all work regarding international cooperation – at the planning, budgeting and implementation stages. They must be involved, not just as beneficiaries of international assistance, but as experts in the field. Disabled people may not always know what is best, but they certainly know what is appropriate. International aid programmes cannot ignore a significant section of the population and its needs.

The EU has the chance to take the global lead as a promoter of inclusive development that embraces the needs of disabled people. EU countries share a strong political commitment to making development cooperation inclusive and to fulfilling the pledge of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to leave “no-one behind”. The EU is already funding more than

400 projects aimed at people with disabilities in partnership with civil society and governments. The EU has created a disability rights' marker – a "visibility marker" – to track the degree to which development assistance projects conform to the bloc's commitment to promote the rights, involvement and inclusion of the disabled. This should be a valuable source of statistical information. One of the problems in monitoring conformity with international conventions on the disabled is a lack of statistical information. This lack of information creates an additional "invisibility". There have been calls for the EU to propose a global summit on the issue of disabled-inclusive development assistance, a possibility that a new EU Commission, due to be chosen later this year, could study. Public-private partnerships – involving governments and industry – can also be important drivers of inclusive development. Spain's ONCE Foundation for Cooperation and the

Social Inclusion of the Disabled has a number of such projects in Latin America. One such project, which operates in 12 different countries, trains the blind to get a foothold in the jobs market. It works with local authorities and involves industry and family members in the process. Often, the family members of a blind person do not see employment as a realistic option. In Africa, the exclusion of the disabled can be exacerbated by gender discrimination. Disabled women can face "double marginalisation". In the health sector, for example, women encounter negative attitudes and health workers with limited knowledge and skills. There is a need to overcome a mindset, which sees disabled people as inferior.

Insight

Attitudes must change towards children with disabilities, who can end up in institutions because they have no-one to care for them. Change can be achieved by spending more time with them and getting to know them. When children with disabilities feel supported the sky is the limit.

3. Kapuscinski Development Lecture

- *Organised by the European Commission's Director-General for International Cooperation and Development and UNDP*

Introduction

- Ulrika Modeer - Assistant Secretary General - UNDP
- Koen Doens - Deputy Director-General – European Commission, Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development

Keynote

- Tony Blair – Former Prime Minister of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Executive Chairman - Tony Blair Institute of Global Change

Moderator: Femi Oke

Panel Speakers

- Santiago Levy – Panelist – Brookings Institution
- Winnie Byanyima - Executive Director - Oxfam International
- Jos Verbeek - Manager, Special Representative to the UN & WTO – World Bank

Moderator: Luis Felipe Lopez-Calva – UN Assistant Secretary General and Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean - UNDP

Key points

- Inequality is a social and economic policy choice, and many countries sadly continue to choose it.
- Inequality begins and ends with a lack of transparency, respect for rule of law and legitimate governance.
- Wealth and income inequality gaps run highest in many large Latin American countries, with South Africa and Nigeria also high on the list.

Synopsis

The brutal extent of income inequality has been well demonstrated, with the statistic that 26 billionaire households own as much capital as the bottom 50 % of the global population. 'The buck stays at the top' might be another way to describe what happens when good governance and the rule of law, if it ever existed in the first place in a country, is permanently missing in action. It is in looking at one's next door national neighbours that one sees that a lack of legitimate and transparent governance usually leads to dizzying economic wealth distribution imbalances as in South and North Korea, Columbia and Venezuela, Poland and Ukraine. By one measure, 14 out of 15 countries in the world considered most economically unequal are in Latin America. The fifteenth is South Africa. In some Latin American countries, more than 50 % of the working population is employed in the informal grey economy.

The 10th anniversary Kapuscinski lecture was marked by a robust tradition of addressing the most burning development issues. One hundred lectures and 30,000 participants later, speakers brought forth plenty of statistics to underscore widening inequalities. Wage polarisation means those in the middle-income sectors have been losing purchasing power; growth disproportionately benefits the rich even as it provides some scraps for the poor. For example, a platinum miner in South Africa must work 93 years to earn the average annual bonus of his mine's managing director. Growth inequality gives more bargaining power to the already powerful and wealthy.

Meanwhile, general public deliberation is worsening and social networks and media misinformation, together with "fake news" are leading to a poor quality of public debate, which in turn erodes social dialogue and cohesion. One statistic suggested the GINI coefficient (for measuring economic inequality and income and wealth distribution in a population) had gone down in 40 OECD countries while going up in 46 others; providing a mixed picture. The average earning gap between those with higher education and those with high school credentials has lessened in many OECD countries. One speaker hopefully suggested that progressive taxation, progressive social spending and enshrined labour rights with minimum wage and equal pay for equal work provisions would go some way to easing social tensions and restore some perception of equality of income and wealth opportunity.

But reality intrudes, particularly in countries where taxpaying and the rule of law are weak or non-existent. Singapore sits consistently in the bottom 10 of OECD countries in fighting inequality because it does not respect these principles. Nigeria is at the very bottom of 157 OECD countries for non-observance of the same rules over the past two years. In Nigeria's case, the future does not look much brighter. The country has the highest number of children not attending school – some 10 million. Democracy properly observed would help alleviate some inequalities, but most democracies are under siege and in some cases, on the way to becoming "captured". Former US Supreme Court Justice Louis Brandeis was quoted: 'You

can have democracy or you can have wealth concentrated in the hands of a few. But you cannot have both.' To which he also reputedly stated, with an eye to democratic transparency: 'Sunlight is said to be the best of disinfectants.'

Insight

This year's lecture seemed more of a wearied reality check than a call to arms, seeming to argue that things are not quite as bad as they are perceived to be in terms of global inequalities. But they are still far from rosy.

As former UK prime minister and keynote speaker Tony Blair noted, without a demonstrated commitment to good governance and the rule of law it will be very hard for countries to attract or continue to attract inward investment.

4. Lorenzo Natali Media Prize

Organised by the European Commission's Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development

Speakers

- Neven Mimica - EU Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development – European Commission
- Kailash Satyarthi - Nobel Peace Laureate - Kailash Satyarthi Children's Foundation
- Koen Doens - Deputy Director-General – European Commission, Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development
- Heloisa Traiano Mundt – Journalist - O Globo
- Kingsley Okeke – Journalist - African Leadership Magazine

Key Points

- It is not enough to plead for the right cause; journalists must do this effectively.
- Journalism is more than just informing; there is a responsibility to rally people to a cause.
- Facts matter, but emotion and empathy matter more.
- Getting editors interested in development journalism remains a challenge.

Synopsis

Development journalism is essential to tackle global challenges including inequality, exclusion and discrimination around the world. In 1992, the Lorenzo Natali Media Prize was launched to recognise excellence in reporting on development issues, inequalities, human rights and poverty eradication. Created by the European Commission's Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development (DG DEVCO), the prize is named after Lorenzo Natali, a former Commissioner for Development and staunch defender of freedom of expression, democracy and human rights.

This year, a record 1,200 applications were received for the three categories: 1) The Grand Prize, open to journalists from around the world. 2) The Europe Prize, open to European Union journalists. 3) The Best Emerging Journalist Prize, for journalists under age 30. Each winner receives EUR10,000. The best emerging journalist is also offered work experience with a media

partner. Salvadoran writer Glenda Girón Castro, editor of Sunday magazine *Séptimo Sentido*, received the Grand Prize for highlighting HIV's impact on work opportunities in El Salvador. But Girón also gives a message of hope over the stigma HIV brings. His story tells how one HIV-affected Salvadoran went from street work to running a street food business. A French journalist, Zoé Tabary, of Thomson Reuters, won the Europe Prize for her article on how Mauritania's pastoralist women have taken the lead on the climate crisis. The French Best Emerging Journalist Sébastien Roux's story detailed how in Benin, West Africa, the water hyacinth is responsible for spreading diseases such as malaria. But it can also be used in biogas production or as a compost – transforming an invasive water species from a threat into "green gold". The message from all three winners is clear.

Development journalism must be accurate, informative and socially responsible. But it must also be packaged correctly. Emotions are more overwhelming than facts and emotion-filled writing will help people commit to a cause. EU Commissioner Neven Mimica said that in a world of 24-hour news cycles, misinformation has overtaken information and sensationalist and often-irrelevant news stories dominate headlines. Reporting must be on issues that matter. For example, inequality levels in Latin America and Sub-Saharan Africa remain on average higher than they were 30 years ago.

Entries to this year's prize also open people's eyes to "unseen truths" and give a voice to those forgotten about and – key to the language of the Sustainable Development Goals – "left behind", Mimica added. Despite the benefits of working in a field that can really make a difference and say goodbye to fake news, it remains difficult to attract development journalists to the profession. It is also a challenge to get editors to take development stories. Getting a diverse, not-just-white, mix of writers is even harder.

Insight

Nearly half the world does not have access to free information. Journalists must be free to alert the public, to enable them to combat atrocities and defend women's rights or the environment.

Closing Ceremony

Addressing inequalities: Key insights from Young Leaders to leave no one behind

Organised by the European Commission's Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development

Speakers

- Neven Mimica – EU Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development – European Commission
- Margaret Orech – Director – Uganda Landmine Survivors Association
- Samuel Yirga Mitiku – Musician
- Arancha Gonzalez – Executive Director – ITC
- Rejoice Namale – Young Leader - Malawi
- Mwala Mooto – Young Leader – Zambia
- NAS – Global Influencer – Israel / Palestine
- Leticia Pinheiro Rizeio Carmo – Young Leader – Brazil
- Magic System
- Alicia Barcena – Executive Secretary – Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

Moderator: Stefano Manservigi – Director-General - European Commission, Director-General for International Cooperation and Development

Key Points

- European Development Days have grown in popularity.
- Young people are key to reducing inequalities and should be included in decision-making processes.
- EU cooperation with other actors such as the World Bank must be protected.
- Creating decent jobs can alleviate inequalities.
- Public-private partnerships work well and should continue across the African Union.

Synopsis

A number of metrics from European Development Days (EDD) 2019 were presented in this closing session. There were 8,700 more registrations than last year, 180 journalists attended and 50 media partnerships were established, creating even more awareness of the issues at hand. In addition, the high level of debate and enthusiasm indicated that this year's theme of inequality was of great interest to participants. It was pointed out that 42 % of the world's population is under 25 years of age, while 64 % of young people in Latin America are living in poverty. It is clear that creating decent jobs for this younger group is the key to combating inequality and poverty. Global inequality was expertly illustrated through a number of shocking photos, which show what is happening in India, Brazil and South Africa. These images are important as they can speak louder than words and spur action from the top.

A growing number of young people and the most vulnerable want to, and should, be included in the decision-making process. They are in a unique position of finding the path to equality. Young people are already part of the process. Today's youth, for example, are demanding unprecedented action on climate change, reminding politicians that there is an emergency and they want action and accountability now. It was pointed out that young people will have to

change jobs throughout their lives – much more so than previous generations. As a result, learning new skills will be crucial. Another area highlighted was partnerships, not only with government but also with the private sector, which are vital for infrastructure projects in poorer regions.

The session featured a music interlude from a project that took place last year in Addis Ababa, the Ethiopian capital. Called MAISHA, which means “life” in Swahili, the project brought together 12 musicians from the African Union and the EU to co-create music, helping to reduce inequalities through the art of music. The strength of the EU’s partnership with the World Bank, UN agencies, the International Monetary Fund and other financial institutions was emphasised and must be cherished, it was maintained. Finally, there was a snapshot of EDD since its inception in 2006. A lot has been achieved and the future is in great hands.

Insight

Cities are currently a big part of the climate change problem. Designing smart and inclusive cities could reverse this trend.

The EDD Global Village

For the fifth time since 2015, the European Development Days organised a Global Village, a dynamic and sociable area which served as a hub for sharing knowledge, fostering sustainable partnerships and showcasing innovation and best practice in development. The Village was composed of 101 stands, allowing 381 non-governmental organisations, research centres and governmental institutions to showcase joint projects and reports.

This year for the second time, each stand holder was invited to provide visual material to have an EDD Digital Pitch created. These short videos created an additional channel of communication, knowledge sharing and networking to the stand itself.

For the second time as well, QR codes were also printed on the backdrops for exhibitors to link them with paperless communication material and quizzes/surveys.

Annexes

Annex I

List of speakers

last_name	first_name	function
	HM Mathilde	Queen of the Belgians
Aarts	Anouk	Senior Policy Advisor, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, The Netherlands
Abagaro	Galgallo	Moderator, Royal United Services Institute
Abbad	Lamine	ICMPD
Abdelkrim	Samir	Emerging Valley
Abderrahim	Souad	Mayor of Tunis
Abdou	Ousman	Ministry of Agriculture, Niger
Abdulalishoev	Kishwar	Chief Executive Officer, Aga Khan Foundation in Tajikistan
Abdulkader	Sakar	Blogger, British Council
Abidi	Rachid	Directeur, Laboratoire de l'Economie Sociale et Solidaire
Abou Zeid	Mohammad	Faith Scholar/ judge, Islamic Relief
Abou-Zeid	Amani	Commissioner for Infrastructure & Energy - African Union
Abrahams	Jessica	Devex
Abu Faris	Zuhair Abdel Qader Hussein	Vice Chairman, Independent Election Commission of Jordan
Adair-Rohani	Heather	Team Leader on Energy and Health - WHO
Adamo	Chiara	Head of unit – European Commission - Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development
Adebiyi	Olawale	CEO, Wecyclers
Ahmed	Kalkidan Yimer	Christian Aid
Ait Ben Lmadani	Ghita	Mayor, Commune Ait Zdeg
Ajaja	Sandra	Young Leader - Nigeria

Alaaraj	Sohaib	Social Media Consultant - Caritas Belgium
Albrem	Abdulkarim	Youth Ambassador, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
Albrito	Paola	Chief Regional Office for Europe, United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction
Algayerova	Olga	Under-Secretary-General & Executive Secretary, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
Allen	Catherine	Social Specialist - Value Chain Analysis for Development, Agrinatura
Allieu	Andrew	Social Protection and Labour Migration Expert, International Labour Organization
Allio	Chloé	Head of Sector for Investment Climate, Trade and Sustainable Value Chains, Private Sector and Trade unit, European Commission – Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development
Alner	Heather	Resource Development Director, Habitat for Humanity International
Alrihawi	Shaza	Refugee activist, The Network for Refugee Voices
Alsharif	Rahaf	Globally Connected, Syria
Alsharif	Hager	Together We Build It
Alvergne	Christel	UNCDF
Amor	Richard	Head of Unit, European Investment Bank (EIB)
Andreasen	Soren Peter	General Manager, European Development Finance Institutions
Andries	Sien	Global Specialist Inclusive Humanitarian Action, Humanity and Inclusion
Angeles	Carlo	Young Leader - Peru
Ansah	Dorcas	Accra Focal Cities Advisor, Women in Informal Employment Globalizing and Organizing
Antoninis	Manos	Director, Global Education Monitoring Report, UNESCO
Apea Mensah	Yvonne	Adviser and Head of Africa, Governance and Peace Directorate, The Commonwealth Secretariat
Appels	Didier	Business Director, Close the Gap
Arnold	Tom	Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Ireland

Asiimwe	Allen Sophia	Chief Technical Officer, TradeMark East Africa
Assemat	Ariane	Advocacy, Centro de Derechos Humanos de la Montaña Tlachinollan
Astor	Evelyn	Policy Advisor, International Trade Union Confederation
Atienza	Laura	Policy Officer, European Commission, Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development
Atimpe	Aaron	Young Leader - Ghana
Austin	Nick	Director, Agricultural Development - Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation
Averseng	Juliette	Associate, KOIS
Bacigalupi	Claudio	Head of Water and Sanitation sector, European Commission, Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development
Badia	Teresa	Secretary General, Culture Action Europe
Bähr	Angela	Programme Director, Deutsche Stiftung Weltbevölkerung
Baidya	Pratibedan	Business Development Manager, WaterAid Nepal
Bake	Tawanda	Nottingham Trent University
Balatbat	Lourence	Young Leader - Philippines
Banerji	Arup	Regional Director, World Bank Group
Banze	Henrique	Assistant Secretary General, African Caribbean and Pacific Secretariat
Bárcena	Alicia	Executive Secretary, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
Barrete	Reuben James	Editor of the EDD Young Leaders for Development blog
Bartz-Zuccala	Wiebke	Policy Analyst OECD
Barwise	Katharine	International Organization for Migration
Bawumia	Samira	Founder & CEO - Samira Empowerment & Humanitarian Projects, Second Lady of Ghana
Bayani	Rachel	Representative, Baha'i International Community, Brussels Office

Bazin	Benoist	Cooperation Advisor - European Commission – Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development
Benes	Avis	Head of Unit, EUROSTAT
Benson	Amanda	Projects and Research Officer, Co-operative College UK
Berbers	Veerle	Board Member, AlphaMundi Bastion Fund
Berger	David	Program Coordinator, International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs
Berhanu	Bitania Lulu	Amref Health Africa
Berkley	Seth	CEO of GAVI, the Vaccine Alliance
Bernal Rios	German	Policy Officer - Cooperation with Southern Mediterranean countries, European Commission - DG for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture
Berraondo	Mikel	Director Social Innovation Department, Zabala
Biedler	Murray	Programme Coordination, UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization)
Bilal	Sanoussi	Head of Trade, Investment and Finance, European Centre for Development Policy Management
Bilde	Merete	Policy Advisor - European External Action Service
Bitilo	Louison	Young Leader - Democratic Republic of Congo
Bizzotto Molina	Paulina	Policy Officer, European Centre for Development Policy Management
Blair	Tony	Former Prime Minister of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Executive Chairman - Tony Blair Institute of Global Change
Blanco Aguado	Maria De La Concepcion	Head of Sustainable Finance Solutions, BBVA Microfinance Foundation
Boahene	Kwasi	Director Advocacy, PharmAccess Group
Bochatay	Christophe	ESG & Impact Manager, Triple Jump
Boto	Isolina	Manager of Brussels Office, Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation
Bouzon	Julien	Team Leader - Governance and Economics, EU Delegation to Mali
Brion	Adeline	Belgium Programme Coordinator, Lie Detectors

Brown	Edward Kofi Anan	Senior Director Research and Policy Engagements – African Centre for Economic Transformation
Burley	Jamira	Head of Youth Engagement and Skills, Global Business Coalition for Education
Burton	Charline	Executive Director, Europe, Search for Common Ground
Busquets Gonzalez	Aleix	Global Head of External Stakeholder Engagement-Sustainability, C&A
Bussemaker	Ineke	Board Member, Women's World Banking
Butkeviciene	Jolita	Director for Latin America and Caribbean, European Commission, Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development
Byanyima	Winnie	Executive Director - Oxfam International
Cajegas	Lori	Programme Manager, CARE Nederland
Calvo Sastre	Aina	Director, Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation
Campo Llopis	Pedro	Deputy Head of Cooperation, EU Delegation to Myanmar
Cantillon	Bea	Professor, University of Antwerp - Centre for Social Policy Herman Decleek
Capilla Casco	Ana	Coordinator of Higher Education, VET and Science, Organización De Estados Iberoamericanos Para La Educación, La Ciencia Y La Cultura
Cappelletti	Alda	Director of Programmes, INTERSOS
Carco	Monica	O-i-C, Agri-Business Development, Rural Entrepreneurship, Job Creation and Human Security Division, United Nations Industrial Development Organization
Cardey	Sarah	Associate Professor, School of Agriculture, Policy and Development, University of Reading
Carling	Joan	The Indigenous Peoples Major Group for Sustainable Development
Carlos Fonseca	Jorge	President of Cabo Verde
Carmenati	Leonardo	Italian Agency for Development Cooperation
Carnino	Simona	Freelance
Carro Castrillo	Angel	Founder and Director, The Open Earth Foundation
Carvalho	Milagres	Global Advocacy and Campaign Director, WaterAid

Cedeño	Margarita	Vice President, Dominican Republic
Chancel	Lucas	Codirector of the World Inequality Lab, Paris School of Economics
Chapman	Oliver	Senior Social Development Specialist, Asian Development Bank
Cheffi	Ahlem	Psychosocial technical advisor, The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
Chengerei	Mihret Nigussie	Federation of Ethiopia National Association of Person with Disability
Cheta	Inota	Young Leader - Zambia
Chibwana	Moses	Director DAPP Mikolongwe Vocational School, Humana People to People
Chiodi	Francesco M.	Coordinator - EU's Programme Eurosocial+
Chirita	Oleg	Head of Programme Global Initiatives, International Centre for Migration Policy Development
Churchill	Craig	Chief of the Social Finance Programme, International Labour Organization
Ciarlo	Emilio	Italian Agency for Development Cooperation
Ciccarelli	Paolo	Head of Unit, European Commission – Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development
Cipriani	Simone	Chief Technical Adviser, Ethical Fashion Initiative, International Trade Centre
Cires Alonso	Adolfo	Finance and Investments Programme Manager, European Commission, Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development
Clements	Kelly Tallmann	Deputy High Commissioner, UNHCR
Cluydts	Maïté	Coordinator, HackYourFuture Belgium
Coleiro Preca	Marie-Louise	Former President of Malta and UNIDO Good will Ambassador and Patron of Global Africa, Office of the President Emeritus Coleiro Preca
Combes	Isabelle	Deputy Head of Unit - Trust Fund Manager ad interim, European Commission - DG for Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations
Cooper	Dean	Market Development Manager - Energy, SNV Netherlands Development Organisation

Corazza Bildt	Anna Maria	MEP - European Parliament
Coria	Silvina	Global Director Risk & Controls, OLX Naspers Classifieds
Corlazzoli	Ignacio	Representative for Europe and Israel, Inter-American Development Bank
Corrie-Kordas	Dawn Natallie	Expert, Humanitarian Matters and Civil Society, African Caribbean and Pacific Secretariat
Cox	Tanya	Director, CONCORD Europe
Coyette	Etienne	European Commission, DG DEVCO
Crawley	Heaven	Research Professor, Coventry University
Cuervo	Juan	Executive Secretary, Revolusolar
Currie	Paul	Chief Investment Officer, Development Bank of Southern Africa
Cury	Philippe	IRD representative Brussels, Institut de Recherche pour le Développement (IRD)
da Silva	Inès Theodora	Communications Officer, International Task Force on Teachers for Education 2030
Dagnet	Yamide	Senior Associate, World Resources Institute
Danielsson	Christian	Director-General - European Commission DG NEAR
Davidson	Sarah	Head of Psychosocial, British Red Cross
Davies	Ben	Global Community Impact Lead EMEA, Johnson & Johnson
De Carvalho Ferreira Vitorino	Antonio Manuel	Director General, International Organization for Migration (IOM)
De Croo	Alexander	Deputy Prime Minister, Belgian Federal Government
De Fraia	Luca	Deputy Secretary General ActionAid Italy, ActionAid International
de Georgio	Andrea	Freelance
de La Maisonneuve	Axel	Deputy Head of Unit, European Commission – DG DEVCO - Civil Society and Foundations
de Launoit	Bernard	Executive President, Queen Elisabeth Music Chapel
de Rato	Leticia	Head of Global Partnership, ProFuturo Foundation
de Ruyter de Wildt	Marieke	Founder, The Fork

Deighton	Ben	Managing Editor, SciDev.Net
Delbrueck	Andrea	Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean, KfW Banking Group
Dembska	Katarzyna	Researcher, The Barilla Center for Food & Nutrition Foundation
Deprez	Nona	Head of Unit - European Commission, Service for Foreign Policy Instrument
Desouki	Nesma	Teacher, Ain Shams University
Develtere	Patrick	Principal Advisor - European Commission
Dhannoon	Muaamar	Artist - Muaamar
Dhatt	Roopa	Executive Director, Women in Global Health
Di Ciommo	Mariella	Policy Officer, European Centre for Development Policy Management
Di Mauro	Francesca	Head of Unit and Acting Director for Central & Southern Africa, Indian Ocean - European Commission, Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development
Dicks	Rudi	Deputy Director-General, Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation
Dierckxsens	Mauricio	Employment Specialist - ILO
Diop	Thierno Seydou	President, Réseau Africain Education à la Santé
Djigma	Abze	Chair – H.R.H. Princess Abze Djigma Foundation
Doens	Koen	Deputy Director-General – European Commission, Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development
Dogniez	Joyce	Vice President, Community Engagement and Development, ISOC and Chair of EQUALS Steering Committee, Internet Society
Duflot	Cécile	Executive Director, Oxfam France
Dupont	Greta	Artspace 'De 11 Lijnen'
Durán	Sylvie	Minister of Culture and Youth, Republic of Costa Rica
Durán	Alberto	Vice President, Spanish Organisation of the Blind (ONCE)
Durant	Isabelle	Deputy Secretary-General, United Nations Conference on Trade

El Abed	Amina	Consultant, Impart Peace
El Hankari	Laila	Business Development Director, Orange
El Jamil	Fatimah	Clinical Assistant Professor, American University of Beirut
Elder	James	Regional Chief of Communication, UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund)
Ellison	Jane	Executive Director - World Health Organization (WHO)
Elong Mbassi	Jean Pierre	Secrétaire Général, United Cities and Local Governments of Africa
Elouafi	Ismahane	Director General, International Center for Biosaline Agriculture
Emenyu	Antony Philip	Kasese Municipal Council
Erice García	Gabriela	Senior Microfinance Officer, European Microfinance Platform
Erogbogbo	Temitayo	Director of Advocacy, Merck Sharp & Dohme
Escanero	Mauricio	Head of Mission of Mexico to the European Union
Espinosa González	Adriana	Policy Officer, European Coalition for Corporate Justice
Exelby	Belinda	Head of International Relations, GSMA
Ezz Al-Arab	Hisham	Chairman and Managing Director, Commercial International Bank, Egypt (CIB)
Falemaka	Merewalesi	Permanent Representative, PIFS (Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat)
Fan	Shenggen	Director General - International Food Policy Research Institute
Faremo	Grete	Under-Secretary General and Executive Director, United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS)
Fatch	Joanna	Project Manager, AU/NEPAD Southern African Network for Water Centres of Excellence
Fattibene	Daniele	Researcher, Istituto Affari Internazionali
Feiring	Birgitte	Department Director, Danish Institute for Human Rights
Fernández-Shaw	Félix	Director for International Cooperation and Development Policy - European Commission, Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development

Ferrero	Gabriel	General Director of Sustainable Development Policies, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, Spain
Fitzpatrick	Aidan	Senior Development Specialist, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Ireland
Flores	Elena	Director for International Economic and Financial Relations, European Commission - Directorate General for Economic and Financial Affairs
Fohgrub	Thomas	Head of the Coordination Unit for the Global Plan of Action for Sustainable Energy Solutions in Situations of Displacement, United Nations Institute for Training and Research
Folda	Francesca	Global Communication Director, Amani Institute
Foresti	Marta	Director - Human Mobility Initiative, Overseas Development Institute
Forsberg	Lars Erik	European Commission, Directorate-General for Communication Networks, Content and Technology
Foulon	Julie	CEO, Girleek
France	Emma	Global Development & Strategic Engagement Director, mothers2mothers
Francoz	Dominique	Head of international technical assistance "division", Institut National de la Statistique et des Études Économiques
Fuentes Nieva	Ricardo	Executive Director, Oxfam Mexico
Gabarron	Cris	Founder, Gabarron Foundation
Gabriel	Mariya	EU Commissioner for Digital Economy and Society, European Commission
Gagnon	Amelie A	Senior Programme Specialist - Development, UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization)
Gagnon	Jason	Development economist, OECD Development Centre
Gakuba	Jeanne d'Arc	Vice President, Senate of Rwanda
Gama	Victor	Artistic director, PangeiArt
Garcia Campos	Pablo	Nottingham Trent University
Garlando	Efrem	European Commission, Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development

Gedeon	Jillian	Co-founder, International Youth Alliance for Family Planning
Geiger	Henriette	Director for People and Peace, European Commission, Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development
Gelade	Tom	Microinsurance program coordinator, Belgian Raiffeisen Foundation
Gerdovci Cancel	Yllka	Policy and Programme Specialist on Women's Economic Empowerment, UN Women Regional Office for Arab States
Ghebreyesus	Tedros Adhanom	Director General - World Health Organization (WHO)
Ghozzi	Houda	Professor, Founder Open Startup Tunisia
Gichaga	Angela	CEO, Financing Alliance for Health
Gihir	Klaus	Head of Division, KfW
Gillissen-Duval	Claire	Director Corporate Social Responsibility EMEA, SAP SE
Gilmore	Eamon	European Union Special Representative for Human Rights
Giovinazzo	Mercedes	Interarts Foundation
Giwa-Tubosun	Temie	LifeBank
Gnassounou	Viwanou	Assistant Secretary-General, African Caribbean and Pacific Secretariat
Goeske	Joachim	Head of Department, Global Policy, GIZ
Golberg	Elissa	Assistant Deputy Minister, Global Affairs Canada
Gomes	Patrick	Secretary General, ACP Group
Gonzalez	Arancha	Executive Director, International Trade Center
Gonzalez Mata	Maria	Team Leader, European Commission - DG for International Cooperation and Development
Gonze	Nicolas	Team Leader Central Africa - European Commission, Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations
Gouba-Guibal	Annick	Manager, AGC
Greyling	Christo	Senior Director Faith and External Engagement, World Vision
Griffin	Alexander	Wetlands International

Grigore	Maria Magdalena	Secretary of State, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Romania
Grizelj	Irena	Search for Common Ground
Grosso	Davide	Project Manager, IMC (International Music Council)
Gryseels	Guido	Director General, Royal Museum for Central Africa
Grzywnowicz	Micah	Co-Chair of the Executive Board, ILGA-Europe (European LGBTI Association)
Gudushauri	Nona	Mermisi Community College
Güemes Pedraza	Javier Marcelino	International Relations Director, ONCE
Guislain	Pierre	Vice-President, Private Sector, Infrastructure and Industrialization, African Development Bank
Gulaziani	Darejan	Mermisi Community College
Habeau	Jean François	Executive Director, Global Fund for Cities Development
Habte-Selassie	Dagmawi	Programme Officer, International Fund for Agricultural Development
Hagedorn	Clara	Student, Nottingham Trent University
Hager	Lara	Partnerships Development Manager, Voluntary Services Overseas
Hailu	Michael	Director, Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation
Haj Hasan	Samar Khaled Subhi	Commissioner, Independent Electoral Commission of Jordan
Hakimi	Hameed	Research Associate, The Royal Institute of International Affairs Chatham House
Hall	Belinda	Managing Director, Addax and Oryx Foundation
Hamilton	Joyce	COC Nederland
Hardy	Katherine	Nottingham Trent University
Hauf	Johanna	Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, Germany (BMZ)
Haynie	Robert	CEO / Team Lead, SPRING Accelerator
Healy-Thow	Sophie	Irish Aid
Heilbronn	Pierre	Vice-President for Policy and Partnerships, EBRD
Helm	Francesca	Researcher, UNICollaboration

Hema	Tatjana	Deputy Coordinator Mediterranean Action Plan-Barcelona Convention Secretariat, United Nations Environment Programme
Hemingway	John-Paul	CEO, SES Networks
Henar	Jara	Expert on migration and mobility, Alianza por la Solidaridad
Heng	Zhi Yong	Principal / Head of Trade Finance & Special Situations Group, TLG Capital
Herrberg	Antje	Senior Mediation Advisor - European External Action Service
Heynes	Xanthea	Nottingham Trent University
Hidalgo Sanchis	Paula	Manager Pulse Lab Kampala, United Nations
Hohmann	Peter Rene	Head of Global Programmes, Cities Alliance - UNOPS
Holst	Haldis	Deputy General Secretary, Education International
Hornisch	Jenny	Programme Manager Qudra Iraq, GIZ (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit)
Houmøller	Ole	European Commission, Directorate General Joint Research Center
Houndjo	Inès Tatiana	Young Leader - Benin
Houngbo	Gilbert	President - IFAD
Hujo	Katja	Senior Research Coordinator, United Nations Research Institute for Social Development
Hutchinson	Georgina	Senior Advisor, Tony Blair Institute for Global Change
Hwang	Jane	President & CEO, Social Accountability International
Hwang	Byoung Hwa	Technical Advisor - Digital Financial Services, GIZ (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit)
Hyslop	Daniel	Director of Policy and Learning, Interpeace
Ical	Ana Rutilia	Woman Human Rights Defender, Alianza por la Solidaridad
Inama	Stefano	Chief, Technical Cooperation and Enhanced Integrated Framework, Africa and Least Developed Countries Division, UNCTAD (United Nations Conference on Trade and Development)

Iodice	Raffaella	Head of Unit, European Commission - DG for International Cooperation and Development
Irakoze	Judicaelle	Young Leader - Burundi
IRERE	Claudette	Permanent Secretary - Ministry of ICT, Republic of Rwanda
Iskenderian	Mary Ellen	President and CEO, Women's World Banking
Islam	Shada	Director of Policy, Friends of Europe
Isolo Mukwaya	Paul	Senior Lecturer, Makerere University
Jabin	Nuzhat	Manager – Democratic Governance, ActionAid Bangladesh
Jacob	Francoise	Representative to the EU institutions, United Nations Office for Project Services
Jager	Marjeta	Deputy Director-General - European Commission, Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development
Jahier	Luca	President, European Economic and Social Committee
Jahn	Dr Hans-Harald	Head of Division, European Investment Bank
Jämtin	Carin	Director - General, Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
Jekinnou	Christian	Innovation Africa
Jellema	Jon	Economist and Deputy Director, Commitment to Equity Institute, Global Development Network
Jezequel	Jean-Herve	Project Director, International Crisis Group
Jiménez-Ontiveros	Fernando	General Manager of FONPRODE, Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation
Jjuuko	Adrian	Executive Director, Human Rights Awareness and Promotion Forum, Uganda
jolivel	Audrey	International Centre for Migration Policy Development
Jolo	Mohamad	Self Advocate
Joly	Christian	Political Advisor - European External Action Service
Josefson	Marilyn	Ambassador - EU Delegation to Tajikistan
Juan	Pacita	Founder, ECHOStore
Juncker	Jean-Claude	President of the European Commission

Juskenaitė	Irma	UNFCCC Climate Technology Centre & Network
Kaaria	Susan	Senior Gender officer, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
Kaberuka	Donald	Chair - The Global Fund Board
Kaiser-Tedesco	Andrew	Director for Africa and Impact Investment, Inclusive Business Action Network
Kalibata	Agnes	President - AGRA (Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa)
Kamaitha	Caroline	Vice President Africa, SES Networks
Kamau	Mark	Director of User Experience, BRCK LIMITED
Kaminara	Androulla	Director for Sub-Saharan Africa, Asia, Latin America and Pacific, European Commission, Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations
Kanaan	Murtadha	Artist - Genesis, Independent
Kanangire	Canisius	Executive Secretary, African Ministers' Council on Water
Kanem	Natalia	Executive Director, United Nations Population Fund
Kang'ombe	Christopher Chishimba	President, Local Government Association of Zambia
Karakaci	Valbona	Programme Manager, HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation
Karhunen	Antti	Head of Unit - European Commission, Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development
Kasingye	Asan	Assistant Inspector General of Police, Government of Uganda
Keita	Karounga	Regional Director for Sahel, Wetlands International
Kenny	Erin	Head of Technical Unit & Senior Technical Spotlight Initiative Advisor
Khalil	Samar	Programme coordinator, AVSI Foundation
Kiambi	Liz	Participant, African Wildlife Foundation
Kidd	Stephen	Senior Social Policy Specialist, Development Pathways
Kimani	Natasha	Academy Associate - Mo Ibrahim Foundation

Kleitz	Gilles	Director for Natural Resources, Agriculture, Water, Forests and Oceans, Agence Française de Développement
Knaepen	Hanne	Policy Officer, European Centre for Development Policy Management
Koch	Julie	Executive Director, International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs
Komba	Andrew Marcelin	Director of Sector Coordination, President's Office Regional Administration and Local Government Offices (PO-RALG), Tanzania
Komusana	Fionah	Lawyer and TuWezeshe Akina Dada Fellow, FORWARD (Foundation for Women's Health, Research and Development)
Konate	Nene	Executive Director, Malian Institute of Action Research for Peace, Malian Institute of Action Research for Peace
Krassnitzer	Johannes	International Coordinator ART Initiative, United Nations Development Programme
Kruijssen	Froukje	Senior Advisor Sustainable Economic Development and Gender, Royal Tropical Institute
Kulis	Ivan Davor	Head of Unit, European Commission, Joint Research Centre
Kumar	Raj	President & Editor-in-Chief, Devex
Kuppens	Line	Education Advisor, VVOB
Kweri	Gerald	Programme Manager/Trainer, The Hague Academy for Local Governance
Labedo	Silas	Senior Data Engineer, Pulse Lab Kampala
Laborde	David	Senior Research Fellow, IFPRI
Ladhari	Zied	Minister of Development, Investment and International Cooperation, Republic of Tunisia
Lafleur	Jean-Michel	Research professor, Université de Liège
Laganda	Gernot	Chief of Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction Unit, United Nations World Food Programme
Lahn	Glada	Senior Research Fellow, The Royal Institute of International Affairs Chatham House
Lair	Florian	Advisor, Alliance for Integrity
Lalampaa	Tom	Chief Executive Officer, Northern Rangelands Trust

Lally	Olivia	Senior Policy and Advocacy Officer, European Network on Debt and Development
Langenkamp	Angela	Gender Commissioner, GIZ (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit)
Larsen	Karina	Knowledge & Communications Manager/Gender Coordinator, UNFCCC Climate Technology Centre & Network
Lazaroli	Luca	Director General, European Investment Bank (EIB)
Le Guével	Audrey	Programmes and Operations Officer, International Labour Organization
Leclerc	Bruno	Director, Latin America Department - AFD
Lee	Ellen	Associate Livelihoods and Economic Inclusion officer - UNHCR
Leffler	Christian	Deputy Secretary-General for Economic and Global Issues, European External Action Service
Lehtinen	Hanna	Ambassador, Permanent Representation of Finland
Lemiere	Christophe	Human Development - Program Leader - Sahel, World Bank Group
Lenormand	Aminata Sow	SECONAF Regional Advisor, Reproductive Health Supplies Coalition
Lepore	Eduardo	Director, Ministry of Social Development, Secretariat for Social Security, Ministry of Social Development, Secretariat for Social Security
Leurquin	Christine	Vice President, Institutional Relations - Societe Europeenne des Satellites
Levy	Santiago	Panelist, Brookings Institution
Lewis	Rosanna	Senior Programme Manager, Culture and Development, British Council
Licciardello	Carla	Policy Analyst, International Telecommunication Union, United Nations
Lindsey	Julianna	Representative, UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund)
Lira	Juan Pablo	Chilean Agency for International Cooperation for Development
Loonela	Vivian	Member of Vice-President Ansip's Cabinet, European Commission

López-Calva	Luis Felipe	UN Assistant Secretary General and Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean - UNDP
Lozac'hmeur	Alizée	Co-founder, MakeSense
Lu	Jason Zhengrong	Head of Global Infrastructure Facility (GIF), World Bank
Machado	Clara Luisa	Writer, Freelance
Maci	Giulia	Programme coordinator, European Centre for Development Policy Management
MacLeman	Hugh	Policy Advisor Crises and Fragility, OECD
Macleod	Catherine	Chief Director: Macroeconomic Analysis, Republic of South Africa, Department: National Treasury
Madden	Christina	Director for Engagement, Criterion Institute
Magassa	Hatoumata	Executive Manager, AFD For Inclusive & Digital Business in Africa
Maia	Katia	Executive Director, Oxfam
Mallam Barmou	Saadatou	Special Adviser on Humanitarian Affairs and Deputy Head of Cabinet of the Office of the Prime Minister, Government of Niger
Maman	Carole	CIO, BIO (Belgian Investment Company for Developing Countries)
Manservisi	Stefano	Director-General - European Commission, Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development
Manson	Hernan	Head Inclusive Agribusiness, International Trade Centre
Manuel	Marcus	Overseas Development Institute
Marcolin	Valeria	Co-director of Culture et Développement - Culture et Développement
Marin Sanchez	Marta	Delegate to the EU, Basque Government
Maro	Pendo	Team Leader Intra-ACP GCCA+ Programme, African Caribbean and Pacific Secretariat
Marques	Carmen	Policy coordinator, Environment and Water Diplomacy - European External Action Service
Marta	Stefano	Coordinator, Territorial Approach to SDGs, Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development

Marzouk	Abdelkrim	Dean, Al Akhawayn University
Mashinini	Glenton	Chairperson, Electoral Commission of South Africa
Masri	Fatme	Director Programmes and Partnerships, British Council
Mathis	Agnes	Director, Cooperatives Europe
Matutina	Stella	Human Rights Coordinator, ProtectDefenders
Maysonnave	Sophie	Head of Unit for Financing for development, Innovation and Partnerships, French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs
Mbabazi	Esther Ruth	Freelance Photographer
Mbow	Maguette	CEO, L'Afrique C'est Chic World
Mbuende	Kaire	Ambassador, Embassy of the Republic of Namibia
Mc Mahon	Meabh	Euronews
McKenna	Brian	Deputy Director, Reproductive Health Supplies Coalition
Melia	Elvis	Associate Researcher, Deutsches Institut für Entwicklungspolitik / German Development Institute
Mendoza	Adriana	Women Youth Leader, Red Nacional de Líderes y Lideresas Juveniles Tu Decides
Messori	Milena	Head of Division, European Investment Bank
Mets	Karen	Senior Advocacy Adviser, Save the Children
Mettling	Bruno	Chairman Orange Middle East and Africa, Orange
Meyer	Nele	Amnesty International
Mezmur	Benyam Dawit	Member of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
Mhlongo	Sephutile	Young Leader - Eswatini
Mias	Céline	EU Representative and Director, CARE International
Miliband	David	President and CEO, International Rescue Committee
Mimica	Neven	EU Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development - European Commission
Mingat	Alain	Independent Scholar
Minoungou	Etienne	Actor

Mitrovic Milic	Anita	Director, Hotel Education Centre
Mitschein	Marita	SAP SE
Mizzi	Leonard	Head of Unit - European Commission, Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development
Moatti	Jean-Paul	Chairman & Executive Director, French National Research Institute for Sustainable Development (IRD)
Modeer	Ulrika	Assistant Secretary General, UNDP
Mold	Andrew	Acting Director, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
Montoya	Silvia	Director, UNESCO Institute for Statistics
Moorehead	Susanna	DAC CHAIR, OECD
Mooto	Mwala	Young Leader - Zambia
Moreno	Almudena	Responsible on local development, Alianza por la Solidaridad
Moscovici	Pierre	EU Commissioner for Economic and Financial Affairs, Taxation and Customs, European Commission
Moser	Patricia	Director Procurement Group, United Nations Office for Project Services
Moyart	Emmanuel	Associate Consultant, DAI Brussels
Mpfunya	Farai	Executive Director, Culture Fund of Zimbabwe Trust
Mufute	Olivia	African Wildlife Foundation
Muhwezi	Bernard Justus	Manager, Geo-Information Services, Uganda Bureau of Statistics
Mukhebi	Vitalis	International Advocacy Officer, Faith to Action Network
Muliisa	Simon	European Union Delegation to Uganda
Mulvaney	Ashling	AstraZeneca
Munzi	Teresa	Director of Operations, LIS Cross-National Data Center in Luxembourg
Murphy	Andrew	Senior Expert, European Commission - DG for Environment
Muruli	Angela	Programmes Officer, FORWARD (Foundation for Women's Health, Research and Development)

Muthamia-Mwenda	Jean	Global Youth Coordinator, SNV Netherlands Development Organisation
Mutyaba	Gloria	Freedom and Roam, Uganda
Muurholm Dahl	Tore	Representative - Grobund Eco-Village Denmark
Nalubulwa	Sumayiya	Research Assistant, ACTogether Uganda
Namale	Rejoice	Young Leader - Malawi
Namgyal	Jigme Thinley	Director General, Ministry of Home and Cultural Affairs - Department of Disaster Management, Bhutan
Nenova	Teodora	Director, Steward Redqueen
Neverauskaite	Goda	Advisor, International Trade Union Confederation
Nhan-O'Reilly	Joseph	Head of Education Policy & Advocacy
Nielsen	Tinna	Speaker, MoveTHEelephant
Nieto Parra	Sebastian	Head of the Latin America and the Caribbean Unit, OECD Development Centre
Nolting	Marc	Deputy Head of Division (Rural Development, Agriculture), GIZ (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit)
Nyandoro	Tapiwa	Impact Hub Global
O'Brien	Cian	Associate Economic Inclusion Officer (JPO), United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
Odeimi	Béchir	Président, Cités Unies Liban
Odhiambo	Lucas	Youth Advocate, UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund)
Odumbe	Sixtus	Project Lead Advisor - Renewable Energy (Refugees), SNV Netherlands Development Organisation
Oke	Femi	Moderator, Moderate The Panel
Okeke	Kingsley	Journalist - African Leadership Magazine
Okoosi Taiye Simbine	Anthonia	Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture - Nigeria
Olney	Ned	Country Director Nepal and Bhutan, Save the Children
Olwenyi	Joseph Okecho	Coordinator-Financing for Development, Oxfam Uganda
Onumah	Gideon	Presenter, Agrinatura

Onyango	Thomas	Country Director, Living Goods
Orech	Margaret	Director, Uganda Landmine Survivors Association
Ortega Carpio	M ^a Luz	Agencia Andaluza de Cooperación Internacional para el Desarrollo
Ospina de Nicholls	Angela	Director General, Presidential Agency for International Cooperation
Otieno	Stephen	City Advisor, Nairobi (Food Systems), C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group
Ouango	Aubert	Program Manager, Edukans
Ouedraogo	Seydou	FREE Afrik Institute
Ouirhrane	Yasmine	Young Leader - Italy
Owen	Philip	Head of Unit - European Commission - DG for Climate Action
Owona Kono	Joseph Hyacinthe	President, Afruibana
Oyoun	Feras	Master student, Université Paris-Sud
Pallas	Sabine	Partnerships Officer, International Land Coalition
Pame	Ousmane Aly	University teacher and Community leader
Pampaloni	Paola	Director, Deputy Managing Director - European External Action Service
Panczyk-Piquera	Dorota	Economist/ Head of Sector of Gulf of Guinea, West Africa, European Commission – Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development
Pariat	Monique	Director General - European Commission, Directorate-General for Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations
Párraga	Leonardo	Executive Director, The BogotArt Foundation
Parrock	Jack	Journalist/Moderator, Euronews
Pattyn	Nina	Rikolto
Peel	Michael	European diplomatic correspondent, Financial Times Group
Pellet	Jérémie	Director General - Expertise France
Pelzer	Christoph	EU Trust Fund programme manager in Delegation to Guinea, European Commission - Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development
Peprah	Akosua	Young Leader - Ghana

Perry	Victoria	Deputy Director, Fiscal Affairs Department, International Monetary Fund
Pesce-Monteiro	Barbara	Director, Brussels Office, United Nations
Peterlini	Edoardo	SOFTline
Petitpas	Elise	Innovation and Advocacy Expert, Equilibres et Populations
Petroni	Marielle Sandrine	Programme Manager, European Commission - Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations
Pezzini	Mario	Director, OECD Development Centre
Philips	Marie	Health Policy Advisor, Médecins Sans Frontières
Piatti	Alberto	Executive Vice President, Head of Sustainability, Eni S.p.A.
Pick	Alexander	Economist, OECD Development Centre
Pinheiro Rizério Carmo	Leticia	Young Leader - Brazil
Pisani	Maria Teresa	Acting Head Sustainable Trade and Outreach Unit, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
Pittelkow	Michael	Executive Development Policy Partner - SAP SE
Poppe	Rita	Policy Advisor, Hivos People Unlimited
Qiang	Christine Zhenwei	Practice Manager, World Bank
Quizanga	Galo	Coordinator of Economic Inclusion for Latin America and the Caribbean, HIAS
Ragher	Luisa	Head of Division Global.1 Human Rights - European External Action Service
Rainisio	Valeria	European Project expert, FILSE - Financia Agency of Liguria Region
Ramont	Christophe	North-South civil servant, City of Ghent
Rangi	Dennis	Director General Development, CABI
Reines-Djivanides	Sonya	Executive Director, European Peacebuilding Liaison Office
Rey	Bernard	Head of cooperation, European Commission, Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development
Riamit	Stanley Kimaren	Indigenous Livelihoods Enhancement Partners

Richards	Megan	Director for Energy Policy - European Commission, Directorate-General for Energy
Rideau	Alexandre	Director, Keewu Production
Rinaldi	Francesca Romana	Bocconi University
Robeet	Christophe	Freelance Moderator
Robert	Celine	Project Manager, AFD
Robilliard	Anne-Sophie	Research Fellow, Institut de Recherche pour le Développement (IRD)
Rocca	Camilla	Head of Research, Mo Ibrahim Foundation
Röder	Friederike	EU and France Director, The ONE Campaign
Roebbel	Nathalie	Coordinator, Air Pollution and Urban Health, World Health Organization
Rosenholm	Christian	Senior Operational Officer, International Finance Corporation
Roure	Maud	Head of Programmes, Transitions to Peace and Promoting Youth Leadership, Kofi Annan Foundation
Rozas	Daniel	Senior Microfinance Expert, European Microfinance Platform
Rubel	Sasha	Programme specialist, UNESCO
Rughetti	Roberta	Head of Programmes, Amref Health Africa
Runiga	Pierre Claver	Head of Policy, Legal and International Cooperation Department, African Regional Intellectual Property Organization
Rutabingwa	Diana	Technical Advisor, GIZ (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit)
Ryan	Patricia	Pax Christi International
Saar	Fatima	CEO Associate, Ateliers des Genies Sas
Sacko	Josefa	Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture, African Union Commission
Safi	Sana	Chair, BBC
Saidi	Heidi	General Director, Arab Institute for Training and Research in Statistics
Salden	Nina	Director DAAD Brussels

Salgado Rodriguez	Elena	Observatorio de Responsabilidad Social Corporativa
Salim Nasr	Fatimah	Yummy
Sall	Macky	President of Senegal
Salvador	María	Women's Right's Coordinator, Alianza por la Solidaridad
Sánchez	Sonia	Woman Human Rights Defender, Movimiento de mujeres de Santo Tomás
Sánchez Solano	Laura	General Directorate of Migration and Immigration
Sandwith	Trevor	Director Global Protected Area Programme, International Union for the Conservation of Nature
Santala	Satu	Director General of the Department for Development Policy, Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Finland
Santini	Guido	Chief Technical Advisor, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
Sanz Mingote	José Manuel	Director of International Relations, Agencia EFE
Saraceno	Chiara	Expert, Collegio Carlo Alberto
Sarazin	Laurent	Head of Unit - European Commission, Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development
Saroor	Shreen	Gender Consultant, Brot für die Welt
Sarpong	Mary Asantewaa Anane	Quality Officer, PharmAccess Group
Sarr	Papa	General Delegate for Entrepreneurship - Republic of Senegal
Sarr	Ndeye Rokhaya	Planner, City of Dakar
Satyarthi	Kailash	Nobel Peace Laureate, Kailash Satyarthi Children's Foundation
Schick	Kathrin	Director, VOICE
Schinina	Guglielmo	Head - Mental Health, Psychosocial Response and Intercultural Communication
Schmid	Helga Maria	Secretary General - European External Action Service
Scholtès	Philippe	UNIDO

Schütte	Haje	Senior Counsellor & Head of Financing for Sustainable Development Division, OECD
Sebunya	Kaddu	Chief Executive Officer, African Wildlife Foundation
Sedemund	Jens	Head, Environment and Climate Change, Development Co-operation Directorate, OECD
Selun	Bruno	Founder, Kumquat Consult
Shah	Ashish	Director, Division of County Programmes, International Trade Centre
Shaikh	Ashif	Director, Jan Sahas Social Development Society
Sharei	Shahr-yar	Director, Center for United Nations Constitutional Research
Shaw-Barragan	Maria	Director of Lending in Africa, Caribbean, Pacific, Asia & Latin America - EIB
Shentser	Liat	Director Systems Engineering Sales, Cisco
Shibli	Rabih	Director, American University of Beirut
Signore	Stefano	Head of Unit - European Commission, Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development
Siklossy	Stephanie	Project Manager, Erasmus+ Virtual Exchange, Search for Common Ground
Simeon	Marlene	Director, PLATFORMA
Simet	Lena	The New School
Sinyolo	Dennis	Senior Coordinator, Education International
Sirimanne	Shamika	Director, Division on Technology and Logistics, UNCTAD (United Nations Conference on Trade and Development)
Sitaram	Anya	Founding Director and Executive Producer, Rockhopper TV
Sithole	Samson	Chief Executive Officer, Eswatini Agriculture and Water Develoement Enterprise
Smith	Roy	Senior Lecturer, Nottingham Trent University
Sobiech	Agata	Policy Officer - European Commission - Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development
Soumaye EP A Zene	Maimouna	Transformatrice de fromage, Niamey

Spauwen	Ivo	Senior technical specialist - ILO
Spinnoy	Rozina	Director, Business Improvement Districts Belgium
Springer	Jenny	Director Global Programme Governance and Rights, International Union for the Conservation of Nature
Stausboll	Hans Christian	Acting Director, European Commission - Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development
Stephan	Arz	Regional MENA Child Protection Technical Advisor, Save the Children Denmark
Stephens	John	Executive Director, The BOMA Project
Stintzy	Olivier	Partner, AEQUANS Partners
Stockmans	Pieter	Journalist - MO* Magazine
Stylianides	Christos	EU Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management
Suárez Miseses	Alfredo	Secretary-General, Central American Social Integration Secretariat
Summers	Barbara	Community Planning Lead, Collaborative Media Advocacy Platform
Suszterova	Beata	Head of Statistical Cooperation Unit, Expertise France
Suyoso	Dela Dwita	Program Manager Development, Indonesia Global Compact Network
Szoleczky	Judit	International Network for Sustainable Energy
Tabary	Zoe	Property rights editor, Thomson Foundation
Tack	Filip	Trader, RESUE Trading
Tahboub	Rawan	Junior Facilitation Officer, Sharing Perspectives Foundation
Tajani	Antonio	President of the European Parliament
Tajchman	Grzegorz	IT Solutions Manager, International Trade Centre
Tauli-Corpuz	Victoria	UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous People, United Nations
Telford	Andrew	Nottingham Trent University
Teran	Javier	Statistician, UNOCHA (UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs)

Teye	Joseph	Associate Professor – University of Ghana
Thiam	Seynabou	CEO, Smart Ecosystem for Women
Thiao	Djiga	Researcher, Centre de Recherches Océanographiques de Dakar-Thiaroye
Thøgersen	Marie Høgh	Clinical Psychologist, Reseracher and Head of Danish Trauma and Refugee Database, Danish Institute Against Torture
Thyssen	Marianne	EU Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs, Skills and Labour Mobility
Todradze	Gogita	Executive Director, National Statistical Office of Georgia
Toscano	Cristina	Fondazione Cariplo
Toskanbayev	Arman	CEO, Kazakhstan Association of Young Entrepreneurs
Toure	Mouhamadou	Studio Tamani
Traiano Mundt	Heloisa	O Globo
Traore	Rokia	Artist
Traore	Mantchini	Founder, L'instant thé
Trevisan	Paola	International Aid/Cooperation Officer, European Commission, Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development
Trius Soler	Guillem	Photographer, EuropeAid
Tshering	Lotay	Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Bhutan
Tuma	Dorothy	Facilitator, TradeMark East Africa
Tunge	Tracy	Practical Action
Turner	Rachel	Director of Economic Development, DFID, Government of the United Kingdom
Uchiyama	Gautier	Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs, France
Ugochukwu	Ifeyinwa	The Tony Elumelu Foundation
Urgessa	Kaba	State Minister, Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources
Uwitonze	Marie Chantal	CEO, Boost Employability and Entrepreneurship Skills in Africa
Valero Vivas	María Gladys	Directora General, Instituto para la Economía Social

Valette	Carine	Senior Communication and Publications Officer, Convergences
Van de Looij	Frank	Health Expert, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, The Netherlands
Van de Poel	Jan	Policy and Advocacy Manager, European Network on Debt and Development
Van de Velde	Anne Sofie	Advisor - Cabinet Minister Philippe De Backer
van Eerdewijk	Anouka	Senior Advisor Gender, KIT Royal Tropical Institute
Van Rees	Minke	Program director Education, Turing Foundation
Van Regenmortel	Hilde	Thematic Officer - (Active Citizens for Social Justice) - Oxfam
Van Renssen	Sonja	Freelance
Van Sluijs	Peter	Coordinator CSPPS, Catholic Organisation for Relief and Development Aid
Vandenbulcke	Trees	advisor cooperative entrepreneurship, Cera
Vanderpoorten	Karel	Policy Officer - European Commission, Directorate-General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs
Vanpeperstraete	Ben	Clean Clothes Campaign
Vardakastanis	Ioannis	President, European Disability Forum
Velikov	Veliko	Self-advocate, Lumos
Verbeek	Jos	Manager, Special Representative to the UN & WTO, World Bank
Verdeil	Mathilde	Altai Consulting
Vergos	Zissimos	Head of Sector - European Commission, Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development
Versé	Didier	Head of Unit, European Commission - DG for International Cooperation and Development
Vestil	Val Amiel	Young Leader - Philippines
Vidal-Marin	Marianne	Program Officer, Institut Français
Vidégla	Euloge	Secrétaire Permanent, Ministère de l'Agriculture, de l'Elevage et de la Pêche Bénin
Vignolo	Andrea	Executive Director, Uruguayan Agency for International Cooperation

Vink	Adam	Policy and Advocacy Manager, The ONE Campaign
Vitcheva	Charlina	Deputy Director General - Joint Research Centre - EC
Vlahutin	Romana	Ambassador at large for Connectivity - European External Action Service
Vleminckx	Koen	Director, SOCIEUX+ EU Expertise on Social Protection, Labour and Employment
Vuorinen	Pirita	Specialist in Human Capital Development, European Training Foundation
Wala	Elizabeth	Programme Director, Health Systems Strengthening, Amref Health Africa
Walckenaer	Bertrand	Associate Chief Executive Officer - AFD
Wallner	Werner	Chief Executive Officer, Hilti Foundation
Walton	Paul	Director Strategy and Partnerships, Anna Lindh Foundation
Wardhana	Dharendra	Deputy Director on Social Protection, Ministry of Planning, Indonesia
Watkins	Heather	Lecturer in Global Studies, Nottingham Trent University
Wenn	Bruno	Chairman of the Board, EDFI
White	Robert	Professor, Le Moyne College
Wilkie	Mette Loyche	Director Forestry Division, FAO
Wille	Petter	European Network of National Human Rights Institutions
Wilming	Charlotte EJM	Project Director HealthConnect, PharmAccess Group
Win	Thin Lei	Food Security Correspondent, Thomson Reuters Foundation
Winters	Paul Conal	Associate Vice-President, Strategy and Knowledge Department, International Fund for Agricultural Development
Woldie	Sintayehu Abebe	Programme Manager, Amref Health Africa
Wollaert	Peter	Fellow Managing Director, UNITAR (United Nations Institute for Training & Research) CIFAL Flanders
Woodman	Paula	Head of Social Enterprise, British Council

Woolard	Ingrid	Professor, Stellenbosch University
Wozniak	Joseph	Head, Trade for Sustainable Development (T4SD), International Trade Centre
Yirga Mitiku	Samuel	Musician
Yoder-Maina	Angi	Green String Network
Yvetot	Bernard	Vice President, International Strategy, Orange
Zaimova	Rositsa	Co-founder, Dalberg Data Insights
Zelege	Tsion	Thematic Director for Child Protection and Migration, Save the Children
Zeller	Heinz	Principal Sustainability, HUGO BOSS Ticino SA
Zerga	Abdellatif	Director of Institute, Pan African University Institute of Water and Energy Sciences, including Climate Change
Zerihun	Habtemu Adane	EU Delegation to Ethiopia
Zeufack	Albert G.	Chief Economist, World Bank Group
Zhang	Maoyu	Vice-Chairman, China International Development Cooperation Agency
Zo'Obo Belinga	Severin	General Manager Assistant, Fonds Spécial d'Equiptement et d'Intervention Intercommunale

Annex 2

List of partner organisations

LIST OF PARTNER ORGANISATIONS - EUROPEAN DEVELOPMENT DAYS 2019
11.11.11 the coördination of the Flemish North South movement
ACP Group
ACP Secretariat
ACP Young Professionals Network
ACT Alliance Advocacy to the European Union
Action Communautaire pour le Développement Durable
Action Contre La Faim
ActionAid Bangladesh
ActionAid International
ACTogether
Addax & Oryx Foundation
AECID
Aecom International Development Europe SI
Aequans Partners
Afghans for Progressive Thinking
Afric'innov
Africa E Mediterraneo
Africa Europe Diaspora Development Platform
Africalia
African Caribbean and Pacific Secretariat
African Centre for Economic Transformation
African Development Bank
African Diaspora Network-Europe
African Ministers' Council on Water
African Parks Network
African Regional Intellectual Property Organization
African Union Commission

African Union Permanent Mission to the European Union and the ACP - Brussels Office
African Wildlife Foundation
African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States
Aga Khan Foundation
AGC
Agence d'Aide à la Coopération Technique et au Développement
Agence Française de Développement
Agencia Andaluza de Cooperación Internacional para el Desarrollo
Agenda 2030 feminista
AgriCord
Agrinatura
AIMF (Association Internationale des Maires Francophones)
Ain shams university
Alianza por la Solidaridad
Alliance for a green revolution in Africa
Alliance for Integrity
Altai Consulting
Amal Network
Amani Institute
American University of Beirut
Amnesty International
Amref Health Africa
Angel's Centre for Children with Special Needs
Anna Lindh Foundation
Arab Institute for Training and Research in Statistics
Arab NGO Network for Development
Arterial Network
Arup International Development
Asia Pacific Mission for Migrants
Asia Pacific Research Network

Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF)
Asociación de Corresponsales de Prensa Iberoamericana
Association for the Development of Civic and European Initiatives
Astraea Lesbian Foundation for Justice
AstraZeneca
Atelier des génies
Austrian Development Agency
AVSI Foundation
Baha'i International Community, Brussels Office
BBC
Belgian Raiffeisen Foundation
Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation
BIO (Belgian Investment Company for Developing Countries)
Bocconi University
Boost Employability and Entrepreneurship Skills in Africa
Botanic Garden Meise
BOZAR (Centre for Fine Arts Brussels)
BRCK
BRCK LIMITED
Bridging the Gap
British Council
Brot für die Welt
Business Incubator
C40 Cities
CABI
Cabinet DN consulting
CAF-Banco de Desarrollo de América Latina
CAINCO
Camões Instituto da Cooperação e da Língua, IP
Campus France

CARE Nederland
CARE Österreich
CARE Rwanda
CARE UK
Caribbean Development Bank
Caritas Belgium
Caritas Czech Republic
Caritas Europa
Caritas International
Catholic Relief Services
Center for International Forestry Research
Central American Bank for Economic Integration
Central American Social Integration Secretariat
Centre de Coopération Internationale en Recherche Agronomique pour le Développement
Centre de Recherches Océanographiques de Dakar-Thiaroye
Centre for Education and Communication
Centre for International Sustainable Development Law
Centre pour le Dialogue Humanitaire Henry Dunant
Cera
Change Agency "Perspectives"
Chapelle Musicale Reine Elisabeth
Cheese and Curdled Milk Producers of Toukounous
ChildFund Alliance
Children of Mindanao
CIC Insurance Group
CIFAL Flanders UNITAR (United Nations Institute for Training & Research)
Cités unies et gouvernement locaux d'Afrique
Cities Unies Liban
Cities Alliance - UNOPS

City of Athens
City of Kasese
City of Kitwe
Civil Society in Development
Civil Society Platform for Peacebuilding and Statebuilding
Close the gap
Co-operative College UK
CO2logic
COC Nederland
Collaborative Media Advocacy Platform (CMAP)
Columbus Consortium
COMESA
Commonwealth Local Government Forum
Commune de Roeselare
Compagnia di San Paolo
Compagnie Financiere de Participation
Compagnie Fruitiere
Comune di Lampedusa e Linosa
Consortium of Piedmont NGOs
Convergence Blended Finance
Convergences
Cooperation Espanola
Coopérative des potières de Katiola
Cooperatives Europe
Council of European Municipalities and Regions
Covenant of Mayors in Sub-Saharan Africa
Coventry University
CPDE (CSO Partnership for Development Effectiveness)
Criterion Institute
Croatian Rural Development Network

Culture 21 commission de CGLU
Culture et Développement
Czech Development Agency
DAI
Dalberg Data Insights
Damien Foundation
Danish Institute for Human Rights
Danish Red Cross
Danish Refugee Council - Dansk Flygtningehaelp
Data For Decisions
De 11 Lijnen
DEAR Support Team
Delegation of the Basque Country to the EU
Delegation of the European Union to the African Union
Delegation of the European Union to Uganda
Deltares
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Ireland
Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
Deutsches Institut für Entwicklungspolitik / German Development Institute
Develop Digitally Limited - Farm credibly
Development Bank of Southern Africa
Development Pathways
Devex
DGD-Ministry of development cooperation
Digital African Woman
DIGNITY Danish Institute Against Torture
Donor Tracker
DSW (Deutsche Stiftung Weltbevoelkerung)
Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Earth Rights International

Eataly
Ecole Régionale Postuniversitaire d'Aménagement et de Gestion intégrés des Forêts et Territoires Tropicaux
Ecole Supérieure des Sciences Agronomiques
Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)
Ecorys
EDFI (European Development Finance Institutions)
Education International
Edukans
EFE
EIUC Global Campus of Human Rights
El Argoub
Embassy of El Salvador in Belgium
Enabel - Belgian development agency
End FGM European Network
Energia International Network on Gender and Sustainable Energy
Energise Africa
Engagement Global gGmbH
Enhanced Integrated Framework
Eni S.p.A
EPF (European Parliamentary Forum on Population and Development)
EPRD - Office for Economic Policy and Regional Development
Equals
Equilibres et Populations
EU Delegation to Ethiopia
EU-CORD
EUROCLIMA+
European Bank for Reconstruction and Development
European Centre for Development Policy Management (ECDPM)
European Centre for Electoral Support

European Coalition for Corporate Justice
European Coalitions for Cultural Diversity
European Commission - DG for Economic and Financial Affairs (ECFIN)
European Commission - DG for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operation (ECHO)
European Commission - DG for Climate Action (CLIMA)
European Commission - DG for Communication Networks, Content and Technology (CONNECT)
European Commission - DG for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture (EAC)
European Commission - DG for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion (EMPL)
European Commission - DG for Energy (ENER)
European Commission - DG for Environment (ENV)
European Commission - DG for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs (GROW)
European Commission - DG for International Cooperation and Development (DEVCO)
European Commission - DG for Justice and Consumers (JUST)
European Commission - DG for Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations (NEAR)
European Commission - DG for Regional and Urban Policy (REGIO)
European Commission - DG for Trade (TRADE)
European Commission - DG Joint Research Center (JRC)
European Commission – Foreign Policy Instruments (FPI)
European Committee of the Regions
European Development Finance Institutions
European Development Finance Institutions (EDFI)) and European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)
European Disability Forum
European External Action Service (EEAS)
European Investment Bank (EIB)
European Microfinance Platform
European National Institutes for Culture (EUNIC Global)
European Network on Debt and Development (EURODAD)

European Parliamentary Forum for Sexual and Reproductive Rights
European Peacebuilding Liaison Office (EPLO)
European Think Tanks group
European Training Foundation
European Union Delegation to Uganda
European Union Delegation to Yemen
European Union Emergency Trust fund for Africa
EUROsociAL
EUROSTAT
Expertise France
Extremadura Agency for International Development Cooperation
Eyes of the Street
Faith to Action Network
FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations)
FAO Forest and Farm Facility
Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, Germany (BMZ)
FEICOM
Feminist Dalit Organization
FIIAPP
Financing Alliance for Health
Finnish Development NGOs (FINGO)
FMDV - Global Fund for Cities Development
FMO
FNDV (Fonds Mondial de developement des Villes)
Fondation Congo Multivision
Fondation Hirondelle
Fondation Magic System
Fondazione Cariplo
Forum Disuguaglianze Diversità
FORWARD (Foundation for Women's Health, Research and Development)

France 24
France Médias Monde: Radio France Internationale, France 24, Monte Carlo Doualiya
Freedom and Roam, Uganda
French Environment and Energy Management Agency
French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs
Friends of Europe
Friuli Venezia Giulia Autonomous Region
Fundación Internacional y para Iberoamérica de Administración y Políticas Públicas
GAM asbl - Groupe d'Appui aux Messages, Belgium
Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance
German Academic Exchange Service
GFA Consulting GmbH
Ghent University
Girleek
GIZ (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit)
Global Affairs Canada
Global Africa
Global Campus of Human Rights
Global Development Network
Global Ecovillage Network
Global Education Monitoring Report, UNESCO
Global Fund for Cities Development
Global Leadership Academy
Global Partnership for Education
Globally Connected, Syria
GlobalMatch
Gobierno de la República de Costa Rica
Government of Benin
Government of France
Government of Kenya

Government of Lebanon
Government of Niger
Government of Rwanda
Government of the Basque Country
Government of Uganda
Green Belt Movement
Green String Network
GRET
Grobund eco-village Denmark
Groupe SOS Pulse – Lab’ess Tunisia
GSMA
H.R.H. Princess Abze Djigma Foundation
H&M Foundation
Habitat for Humanity International
Hacettepe University (Ankara), Faculty of Health Sciences, Department of Occupational Therapy
Hack Your Future
Handicap International
HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation
Hilti Foundation
Hivos People Unlimited
Hotel Education Centre
Hulla & Co Human Dynamics KG
Human Rights Awareness and Promotion Forum, Uganda
Humana Fundacion Pueblo para Pueblo
Humana People to People
Humanity & Inclusion /Handicap International Federation
Hungarian Interchurch Aid
Hygeia Foundation
IFC

IFRC (The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies)
IITA (International Institute of Tropical Agriculture)
ILGA-Europe (European LGBTI Association)
IMC (International Music Council)
IMC Worldwide
IMPACT
Impact Hub Global
Inclusive Business Action Network
Independent Consultant
Indigenous Livelihoods Enhancement Partners (ILEPA)
Indigenous Peoples Major Group
Institut de Recherche pour le Développement (IRD)
Institut Facultaire des Sciences Agronomiques
Institut français
Institut national de la statistique et des études économiques
Institut National pour l'Étude et la Recherche Agronomiques
Institute for Housing and Urban Development Studies
Instituto Italo-latinoamericano
Instituto Nacional de las Mujeres México
Inter-American Development Bank
Interarts
Interarts Foundation
International Alert
International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD)
International Crisis Group
International Dalit Solidarity Network
International Disability and Development Consortium
International Finance Corporation
International Food Policy Research Institute
International Fund for Agricultural Development

International Labour Organisation Tanzania
International Labour Organization
International Land Coalition
International Monetary Fund (IMF)
International Network for Sustainable Energy
International Organization for Migration (IOM)
International Planned Parenthood Federation Africa Region
International Planned Parenthood Federation European Network
International Rescue Committee
International Task Force on Teachers for Education 2030
International Telecommunication Union
International TOSSD Task Force
International Trade Centre (ITC)
International Trade Union Confederation
International Union for the Conservation of Nature
International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs (IWGIA)
Internet Society
Interpeace
INTERSOS
IPPF (International Planned Parenthood Federation Africa Region)
Islamic Relief
Istituto Affari Internazionali
Italian Agency for Development Cooperation
J&J (Johnson&Johnson)
Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)
JCP SRL
Johnson & Johnson Corporate Citizenship Trust
Kabinet of Minister DeBacker
Kabinet of Minister Decroo
Keewu Production

KfW Entwicklungsbank
Kharkiv Regional Non-Governmental Organization «Kharkiv Regional Gender Resource Centre»
Knowledge Platform Security and Rule of Law
Kofi Annan Foundation
Kumquat Consult
L'Afrique C'est Chic World
Lafede-cat - Federació d'Organitzacions per a la justícia Global
LAMA Development and Cooperation Agency
Latin American and Caribbean Regional Centre for the Support of the Global Compact
Lendahand
Lie Detectors
Living Goods
Loving Islands
Lumos
Lux-Development
Mairie de DOGBO
Makerere University
MakeSense
Mastercard Foundation
Max Havelaar
Médecins Sans Frontières
Mediterranean City-to-City Migration
MENA Apps
Mercy Corps Europe
Mermisi Community College
Microfund for Women
Microsoft
Migration EU Expertise (MIEUX) Programme
Ministère de l'Europe et des Affaires étrangères, France

Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Finland
Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Sweden
Ministry of Agriculture, Niger
Ministry of Commerce, Niger
Ministry of Economy and Finance, Mozambique
Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport, Cambodia
Ministry of Finance, Indonesia
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Belgium
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Denmark
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Finland
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mexico
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, The Netherlands
Ministry of Gender Child and Family of DRC
Ministry of Health and Population, CAR
Ministry of Home and Cultural Affairs - Department of Disaster Management
Ministry of local administration and decentralization, Mali
Ministry of Security and Social Development (SUDAN)
Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic
Mission of Canada to the European Union
Mission of Guatemala to the European Union
Mission of Honduras to the European Union
Mission of Mexico to the European Union
Mo Ibrahim Foundation
MolenGeek ASBL
MoveTHEelephant
Movimiento de mujeres de Santo Tomás
MUDAN Youth Network
Municipal Government of La Paz
Namibia University of Science and Technology
National Drought Management Authority

National Statistical Office of Georgia
Natural Resources Institute - University of Greenwich
Network for Ecovillage Emergence and Development in the Sahel
Non-Governmental Organization "Actual Woman"
Non-Governmental Organization "Change Agency "Perspectives"
Northern Rangelands Trust
Nottingham Good Food Partnership
Nottingham Trent University
Nouvelle-Aquitaine Regional Council
Nuffic
Observatorio de Responsabilidad Social Corporativa
OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development)
OECD Development Centre
Organisation Internationale pour les Migrations (OIM)
ONCE
Orange
Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie
Organización De Estados Iberoamericanos Para La Educación, La Ciencia Y La Cultura
Organización Nacional Indígena de Colombia
Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
Organization of African First Ladies for Development
Overseas Development Institute
Oxfam Brasil
Oxfam EU office
Oxfam International
Oxfam Mexico
Oxfam Solidarité
Oxfam Uganda
Pallottine Missionary Foundation Salvatti.pl
Pan-African University

Panafrican Farmers Organisation (PAFO)
Panino Giusto
Partners for Resilience
Partnership for Development Foundation
Pathways for Prosperity Commission
Pax Christi International
Peace Brigades International
Peace Palace
Pearl Capital Partners
PEM Consult
Permanent Representation of Finland to the European Union
Permanent Secretariat of the G5 Sahel
PharmAccess Group
Phrenos
Plan International
Plateau Central region
Plateforme des Confessions Religieuses centre-Africaines
PLATFORMA
Policy and Management Consulting Group-PMCG
Practitioners' Network for European development cooperation
Prayas, Centre for Labour Research and Action
Presidencia de la República del Ecuador
President's Office Regional Administration and Local Government, Tanzania
ProFuturo Foundation
Projet FORETS
Proparco
ProtectDefenders.eu
Province of Barcelona
Pulse Lab Kampala
QUDRA

Rabat Process
Raintree Farms Ltd
Red Cross
Red de Salud de las Mujeres Latinoamericanas y del Caribe
Red Nacional de Líderes y Lideresas Juveniles Tú Decides
Regional Center of MSME Promotion
Reproductive Health Supplies Coalition
REPSOL
Republic of South Africa, Department of Trade and Industry
Republic of South Africa, Department of National Treasury
Republic of South Africa, Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation
RESACOOOP
Réseau Africain Education à la Santé
Resources and Synergies Development
RevoluSolar
Romanian Presidency of the Council of the EU
Royal Museum for Central Africa
Royal Tropical Institute
RTM – Volontari Nel Mondo
RUSI (Royal United Service Institute)
Rwanda Polytechnics
Samsung
SAP SE
Save the Children
Save the Children Denmark
Save the Children Norway
Save the Climate
SB Overseas
SciDev.Net
Search for Common Ground

Secretariat of the External Investment Plan
SEED Academy
SEEK Development
SEGIB (Secretaria General Iberoamericana)
Self-employed
SES - Société Européenne des Satellites
SES Networks
Sharing Perspectives Foundation
Simplon.co Africa
Sistema de la Integración Centroamericana
Slovak Aid Agency
SNV Netherlands Development Organisation
SOCIEUX (Social Protection EU Expertise in Development Cooperation)
SOFTline
Solutions for Development
SOS-Kinderdorf International
South African Revenue Service
STANTEC S.A.
Startup Incubator Gambia
StartupBRICS
State Secretariat of International Cooperation for Latin America and the Caribbean
Stichting Wilde Ganzen IKON
Stockholm International Peace Research Institute
Studio Tamani
Südwind
Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
Tahawer Collective, Iraq
TAS Europrojects
Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation
Terre des Hommes International Federation

Territoires Associes
Thailand International Cooperation Agency
The Barilla Center for Food & Nutrition Foundation
The BogotArt Foundation
The Coca-Cola Company
The Commonwealth Secretariat
The Conversation
The Coördination of the Flemish North South Movement
The Delegation of the European Union to South Africa
The Euro-Mediterranean Regional and Local Assembly
The Europe-Africa-Caribbean-Pacific Liaison Committee
The Gabarron Foundation
The Global Catalyst
The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria
The Graduate Institute, Geneva
The Guardian
The Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations (IDDRI)
The Java Company
The ONE Campaign
The Open Earth Foundation
The Royal Institute of International Affairs Chatham House
The University of Sheffield
The World Bank Group
Thomas More University College
Thomson Reuters
Together We Build It
Tony Blair Institute for Global Change
Tony Elumelu foundation
Trade & Industrial Policy Strategies
TradeCom II Programme

TradeMark East Africa
Trias
Tripoli Chamber of Commerce
TunisianStartups
Turing Foundation
Turkish Employment Agency
Twiga Foods
UCLG
Uganda Bureau of Statistics
Uganda Revenue Authority
Ugandan Police
UK Department for International Development (DFID)
UKAid
ULB (Université Libre de Bruxelles)
UN Environment International Environmental Technology Centre
UN Global Pulse
UN SDG Action Campaign
UN Verification Mission in Colombia
UN Women
UN-Habitat (United Nations Human Settlements Programme)
United Nation Capital Development Fund (UNCDF)
UNCTAD (United Nations Conference on Trade and Development)
UNDESA (United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs)
UNDP Representation Office Brussels
UNECE (United Nations Economic Commission for Europe)
United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization)
UNESCO Institute for Statistics
UNESCO International Institute for Educational Planning
UNESCO Liaison Office in Brussels

UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere Programme
UNFCCC Climate Technology Centre & Network
UNFPA (United Nations Population Fund)
United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
UNICollaboration
Unilever
UNITAR - CIFAL Bogotá
UNITAR (United Nations Institute for Training & Research) CIFAL Flanders
United Cities and Local Governments
United Cities and Local Governments of Africa
United Nations
United Nations Development Programme
United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)
United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction
United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS)
United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime - Brussels Liaison Office
United Nations Regional Information Centre
United Nations Regional Information Centre for Western Europe
United Nations Research Institute for Social Development
United Nations University World Institute for Development Economics Research
United Nations World Food Programme
United Nations, CIRAD
United Network of Young Peacebuilders – UNOY
United States Agency for International Development (USAID)
Université Alassane Ouattara
Université de Liège
Université Paris-Sud
University of Ghana

University of Kisangani
University of Poitiers
University of Strathclyde
UNOCHA (UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs)
UNU-MERIT/MGSoG (United Nations University - Maastricht Economic and Social Research Institute on Innovation and Technology and Maastricht Graduate School of Governance)
VET Toolbox (consortium between Enabel, British Council, GIZ, LuxDev and AFD)
Ville de Dakar
Voluntary Organisations in Cooperation in Emergencies (VOICE)
Voluntary Service Overseas
VVOB
WaterAid
WaterAid Ethiopia
We Effect
Wecyclers
WEF (World Economic Forum)
Wetlands International
Wetlands International Africa
WIDE+
WILDE GANZEN
WOMEN CENTRE "LIGHT STEPS"
Women Engage for a Common Future
Women in Business Development Incorporated
Women in Informal Employment Globalizing and Organizing
Women Support Association
Women's World Banking
World Agroforestry Centre
World Bank Group
World Bicycle Relief
World Health Organization

World Resources Institute
World Trade Organization
World Vision Brussels
World Vision International
Young African Refugees for Integral Development
Young Women's Christian Association
Youth Alliance for leadership and development in Africa
Youth Business Association and Incubator
YouthTalks
Zabala
ZABALA Innovation Consulting
Ziongate Geospatial and Research Services